



## **UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI**

**REMARKS BY DR. IDLE OMAR FARAH, OGW  
CHAIRMAN, UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI COUNCIL, ON  
THE OCCASION OF THE 51<sup>st</sup> GRADUATION CEREMONY  
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI AT THE  
CHANCELLOR'S COURT ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 29<sup>TH</sup>,  
2014**

**The Cabinet Secretary for Education, Science and  
Technology, Prof. Jacob Kaimenyi,**

**Dr Vijoo Rattansi, Chancellor of the University of  
Nairobi**

**Prof. G. A. O. Magoha, Vice-Chancellor, University of  
Nairobi**

**Chancellors and Vice-Chancellors from other  
universities**

**Council Members**

**University Staff**

**Parents and Guardians**

**Graduands**

**Distinguished Guests**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

**On behalf of the University of Nairobi Council, I wish to warmly welcome you all to the University and in particular to this 51st Graduation Ceremony. I heartily congratulate the graduating class of 2014. Allow me to join you in celebrating the fruits of years of hard work that have culminated in this day, marking a significant achievement in your lives and making all of us very proud of your accomplishment.**

**To the parents and guardians who have worked hard, supporting the young people graduating today; your work has not been in vain. We thank you for choosing University of Nairobi as your preferred institution of choice for higher learning for your child. I wish to remind this cohort of graduants that the country is experiencing rapid economic growth, improving and developing infrastructure, new technologies and a well-**

**educated workforce. Make use of the excellent skills you have acquired at this university to serve your fellow countrymen and humanity at large.**

**Ladies and gentlemen, despite all the hitches, the last year has been full of promise with quality work in research, teaching and corporate social responsibility. The Web Ranking of Universities has once again affirmed the University of Nairobi (UoN) as the leading University in the region, and is at position nine (9) in Africa out of 1307 ranked universities. The ranking confirms the scholarly competitive edge the University of Nairobi (UoN) has steadily maintained in the country, in Africa and the entire world. Over the years, the University has established itself as a world-class university committed to scholarly excellence, offering programmes in diverse fields of specialization. I wish to commend the university management, Senate, and staff for this good performance.**

**Ladies and gentlemen, as the University of Nairobi adapts to the new legislation of the Universities Act 2012 that allows greater access to university and higher education for all citizens, we must be innovative**

**in order to get more students and establish more programmes while still maintaining and enhancing the high quality of education and training to enable us produce wholesome graduates with a marketability edge. I wish therefore, to challenge the university community to redouble its efforts of teaching, examining and providing a wholesome learning experience. Here, I suggest that the University attains self-sufficiency in terms of developing and improving infrastructure and modernizing teaching and research facilities thereby creating a conducive environment for scholars.**

**Ladies and gentlemen, allow me to salute our Chancellor, Dr Vijoo Rattansi for fitting in so well to the UoN family, the Chancellor has so far visited virtually all the colleges and I know that the Council will be working very closely with her in the areas capacity building, infrastructure development and teaching facilities. We look forward to her contribution.**

**Ladies and gentlemen, as part of good governance, the University embraced the competitive hiring of top management ten years ago when it hired the current Vice-Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha, This done as a bold step as first in any public university in Kenya. In his tenure, Prof Magoha has made unparalleled contribution to transforming the University and I would like, on behalf of the Council to salute Prof George Magoha for his unwavering and outstanding leadership which has borne unprecedented results. When his tenure comes to an end, the Council, in full knowledge of this, will deal with the transition in a timely manner and a transparent fashion.**

**Madam Chancellor, about 8 months ago, the University faced labour unrest involving involving various cadres of staff. I am happy to report that through concerted efforts by the Council and the management and with the assistance of the Government, the issues have been resolved. I want to appreciate the union leaders and staff because despite some interruption we were able to resume work and to resolve the CBA issues. I wish to assure everybody that my Council will ensure that we**

**meet our end of the bargain; in this regard therefore I wish to thank the management for working overtime to resolve the issues, and reaffirm that the Council will embrace dialogue as a means of resolving industrial disputes, placing high priority in allocating resources to promote staff welfare thereby boosting morale and creating a conducive work environment and equitable rewards system.**

**I wish at this juncture to thank the student body SONU for conducting its elections with maturity; I welcome the incoming team in full assurance that they will participate and walk with the Council and management as they serve their term. Our sincere thanks also goes to the previous student leaders who handed over without any hitches to the incoming team.**

**Ladies and gentlemen, I wish to address the issue of fees in public universities. As you are aware this issue created some misunderstanding and there were protests in some of our public universities. I wish to clear the misunderstanding by emphasizing that the**

**University has an elaborate system for considering such issues. You are well aware that the Council plays a key role in governance, and given that the student body is represented on Council, there is no possibility that fees can be raised without the necessary consultations being made with all segments of the stakeholders.**

**Madam Chancellor, the University has been able to discharge its mandate effectively because of the support that we have received from our stakeholders. The government continues to support us financially, providing the recurrent expenditure that we require to run this institution. On its part, the University has committed to generate cash flows to supplement government capitation. It is evident that our services have increased making it mandatory for us to acquire more resources to put up more facilities including laboratories, classrooms, and lecture theatres, among others. Even as we seek to diversify revenue sources, I wish on behalf of the Council, to appeal to the government to increase funding which has been sharply reduced this year. The drastic cut has impacted on**

**futuristic planning and projected growth of the University. We wish to be considered in a supplementary budget and to be given a chance to make our case for enhancement of the budget or an increase beyond the 38 per cent budgetary support.**

**In conclusion, I again, congratulate the class of 2014, please take up your role to bring up a positive and lasting impact on the society you will be serving. Be useful to yourselves, your alma mater and to your country.**

**Thank you.**