REMARKS MADE BY PROF. JACOB T. KAIMENYI, CABINET SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, DURING THE PUBLIC LECTURE ON “CHALLENGES OF DEVELOPMENT: BUILDING BRIDGES TO COMBAT EXTREMISM”, DELIVERED BY H.E. MATTEO RENZI, PRIME MINISTER OF ITALY ON WEDNESDAY JULY 15, 2015 AT 10.00 A.M. IN TAIFA HALL, UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI
The Prime Minister of Italy, H.E. Matteo Renzi,
The Italian Ambassador to Kenya, AMB. Mauro Massoni,
Others Ambassadors present,
Dr. Vijoo Rattansi, Chancellor, University of Nairobi
Dr. Idle Omar Farah, Chairman of Council, University of Nairobi,
Prof. Peter M.F. Mbithi, Vice-Chancellor, University of Nairobi,
Deputy Vice-Chancellors,
Members of Senate
Staff and students,
Invited Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen

Let me join the Chancellor, Chairman of Council and the Vice-Chancellor in welcoming Your Excellency, Matteo Renzi to the University of Nairobi and to Kenya as a country. We are grateful that you have chosen to give this very important talk at this University, which being the oldest University in Kenya is regarded as a leader in the Higher Education Sector in Kenya.

Your Excellency, the topic you have chosen for your lecture is very relevant to the people of Kenya, as they have in recent years suffered effects of extremism which has
translated to loss of lives at the hands of terrorists in various parts of the country.

Some of the notable incidents of terrorism in Kenya are: the attack at the Westgate shopping Mall in Westlands, Nairobi in September 2013 where 67 people lost their lives and about 175 people were injured; in 2014, the country witnessed terror attacks against citizens in Mpeketoni, Lamu and some parts of Nairobi; other attacks in 2015 have targeted the County of Mandera, killing Kenyans who are from outside the North Eastern part of Kenya.
More ominously for universities was the attack at Garissa University College in April 2015, where 147 students lost their lives to terrorists, with 79 escaping with injuries.

The government of Kenya has been at the forefront in putting up efforts to combat extremism which comes through radicalization and translates to terrorism. The government has therefore been engaging friendly countries across the globe to assist in fighting terrorism. Government appreciates that terrorism is not a religious affair pitting communities with different religious beliefs against one another.
I am aware that the University of Nairobi has been sensitizing its students and staff on terrorism and issuing periodic security alerts. More significantly and as an institution of higher learning, the University has recently held symposia where academia, those from government and non-governmental organizations have exchanged ideas on how to combat extremism. The latest such forum was held in this hall on June 29, 2015 when a panel of experts under the guidance of the Principal Secretary, Ministry of Interior and Co-ordination of National Government, had a panel discussion on “Countering Violent Extremism”.
We must therefore continue to address the issue of the safety of citizens wherever they are, noting that extremism and terrorism affects many countries.

I therefore take this opportunity to pass a message of condolence to Your Excellency and the People of Italy following the attack on the Italian Consulate in Cairo, Egypt on the morning of Saturday July 11, 2015. A militant group claimed responsibility for that attack where one person was killed.
Finally, I wish you all the best in your stay in our country and, as we say in Kiswahili, “Karibu Sana”.

PROF. JACOB T. KAIMENYI, PhD, FICD, EBS
CABINET SECRETARY,
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY