



VICE-CHANCELLOR'S SPEECH
STRATEGIC PLAN (2014-2019) / SERVICE
CHARTER/ POLICIES LAUNCH

ON 20THJUNE 2014

PROF. TERESA AKENGA

- **The Canadian High Commissioner,**
- **The Chancellor, Prof. Judith Behemukha,**
- **The Governor, Hon. Jackson Mandago**
- **The Chairman of the University Council, Prof. Sarone ole Sena,**
- **Council Members present,**
- **Vice-Chancellors, DVCs, Principals present**
- **Senators,**
- **Staff, students,**
- **Distinguished guests,**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I warmly welcome you all to the University of Eldoret. We are gathered here today to witness a major milestone in the development of the University of Eldoret; the launch of the first Strategic Plan 2014-2019; the Corporate Service Charter; various Policy documents and two journals. The policy documents provide strategic direction towards the realization of our vision to, *“To be a premier University that is globally visible in knowledge generation and technological innovations”*.

THE STRATEGIC PLAN

The University of Eldoret was awarded its Charter on 11th February, 2013. I am proud to note that we are among the first recently inaugurated Universities to launch their Strategic Plan. This Strategic Plan was developed in consultation with our internal and external stakeholders and captures local, regional and international trends and emerging issues in the provision of higher education. The Strategic Plan clearly defines the vision, mission and core values that the University of Eldoret will pursue in the next five years. During this strategic plan period, the

University will focus on four key Strategic Result Areas (KRAs) namely:

- 1. Students Enrolment and Academic Excellence**
- 2. Research and Innovation**
- 3. Consultancy and Outreach**
- 4. Institutional Capacity**

Objectives and activities have been formulated under each Strategic Goal and their implementation will contribute in transforming the University into a centre of excellence in higher education and

entrepreneurship through teaching, research, outreach, extension and consultancy.

However, implementation of this strategic plan is likely to encounter a number of challenges namely; increasing student enrolment; reduced capitation from the government; inadequate infrastructure such as lecture rooms; laboratories; student hostels; inadequate staffing; and insufficient office space. The University will seek to raise funds internally and externally through project proposals to development agencies; Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) and the

county and central government. I appeal for support from all our stakeholders, especially our chief guest, H.E. the High commissioner, Canada, who unfortunately could not be with us today due to circumstances beyond his control.

THE SERVICE CHARTER

Ladies and Gentlemen, the University of Eldoret's Service Charter reflects our commitment to our external and internal clients and stakeholders, how we intend to serve them and what they can expect of us

when we interact with them. This Charter communicates our commitment to provide consistent and professional services to our customers in line with our core values. The Service Charter is in line with our Strategic Plan and forms the basis for evaluating and reporting our performance as we inculcate professionalism and excellence in Service Delivery.

THE POLICIES

The University of Eldoret has developed fifteen (15) policy documents that will be launched today. These policies provide the guidelines for efficient

implementation and regulation of various procedures and processes in the University. These policies are:

- 1. Part-time Policy**
- 2. Students' Fee Policy**
- 3. Staff Training and Development Policy**
- 4. Gender Policy**
- 5. Sexual Harassment Policy**
- 6. Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Policy**
- 7. HIV & AIDS Policy**
- 8. Public Complaints Policy**
- 9. Anti-Corruption Policy**

- 10. Code of Conduct and Ethics Policy**
- 11. Information & Communication Technology Policy**
- 12. Security Policy**
- 13. Research and innovation policy**
- 14. Financial Management policy**
- 15. Environmental Policy**

Madam Chancellor, it is good to note there are still many policies that the university requires and the Management Board has set committed itself to develop them in the next financial year. Likewise, the University has embarked on the process of

developing its 20 year Master plan and is also in the process of ISO9001:20008 Certification. This will eventually make our university a centre of excellence in Quality Training, Research, Innovation and Extension

THE JOURNALS

Ladies and gentlemen, the University has highly qualified and dedicated Professors and lecturers who are committed to excellence in teaching, research and outreach. This is evident by the launch of two journals -The East African Journal of Pure and Applied

Sciences (EAPAS) from the School of Science and the Journal of African Journal Science and Technology (AJEST) from the School of Education in collaboration with Anambra State University, Nigeria.

RESEARCH, INNOVATION & CSR

The University has developed new varieties of wheat resistant to rust and is currently carrying out research in barley, soil science, biotechnology and fish farming among others. A key contribution of the University to the community is the hosting of the Annual

Agricultural Trade Fair in which the University disseminates information to the public. The theme for this year's Trade Fair will be *"Towards Vision 2030 in Food Security and Poverty Eradication through Innovation and Technology Transfer"* and will be held from the 25th to 27th September 2014. I invite you all to the Trade Fair and kindly ask you to note it in your dairies.

The University hosts an annual 10km cross country race and will this year will host the 23rd edition in the month of December. The event is part of the Athletics

Kenya calendar and targets 1,000 participants this year. The cross country is organized in collaboration with Athletics Kenya (AK) through which young and upcoming athletes have free access to the track at the University for training. The University is also in partnership with the County Government of Uasin Gishu and Arizona State University to establish the School of Medicine specializing in paediatrics and maternal health.

COLLABORATIONS AND LINKAGES

Based on our mandate, the university has entered into MOUs with collaborating colleges/universities and industries, in Kenya and internationally. Some of the collaborating institutions are: Sport Exchange Kenya, Pyrethrum Board of Kenya, KWS, Kenya Forestry Service, Agro Chemical and Food Company and Kenya Airways among others. Collaboration between UoE, KQ and Delft University of Technology (TU Delft) in the Netherlands has already been initiated with a possibility of establishing aerospace engineering programmes.

UoE is a member of Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM). The University is going to exhibit at the 6th RUFORUM Biennial conference in Maputo in July to showcase special areas of activity and successes of Community Action Research Projects (CARPs), which are sponsored by RUFORUM.

Under NICHE KEN 189 projects (Netherlands Initiative for Capacity development in Higher Education), the University has partnerships with other

stakeholders. Opportunities in terms of interns, research and teaching have been developed and shared. This will involve Identification of 6 Masters and 4 Ph.D. students among staff to be trained outside UoE in areas of seed technology and agribusiness management. This will lead to trainees who are responsive to the labour market needs and contribute to food security.

Indeed, we are a young but ambitious University with a clear focus. The University currently has eight schools with 34 academic departments and a student

enrolment of over 14,000 which includes; undergraduates, M.Sc. Ph.D., Diploma and certificate students. The teaching and non-teaching staff number over 1,300. I urge all of us students; staff, the local community and indeed all our stakeholders to work together to make the University of Eldoret a champion among the fraternity of public universities.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is my pleasure on behalf of the students, staff, the various steering committees and the University Management Board to present you the University of Eldoret's Strategic Plan (2014-2019);

**the Service Charter in English and Kiswahili;
University Policies and our journals.**

Thank you and God bless the University of Eldoret.