

## UoN Chancellor, Dr. Rattansi honoured by Italian Government.

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University of Nairobi Chancellor, Dr. Vijoo Rattansi, has been honoured by the Italian government for her exemplary role in promoting culture and the Italian language in Kenya. She has been at the forefront in strengthening the ties, between the two countries.

The award , 'Knight of the order of the star of Italy' is among the highest honours given to Italian citizens who have displayed exemplary performance in the course of their life and in service of country and mankind. The award was presented to her at the Italian Embassy by H.E Mauro Massoni.

The Ambassador, who was speaking during the 71<sup>st</sup> Independence Day Celebrations noted that the Italian government and the Kenyan government have warm working relations that went a notch higher as President Uhuru Kenyatta attended the G7 Summit in Italy last month.

Over the years, the Italian government has been considerably friendly to the Kenyan government and supported various efforts by the government to transform the country and the living standards of the people.

When Garissa University College was attacked by terrorists in 2015, the Italian Government came in handy to support the victims by paying for their school fees. The Prime Minister of Italy, H. E. Matteo

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Renzi was among the dignitaries who visited the country following the attacks and stood in solidarity with the students and the Kenyan government.

In terms of trade and investments, Italian companies are not left behind as they have set base in Kenya and competing global brands. Among the Italian companies that have set up base in Kenya include; Iveco, among others.

As an observer in the forthcoming Kenyan general elections in August 2017, the Italian Ambassador took the opportunity to urge Kenyan leaders and the Kenyan people to embrace peace as they exercise their democratic right.

On terrorism and conflict, the Ambassador urged all countries to work together towards resolution of conflict, global hunger and terrorism.

Mr. Kazungu Kambi, the Cabinet Minister for Mining, who was the Chief Guest during the event, took the opportunity to thank the Italian government and more specifically Italian Prime Minister, H. E. Matteo Renzi for their support towards health, water and improvement of the slum areas.

In scientific research, the Minister thanked the Italian government for skills transfer especially at the Malindi San Marco space research station that was launched in 1967. He invited the Italian business men to venture into mining of gold, marble, granite among other resources available in the country.

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