

## **First off grid lighting lab in Africa receives accreditation**

The University of Nairobi Lighting Laboratory (UoN-LL) is now the first lab to be accredited to test off grid lighting products in Africa. Located in the Institute of Nuclear Science and Technology in the College of Architecture and Engineering, the lab has met the ISO 17025:2015 specifications.

The certificate was presented to the Vice-Chancellor, UoN, Prof. Peter Mbithi by the Chief Executive Officer, Kenya Accreditation Services (KENAS), Mr. Martin Chesire, on May 15, 2018.

“The lab conducts testing of off grid solar products/kits under the lighting global quality assurance system. It is the only accredited lab in Africa that performs this testing,” Prof Michael Gatari, the Director, Quality Assurance.

Upon receiving the certificate, Prof. Mbithi congratulated the team on the great achievement.

“Over the years, the University has worked to ensure that all laboratory equipment is up to standard and well calibrated,” he said. “Our members of staff are our foot soldiers, who ensure that our standards are met.”

On his part, Mr. Chesire, congratulated the University on receiving the certification which he termed as ‘a first’ since he took office as CEO.

“KENAS is charged with the accreditation of testing and calibration laboratories. We issued over 200 accreditations in the country. Our role is to drive-up standards to meet international standards. We are the ‘checkers’ of ‘checkers’ as we are the second body in the region doing that,” he explained.

Some of the UoN-LL partners include the Lighting Global, International Finance Corporation, Kenya Bureau of Standards and Schatz Energy Research Centre, California.