



Improve dons terms, UoN Vice Chancellor urges Salaries Commission

Nairobi today December 6, 2013

University of Nairobi Vice Chancellor Prof George Magoha wants the government to review the remuneration of University staff to “reflect the critical role they play in the social economic development of this nation”.

Speaking at the university’s 50th graduation ceremony, Prof Magoha said reviewing the lecturer’s terms would help increase productivity. He called on the Salaries and Remuneration Commission, SRC, to hasten the framework for remuneration for university staff and to effect current Collective Bargaining Agreements to boost the morale of staff.

“It is ironical that the proposed remuneration for members of the County Assemblies pits their pay higher than that of scholars yet it takes a lot more investment to nurture an academician. This will help in stemming the serious brain drain the country has been experiencing especially to more developed economies,” said Prof Magoha.

The Vice Chancellor disclosed that the university will continue investing in infrastructure modernization and expansion to cope with the rising admissions. Currently the university has a student population of 70,000. He noted that the university’s fixed assets had grown to over Ksh. 100 billion up from Ksh.10 billion over the last 10 years. “As part of moving into the future, we are enhancing our infrastructural capacity by constructing the 22-storey University tower at the main campus to house our increasing academic activities and the University of Nairobi Graduate School. Other infrastructural activities include the School of Pharmacy complex at Kenyatta National Hospital and the expansion of the Kisumu campus,” he said.

During the occasion nine thousand graduands drawn from the Colleges of Health Sciences, Humanities and Social Sciences were conferred with degrees increasing the University of Nairobi alumni to 160,000. Among the graduands was a leading psychiatrist Prof. David Ndetei who graduated with aD.Sc. The university, established in 1956, offers more than 400 courses at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

The ceremony also witnessed the installation of Dr Vijoo Rattansi as the fourth Chancellor of the University of Nairobi for a five year term. Dr. Rattansi becomes the first female Chancellor of the institution and the second non-head of State Chancellor at the University. Dr. Rattansi is

also the Chairperson of the Rattansi Education Trust. The Trust has been supporting needy students in Universities since 1956 and has spent more than KES 120 million in the last 10 years. She takes over from Dr. Joseph Wanjui, who has successfully completed the stipulated ten-year tenure.

Speaking during the occasion Council Chairman Dr. Farah Idle disclosed that the university's annual research kitty had grown considerably to Kshs. 3.5 billion. "Our scholars are playing active roles in the foundation and implementation of policies and programmes that seek to address societal and universal issues. This clearly demonstrates our scholars' commitment to debunk myths that universities have generated into teaching institutions rather than research institutions," he said.

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