

University Management Board holds working retreat in Machakos

The University of Nairobi Management Board held a 3 days retreat in Machakos County to discuss issues relating to the better management of the University from July 9-11, 2015. Top on the agenda being efficient and effective service delivery.

Addressing the financial health of the University, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter M. F. Mbithi noted that though the University has traditionally depended on the government for capitation to enable it finance its operations, the disbursement from government can hardly meet the escalating university expenditure. The university therefore needed to review the operations of its income generating units even as it streamlines modules 2 and 3 operations. Indeed it is now time for the University to 'generate new money'. The retreat provided the senior University managers an opportunity to rededicate themselves to selfless service, unity and sticking to the sole purpose of delivering their mandate with efficiency and effectiveness.

Also discussed during the retreat were government circulars that touched on various facets of public service operations. The senior managers were updated on various directives issued by government ministries from time to time.

The issues of leadership, teamwork, ethical conduct of leaders was also highlighted. Managers were challenged to leave a legacy just like the great leaders of the world such as Winston Churchill, Mahatma Gandhi, Nelson Mandela among others.

While in the past senior Managers were only evaluated through units and departmental performance contracts, Managers would now also be evaluated guided by the new *Mwongozo* code of conduct.

Other key priority areas that were discussed included accelerated implementation of the University's strategic plan, the draft Performance Contract for the Financial Year 2015/2016, having the procurement process automated and running on the e-procurement platform and proposed new strategy for Open Distance eLearning (ODEL) program to assist the University extend education to majority of Kenyans.

The University has a mandate to produce holistic graduates and in this regard arrangements are being put in place for the adoption of student mentorship programs to run hand in hand with a comprehensive student security and safety program.

The retreat also provided an opportunity for the senior managers to bond through team building sessions and workouts. Present during the workshop were the four Deputy Vice-Chancellors, i.e Prof. Bernard N. Njoroge(DVC, A&F), Prof. Henry Mutoro (DVC, AA), Prof. Lucy Irungu,(DVC, RPE) and Prof. Isaac Mbeche (DVC, SA), the six College Principals and two Deputy Principals. Also present was Prof. Julius Ogen'go, Director CESSP and Mr. John Kenduiwo, MD, UNES.

