UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

WELCOMING REMARKS BY PROF. PETER M.F. MBITHI, VICE CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI DURING THE LAUNCH OF THE DENTAL SCIENCES ALUMNI CHAPTER HELD ON WEDNESDAY MARCH 28, 2018 AT SAROVA PANAFRIC HOTEL AT 6.00 P.M.
The Chancellor, University of Nairobi, Dr. Vijoo Rattansi,

The Chief Guest; Prof. Jacob T. Kaimenyi, Kenya’s Representative to the Permanent Mission (UNESCO)

Invited Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,
I am delighted tonight to join the University of Nairobi Alumni Association and the School of Dental Sciences for the Launch of Dental Sciences Alumni Chapter. It is during forums like this that alumni get the rare opportunity to re-unite, connect and share ideas with the University community on how to make their alma mater even better.

Let me from the onset take this opportunity to congratulate our Chief Guest Prof. Jacob T.
Kaimenyi, Kenya’s Ambassador Designate to the Permanent Mission at (UNESCO). Prof. Kaimenyi is no stranger to this University being an esteemed Alumnus and renowned Academic Staff of this University. His last assignment at the University was the Position of Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs, when I was also the then Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Administration and Finance. We were indeed a great team.
At my inauguration as Vice-Chancellor, I formulated a Reform Agenda revolving around Ten (10) major strategic issues:

- World Class University Status,

- Fund raising, Resource Mobilization and Sustainability Strategy,

- Infrastructure Development,

- Graduate Skills Enhancement Programme,

- Students’ Experience in Campus,
• University Research,

• Develop Visionary, Innovative and Creative Leadership,

• Strengthening our Alumni,

• and Community Service.

In order to address all these strategic issues to their logical conclusion, our key stakeholder and strategic partner is the Alumni. They are our pillars of
strength and committed resource partners. We thank them for their unwavering support and inspiration. We look to enhance the financial resources through growth of Endowment Fund, Creation of University Foundation, Partnering with Private Sector to finance capital projects and increasing involvement of Alumni in fundraising for the alma mater.
I am personally gratified by the efforts made and commitment shown by the Association in bringing over 200,000 of our graduates together in a number of similar fora like this one tonight. I urge the Association to leverage on technology especially in their quest to reach our alumni spread across the globe. I am also pleased to note that the University of Nairobi has been ranked position 66 globally in alumni relations and 300 globally on graduate employability. I believe we can do even better if we
continue pulling together as one family, sharing ideas and resources to make our Alma mater shine globally. The University will continue to support and facilitate the Association to play its rightful role in the University.

On behalf of the University Management, I wish to sincerely thank the Association for the support it has continued to offer the University on a yearly basis especially with regard to the students Bursary Fund,
Graduation Ceremony, Students Prizes, Innovation Week, University Open Day and Research Awards, just to mention a few.

In concluding, I wish to challenge the Association to jointly work with the Schools and Faculties and in securing partnerships with industry in Internships, Industrial Attachments and Job Placements for our young graduates. Such opportunities will equip the graduates with relevant skills and offer them
requisite exposure and help us nurture and build a strong foundation for future generation of leaders. To the School of Dental Sciences and Dental School Alumni, congratulations for the launch of your Alumni Chapter, I urge you to continue working together to ensure that your proposed Post Graduate Center is built in record time.

Thank You and God Bless.
PETER M.F MBITHI, PhD, EBS
VICE-CHANCELLOR
AND
PROFESSOR OF VETERINARY SURGERY