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**Key Note address by Mr. Jackson K. Mue, Deputy Director  
Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) Central  
Regional Office during the Official Opening of the  
Integrity in Public Service Workshop for the staff of  
University of Embu on Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

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**The Ag. Vice Chancellor;  
Members of staff present;  
EACC Officers;  
Ladies and Gentlemen;**

Good morning,

It gives me great honor and pleasure to be with you this morning as we launch this two day sensitization and on Integrity in Public Service training for the staff of University of Embu.

The purpose of this workshop is to share experiences, equip participants with knowledge, skills and tools with which to promote ethics, integrity and good governance in our respective areas of work. Public institutions such as the

University of Embu are expected to put in place measures for Corruption Eradication under the Performance Contracting annual targets that institutions are supposed to report progress on quarterly basis to EACC.

The Government adopted performance contracting as a key strategy of turning around the performance of the public service, in order to achieve accelerated economic development and indeed impact the standards of living of the Kenyan people.

The key objectives of performance contracting are to:

- a) Increase efficiency and productivity in public sector
- b) Ensure maximum yield to the citizens
- c) Ensure performance and results link with stakeholder expectations

- d) Create Global Competitiveness for the Kenya
- e) Enhance service delivery
- f) Enable monitoring and measurement of performance
- g) Build and sustain trust in public institutions
- h) Link reward to measurable performance in public service

Therefore as staff and Management of this university, it is expected that you will come up with clear corruption prevention strategies that are geared towards improving your organizational performance.

The strategies should include among others:

- a) Developing a comprehensive and integrated policy on corruption prevention and disseminating it to your stakeholders.

- b) Spearheading corruption prevention and detection by conducting comprehensive Corruption Risk Assessments and conducting regular system audits.
- c) Updating the codes of conduct in line with the provisions of the Leadership and Integrity Act, 2012.
- d) Setting ethical standards and providing staff with guidance and support.
- e) Acting on audit reports whenever queries are raised and ensuring that quarterly reports submitted to the Commission (EACC) are a true reflection of what is prevailing in your institution. Increasingly organizations are massaging reports for purposes of appearing to be committed to the tenets of integrity in public service.

## **Ladies and Gentlemen:**

The above strategies are premised on the understanding that prevention of corruption works better than law enforcement – since prevention is proactive. I therefore urge all of us to embrace this crucial sensitization and fully engage our officers who are scheduled to dialogue with you.

EACC is aware of the integrity and ethical challenges that are facing our Public Entities. Key among them include; infighting, conflicts of interest - compromise of public interest at the altar of private interest, fraudulent claims, embezzlement and bribery. It is for this reason that we are here to share with you some of the standards and obligations that our constitution and various anti-corruptions laws have imposed on us as public officers and the public entities that we serve.

The ethical bar has been raised and thus we cannot continue to do business in the same old order, preventive measures will be prioritized but when violations occurs, we will not shy away from inviting ourselves to invoke the law enforcement mandate of the Commission through investigative processes with the object of bring offenders to book and recovery of corruptly acquired assets.

In addition, the Leadership and Integrity Act, 2012 imposes obligations on all public entities. I particularly note that, the University of Embu as one of the public entities envisaged under the Act, you are expected to:

- i) Develop a code of conduct and ethics for staff and align it to the Leadership and Integrity Act, 2012;
- ii) Open and maintain a conflict of interests register;
- iii) Open and maintain a gifts register; and

- iv) All individual public officers to declare to the Commission operation of any bank accounts outside Kenya and seek approval to continue operating the same.
- v) As Public Officers, we are expected to execute our duties in a manner that always promotes public interest and safeguards the honor and dignity that is accorded to our offices.

On our part, EACC will remain firmly focused on our mandate and will continue to discharge our mandate in line with the values and ideals embedded in our Constitution. Most importantly, the law imposes a duty on us to always act independently, fairly and impartially. We wish to assure you and Kenyans that these attributes will always characterize our investigations and other aspects of our mandate.



I say this because as we continue to escalate the fight against corruption, there are others who have consistently been escalating the fight against the fight. These are some of the challenges that we face but the Commission will not be deterred by any form of negative profiling, black mail or intimidation. Kenyans are increasingly clamoring for good governance and corruption intolerance, lets us not let them down.

As I conclude, let me share in the words of Nelson Mandela, 1977 in a letter to his Wife.....

*"In judging our progress as individuals, we tend to concentrate on external factors such as one's social position, influence and popularity, wealth and standards of education...but internal factors may be more crucial in assessing one's development as a human being: humility, purity, generosity, absence of*

*vanity, integrity and readiness to serve your fellow men – qualities within the reach of every human soul”.*

With those many remarks, it is now my pleasure to declare this one day integrity sensitization workshop officially open.

**Thank you.**

**May God Bless the Staff and Students of the University of Embu**