

Italian Prime Minister urges University Students to embrace high values



H.E Matteo Renzi, the Prime Minister of Italy

H.E Matteo Renzi, the Prime Minister of Italy urged the University students to rise to the occasion and provide leadership on countering of terrorism through embracing high values. Emphasizing the power of values, he give an example where his young child could not comprehend how Nelson Mandela could serve in jail for 27 years in order to have his country liberated from the yoke of apartheid.

Quoting from the late Prof. Wangari Muta Maathai, *"It's the little things citizens do. That's what will make the difference. My little thing is planting trees"*; he emphasized the role of leadership based on values and not the position of authority occupied. Whatever your station in life, you can contribute to human development or even to the success of your institution, he said. Just do your little thing. The prime Minister was addressing students at the historical Taifa Hall, University of Nairobi on a topic entitled *"Challenges of Development: Building bridges to combat extremism"*.

H.E Matteo Renzi noted that war on terrorism is a global issue. Citing different terrorist attacks in the recent past, he said there is an emerging pattern of targeting places of culture, religion and education. Recalling the recent attack on Garissa University college, he Urged University students not to be discouraged.

Present during the lecture were Dr. Vijoo Rattansi, Chancellor, University of Nairobi; Prof. Jacob Kaimenyi, Cabinet Secretary, Education Science and Technology, Amb. Amina Mohammed, Cabinet Secretary, for Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Dr. Idle Farah, Chairman of Council, Prof. Peter Mbithi, Vice-Chancellor and the Italian Ambassador to Kenya, Mr. Mauro Masson. The occasion was also attended by members of University management, Senate as well as teaching and administrative members of staff from the University of Nairobi