



Address by

Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology

Vice Chancellor,

Prof Mabel Imbuga, PhD

During

A Consultative Meeting with Suppliers

Friday March 11, 2011 8.00 am

Utalii Hotel

Deputy Vice Chancellors,

Registrars,

Other University staff,

Invited Suppliers

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a pleasure for me to welcome all of you to this important meeting and sincerely thank you for honouring our invitation. It is indeed a memorable day for us at the university since it is one of those rare occasions when the university is meeting with its suppliers to discuss issues that are related to service delivery.

As suppliers of the university, you play a very important role towards supporting university operations. The university appreciates the fact that it cannot do without your valued support through supply of goods and services. This support goes a long way in enhancing the achievement of our mission which is **to produce leaders in the fields of Agriculture, Engineering, Technology, Enterprise Development,**

Built Environment, Health Sciences and other Applied Sciences to suit the needs of a dynamic world. For teaching and research to go on smoothly, the university needs materials and services, all of which are provided by you.

The university spends a substantial amount of its budget (40-60%) on procurement of materials and services. This is a substantial percentage of our budget hence the need for close relationships between the university and all of you.

That is why we, at JKUAT felt the need to invite you all in order to discuss issues that may be affecting service delivery on both sides. Please point out any areas that need improvement on our part and together we can generate possible solutions through this forum.

On our part we urge you to maintain supply of high quality goods, timeliness in delivery and ethics in your dealings with us. At JKUAT, we take ethical issues very seriously and would like to urge you suppliers to do the same. Thus, our primary

objective of holding this meeting is to promote mutually beneficial business relationship upon the highest professional standards and ethical conduct.

We are committed to a culture of transparency and accountability in procurement process and we need your support in this area. At national level, the country is committed to integrity and efficient service delivery in order to provide goods and services to its citizens at affordable prices.

Similarly, our relationship with you is based on the principle of fair and honest dealings at all times and in all ways. We will not compromise this principle and thus will hesitate to dismiss any of our staff who will be found colluding flouting our procurement rules. On the same note, any supplier who wishes to continue doing business with us must uphold professionalism at all times.

We all know that the government uses procurement as a tool for economic growth and development. Through the various procurement contracts, the government delivers service (education, water, health, food) to its citizens. The payment made to suppliers and contractors is actually taxpayer's money to which we all contribute. This is why any loophole that may potentially lead to loss of public funds must be sealed.

The cost of these services should not be inflated but made affordable to the common mwananchi. We also expect competitive prices from you in order to obtain value for our money.

I encourage you to familiarize yourself with important procurement documents such as Public Procurement and Disposal Act 2005/Regulations 2006, standard bidding documents, price index documents, among others. A good understanding of these documents will facilitate your participation in procurement of goods and services and further enlighten you on the expectations of the government and the university.

JKUAT management is committed to fostering a partnership with all of you that is marked with openness, goodwill and efficient service delivery. The university will appreciate new ideas from you that will lead to improvement in customer service.

To demonstrate its commitment to customer service, the university carries out a survey every year on “Customer Satisfaction, Employee Satisfaction, Work Environment, Corporate Governance and Corruption Index”. We have this week advertised this tender and we expect that some of you will participate by providing information on our performance as your client. If approached to participate please provide honest information that will help us to improve.

Once again, I thank you for being here today and urge that we be candid in our deliberations so that, going forward, we can forge stronger relationships.

Thank you for listening to me.