I am humbled and honored to receive you today at this great institution that bears testimony to the historical ties between Kenya and India. Most of the distinctive icons in this university symbolize the enduring relations that Kenya and India have continued to enjoy.

You have just paid homage to the Gandhi statue which was donated by the Gandhi Memorial Academy society (MGMAS) together with the magnificent Gandhi wing building and the Gandhi memorial library.

Part of the money that was used to construct the structures came from the Indian government.

The opening was done by Dr. Radhakrishnan, former Vice President of India on 12th July 1956-coincidentally just a day to the 60th anniversary.

In 1967 the first Gandhi Memorial lecture series was delivered by Dr. D.P Gajendragadka, then Vice – Chancellor of the University of Bombay and former Chief Justice of India. Since then, the University of Nairobi has traditionally held public lectures every year in memory of Mahatma Gandhi.

Your public lecture here today in Taifa hall is therefore a continuation of that very significant tradition.

Another icon, the fountain of Knowledge, was named after Prof. R.K. Yajnik who documented the history of the Gandhi Memorial Academy society.
YOUR EXCELLENCY,

The Cooperation between Kenya and India in the education sector has greatly contributed to the rapid growth of Kenya’s educated labour force.

Not long ago, Kenya had limited opportunities for high school graduates yearning for university education.

A good number of our people who could not be absorbed by our local universities found their way to India. Many of them came back to make their contribution in nation building. In that respect we are highly indebted to government and people of India for opening their doors.

I also want to appreciate the generosity that the government of India has since independence continued to extend to the people of Kenya through hundreds of scholarships given annually to Kenyan nationals for professional training in various fields in India.

Your Excellency,

You have continued to remind us that there is immense potential in the blue economy-“from the blue skies to the blue oceans “ -the new frontiers of unexploited wealth that could provide the much needed jobs to the restless youthful population.

Kenya has a sizeable population of innovative and enterprising youths thirsty for job and business opportunities. That is the reason why we are very excited at the renewed interest of India and other Asian economies in developing the blue economy around the Indian Ocean.

We are keen to play a significant role in the integrated Indian Ocean blue economy that include maritime, fisheries, oil and gas and related industries. However, our capacity to realize our full potential and participate in the integrated Indian Ocean blue economy is constrained by lack of technical and vocational skills.

As the man in charge of technical and vocational training I take this opportunity to request your government to consider extending technical assistance to our institutions to enable them produce competent workers with the much needed technical and vocational skills.

Your Excellency,

I associate myself fully with your vision for creating a digital government. Your vision resonates well with our vision to enhance service delivery through digital transformation.
Digital transformation of government will open up more business opportunities both for local and international investors.

India has repositioned itself as a global leader in information technology.

We have also developed some innovative applications to provide homegrown solutions to our unique challenges. However, I believe that there is still a lot that Kenya can learn from India.

The list is endless but I would not have done justice if conclude my remarks without encouraging Indian investors in the film and entertainment industry to partner with our institutions and the industry to unlock the limitless opportunities in this idle sector.

Finally,

I believe that enhanced collaboration and partnerships between our institutions of higher learning can significantly expose our graduates with the requisite experience and skills to manage the emerging global challenges. Our ambition to play a key role in the global economy will ultimately depend on the strength of our human capital.

“Human resource is the active and ultimate factor in the creation of wealth of a nation. Capital and natural resources are passive factors of production”.

With those few remarks, it is now my humble duty to welcome you to give your lecture.