WELCOME REMARKS BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR,
PROF. PETER M.F. MBITHI DURING THE PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA PUBLIC LECTURE HELD ON MONDAY, JULY 11, 2016 AT TAIFA HALL, 2.30 P M.
• The Prime Minister of India, H.E. Narendra Modi

• The Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Dr. Fred Matiang’i

• The Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Amb. Amina Mohammed

• Indian High Commissioner to Kenya, H.E. Suchitra Durai

• Chancellor of the University of Nairobi, Dr. Vijoo Rattansi

• Chairman of University Council, Dr. Idle Farah

• Distinguished Guests

• Ladies and Gentlemen
Good afternoon!

I take this opportunity to welcome you to the University of Nairobi, the top ranked and most prestigious University in East and Central Africa and 6th best ranked in Africa.

The University has a rich history with India right from inception in 1947 where the Indian Community came up an idea of establishing a Technical College for Commerce, Arts and Science in memory of Mahatma Gandhi. In 1956, the University started as a Royal
Technical College with kind support from the Indian Community. The initial number of students was 2,000 and over the years, the population has risen to the current 84,000 students and over 200,000 alumni. This is a 200 fold growth in a span of 60 years. Furthermore, the University has grown in academic and research quality and is ranked among the Top 3% of best Universities worldwide.

The University could not have achieved this phenomenal growth without the support of the Indian Community through the Gandhi Memorial Academy.
Society that contributed US$ 200,000 towards the costs of various initial buildings, donated US$ 100,000 for an Endowment Fund and another US$ 100,000 to set up a Gandhi Smarak Nidhi Trust Fund. I am happy to report that the Indian society is represented in this University by Dr. Manu Chandaria who sits in the Governing Council, Dr. Vijoo Rattansi who is the Chancellor of the University and Hindu Council of Kenya for endowing several Chairs at the University.

I want to pay a special tribute to the Indian High Commissioner to Kenya, Ms. Suchitra Durai who has
steadfastly built relationships between India and Kenyan Government and in particular the University of Nairobi by initiating such activities as Yoga, teaching and research, training and cultural exchanges.

PETER M.F.MBITHI, PhD, EBS
VICE CHANCELLOR
AND
PROFESSOR OF VETERINARY SURGERY