



**UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI**

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**SPEECH BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE UNIVERSITY OF  
NAIROBI COUNCIL, DR. IDLE FARAH, DURING THE 55<sup>TH</sup>  
GRADUATION CEREMONY HELD ON FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 2,  
2016 AT THE CHANCELLOR'S COURT AT 8.00 A.M.**

- **The Cabinet Secretary, Education, Science and Technology, 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**

**It gives me great pleasure to welcome all of you to the 55<sup>th</sup> graduation ceremony, an occasion in which we are releasing into the world of work and service over 4,400 graduates. Today is the first graduation this calendar year since the last event held here on December 4, 2015.**

**Graduation is possibly the most significant event in a University calendar, marking the successful completion of an academic program; it symbolizes the transformation of an individual from a young student into a dynamic professional, equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills, ready to take up the opportunities available in the job market.**

**Graduands, your accomplishments constitute a significant achievement which would not have been possible without the support and encouragement of your parents, guardians and faculty, all seated proudly amongst our audience today. I wish to express my appreciation to all those who have assisted you on your academic journey. On behalf of the University of Nairobi Council, accept my Congratulations!**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**As we approach the end of year 2016, I wish to assure the University of Nairobi community and stakeholders that the University is still on course to achieve the vision set out under the current management.**

**As Council, we believe that there is enough room for all of us to participate in the management of the institution as we move to sustain our already achieved and well deserved World Class Status.**

**Ladies and gentlemen, the University has diligently continued to discharge its mandate of teaching, learning, research, consultancy and community service. The University has continued to attract high profile and distinguished guests, among them being the Indian Prime Minister, Narendra Modi who visited the University on July 11, 2016. There has also been many other distinguished guests even from within Kenya.**

**Ladies and gentlemen, I wish to thank the Government for its continued support to the University. However, I would like once again, to appeal to the government to be remitting the monthly capitation on time since we use it to meet critical financial obligations, including payment of staff salaries. Delayed remittances normally force us to go for bank overdrafts which only worsen our financial situation.**

**Consistent funding from the exchequer would be most welcome at this time when our earnings from module II and other IGUs have plateaued, against a backdrop of general inflation and greater financial demands.**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**Last year, the University mounted the annual Nairobi Innovation Week, which is a forum for researchers and Innovators to showcase their products, and to discuss how ideas can be developed into products and businesses. I wish to thank all companies and organizations that partnered with the University in this noble event in 2016, and recognize the support given by the Cabinet Secretaries for ICT, and Education, Science and Technology.**

**Lastly, I wish to thank our entire staff and students for remaining disciplined and committed to academic excellence. I appeal to all to remain steadfast as we strive to make 2016 an even more successful year.**

**To the graduands, as we celebrate you today, remember that you carry the flag of your alma mater wherever you go. Make the University proud through your contributions, by being disciplined, hardworking, committed and ethical in all that you do. I wish you the best in all your future endeavors.**

**Thank you and have a Blessed Day.**

**DR. IDLE OMAR FARAH  
CHAIRMAN  
UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI COUNCIL**