

UoN sensitizes staff to combat corruption

As part of efforts to mainstream the fight against corruption, the University of Nairobi (UoN) and the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) have organized a three-day annual refresher training for corruption prevention committees and integrity assurance officers.

The training focuses on specific deliverables to combat corruption and unethical practices in the University. Participants are being sensitized on the obligations of state and public officers under the Leadership and Integrity Act 2012, governance, corruption prevention tools and strategies in the public service, corruption detection, investigation and reporting and promotion of positive organizational culture free from corruption.

In the keynote presentation by the Director, Preventive Services, EACC, Mr. Vincent Okong'o, noted that corruption is the main obstacle to the realization of good governance. He said that corruption stifles development, leads to higher taxation, increases poverty, compromises equality and affects a country's competitiveness in the global market. Okong'o noted that adverse effects have made governments put more efforts in the fight against corruption.



To this end, EACC is mandated to combat and prevent corruption and economic crime in Kenya through law enforcement, preventive measures, public education and promotion of standards and practices of integrity, ethics and anti-corruption. Okong'o said that public education remains

critical in eradicating corruption and that the Commission holds frequent sensitization forums in different organizations.

On the University, Okong'o noted that UoN is making significant steps towards the fight against corruption by organizing such forums. He challenged the University management to adhere to the tendency of good governance, integrity and guidelines for corruption prevention. He also called on the University to promote an ethical culture of high standards by ensuring accountability of gifts presented to the University through gift registers alongside a conflict of interest register.

Speaking on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Student Affairs, Prof. Isaac Mbeche, said the University is focused on zero tolerance to corruption by ensuring that all staff are vetted. The process which began with the Central Prevention Committee members will cascade to teaching members of staff and administrative staff. Prof. Mbeche revealed that the University has made major strides towards achieving this goal by putting in place the anticorruption framework comprising of 10 committees, developing an anticorruption policy, vetting members of the central corruption prevention committee, among others.

Prof. Bernard Njoroge, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Administration and Finance, revealed that the University has been institutionalizing corruption prevention mainly through submission of quarterly progress monitoring reports to EACC, publishing of an annual evaluation report and preparing reports on training of staff on integrity, ethics and anti-corruption.