



**Speech
by**

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Vice Chancellor,

**Jomo Kenyatta University of
Agriculture & Technology,**

During the

ESD Re-orientation of Curriculum workshop

On

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at

Utalii Hotel

NEMA Director General,
Deputy Vice Chancellor (AA),
Registrar (AA),
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen

I am delighted to be here this afternoon to witness the start of the implementation process for JKUAT's Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Policy. This two day workshop is critical as it touches on a policy that provides guidelines on incorporating the principles of ESD in our mandate of training, research, innovation and community service in order to become a sustainable university.

It's now five months since the University with the support of the National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA) launched the ESD policy on November 9, 2010. Therefore, this gathering underscores the urgency of moving

forward to actualize the policy provisions. We recognize the new vision of education for a sustainable tomorrow as one of the most powerful instruments that can bring change required to deal with problems threatening our future and achieve sustainable development. This is why the hosting of this re-orientation workshop is testimony of our commitment to entrenching the policy in our curriculum.

Thus, there is need to move from the mere launch of the policy to its implementation. To this end, we are in the process of setting up an implementation committee to spearhead this phase. We recall that the formulation of the policy was marked by numerous sensitization training sessions for our staff and students; and consultative meetings with our various stakeholders who provided invaluable contributions towards enriching the ESD policy. I understand that another training workshop will be held to hasten the implementation. We in management fully support these initiatives because we know that the implementation process will take time and a lot of resources to accomplish.

As the first institution of higher learning to seek to embrace, integrate and implement the principles of sustainable development in all aspects of its operations, there are huge expectations for JKUAT to successfully operationalise the policy. This is a noble task bestowed upon you, participants. Out of this workshop, you should be able to familiarize yourselves with the MESA programme and the ESD toolkit developed by UNEP for application into the University. You will also be expected to guide your respective departments on how to re-orient their curriculum to incorporate ESD issues. Overall, you need to identify activities that if implemented will lead to JKUAT becoming a more ‘Green University’.

To this end, the University needs to embrace more use of technology in its operations to reduce paperwork. This should involve redesigning of our ICT infrastructure to facilitate enhancement of ESD in the University.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish to sincerely thank our stakeholders, especially NEMA, UNEP, UNESCO, among others, for their continued support from the conception of this policy, its launch and now its implementation.

With these remarks, it is now my pleasure to declare this workshop officially open.

Thank you.