



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

**SPEECH BY THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI CHAIRMAN
OF COUNCIL, DR. IDLE FARAH, DURING THE 53RD
GRADUATION CEREMONY AT THE CHANCELLOR'S
COURT ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2015**

**The Cabinet Secretary for Education, Science and
Technology, Prof. Jacob Kaimenyi**

**The Chancellor, University of Nairobi, Dr. Vijoo
Rattansi**

Chancellors from sister universities

The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi

Chairmen of Councils

Council members

Staff and Students

Parents and Guardians

Graduands

Distinguished guests

Ladies and gentlemen

On behalf of the University of Nairobi Council, I am pleased to welcome you all to the University and to this auspicious 53rd graduation ceremony. Today, we release to the job market 5, 301 highly skilled graduates drawn from the Colleges of: Architecture and Engineering, Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences, Biological and Physical Sciences and Education and External Studies.

To the class of 2015, today must be a very special day for you. No doubt it has come after years of hard work, diligence and dedicated attention to your studies.

Congratulations to you. We also take cognizance of the major sacrifices made by your parents and guardians. Finally, we appreciate the University of Nairobi academic and non academic staff for their commitment in mentoring you and providing you with an environment conducive to learning. Graduation is the culmination of a long and tortuous process which you have successfully navigated and completed today; and it is why Kenyans, of all shades, age and status are gathered here today to bear witness to your spectacular achievement. As you embark on your career journey, please remember that you are a prototype showcase of the University of Nairobi brand. This of course includes

our own, Hon Justice Prof. J. B. Ojwang, Judge of the Supreme Court of Kenya. Once again, Congratulations to all the graduands.

Ladies and gentlemen, the University of Nairobi has continued to be a leader in embracing innovative ideas, that have not only enhanced our academic programs but, have also been exemplified in the corporate structures, human resource capacity building and infrastructure development. In this regard, I wish to note that this year, the University hosted the first ever Nairobi Innovation Week, which is evidence that the University plays a leading role of impacting a culture of

creativity and innovation, resonating with our core values, mission and vision. I wish to reiterate that the University will not relent in undertaking initiatives that create sustainable entrepreneurial outfits, apart from concentrating on our core business of teaching and research.

Madam Chancellor, the University has a firm commitment to quality service, hinged on: the observance of the rule of law, skilled human resource, accountability, fairness and timely service delivery. The Council is therefore committed to supporting the management to deliver high quality service to

students, staff, collaborators, donors, stakeholders and the public. In addition, we commit to maintaining good industrial relations with the unions, for the mutual benefit of the University and staff.

Ladies and gentlemen, issues of peace and security in public universities, in the wake of the attack on Garissa University College, entails that we urgently address acts of terrorism, preparedness, breaches of security and even radicalization of youth. The University of Nairobi has already taken up the matter of peace and security. I wish to assure the University community that the Council will work closely with the

management and the National Government to ensure peace and security within the University premises and create a conducive learning environment.

Madam Chancellor, the Council has been in sync with the ongoing Parastatal reforms in the Country. The Council has domesticated Mwongozo, which is the new code of governance for state corporations, “Corporate governance is the structure and system of rules and practices and processes by which an organization is directed, controlled and held accountable. It encompasses authority, accountability, stewardship, leadership, direction and control exercised in

organizations; balancing the interests of the many stakeholders. I would like to emphasize that guided by this code, the Council is committed to managing and growing the University's resources. We are satisfied that so far, the University management has been prudent in the use of these resources as well as in generating resources internally. Madam Chancellor this is evidenced by the Performance contracting evaluation done earlier this week where the University was ranked in the "Excellent" category.

I wish to thank the government for its support through the exchequer that has enabled us to fund capitation.

This fiscal year Madam Chancellor, we are extremely grateful to the Ministry of Education Science and Technology and the National Treasury for reinstating the budgetary deductions we suffered last year. Having thanked the Government let me quickly state that this enhanced budget is still insufficient and thus, make a passionate appeal to the government to increase funding beyond the allocated support so that we can channel internally generated funds to research and infrastructure development.

Once again, congratulations class of 2015, I wish you every success as you pursue your dreams and

aspirations; today is only the beginning of your potential and promise. Be strong to serve.

Thank you.