REMARKS BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR, DURING A PUBLIC LECTURE BY DR. DEQO MOHAMED, CEO OF THE DR. HAWA ABDI FOUNDATION ON MARCH 27, 2014 AT THE EDUCATION THEATRE I AT 4.00 P.M
Dr. Deqo Mohamed

Director, Columbia Global Centers Africa

Principal, CHSS

Deans and Directors

Chairmen of Departments

Staff and Students

Distinguished guests

Ladies and gentlemen
It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to the University of Nairobi and particularly to this lecture by Dr. Deqo Mohamed. Ladies and gentlemen, it is always a pleasure to welcome those who honour the University of Nairobi by giving a lecture at this University, which has been the venue for public intellectual engagement in this country for a long time.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely apologize for not being able to host last week’s public lecture due to the industrial action that had
paralyzed activities in all public universities. I am pleased to inform you all that we are now back to normal operations.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is the idea that academic endeavour is more valuable when it makes a contribution to our world which inspires us in our research and our view of education. To this end, the University of Nairobi is keen on holding intellectual discourse and disseminating this information to the community. We are the highest ranked institution in the region and we have in place over 200 active local
and international collaborations and academic agreements with institutions of higher learning and organizations. I welcome Columbia University to collaborate with the University of Nairobi. I am informed that there exists a collaboration of a series of lectures already lined up through this partnership.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is my pleasure to introduce to you our guest speaker today. Dr. Deqo Mohamed is a doctor, the Chief Executive Officer of the Dr. Hawa Abdi Foundation (DHAF), and daughter of Dr. Hawa Abdi. Dr. Mohamed will speak on the challenges
her family has faced over the past three decades and their plans for the future.

In 1983, Dr. Abdi began providing free obstetrician services to around 24 rural women per day, from a one room clinic on family-owned land in the Lower Shebelle region in Somalia; since then – in the face of civil war and open oppression of women – her, her family and the Foundation have treated over two million Somali refugee women and children.
In 2012, Dr. Abdi was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for her work. In 2010, Glamour named Dr. Abdi and her daughters “Women of the Year” and called them the “Saints of Somalia”.

Ladies and gentlemen, indeed there is something that we can learn from the courage, compassion and tolerance of Dr. Abdi and her family. I wish to encourage you all to buy copies of Dr. Abdi’s book “Keeping Hope Alive” which is available for sale.
Ladies and gentlemen, it is now my pleasure to invite Dr. Deqo Mohamed to deliver her lecture.

Welcome Dr. Mohamed.

Thank you.