

TEXT OF SPEECH BY MR. B.M. GECAGA, CHAIRMAN
OF THE COUNCIL OF UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, NAIROBI
ON THE OCCASION OF THE DEGREE PRESENTATION
CEREMONY AT THE COLLEGE ON FRIDAY 5TH NOV. 1965.

Your Excellency Mr. Visitor, Ladies and Gentlemen:

A host who after a wholesome feast introduces too many extras runs the risk of disappointing his guests or even causing them indigestion! I hope I shall succeed in avoiding this pitfall.

Your presence, Mr. Visitor, at these ceremonies of University College, Nairobi, together with the presence of our other guests, and the words of wisdom and vigorous encouragement which we have heard from you this afternoon, have to us members of Council, the Principal and his staff and students alike, been a sumptuous feast. On behalf of University College, I should like to express our humble thanks for the kind and complimentary words which you have said about the College.

The continued and increasing interest which you, Mr. President, and members of your Government show in the affairs and general development of this College is not regarded by us as unwarranted

interference in the affairs of an academic institution, nor have we had any reason to complain of any curtailment in our academic freedom; rather do we view such interest as a genuine and healthy concern such as that which a father shows toward his son during the latter's tender years - your concern in our case, we are confident, being for orderly, fruitful and dynamic development of a true seat of learning in the best traditions comprising, at the same time, a national institution playing its full part and making a worthy contribution in the great and magnificent task which is at one and the same time the duty and privilege of our generation, namely, that of laying good, sound and durable foundations for the great and prosperous future that lies ahead of our country and nation. It is a task which is exciting at every turn and offers full scope to every able bodied person who has the will to work directing his talents into useful and constructive channels. In this task, University College, Nairobi is proud and grateful of the opportunity to lend its full weight to the rope which a united Kenya team is daily pulling in response to Your Excellency's inspiring and purposeful call of Harambee.

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Finally, Mr. Visitor, Sir, may I say how much it warms our hearts to see both you and Her Excellency Mama Ngina Kenyatta, and all our other honoured guests, sharing with us the occasion of this afternoon.

I now declare this congregation to be dissolved.