



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

**REMARKS BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE UNIVERSITY
OF NAIROBI COUNCIL, DR. IDLE FARAH, DURING
THE 56TH GRADUATION CEREMONY HELD ON
FRIDAY DECEMBER 2, 2016 AT THE CHANCELLOR'S
COURT AT 7.30 A.M**

- **The Cabinet Secretary of Education, Dr. Fred Matiang'i**
- **The Chancellor, University of Nairobi, Dr. Vijoo Rattansi**
- **The Vice-Chancellor, University of Nairobi, Prof. Peter Mbithi**
- **Members of the University Council**
- **Your Excellencies, the Ambassadors and High Commissioners**

- **Chancellors of Sister Universities**
- **Chairpersons of other University Councils**
- **Vice-Chancellors of Sister Universities**
- **Members of the University Management Board**
- **University of Nairobi Senate**
- **Graduands**
- **Staff and Students**
- **Parents and Guardians**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen**

On behalf of the University Council, I am delighted to welcome you all to this auspicious occasion of the University's 56th graduation ceremony.

I also take this opportunity to applaud all the graduands of the 2016 class. No doubt, it has taken much sacrifice and enduring years of intense learning to reach this day and adorn graduation regalia. Congratulations!

The University Council continues to play its rightful role in the University's operations. The Council has remained steadfast and united in support of efforts by the management in transforming the University into a globally leading center of academic excellence.

To this end the University has continued to improve in its academic rankings as well as the National Performance Contracting.

Dr. Matiang'i allow me to convey our collective gratitude to the Government for the consistent support accorded to the University. We thank the government for committing to channel Ksh. 800 million to the University for the completion of the Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies Phase II and the annual budgetary allocation of Ksh. 100 million towards

funding the Nairobi Innovation Week. I assure you that the money will be put into productive use.

In terms of Capital development, the University is undertaking several major infrastructural projects. I am sure Nairobians must have noticed the impressive change in the Nairobi's skyline thanks to the magnificent University Towers that is now complete and I hasten to add is ready for official opening and

occupation. The facility will have a great impact in our service delivery.

As I conclude my remarks, I must state that this 56th graduation marks some sort of a farewell for me. After serving on the University of Nairobi Council for 12 years now and serving as Chairman since February 2013, my tour of duty comes to an end in February 2017. It is twelve years that can only be described as

an epic journey. I sincerely thank the Government for according me the opportunity to serve my country and my alma mater. I am also grateful for the support I have received from my fellow council members, the university management, senate, staff and students.

Above all, it's been an absolute joy working under the guidance of Chancellor Dr. Vijoo Rattansi. Working

with Dr. Rattansi is an exercise that automatically teaches one about the virtues of selfless service, dignity, honor and integrity. In brief it is the proverbial art of keeping to the straight and narrow.

Despite all the myriad of challenges, I wish to assure all that the University is in sound financial and academic standing.

A final word to the graduands! Whatever you do wherever you go always do keep time and more importantly keep your word. If you steadfastly live by these two tenets, success is yours for the taking.

Congratulations to the 2016 class.

God bless the University of Nairobi.

Thank you.

DR. IDLE OMAR FARAH

CHAIRMAN

UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI COUNCIL