SPEECH BY THE CHANCELLOR, DR. VIJOO RATTANNSI
DURING THE VICE-CHANCELLOR’S BREAKFAST
MEETING HELD AT THE NORFOLK HOTEL ON MARCH 25, 2015
Cabinet Secretaries
Principal Secretaries
Chancellors
Eminent Persons
Vice-Chancellors
Deputy Vice-Chancellors
Distinguished guests
Ladies and Gentlemen
Welcome back home! There is no place like home they say. When you feel exhausted and there is no other place you would rather be at; when you feel like you have too much on your mind and you need a break; when you feel like you want some time alone to reminisce and fore board; there is only one place that can afford you that sanctuary...that is home.

Ladies and gentlemen, sons and daughters; today we are gathered here as members of one family. Like you I wear many hats during the day...sometimes I am the Chancellor of the University of Nairobi, sometimes I am the Chair of Rattansi Educational Trust, sometimes I sit on and even chair boards and committees to advance progress for our children yet sometimes I just want to be a mother, to be listened to, to be corrected, to be advised and to be appreciated. I just want to be a family member not to be judged by the character of my office but to relate like ordinary mortals without expectations or
prejudice. That is all I want to do today...don no hat, wear no feather, sit atop no pedestal...all I want to be today is a member of this Panel of Eminent Persons of the University of Nairobi. I would not address you if I were not a Chancellor, so indeed there is a place for all our titles and positions. I invite you all, like me, to remove your caps if so just momentarily and engage in this forum like members of one eminent family.

I am aware that the image of the University is good, but why be good when better is possible? I am also aware that the University brand is excellent, but why be excellent when perfection is within our reach? We are therefore gathered here to confer and reason together to proffer solutions to the various challenges that confound our alma mater. We are also gathered here as children of the same family to share ideas and to network.
In my maiden address at the 50th Graduation Congregation, I stated that my office desired to work closely with the alumni in whichever facet of the economy they may be engaged in. I also expressed my profound wish that each of us would take the challenge of making the University a better place for our children and children’s children as a personal challenge. We have started this journey. I hope we will neither grow faint nor weary. I hope we will not tire to give back to our alma mater even if just a little.

Ladies and gentlemen, I therefore invite us all to engage freely and whole heartedly and to wish us all the best in today’s deliberations and all we do wherever we go forth from here.

God bless you all.