UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

REMARKS BY PROF. PETER M.F. MBITHI, VICE CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI DURING THE LAUNCH OF THE FORENSIC MEDICO-LEGAL MANUAL FOR EAST AFRICA AT THE SAROVA PAN AFRIQUE HOTEL AT 7.00 PM
Mr. Julius Korir, CBS – Principal Secretary Ministry of Health

Dr. Jackline Kitulu – Chair, Kenya Medical Association

Mr. Peter Kiama – Executive Director, Independent Medico-Legal Unit

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen
It gives me great pleasure to be invited to give remarks during the Launch of the Forensic Medico-Legal Manual for East Africa, developed by the Independent Medico-Legal Unit, in collaboration with the Kenya Medical Association at this forum tonight.

One of our core mandates as University of Nairobi is to “respond to national, regional and Africa’s high level manpower training needs by developing and evolving strong, diversified academic programs and specializations in sciences, applied sciences, technology, humanities, social sciences and the arts.”
In our endeavor to actualize this mandate, we encourage all academic staff and students alike to engage in publication of both peer reviewed journal articles, books and manuals to be able to support teaching and learning.

It is through publishing of local material such as books and manuals that we are able to generate, archive and disseminate information that is relevant to this part of the world. In this way, we are able to train our students using local and international reference material alike. We therefore must endeavor to populate our bookstores with these local publications for easy access to this new knowledge.

In addition, the University of Nairobi strongly encourages collaborations in academia and science such as is being witnessed today, whereby members of staff at the School of
medicine and Kenyatta National hospital have teamed up with IMLU and other regional and African partners in a worthy cause of publication.

The university has been able to generate a number of local books and manuals in the arts and sciences but a lot still needs to be done in the area of medicine and allied sciences. I therefore congratulate the Independent medico-legal Unit for spear-heading book publication in this new science for the region and hopefully Africa.

For the uninitiated, forensic medicine is the field of medicine that deals with the application of medical knowledge to outline medical scientific facts to the courts of law. The field therefore supports the administration of justice. As a University, we are proud to be part of this team in contributing to the
actualization of the Universal Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) number 16 and 11, which espouse the following:

**Goal 16.** Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

**Goal 11.** Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

By contributing to the development of a pool of well-trained forensic scientists and pathologists, using quality teaching and learning material such as this, we hope to promote access to justice on the one hand and safety on the other hand. Prosecution will be guided by fool-proof evidence that goes beyond any reasonable doubt, therefore according justice to both the victim and the accused.
It is noteworthy that scientifically proven convictions through proper evidence collection, documentation and presentation assures the public of proper convictions and correction of true offenders.

Typically, when criminals are faced with facts during the process of investigation, they end up providing useful leads to investigators of the offence and assisting the police to do their work professionally.

However when the investigators work in settings with poor or no support for evidence collection and processing, they end up taking short cuts to completion of the investigations. Hence the temptation to torture suspects in the process of obtaining of evidence.
Lastly, it is my sincere hope that as envisaged by the publishers, it will be a useful workbook for students of forensic science/medicine, medical experts, legal experts, police investigators and other medico-legal professions in the field.

Thank you all and God Bless you.

PETER M.F. MBITHI, PhD, EBS  
VICE CHANCELLOR  
AND  
PROFESSOR OF VETERINARY SURGERY