

# 'Educate people on their rights'

THE retiring Vice-Chancellor of the University of Nairobi, Dr. Joseph Karanja (right) did some plain speaking — one can almost dub them "The Thoughts of Joe" — at a valedictory function held at the University in his honour last week.

Vacating his post, after nine years in office, to contest the Githunguri seat in the forthcoming parliamentary elections, he said institutions such as the university could do a great deal to educate wananchi on their rights.

The university, he said, had grown over the years from a fledgling college of a few hundred students to the giant it now is. It has now trained nearly 20,000 graduates who are now serving Kenya in various capacities.

"We have striven to train the needed manpower for national growth, but also a home of people whose horizons are human welfare and people who see their own and their society's prosperity not as an end in themselves but as elements in the totality of human happiness," he said.

"This means the university must help to liberate future generations from the shackles of narrowness of mind that divides rather than unites mankind."



Dr. Karanja went on to say that although the fate of democracy in Africa has been dismal and distressing, Kenya is one of the few countries where freedom reigns.

"We should be grateful to our founding father and to our chancellor for enlightened leadership and commitment to a populist and open Government," he noted.

"Elsewhere in Africa democracy and human rights have been killed, not by the masses but rather by the governing elites, be they civilian or military.

"This is because of the elites'