

# Launch of the capacity development partnership

## The University of Nairobi (UoN) continues to receive recognition for the quality of its programmes.

The latest recognition was from the Ministry of Public Service, which in March 2011 signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the University that would enable the Kenya Institute of Administration (KIA) to offer a masters programme in public administration.

The MoU was formally launched at a well-attended ceremony at Harambee House officiated by the Assistant Minister for Public Service, Hon. Aden Ahmed Sugow, who said that the course will help in addressing the training needs of public servants and assist in building capacity in the civil service.

Prof. Isaac Mbeche, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Student Affairs, who represented the Vice-Chancellor, said that the MoU signals the move towards implementation of the programme and a pointer that UoN has the capacity and commitment to bring the initiative to fruition. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research, Production and Extension, Prof. Lucy Irungu, gave the assurance that research will be part of the new programmes with strict adherence to quality assurance mechanisms that ensure worldwide recognition of the programme.

The programme, will be based at KIA which has a long tradition of training civil servants in public administration. Its first intake of 30 students in September 2011 will be fully sponsored by the government. According to the Permanent Secretary, Public Service, Mr. Titus Ndambuki, the programme will initially target public

sector employees but will eventually be offered to other sectors. Other programmes that have been planned by the Ministry are M.A. in public policy and public affairs.

The Principal, KIA, Dr. Margaret Kobia, noted that the course is unique to the public service which had longed for an advanced degree that is rich in public service content.

Those present included Prof. Enos Njeru, Principal, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Prof. Makumi Mwangi, Director, Institute of Diplomacy and International Studies, Prof. Mohammed Jama, Director, Institute for Development Studies, Prof. Preston Chitere, Dean, Faculty of Arts and top Ministry and KIA officials.



Dr. Margaret Kobia, Mr. Titus Ndambuki, Hon. Aden Sugow, Prof. Isaac Mbeche and Prof. Lucy Irungu, shortly after signing of the MoU.