



Welcoming Statement

By Prof. Mabel Imbuga PhD, EBS

Vice Chancellor

Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology

during

the official opening ceremony

Training of Supply Chain Management Officers – Office of the President

AICAD

Monday October 10, 2011

The Guest of Honor

Course participants

Trainers

Ladies and Gentlemen

I am pleased to join you this morning to witness the opening session of this induction training programme designed to pass on basic operational skills to the newly recruited supply chain management officers. The two weeks course has been designed to help you to approach your new supply chain related assignments with confidence. From the onset, I take this opportunity to welcome you to the course and to the Jomo Kenyatta University and Agriculture and Technology.

Today's training programme is a joint project between JKUAT, Public Procurement Oversight Authority (PPOA) and Office of the Presidents. It is part of the ongoing training collaboration between JKUAT and PPOA following a successful proposal initiated by the University after a workshop attended by the JKUAT and PPOA staff. The workshop was organized in September 2010 by JKUAT and Kenya Institute and Supplies Management. In June 2011, JKUAT sealed a MoU with PPOA, tasking JKUAT to offer training to the newly recruited Supply Chain Officers into the public sector aimed at upgrading their skills.

As an institution of higher learning, training remains one of JKUAT's core function under the JKUAT Act of 1994 while PPOA is a government body established under the Public Procurement & Disposals Act 2005 to develop, promote and support training and professional development of persons involved in public procurement.

I am informed that all of you have been recruited to serve in the Office of the President. The programme to last for the next two weeks will mainly focus on public sector finance and accounting procedures. The programme that will as well adhere to other government needs will proceed in accordance with the PPOA training manual. Our trainers too shall adhere to the training timetable that will devote two days of the training on committees involved in public procurement while the remainder of the time will be dedicated to actual upgrading of your skills. Mode of delivery for training will be through lectures, discussions and practical exercise and case studies

At the end of your course, you are expected to effectively perform your duties and responsibilities and thus surmount the day to day challenges that are likely to arise in the course of your duties. It is important to note that this induction course is mandatory for all new staff and it is my hope that you will take the course seriously in order to reap maximum benefits.

However, I am aware of the importance of the task that is awaiting for you. As Supply Chain Management Officers, you will be serving one of the most vital sector in your workstation charged with the provision of essential supplies services to support efficient service delivery to the citizenry. It is a sector that has for long been ignored in terms of higher training despite the central role it plays in the public sector. The supply chain sector shoulders up to 75% of the public sector budget in Kenya and indeed in any organization. It is ironical that a sector that is so fundamental in service delivery has been ignored for so long.

Clearly therefore, it is not difficult for me to explain why we at JKUAT have been at the forefront in the promotion of procurement and supplies training in the country. Indeed JKUAT is the first university in East Africa to recognize the importance of initiating professional training programmes in the fields of procurement and supplies management.

Our main motivation for initiating these programmes at different levels is to train qualified workforce to manage the procurement and supplies sector.

This particular training is currently housed in the Department of Entrepreneurship and procurement in the School of Human Resource Development. The school has a long history of running procurement programmes at Certificate, Diploma, undergraduate and graduate levels.

As a university, we remain confident that this training package will be successful in the delivery of desired performance by the staff being trained. We are also certain that the partnership with the university will promote the much needed skills transfer for national sustainable growth and development. On the part of the Ministry it will improve performance and contribute immensely to service delivery and to the Kenya Vision 2030.

In conclusion, let me remind you that while this training has been crafted carefully to meet your job performance needs, you should nevertheless take it as a panacea for your success in your new trade that you are about to start practicing. To succeed in your duties, you will certainly need to be guided by appropriate values of integrity and honesty that have historically remained a major obstacle plaguing your profession.

You very well know that major corrupt scandals in our society that have contributed in condemning millions of our people into extreme misery are often linked to procurement and supplies service particularly in the public sector. You have a responsibility to reverse the trend. As members of the supply chain management profession, you hold the key to our country's development but only if you exhibit high professionalism and uprightness. It is a challenge that you cannot ignore particularly at this time when the country is in the process of implementing the new constitutional dispensation.

Finally I take this opportunity to wish you success in the training. I thank you most sincerely for listening to me.