UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

SPEECH BY VICE-CHANCELLOR, PROF. GEORGE A. MAGOHA, DURING A PUBLIC LECTURE BY THE US AMBASSADOR TO KENYA, H.E. ROBERT GODEC ON SEPTEMBER 25, 2014 IN TAIFA HALL AT 10.00 A.M
• US Ambassador to Kenya, His Excellency Robert Godec
• University of Nairobi Managers
• Invited Guests
• Staff
• Students
• Ladies and Gentlemen
It is my pleasure to welcome you to the University of Nairobi and in particular to this Public lecture by the US Ambassador to Kenya H.E. Robert Godec.

In today’s lecture, we host H.E. Godec to discuss the US/Kenya Partnerships in the 21st Century and reflect on the relationship in the past 50 years. Mr. Godec’s lecture is a confirmation of a bidding relationship that the University of Nairobi has with American institutions. In the past 10 years, for instance, we have hosted over 10 prominent personalities among them the US President Barrack Obama while serving as the Senator of Illinois. Indeed, most of our Schools have collaborations with several American Universities and with strong research projects mainly in the areas of health,
agriculture, education, science, humanities and the social sciences.

Ladies and Gentlemen, our speaker today, Robert F. Godec, was appointed by the US government on January 16, 2013 as the US Ambassador to Kenya. Prior to that he had served as the Chargé d'Affaires at the U.S. Embassy Nairobi, Kenya from August 2012.

Before his posting in Nairobi, Ambassador Godec was the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of Counterterrorism in the Department of State. From 2006 to 2009, he served as U.S. Ambassador to Tunisia. Ambassador Godec has also served as a Deputy Assistant Secretary in the
Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs and was Deputy Coordinator for the Transition in Iraq, charged with organizing the transition of policy and operational elements of the Coalition Provisional Authority and the standup of U.S. Mission Iraq.

Before his work on Iraq, Ambassador Godec was Acting Deputy Chief of Mission and Minister Counselor for Economic Affairs at U.S. Embassy Pretoria, South Africa. He has also served as Economic Counselor at U.S. Embassy Nairobi, Kenya, Assistant Office Director for Thailand and Burma in the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, and Director for Southeast Asian Affairs at the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative.
Ambassador Godec joined the Foreign Service in 1985. Ambassador Godec has a Master of Arts degree in International Relations from Yale University as well as a Bachelor of Arts degree in Foreign Affairs from the University of Virginia. He attended the State Department's Senior Seminar and has received a Presidential Meritorious Service Award, a Distinguished Honor Award, and many other awards and commendations.

Ambassador Godec is married to Lori G. Magnusson.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is now my pleasure to welcome Ambassador Godec to share with us views on the subject “US
and Kenya Partnerships in the 21st Century” and also reflect on our relationship in the last 50 years.

Welcome Ambassador Godec.