



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

**ADDRESS BY PROF. PETER M.F. MBITHI, VICE
CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI DURING
THE 56TH GRADUATION CEREMONY HELD ON
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2016 AT THE
CHANCELLOR'S COURT AT 7.30 A.M.**

- **The Cabinet Secretary for Education, Dr. Fred Matiang'i**
- **The Chancellor, University of Nairobi, Dr. Vijoo Rattansi**
- **Your Excellencies, the Ambassadors and High Commissioners,**
- **Chancellors of Sister Universities**
- **Chairman of the University of Nairobi Council, Dr. Idle Farah**
- **Members of the University Council**
- **Chairpersons of other University Councils**
- **Vice-Chancellors of Sister Universities**

- **Members of the University Management Board**
 - **University of Nairobi Senate**
 - **Graduands**
 - **Staff**
 - **Students**
 - **Parents and Guardians**
 - **Ladies and Gentlemen**
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I am delighted to warmly welcome you all to the University of Nairobi and to the 56th Graduation Ceremony.

In a very special way, Madam Chancellor, we are all very delighted and happy to have with us the Cabinet Secretary for Education, Dr. Fred Matiang'i on this auspicious occasion, which is our second and final graduation ceremony for the class of 2016.

Bwana CS, kwa heshima kuu karibu, chuo kikuu cha Nairobi.

Madam Chancellor, today we are graduating students from the College of Health Sciences and the College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

In today's ceremony, 8,505 graduands will be conferred degrees and awarded diplomas. The graduands consist of 57 PhDs, 2,477 Masters, 49 Postgraduate Diplomas, 5,177 Bachelors, 2 Fellowships and 743 ordinary Diplomas.

I warmly congratulate all graduands, their families, friends, guardians and sponsors.

I vividly recall when the President, visited the University early last year when I had just been installed as the Vice Chancellor. At that forum, he challenged me and the University, to among other things, put greater effort to further improve the global ranking of the UoN.

I am pleased to report that pursuant to this and through our collective effort, the UoN ranking in Africa has improved from position 9 in 2014 to

position 6 currently. The University has also joined the league of the top 3% of the best universities globally.

Furthermore, the University's visibility continues to rise, with its recent admission to the Worldwide Universities Network (WUN), a leading global higher education and research network of top universities.

Madam Chancellor, I assure you of the commitment of the entire University to continue to improve the research and academic quality of the University and

to play an increasingly more relevant role in providing sustainable development solutions for Kenya and the global community.

Madam Chancellor, this year our staff were involved in high profile research, negotiating beneficial memoranda with various institutions and development partners, locally and abroad.

Due to high impact research activity by our faculty the University's research fund currently stands at Ksh. 4.5 billion.

During the 6th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI) held at the KICC on 27th – 28th August 2016 the UoN was elected to chair the United Nations Universities' Education for Sustainable Development Program in Africa (ESDA) consortium.

In addition, Madam Chancellor, a team of top great health professionals, mainly from UoN School of Medicine, working with other doctors at KNH,

managed to separate conjoined twins in a gruelling operation that lasted 23 hours.

I pay special tribute to them and other professionals and assure them of our continued support in making this country self-reliant in manpower requirements.

The University has therefore contributed immensely to innovation, entrepreneurship and extension services to accelerate our country's industrialization.

Madam Chancellor, the entire UoN community conveys special thanks, gratitude and appreciation to H.E. The President, for visiting the University this year; the first time to officially launch our Nairobi Innovation Week on August 3, 2016 in Taifa Hall, and then on August 23, 2016 to lay the foundation stone for the Wangari Maathai Institute. This is a worthy investment, which we do not take for granted.

Madam Chancellor, sustenance of world class status is expensive. I therefore call upon friends and partners, including and particularly the good

Government of Kenya, to continue supporting this University, in letter and spirit.

Ladies and gentlemen, we are grateful; for our most able Chancellor, Dr. Vijoo Rattansi. She has served this University with great commitment and passion and steered the University to greater heights of development.

Madam Chancellor, we are truly grateful.

I also thank most sincerely the University Council, for providing the policy framework, strategic direction and stewardship. In spite of many challenges, you have provided the right environment for us to adequately discharge the objects and functions of the University.

Above all, I thank the government of Kenya, through the Ministry of Education, for its continued strong support and guidance to this University and its leadership.

Finally, I wish to greatly appreciate our faculty and staff for serving this University diligently. I thank each and every one of you for your consistent and focused hard work which you have discharged with great dedication and passion. I salute you all. I urge you to never tire of this noble calling for the good of our University, country and humanity.

To our gallant gradaunds, today belongs to you. You are joining over 195,000 alumni who have successfully proven the quality of the University of Nairobi brand. I urge you to be our goodwill

ambassadors in the market as you pursue your careers. I further welcome you to join our Alumni Association and give back to your alma mater.

My dear students, fare thee well. May the good Lord bless and keep you in your endeavour.

Thank you Your Excellency, Madam Chancellor.

God bless the University of Nairobi.

God bless Kenya.

With those remarks, it is now my pleasant duty and honour to invite the Chancellor, Dr. Vijoo Rattansi, to give her address.

Thank you and God bless you all.

PETER M.F MBITHI, PhD, EBS

VICE-CHANCELLOR

AND

PROFESSOR OF VETERINARY SURGERY