



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

**REMARKS BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR, PROF.
PETER M.F. MBITHI DURING THE OFFICIAL
OPENING OF THE SIXTH ANNUAL UNIVERSITY
OF NAIROBI OPEN DAY HELD AT THE GREAT
COURT ON THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 2016 AT 9.00
A.M.**

- **Dr. Vijoo Ratansi, Chancellor, University of Nairobi**
- **Dr. Idle Farah, Chairman, University of Nairobi Council**
- **Chief Guest – Cleopa Mailu, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Health**
- **Deputy Vice-Chancellors**
- **Principals of Colleges**
- **Deans and Directors**
- **Members of Staff**
- **Students**
- **Parents**

- **Prospective Students**
- **Partners from various Organizations**
- **Distinguished guests**
- **Ladies and gentlemen**

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to the University of Nairobi, particularly to our sixth open day whose theme is “Quality and Innovative Education to Sustain Industrial Growth”.

Ladies and gentlemen, the University of Nairobi management has retained a slot in the management of its academic activities by organizing this academic open day. The event provides an opportunity for the University to interact with its prospective students, parents and other stakeholders.

In the last seven years, during Open days, faculty staff have interacted with prospective students and the public at large, sharing the University's academic programmes, research outputs and services.

Ladies and Gentlemen, a number of our partners from industry are also participating in this Open day. I wish to thank you for being part of the University of Nairobi's efforts to offer holistic information to our stakeholders.

Since its inception as the Royal Technical College in 1956, the University of Nairobi has contributed to the social, economic and political development of Kenya with several outstanding achievements in academia, research and corporate social responsibility. Indeed, these efforts have seen the University gain recognition locally and internationally.

Ladies and gentlemen, in recent rankings, the University of Nairobi has been confirmed as the best University in the region and among the top seven in Africa.

We believe, therefore, that through the open day, we will make a statement about the quality of services we render to the public and our readiness to display for public scrutiny our products, goods and services.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the University of Nairobi has embraced change in our endeavor to institute a culture of reforms in the management of the institution. In recent years, we have registered more students, increased the courses on offer and expanded our operations to other regions.

I wish to assure all our stakeholders that we shall keep the momentum and improve access to quality higher education.

Ladies and gentlemen, this is not the only event that offers an opportunity for interaction between the University of Nairobi and its prospective customers; indeed we have been having other forums that include: internal discourse, inaugural and public lectures and other forums that have not only enabled us to grow, but also made us proud members of the University Community.

I wish to point out that this year's Open Day is organized quite differently from previous years as we attempt to bring down the Ivory Tower and open it to the stakeholders.

The difference from other years is that this year we have had:

- Regional exhibitions in Mombasa, Kisii, Meru and Eldoret.**
- Greater involvement of senior teaching staff including Deans/Directors and Professors.**
- Higher magnitude and diversity of exhibitions.**

- **Wider partnerships with industrial partners.**
- **Wider publicity.**

I therefore, call upon all guests and participants to ensure they visit our stands to see the various innovations and creative works. As they tour some of the World Class facilities and Centers of excellence, let them inform and encourage their friends and kin to select and apply for University courses on the spot.

Finally I wish to thank the Ministry of Education Science and Technology and the government for the support it has continued to provide to the University to enable it discharge its mandate. We assure you the University will not relent from the course of excellence.

With these few remarks, it is my honour and privilege to welcome all our visitors to the auspicious occasion of this year's University of Nairobi Open Day.

Thank you.

PETER M.F MBITHI, PhD, EBS

VICE-CHANCELLOR

AND

PROFESSOR OF VETERINARY SURGERY