



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

TREE PLANTING, WEDNESDAY 28TH MAY 2014

DVC (A&F) SPEECH

Guests

Members of Staff

Students

Ladies and Gentlemen

I am very pleased to be with you here today to participate in this important activity of tree planting. We are all aware that trees are an important resource with many benefits – which range from economic, cultural to environmental benefits.

Despite the well recognized benefits of trees and forests, their cover in Kenya is quite low, currently at about 4% against the recommended minimum of 10% of the land mass.

The University has over the past 15 years organized regular tree planting activities. This is in line with one of our core values of respect for and conservation of the environment, and also with the National Reform Policy in Forestry which requires active participation by all stakeholders in order to ensure the attainment of at least 10% forest cover in Kenya.

Environmental Sustainability (ES) is part of our Performance Contract (PC) with the Government. The University has since early this year therefore appointed an Environmental Sustainability Committee that is tasked to:

- Domesticate the Environmental Policy within the University
- Develop and implement environment awareness programmes
- Plant trees in the University farms and ensure they survive
- Promote environmental protection and conservation through partnerships with stakeholders
- Develop mechanism for management and proper disposal of waste, and

- Prepare quarterly reports to be submitted to NEMA

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is therefore important to us an institution, together with our like-minded partners, to continue the noble task of planting trees, within the University and other places. However, it is also necessary that the trees we plant are protected and nurtured to ensure they fully establish.

Finally, Ladies and Gentlemen, I sincerely thank all who keep supporting us by contributing tree seedlings and other resources and services, and those set aside time and gathered here today, with one major agenda – to plant trees.

With these few remarks, it is my pleasure to invite the Chief guest to address us and lead us in planting trees.

THANK YOU