

Thousands graduate at 53rd graduation ceremony

5,301 graduands have been conferred and awarded with degrees and diplomas at the University of Nairobi's 53rd graduation ceremony by the Chancellor, Dr. Vijoo Rattansi.

During the ceremony, a Hon. Justice (Prof.) Jackton B. Ojwang, a Judge of the Supreme Court of Kenya was awarded a Doctor of Laws degree (LLD). The graduation featured graduands from the Colleges of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences, Architecture and Engineering, Biological and Physical Sciences and Education and External Studies.

While congratulating the graduates, Dr. Rattansi challenged them to make a difference in society. "You are equal to the task and any curve balls that the world may throw at you. All you need to do is try! You are today's stars, tomorrow's legends. You are our ambassadors for the future. Let it never be said that you did not play your part," she said. "I wish thee well, in all you aspire to do! In a world full of selfish interests, treachery and opportunities for corruption and ill gains, I advise you as the good book does: whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, meditate on these things."

Referring to the graduands as the 'the pioneer crop of graduands under the new administration,' Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi challenged them to gain industrial experience and come back in future as masters and PhD students to enhance their knowledge further. In his speech, Prof. Mbithi revealed that the University is expanding infrastructure.

He said that UoN will soon break ground for several development projects including the construction of the Wangari Maathai Campus funded by the African Development Bank and the Government of Kenya to the tune of KES 700 million, the Confucius Institute building estimated to cost KES 1.2 billion and construction of hostel blocks to accommodate 5,000 students thereby addressing the shortage of fit-for-purpose student accommodation. Prof. Mbithi was speaking at his first graduation ceremony as Vice-Chancellor.

Wishing the graduands well as they embark on their career journey, the Chairman of Council, Dr. Idle Farah, congratulated the class of 2015 noting that graduation is the culmination of a long and tortuous process. On administrative issues, Dr. Farah revealed that the Council has domesticated Mwongozo, which is the new code of governance for state corporations and that it is committed to managing and growing the University's resources.

"We are satisfied that so far, the University management has been prudent in the use of these resources as well as in generating resources internally," he said.

Ms. Fenny Mwakisha, Senior Deputy Director, Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology challenged universities to continuously review their academic programmes to

fill the skills gap in the market. She congratulated the University of offering quality programmes that are relevant to the everyday societal challenges. Ms. Mwakisha was speaking on behalf of the Cabinet Secretary for Education, Pro. Jacob Kaimenyi.

The University congratulates the class of 2015.