

### **THREE LOCAL UNIVERSITIES SELECTED TO BE AFRICAN CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE UNDER THE ACE II PROJECT.**

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2016.

Kenya is among s eight African nations identified to host African centers of excellence under the (ACE II) project. The (ACE II) a World Bank sponsored project to the tune of 6 million US dollars per project aims to strengthen selected eastern and southern African higher education institutions to deliver quality post graduate education and build collaborative research capacity in the regional priority areas.

Three local institutions namely, Egerton University-centre of excellence on sustainable agriculture and agribusiness management (CESAAM), Jaramogi Odinga Oginga University of science and technology-sustainable use of insects as food and feed (INSEFOODS) and Moi University-centre of excellence in phytochemicals textiles and renewable energy (PTRE) have been selected as ACE II centers.

The Principal Secretary state Department of higher Education Prof. Collette Suda who is the committee Chair said the purpose of the ACE II is to encourage research and innovation, transform the skill needs for economic growth in the region, reduce brain drain and boost development. She was addressing proposed members of the national steering committee during a meeting today at Jogoo house.

The National Steering Committee (NSC) comprises representatives from the three universities, the ministries of education, energy, industrialization and agriculture. The NSC will among other duties oversee audits and monitor overall progress of the project implementation as well as undertake annual performance and progress reviews based on the signed performance and funding agreements for the selected ACE's.

Other countries participating in the African Centre's of Excellence project (ACE II) are Ethiopia, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia.

Ends.

## **WORLD BANK TO SUPPORT ESTABLISHMENT OF AFRICAN CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE PROJECT IN THREE LOCAL UNIVERSITIES.**

The World Bank will support three local universities to establish Africa centres of excellence (ACE II project) to the tune of 6 million US dollars per project. The centre's will cover three different areas namely: Centre of excellence on sustainable agriculture and agribusiness management (CESAAM) to be based at Egerton University, Sustainable use of insects as food and feed (INSEFOODS) at Jaramogi Odinga Oginga University of science and technology and Centre of excellence in phytochemicals textiles and renewable energy at Moi University.

While briefing members of the National steering committee (ACE II) project at Jogoo house, Higher education Principal Secretary Prof. Collette Suda said the three centres' are among 24 others in eastern and southern Africa. She noted that the three local universities were competitively selected and are expected to deliver the project expectations as envisaged. " It is important to note that the ACE II project is unique and it has adopted a performance based system of disbursement where funds will only flow after certain agreed upon results are obtained and verified", added Prof. Suda. The PS called on the ACE's to work with focus on achieving the desired results. She further asked the NSC members to provide implementation support and supervision of the project at the National level.

The National Steering Committee (NSC) comprises the PS state Department of Higher education as the Chairperson. Representatives of Principal Secretaries in industrialization; Energy and Petroleum; Agriculture and the National Treasury. Other NSC members include Directors of three ACE centre's; CEO Commission for university Education; CEO National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI); Kenya Private sector Alliance(KEPSA) and a coordinator/focal person from State Department of Higher Education.

Other countries participating in the African Centre's of Excellence project (ACE II) are Ethiopia, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia.

Ends.