



OPENING SPEECH BY THE AG. VICE-CHANCELLOR

ENVIRONMENT IMPACT
ASSESSMENT/ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT
TRAINING OCTOBER 2018

15TH OCTOBER, 2018

AT THE TOWN CAMPUS

Ladies and Gentlemen

I welcome all the participants to the October 2018 Environmental impact assessment and Environmental Audit (EIA/EA) training at the University of Eldoret. We are proud that Trans Nzoia County and particularly H.E the Governor Hon. Patrick Khaemba identified University of Eldoret as an ideal training institution for his staff on environmental management.

University of Eldoret is ISO 9001:2015 certified institution with a vibrant school of environmental studies and highly qualified staff on environmental matters. For several years, the school has been offering training on environmental management and EIA/EA, and I believe your training here will not be in vain. This training will equip you with

environmental management and protection processes both at the Nation and at the County level for sustainable development.

Ladies and Gentlemen

As of today, the school has trained staff from three different counties and Trans Nzoia joins the ranks as the fourth county. We have conducted trainings for Bomet County, Elgeyo Marakwet County and Baringo County and subsequently, I am also aware that other counties are preparing to come for the same training. The County EIA trainings are arranged and conducted when required while regular trainings are offered annually every August.

To the school, what you are have purposed to undertake and what you have been doing is a huge task that has put the University in the limelight

in the conservation of the Environment Impact Assessment, the attainment of vision 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals.

I laud all our partners in EIA/EA training who include NEMA staff, County staff and all other participating partners. Accept our sincere appreciation and feel at home in University of Eldoret. For the School of Environmental Studies, accept my sincere appreciation for taking this as a university flagship project and mounting the EIA/EA training of experts whenever required.

On behalf of the University, I want to thank specifically the Dean (School of Environmental studies), Prof. Gelas Simiyu, the Coordinator Dr. Job Ng'etich and their dedicated team of experts for organizing this EIA training for Trans Nzoia County staff.

Dear participants, with the implementation of the projects aligned to the Big Four Agenda by the National Government and County governments, Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Audit process should be applied as early as possible in decision-making at the proposals stage. Projects that may cause potentially significant effects to biophysical environment and socio-economic factors are subjected to EIA | EA as per EMCA 2015 (as amended) for sustainable development.

The process must be subjected to all projects and development activities so as to provide for the involvement and input of communities affected by the proposed projects. This will minimize impacts and increase the benefits accruing from the implementation of such projects to the community.

Environmental Impact Assessment/ Audit process should provide for the screening, scoping, examination of alternatives and then impact analysis before mitigation and impact management can be done. The significance of the proposal is evaluated followed by preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Participants will be equipped with the skills and expertise in EIA | EA process necessary in the project management and sustainable natural resource use.

The importance of EIA Ladies and Gentlemen cannot be over emphasized. Legal policies in their application make use of certain instruments to achieve their objectives. EIA and EA are two such instruments as is stipulated under the Environmental Management and

Coordination Act (EMCA) of 2015 .There's need for the county managers to mainstream EIA | EA in their project management processes.

In conclusion, I need to emphasize that environmental conservation is fundamental to the progress of any sustainable development in devolved systems.

I wish all the participants an enjoyable training and stay in Eldoret Town. I also welcome the County of Trans Nzoia to continue working with the University of Eldoret in all relevant fields for the benefit of both institutions and overall development of the country and the world at large. Welcome again.

I thank the entire School of Environmental studies for organizing the training of EIA/EA in the University, for the Staff from Trans Nzoia County.

I hereby declare the Trans Nzoia 2018 EIA/EA training course officially opened.

Thank you

Prof. Wilson Ng'etich
Ag. Vice-Chancellor