



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

**INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY PROF. GEORGE A.
O. MAGOHA, VICE-CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY OF
NAIROBI, ON THE OCCASION OF THE PUBLIC
LECTURE ON GOVERNANCE BY SENATOR BARACK
OBAMA ON MONDAY, 28TH AUGUST 2006 AT 2.00
P.M. AT TAIFA HALL**

Senator Barack Obama

H.E. Amb. Michael E. Ranneberger,

US Ambassador to Kenya

Members of the Diplomatic Corps

Chancellor, University of Nairobi

Chairman, University of Nairobi Council

Deputy Vice-Chancellors, University of Nairobi

Principals of Colleges

Members of University of Nairobi Staff

Students

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

**On behalf of the University of Nairobi Council,
Senate and the entire University Community, it is
my pleasure to welcome you to the University of
Nairobi and to this lecture.**

We feel greatly honored that Senator Obama chose to come to the University to talk to us on governance, a subject that concerns us not only as scholars but also as members of the larger Kenyan Community.

Barack Obama has dedicated his life to public service as a community organizer, civil rights attorney, and leader in the Illinois state Senate. Obama now continues his fight for working families

following his recent election to the United States Senate.

Sworn into office in January 4, 2005, Senator Obama is focused on promoting economic growth and bringing good paying jobs to Illinois. Senator Obama serves on the important Environment and Public Works Committee, which oversees legislation and funding for the environment and public works projects throughout the country, including the national transportation bill. He also serves on the

Veterans' Affairs Committee where he is focused on investigating the disability pay discrepancies that have left thousands of Illinois veterans without the benefits they earned. Senator Obama also serves on the Foreign Relations Committee.

During his seven years in the Illinois state Senate, Senator Obama worked with both Democrats and Republicans to help working families get ahead by creating programs like the state Earned Income Tax Credit, which in three years provided over \$100

million in tax cuts to families across the state. Senator Obama also pushed through an expansion of early childhood education and after a number of inmates on death row were found innocent, Senator Obama enlisted the support of law enforcement officials to draft legislation requiring the videotaping of interrogations and confessions in all capital cases.

Senator Obama is especially proud of being a husband and father of two daughters, Malia, 8 and

Sasha, 4. Senator Obama and his wife, Michelle, married in 1992 and live on Chicago's South Side where they attend Trinity United Church of Christ.

Barack Obama was born on August 4th, 1961, in Hawaii to Barack Obama, Sr. and Ann Dunham. Senator Obama graduated from Columbia University in 1983 and moved to Chicago in 1985 to work for a church-based group seeking to improve living conditions in poor neighborhoods plagued with crime and high unemployment. In 1991, Senator

Obama graduated from Harvard Law School where he was the first African American editor of the Harvard Law Review.

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is my pleasure and honour to invite Senator Barack Obama to address you.