



CLOSING SPEECH BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR
ENVIRONMENT IMPACT
ASSESSMENT/ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT
TRAINING AUGUST 2018
7th SEPTEMBER, 2018
AT THE FORESTRY BUILDING

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I take this opportunity to sincerely thank the almighty for this opportunity to be with you at this auspicious moment of your graduation. I thank all the participants, EIA coordinating committee, the resource persons, and the entire School of Environmental Studies for the successful completion of the August 2018 EIA/EA training course. I also wish to take this opportunity to thank NEMA for having recognized the School of

Environmental Studies as an EIA/EA training center and for partnering with us towards building capacity for environmental experts in the country and the region.

Once again I want to appreciate in a special way the participants both from the University of Eldoret and those from other institutions for choosing the University of Eldoret as an ideal training institution on environmental impact assessment/ environmental audit.

I assure you that you are indeed ahead of the park having gone through this very important training.

In the last three weeks, you have been taken through the various EIA/EA processes. These processes which ranges from screening, scoping, baseline information collection, public participation through to impact identification, evaluation, mitigation measures and finally Environmental and Social Management Plan

(ESMP), are critical in the abatement or amelioration of impacts of the development project.

I am also aware that you did not only cover the course based on classroom lectures but you also had extensive field exposure starting from short day-trips to long distance excursions. These excursions which covered areas of western Kenya e.g. the Lake Victoria region to the central rift valley region namely the great Olkaria

geothermal complex, Kariandusi diatomite mining area and Lake Bogoria where if you were lucky you could not have missed to taste the boiled eggs from the hot springs.

Ladies and gentlemen

I have no doubt that at the end of it all you had a combined in-door lecture and out-door experiential learning by being exposed to rich scenic features that uncontaminated healthy environment can provide.

Thus Impact Assessment and Environmental Audit as a crucial process in the life cycle of all development proposals and projects in Kenya and indeed in the world needs to be emphasized. More so towards the achievement of the Vision 2030 through the 'Big Four Agenda' of Manufacturing, Universal healthcare, affordable housing, and food security.

EIA and EA are tools or instruments used by NEMA as stipulated under the Environmental Management and

Coordination Act (EMCA) of 1999. In line with the Kenyan constitution 2010 section 42, every person has the right to a clean and healthy environment. Thus the EIA/EA process should among others prevent, mitigate and offset the significant adverse effects of proposed undertakings.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Your role as Environmental experts is very critical and it can't be overemphasized. Therefore, ensure that your expertise is felt and let it produce a positive change in environmental management and conservation. Embrace the code of practice and professional ethics in carrying out your role. Very importantly, observe the Core values on which the EIA process is based, that is:

Integrity– Ensure the EIA process meets internationally accepted requirements and standards of practice;

Utility– Ensure the EIA process provides the information which is sufficient and relevant for decision-making; and

Sustainability– Ensure that the EIA process results in the implementation of environmental safeguards/mitigate serious adverse effects and avoid irreversible loss of resource and ecosystem functions.

As I conclude I wish to share the philosophy of Garrett Hardin “**The Tragedy of the Commons**”. Remember in your practice as EIA/EA experts, do not entangle yourselves in the dilemma in which, according to Garret, “multiple individuals acting independently in their own self-interest can ultimately destroy a shared limited resource even where it is clear that it is not in anyone's long-term interest for this to happen”. I, therefore, urge you all to be good ambassadors of the University of

Eldoret and Kenya at large in the environmental management practice.

With these remarks Ladies and Gentlemen; I declare the 2018August regular EIA/EA training closed.

Thank you

Prof. Teresa A. O. Akenga

Vice-Chancellor