

EIA/EA COUNTY OPENING SPEECH
BY VICE CHANCELLOR - UNIVERSITY OF ELDORET
20th August, 2018

Ladies and Gentlemen

I take this opportunity to welcome you all to the University of Eldoret for the Third 2018 Environmental and Social Impact Assessment/Environmental Audit training course. This is a programme whose curriculum is approved by NEMA and the School of Environmental Studies is a recognized training Centre. I am happy that this year we have had a series of EIA/EA training sessions which has brought together staffs from Baringo County, Elgeiyo Marakwet County and Bomet County. I appreciate the efforts of these counties and also others who may have identified University of Eldoret as an ideal training institution for their staff on environmental management.

I sincerely thank the School of Environmental studies for organizing this training. I want to thank specifically the outgoing Dean School of Environmental Studies Prof. Vincent Simiyu, the incoming Dean Dr. Gelas Simiyu, the EIA Coordinator Dr. Christopher Saina and the dedicated team of experts for organizing this special training for participants.

Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Audit is an important tool for decision-making throughout the life cycle of all development projects. As you will learn there is no development without potential effects. Therefore, to implement projects sustainably, there is need to predict and mitigate these effects through effective Environmental Impact Assessment or Audit processes.

Environmental Impact Assessment/ Audit training that you are going to undertake in the next three weeks will impart on you knowledge and skills to carry out EIA/EA assessment on various development projects. The study reports will be used to guide you in the decision making process for licensing projects to take place. This thus emphasize the importance of quality and adherence to professional code of conduct and ethics at all stages of the EIA/EA process.

In addition, the school of Environmental Studies offers Environmental Management Training Programme (EMTP) course. This course is meant to equip participant with advance knowledge and skills in conservation and management of natural resources for sustainable development. The course has already been rolled out and the first batch of participants included Israelis and Kenyans. The EMTP and the EIA/EA courses in general are geared towards attainment of Vision 2030

and the national government Big Four Agenda of; (Affordable Housing, Food Security, Affordable Health Care and Manufacturing).

I am happy at this juncture to draw your attention to the fact that The University of Eldoret is ISO 9001:2008 certified, with elaborate quality management policies and systems put in place and currently it's in the process of transitioning to ISO 9001:2015. More so, the School of Environmental Studies houses the North Rift Regional Center of Education for Sustainable Development. Therefore, I assure you quality training.

Ladies and Gentlemen

In conclusion, I need to emphasize that environmental conservation is fundamental to the progress of any civilization. The role of EIA/EA as effective tool will remain as vital and invaluable for a long time to come.

I wish all the participants an enjoyable training, stay and travel across the country. Welcome again.

I hereby declare the second August 2018 EIA/EA training course officially opened.

Thank you

Prof. Teresa A. O. Akenga

Vice-Chancellor