REMARKS BY PROF. GEORGE A.O. MAGOHA, VICE-CHANCELLOR, ON THE OCCASION OF HONORING PROF. C.M. KIAMBA AND MR. C.M. THUKU FOR SERVICE RENDERED TO THE UNES BOARD, ON 21ST OCTOBER, 2005 AT 7.00 P.M. AT THE NORFOLK HOTEL
Chairman of University Council, Mr. John Simba

Our Guests this evening,

Prof. C.M. Kiamba

and

Mr. C.K. Thuku

UNES Board and Directors

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic Affairs)

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration & Finance)

College Principals

Director, UNES

Ladies and Gentlemen
I am indeed most delighted to be with you here this evening, as we mark the distinguished service of the two fine gentlemen before us, Prof. Kiamba and Mr. Thuku, as members of the UNES Board. To begin with, let me first of all express my own appreciation, and that of the entire University, for the invaluable service that you rendered to UNES as Board members. My most sincere thanks to you.

Indeed, Ladies and Gentlemen, the now respected status and sound financial standing of UNES can without doubt be attributed to the wise
stewardship of Prof. Kiamba as Vice-Chancellor of the University of Nairobi and member of UNES Board, and to the other Board members, of which Mr. Thuku served as one of these distinguished persons. UNES is now a vibrant and useful organ of the University.

Prof. Kiamba and Mr. Thuku joined the Board of UNES when the idea of income generating in public institutions was just taking shape. Public institutions had for long relied on the government for 100% funding of its activities. But following
the economic downturn of our country in the early 90's, and with the attendant under funding of state institutions, especially Universities, from the exchequer, it became inevitable for Universities to look for other sources of funding. UNES was founded on the premise of this background and Prof. Wasawo and Prof. Gichaga took upon themselves the task of putting the idea of an income generating unit into reality. The appointment of an able Managing Director was also crucial, and after much thought and some trial, Prof. J.K. Kimani was eventually identified and
appointed. These three gentlemen thus steered UNES through its formative stages. Prof. Kiambá and Mr. Thuku joined the Board while it was at this stage, and their task was to ensure that the fledging ship does not sink.

Ladies and Gentlemen, as a result of their dedicated service and commitment to the task, UNES was apt to the challenge and came through. I stand here with pride that while our sister state universities are still grappling on how to administratively manage their module II
programmes, the University of Nairobi is much more concerned with how to raise more revenue from these programmes and to venture into other business areas.

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is for the foregoing reason that I urge the government not to interfere in the management of the module II funds, especially with regard to the payment of the service providers. Such interference will amount to killing the goose that lays the golden eggs. I have said before, and I repeat it here, that we shall
continue to persuade the government to let us run our income generating activities in the best way we know how. We have nothing to hide.

Running the University requires adequate funds. The monies generated through UNES is certainly not adequate to meet all the financial demands of the University. It is for this reason that I have time and again requested the business community to be magnanimous and contribute to the development of state universities. Such assistance will definitely go a long way in improving the well
being of the University. The University is also actively calling upon its parts students to remember its Alma Mater, come back and assist it meet its objectives, mission and mandate.

Ladies and Gentlemen, with increased funding from the Government, improved revenue from Module II programmes and mounting of Module III programmes (the open learning system), and with assistance from the business community coupled with support from its Alumni, the University of Nairobi will be able to stand up and be counted among the top universities in Africa and indeed in
the world. At his juncture, I must make a few comments about the recent ranking of Universities world-wide. You will have noted that University of Nairobi was ranked 24th in Africa, below the University of Dar-es-salaam and Makerere University. I shall not debate about the criteria used, but simply state that according to criteria, we occupied the stated position. The onus thus is on us to exhibit to the public that we are indeed a good University. We can do this by highlighting the numerous research activities taking place in our University and by patenting innovative
products emanating from these researches. We must advise our academic staff to publish in world class journals in order that they gain recognition in their area of expertise. We must also make our website more versatile to enable it record hits on the site, to provide details of researches going on in the various departments and to provide detailed academic accomplishments of our staff in way of qualification, research interest, Ph.D supervision and publications. I must note that though with limited funding, University of Nairobi has still been able to generate adequate and impressive research
findings. What remains is for these findings to be made known to the public. The process of highlighting this has started, and indeed, we begun this even before the publication of the said listing. Early this year we embarked on “the dawn of a new era”. We are now determined to march and achieve our goal of being a world-class university. We shall not tire in our quest. We shall not relent. We shall succeed.

Prof Gichaga, Prof. Wasawo, Prof. Kiamba and Mr. Thuku have ran the race and now it is my turn,
together with our current Chairman of Council, Mr. John Simba, to take the baton and lead the University to the finishing line. We have inherited a vibrant UNES, and I wish to assure the gentlemen we are honouring here today, that we shall not let them down. UNES and other income generating activities in University of Nairobi will continue to be nurtured, to enable us attain our goals.

Prof. Kiamba and Mr. Thuku, we thank you and God bless.