• Deputy President, Hon William Ruto
• Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education Science and Technology, Prof. Jacob Kaimenyi
• The Chancellor, Dr. Vijoo Rattansi
• Chairman of Council, Dr. Idle Farah
• Vice-Chancellor, University of Nairobi, Prof. George A.O. Magoha,
• Distinguished Guests
• The University Community
• Ladies and Gentlemen
I am delighted to join you here today during this momentous occasion of laying the foundation stone for the University of Nairobi Towers.

This is the third time for me to be here at this august Institution. I was here last year to launch the Youth Fund and in 2010 when I was a panelist in an IMF Forum at the Taifa Hall.

I am aware that the University of Nairobi has been at the Centre of providing manpower that has been crucial in meeting the needs of the nation. From
where I sit, it is clear that the products of the University are to be found in every sector of the economy, including in my Cabinet, parliament and the Senate. We appreciate this role that the University is playing in building this nation.

Ladies and gentlemen, the Towers that are being constructed will no doubt accommodate the increasing academic activities and administrative services of the university and also create capacity to increase access to higher education by more Kenyans. I wish to thank the University management
and the council for their effort and their resilience in raising funds from internal sources towards this construction. More importantly, the Towers are an amazing reflection of the position of the University of Nairobi as the leader in architectural thought, innovation and champion towards the provision of environmentally friendly solutions.

With this building, The University is responding to the need to provide access to greater numbers requiring higher education and training. I need not over emphasize that we have greater numbers of
students leaving high school, and a number of adults seeking continuous education, and the University thus has a new challenge to respond to these needs and I must say, continue to assure quality in service delivery, product development and professional orientation.

Ladies and gentlemen, the University Towers are a Vision 2030 project, which will change the skyline of Nairobi forever and also lead the way in conforming to the international standards of a green environment. This building, fashioned along the
concept of green buildings is a fine example of architecture that we should embrace in the 21st century building. This project dovetails very well into that my government emphasis on greening the environment and I urge other sectors contemplating in putting up new structures to borrow a leaf from the University to ensure that the country attains high green ratings in our projects.

I want to emphasize that the Towers are not just a building but rather a welcome design of dignified democratic space. We hope that healthy intellectual
debate and discourse will be part of the products of this building.

This building, I am informed has received generous support from Philanthropists such as the Chandaria Foundation that has contributed to several development projects in the country. I wish to call upon more Kenyans, to support ventures such as this, let us not shy away from offering what we have.

I also urge University students who are the ultimate beneficiaries of projects like this to maintain and
uphold discipline, and jealously guard the image of your brand. I also urge members of staff to be diligent and professional in keeping with their calling and in discharging the responsibility that this nation has placed on them to produce a wholesome product. I also urge the University Community to provide innovative ideas, through your science park and research, to help us in confronting various problems affecting our country.

It is my belief that this project will be completed on time, to offer facilities that are required in offering
higher education. Please continue to nurture this spirit as we grapple with the big challenge of building the nation.