**REMARKS OF THE PRINCIPAL, CUCK, PROF. DOUGLAS SHITANDA DURING THE CUCK’S ENVIRONMENTAL DAY ON 24TH MARCH, 2016, MAIN CAMPUS- KAREN AT 10.00AM**

Our deputy principals, AA Prof Kamau Ngamau

Deputy Principal FPA Prof. Esther Magiri,

Members of the University College Management Board

Our Karen ward MCA, Hon. David Mberia

Representatives from the County Government of Nairobi

Our neighbours; CBMC, Sisters of Notre Dame congregation

The staff of CUCK

The students,

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

We are here today as part of our efforts to take care of our environment as a family and a society. As you are aware, The Co-operative University College of Kenya (CUCK) is firmly committed to the Principles of Environmental Sustainability. We recognise that some of our various activities in day-today life impact upon the environment through our routine operations.

We may not avoid such activities that have both negative and positive impacts on our environment, but we can and we have a moral duty to ensure we minimise and mitigate such activities to live true to our commitment of a sustainable environment and ecosystem.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The university college will not spare any efforts to this commitment. We have put in place measures towards this. Today marks the start of our annual environmental day. We envisage to make this as successful as practically possible in future. We are working on an environmental policy which is at draft stage and part of our target is to make The Co-operative University College of Kenyaget recognition as one of the Green Universities in the World by 2020. To achieve this goal, it will require the active commitment of every member of the University College Community.

Within this context, we will advance Environmental Sustainability through Research, Teaching, Personal Behaviour, Administration, Planning and Development. To this end,CUCKis committed to:

1. Demonstrating institutional practices that promote Environmental Sustainability
2. Seek to integrate a consideration of Environmental issues into all relevant aspects of the University College’s teaching and research activities;
3. Addressing environmental sustainability in every major strategic and master plan;
4. Establishing indicators and targets for sustainability that will enable monitoring, reporting and continuous improvement;
5. Complying with all relevant environmental, public health and safety legislation by National and County Governments;
6. Working with the local community to help its surroundings like Karen and OngataRongai areas become more sustainable by protecting water sources and forest conservation among others

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

We may be facing a number of environmental challenges such as water conservation, sewerage disposal as student numbers increase, energy bills, deforestation and poor environmental awareness. We are moving fast and forward to addressing these issues and I call upon the newly reconstituted environmental committee to move to action with speed to their course.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Today is not a day for speeches but allow me to once again reiterate our commitment to working closely with the local community and other stakeholders like County Governments in development of water, waste management and resource conservation plans and facilities.

I wish to appreciate the effort spent by all our stakeholders and neighbouring community to make this day a success. Thank you very much and God bless you all.

**I therefore at this moment declare the CUCK annual environmental day open!**