VICE-CHANCELLOR’S SPEECH DURING THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION 10TH ANNIVERSARY GALA DINNER

February 6, 2015
Great Court, Main Campus

6:00pm

“The Role of Alumni in the University Advancement”
Madam Chancellor, Dr. Vijoo Rattansi

Chief Guest, Dr. James N. Mwangi

Chairman of Council, Dr. Idle Farah

Deputy Vice-Chancellors

Principals, Deans and Directors

Our Alumni
Good evening.

It gives me great pleasure to host you tonight to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Alumni Association. Alumni are the heart beat of this University. During my installation as Vice Chancellor on January 14 2015, I indicated that Alumni Relations will be a top priority in my administration. Our Alumni, Our Strength will be our tagline to signify the critically important role the alumni will play in advancing the University’s vision.
and mission.

A world class university is characterised by three factors; excellent students, excellent faculty staff and abundant resources. We need resources to develop the other two.

The University has committed to establish, in the next quarter a new student mentorship program to support needy and bright students. The program will also improve the university campus experience for all students.
University students’ hostels and accommodation has been stretched to the limit because of the soaring number of students joining our University. There is need to construct new hostels and refurbish the existing ones.

Our target is to build hostels to accommodate an extra 10,000 students in short term.
The University will also establish an Endowment Fund through the University of Nairobi Foundation.

My administration is committed to develop a sustainable funding base to maximise revenue and enhance efficiency and effectiveness of this university in order to meet the enumerated goals among others.
We seek the support of our alumni and friends. We commit to work with you as key asset in leveraging external relationships, partners and friends.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In line with the University mission and core values, I am pleased to note that the University of Nairobi,
through the School of Business will, from next quarter, launch Executive Development Programmes. The programmes are designed to impart trainees with specialized business, leadership and management skills aimed at addressing the day to day operational challenges in our work and business environment.

As esteemed alumni of this University, we urge you to take interest in the School of Business Executive Development Programmes, Please come back to your University for the specialized training of your choice.
For those amongst us who are heading various organizations both locally and within the region, the University of Nairobi encourages you to consider sending your staff for training. The School of Business will therefore be approaching your organization with regard to the launching and commencement of the programmes from next month.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The University of Nairobi has recently made two other major initiatives; the establishment of the UoN
Advancement Office and the Incubation framework within which the university will support the incubation of businesses and technologies.

These two initiatives are essentially outward-facing, providing platforms for the university to interact with external stakeholders in a more productive way and both initiatives will benefit greatly from a strengthened interaction with the UoN Alumni.
Whilst the focus of the Advancement office will be to advance the university’s resources and reputation through building relationships, strategic communication, development and marketing, its link with Alumni and donors is critical, sending out key, clear and coherent messages about the university and its endeavours.
The focus of the incubation framework is so that the university builds streamlined relations with innovators and entrepreneurs as they build sustainable businesses for sustainable national development.

Both initiatives will have integral link with Alumni as our Alumni have the potential of being our most loyal
and generous ambassadors. They are also often in positions to engage the expertise of our university in their professional lives, being our strongest ambassadors, locally and internationally. Alumni would harness these two initiatives by leveraging relationships and alumni advocacy to support academic programmes, research activities and university endowment.
It is therefore critical that we maintain a positive relationship with our alumni to ensure that the message they will carry about us will always be positive and current. With these two outward-facing initiatives, encompassed in stronger working relations with the Alumni, the initiatives will grow the University from success to greater significance.
Finally, I wish to thank all our alumni, wish them well in all their endeavours and assure them of my support.

Thank you and God bless you!

PROF. PETER M.F. MBITHI

VICE CHANCELLOR