REMARKS BY DR. JOE B. WANJUI, CHANCELLOR,
UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI, ON THE OCCASION OF
THE VISIT BY HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT BILL
CLINTON, THE FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE U.S.A
ON AT 11.00 A.M.
The former President of the U.S.A,
President Bill Clinton;
Minister for Education Science & Technology,
Prof. George Saitoti;
Your Excellencies the Ambassadors and
Members of Diplomatic Corps;
Honorable Ministers;
Chancellors of our sister Universities;
Chairmen of University Councils;
Hon. Assistant Ministers;
Members of University Community;
Distinguished Guests;
Ladies and Gentlemen
It is with great pleasure that I welcome you, your Excellency President Clinton, to the University of Nairobi. The University community is indeed honoured to have you here with us today.

Your being here is an inspiration to us, that such a re-known world figure would humbly grace our Institution. We are also inspired by you as we note that a six pounds eight ounces baby-boy born at Julia Chester Hospital at Hope, South-West Arkansas could rise to be the President of a great country that is the U.S.A.

Your life history is also quite inspiring. It challenges us all, especially we in Kenya, that we can be whatever we want to be. We follow your winning a Rhodes Scholarship in New Orleans to
going to College at Oxford. We note your teaching law at the University of Arkansas Law School at Fayetteville, to your occupancy of the lovely little house at 930 California Drive that brought you and Hillary so much joy. We revere at your being Governor-elect of Arkansas at age 32, to your distraut at being the first Governor in Arkansas in a quarter country to be denied a 2nd two year term and hence being probably the youngest ex-Governor at that point in history. We revere at your rise from the afore-mentioned defeat to being the first Governor to have lost and be re-elected once again as Governor, after defeating Frank White. We recall Roger Porter prodding you to ran for presidency, although you were virtually unknown then, to rallying and defeating President Bush and Rose Perot at the polls to become
become President. Though the American people loved you, as did the rest of the world, you had to retire from the presidency in accordance with the U.S. constitution.

Your courage in life indeed serves as a good example to many Kenyans.

You are a man worldly traveled, who has witnessed many great events, and shaped many during your time in politics, and continue to do so under the Clinton Foundation. As Chancellor of this University, I am most pleased that you chose to include this great University in your present itinerary.
I also welcome you here in your other capacity as an Academician, having served as a Professor of Law at Arkansas Law School.

The University of Nairobi is the largest University in East and Central Africa, in terms of infrastructure, staff and student population. It admits students from various backgrounds, but many of them come from disadvantaged background. The University has to assist these disadvantage students in terms of tuition support to enable them complete their education. This is but one of the many challenges that faces the University. However, despite these numerous difficulties, the University is able to produce high calibre graduates, such as Prof. Wangari Maathai,
the 2005 Nobel laureate, who is an Alumni of this University.

With support from the Clinton Foundation, the University can go a long way in terms of research. Research is critical, and as such, we urge you to use your good offices to facilitate the University in providing support for research, and in forging collaboration between the University of Nairobi and Universities in America. Collaborative research will go a long way in the fight against HIV/AIDS, Hunger and Poverty, for our mutual benefit and survival.

This is indeed a great day for Africa, Kenya and especially for the University of Nairobi. You are one of the world’s great statesmen, and we are
honoured to have you, Your Excellency President Clinton, visit our Institution.

As a token of appreciation for your visit, and a reminder for the same, I wish to present to you this gift, which is a replica of the University’s fountain of knowledge. “The fountain” represents the knowledge that the University gives and from which we (the students, staff and Kenya as a whole) drink from.

(PRESENTATION OF GIFT)

And now, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is my pleasure to invite the Minister of Education to make his remarks.

Thank you