REMARKS BY THE CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL, DR. IDLE FARAH, DURING THE OFFICIAL CEREMONY TO LAY THE FOUNDATION STONE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI TOWERS BY HIS EXCELLENCY HON UHURU KENYATTA, CGH. THE PRESIDENT AND COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE FORCES OF KENYA ON AUGUST 26, 2014 AT THE MAIN CAMPUS AT 8.00 AM
His Excellency Hon Uhuru Kenyatta, President and Commander in Chief of the Defence of Forces the Republic of Kenya

Deputy President, Hon. William Ruto

Cabinet Secretary for Education, Science and Technology, Prof. Jacob Kaimenyi

Chancellor of the University of Nairobi, Dr. Vijoo Rattansi

Vice-Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha

University managers

Staff

Students
On behalf of the University of Nairobi Council, I take this opportunity to welcome your Excellency to the University of Nairobi. This is an important week for us as we are also preparing to graduate our students in the next three days.

Your Excellency today marks a milestone for the University Council as we host you to lay the foundation stone of a landmark building that will address our perennial shortage of academic facilities.

In the last 24 years, this is the biggest project that the University has undertaken and I wish to assure you that the Council will ensure that it is completed on schedule. Towards this end, we have committed resources to ensure that the project proceeds without interruptions.

I wish to acknowledge the role played by my predecessors, without whose foresight, this flagship project would not have taken place. I also acknowledge the role played by management and staff in implementing the Council’s decision on the
construction of this building. Ours is a transparent and prudent system of managing public resources to ensure that we get value for money. In this regard, I appeal to your government, to increase funding to the University so that we can free more internally generated resources to revamp and expand the academic and social facilities at the University.

Your Excellency, we are grateful to your government for providing an enabling environment, which has allowed independent management of the universities by the respective councils. This in turn has led to transformative leadership and faster development of the University. I would like to assure the government that we are prepared to meet government objectives of developing manpower to meet the needs of the nation.

As I conclude my remarks, I would like to thank the government for according me the opportunity to serve in the University council for the last five years in different capacities.
I now invite the Chancellor, Dr. Vijoo Rattansi to make her welcoming remarks.