UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

SPEECH BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR, PROF PETER M.F. MBITHI DURING THE ORIENTATION WEEK FOR COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCE FRESHERS 2018/2019 ACADEMIC YEAR
The Deputy Vice Chancellors

The College Principals

Deans and Directors

Student Leaders

Dear Freshmen/Women

Members of staff

Ladies and gentlemen
Dear 2017 freshmen from College of Health Sciences,

I take this special opportunity to welcome to this great University of Africa.

I congratulate you on your acceptance to join the University of Nairobi.

I am delighted to inform you that your hard work has earned you a place in this prestigious world-class
university that is committed to scholarly excellence. It is a hub for the best of best in this part of the world.

Having gone through a detailed induction program that included familiarization with your colleagues, interaction with university staff and tour of facilities and infrastructure for academic and extracurricular activities, this gathering presents an opportunity for you to learn how to navigate campus life and build a
network of resources that will help you to start your journey on the right path.

With more than 584 proactive and market-oriented academic programs, over 2800 strong academic staff members and approximately 5525 competent administrative and technical staff members, our University is, undeniably, well endowed with sufficient resources both human and infrastructure.
Proper utilization of such enormous and readily available resources will serve to transform you into a holistic individual, impart excellence in your experiential learning and cultivate positive ethics and values in you.

But it is only possible if you embrace discipline. Most of us in front here started where you are starting today. We have travelled a long journey to reach where we are
today but I believe you can do better than us because you are learning from the best!

When it comes to delivering top-quality graduates, the University of Nairobi leads in East and Africa. We have devotedly maintained the record since 1967.

This has been possible because of our alumni base of about 200,000 individuals and approximately 10,000 from college of Health Sciences, most of whom have
created significant nation-building contributions. Studying at the University of Nairobi not only guarantee you higher employment prospects but also prepare you to be a useful global citizen thanks to our highly rated employer reputation, industry partnerships, and student-employer connections.

According to QS Rankings 2017, the University of Nairobi was ranked as 3rd best in Africa and top 300 globally on Graduate Employability rankings; beating
most of its key competitors from South Africa and Egypt. Under Alumni Outcomes ranking, the University of Nairobi was ranked 66 globally and ranked 3rd in Africa.

Your predecessors have unquestionably set an excellent path the task of maintaining it and setting the bar higher is for you. You can only succeed in doing so by keeping discipline so as to create a conducive
environment that will enable you to thrive in both curricular and extracurricular activities.

Healthcare in Kenya faces a shortage of competent professionals. For example, a 2016 audit by Kenya Medical Practitioners Pharmacists and Dentists Union (KMPDU) indicated that the number of doctors has dropped to 3,956 serving more than 40 million Kenyans.
Yet according to the World Health Organization, Kenya should have at least 83,442 doctors in line with the minimum recommended ratio of 230 doctors per every 100,000 people.

For sure your skills and training are needed to fill the gap to create a transformational community outreach. Grab that opportunity and follow your dreams!
For the avoidance of any doubt, the University is and forever will be politically neutral to engender freedom of thought, a culture of tolerance and appreciation of our national diversity and rich heritage. This principle is not compromisable and not negotiable.

We shall sustain the true noble spirit of the academy and play no partisan or tribal politics.
Watch out for any danger and keep your safe distance. The University does not condone extremism and dogmatism. In this era of extreme ideologies and terrorism, I urge you to be your brother’s keeper.

Avoid getting entangled in quick fix mentality. Life is a journey.
Make prudent choices and you will be happy, chart your own course and discover new shores.
Do not settle for less for you are not cheap!
With those few remarks, I officially initiate you to become members of the University of Nairobi fraternity.

Karibuni na Asanteni!

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VICE CHANCELLOR
AND
PROFESSOR OF VETERINARY SURGERY