UNIVERSITY OF 
NAIROBI

REMARKS BY DR. VIJOO RATTANSI, OGW, CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI DURING THE INAUGURATION OF THE 7TH VICE CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI, PROF PETER M. F. MBITHI ON WEDNESDAY 14TH JANUARY 2014 AT 8:00AM AT TAIFA HALL.

The Cabinet Secretary, Prof. Jacob Kaimenyi

Chancellors from other Universities

The Chairman of Council, Dr. Idle Farah Omar

Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mulwa Felix Mbithi

Outgoing Vice Chancellor, Prof. George Albert Omore Magoha

University Management

University Staff

Distinguished Guests

Students
It is my singular duty to welcome you all to this hallowed ground to participate in this age old tradition of inauguration of the Vice Chancellor of the University of Nairobi. In the history of humanity, many great men and women have been called but few have been chosen. Prof. Peter Mulwa Felix Mbithi, today you join the elite legion of 6 persons whose names will forever be etched in written history as having served academia in this great position.

This singular opportunity, envied by many and with all its attendant blessings, bequeaths some burdens. I am no more in a position to advice you than any other ordinary folk but I know for a fact that one can never take a rose and ignore its thorns. I also know that triumph demands more selfless service and humility, greater subservience and magnanimity, infinite grace and tolerance, a huge forgiving heart and even more hard work. Wisdom of this time instructs us that the saying uneasy lies the head that wears a crown cannot be truer for anyone in this hall than it is for you Prof. Mbithi.

Many are the days that you will slog in the night in your own company. Many are the nights that you will keep vigil with your panel of trusted and wise confidantes seeking solutions to problems you may not know exist today. There is lots to do to ensure our future stakeholders not only enjoy the same advantage of unrivalled higher education but also continue the march to World Class standards. I can assure you, like your predecessor will, it is a very lonely place at the top. Yet every day, your charges and I and the greater public constituency will look to you for leadership, guidance and direction. You must not cower, you must not waiver, you must not let us down. You must strive to do right as the Almighty helps you see right and do the very best that you can for your alma mater and your country.

I pray that wisdom, patience and foresight may be in your stead from this day forth and may whatever you do, whatever you touch and wherever you walk be transformed by the magic of your presence. May your abiding memory of this day, far beyond the solemnity and beauty of the occasion, be the unequivocal commitment of our unqualified support in both thought, word and deed. Prof. Mbithi, may you begin the way you mean to go on. I wish you the very best in your new duty station.

God bless you, God bless the University of Nairobi and God bless Kenya.