The University of Nairobi, 51st Graduation Ceremony

Featuring Colleges of
Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences, Architecture and Engineering, Biological and Physical Sciences, and Education and External Studies

Thursday, August 28, 2014

Message from the Chancellor

Challenging the youth of this nation

I extend my special greetings and best wishes to all graduates of the 51st Ceremony of the University of Nairobi. This is a momentous occasion for the graduates, their parents and guardians, lecturers and the entire University community because it symbolizes the successful conclusion of a long and challenging journey to academic excellence. Our graduates must contribute to the development of the nation, and make a positive impact on society. I urge you to make use of the skills acquired and requisite competencies to surmount challenges. At this point in time, we need our graduates to embrace employment, helping in creating jobs so that our country can experience rapid growth. We live in challenging times and all individuals must share in driving the economy. We challenge our graduates, they who are privileged to be educated, to view themselves as linchpins creating opportunities for others.

I wish to acknowledge the contribution of University of Nairobi’s dedicated staff who have put many hours in ensuring that the University remains at the top. For instance, in Webmetric ranking that has seen the University of Nairobi emerge number 1 in the region, is the best result posted by any regional university since the advent of web ranking in 2004. During my recent tour of the University, I noticed that the University is well endowed with physical infrastructure that supports our academic activities. I also noticed that the University is expanding its facilities to support the increased need for higher education in the country. In this regard, I wish to thank some of our benefactors including the Chandaria Foundation for their generous contribution of KES 50 million.

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The University of Nairobi has been confirmed by the recent web-ranking as the gold standard of the region after emerging in position 9 out of 1307 qualified academic institutions. It is ahead of all regional universities for the second time in six months. It was also ranked worldwide at position 907 out of over 22,000 Universities, an improvement by 419 places from its previous ranking. Indeed only universities from South Africa and Egypt were ahead of us. This performance is a climax of the great academic work by our staff and students thus raising visibility of the University worldwide. It also reiterates the systems we have consciously put in place for the last 16 years which are now bearing fruit. While most of the facilities are up to date, a lot more needs to be done on others. New facilities need to be put up to cope with the rising demand for our services. To meet this demand, we have invested over KES 3 Billion in constructing new facilities and completed the ones that had stalled in the 1990s. This investment is expected to increase by KES 2.2 Billion if we factor in the contribution of the ongoing construction of the University towers and a further over KES 500 million if we consider the ongoing projects at the College of Health Sciences and Kauuma Campus. However, for this University to have capacity to absorb the increasing need for higher education in the country, more facilities are required to support academic and social welfare of our students. It is in view of this situation that we have received from our stakeholders that the University has become more aggressive in funding to support infrastructural projects. In this regard, the University Community is grateful to the positive response to our efforts; my humble appeal to the government to increase funding which has been sharply reduced this year, with such enhancement, the Council can fully engage in the planning and projected growth of the University.

The Web Ranking of Universities has once again confirmed the scholarly competitive edge the University of Nairobi (UoN) has steadily maintained its commitment to excellence, through offering programmes in diverse fields of specialization. As the University adapts to the legislation of the Universities Act 2012 that allows greater access to university and higher education for all citizens, we will be innovative in order to get more students and harness more programmes which will maintain and enhance the high quality of education and training, to enable us produce wholesome graduates with a marketability edge. I challenge the University community to redouble its efforts in teaching, examining and providing a wholesome learning experience.

I salute our Chancellor, Dr. Vijojo Rattansi for fitting in so well to the UoN family, the Chancellor has so far visited virtually all the colleges and I know that the Council will be working very closely with her in the areas of capacity building, infrastructure development and teaching facilities.

I wish to reaffirm that the Council will conclude dialogue as a means of resolving industrial disputes, placing high priority in allocating resources to promote staff welfare thereby boosting morale and creating a conducive work environment and equitable rewards system. At this juncture, I want to thank the student body SONU for conducting its elections with maturity; I welcome the incoming team in full assurance that they will participate and walk with the Council and management as they serve their terms.

The University has been able to discharge its mandate effectively because of the support that we have received from our stakeholders including the government which supports us financially, providing the recurrent expenditure that we require to run this institution. In its part, the University has committed to generate cash flows to supplement government capitation, I wish on behalf of the Council, to appeal to the government to increase funding which has been sharply reduced this year. With such enhancement, the Council can fully engage in the planning and projected growth of the University.

Message from the Vice-Chancellor

Contributing quality manpower for national development

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to the University of Nairobi and in particular to the 51st Congregation of the University of Nairobi. I take this opportunity to congratulate the students for their hard work, without which, this occasion would not have taken place. This Congregation is featuring graduates from the Colleges of: Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences, Engineering and Architecture, Biological and Physical Sciences, and Education and External Studies. From a global perspective, the Congregation is graduating engineers, architects, designers, quantity surveyors, civil engineers, computer scientists, medical doctors, dentists, veterinary doctors, lawyers, agriculturists, actuaries, statisticians, physicians, microbiologists, biologists, geologists, physicists, chemists, biotechnologists, psychologists, and economists, among others.

This number adds up to more than 156,000 graduates of the past 50 courses making the University of Nairobi the largest single contributor to the human resource capacity in this country. These graduates were tutored and mentored by highly qualified staff comprising of the 4100 Associate Professors of the over 1700 qualified academic staff. Our staff have been responsible for teaching, research and dissemination of their academic work. Through their efforts, we have managed to grow our research fund to over KES 1.5 billion annually and our scientists are winning prizes worldwide.

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Message from the Chairman of Council

Commitment to excellence in goods, products and services

I wish to congratulate the graduating class of 2014, who are celebrating the fruits of years of hard work that have culminated in this graduation. Graduation marks a significant achievement in your lives and we are all very proud of your accomplishment. I wish to remind this cohort of graduates that the country is experiencing rapid economic growth, improving and developing infrastructure, new technologies and a well-educated workforce. The excellent skills you have acquired at this University should put you ahead of the pack to fit into this rapidly developing economy and to ensure that you serve your fellow countrymen and humanity at large.

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UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI, 51ST GRADUATION CEREMONY
Featuring Colleges of: Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences, Architecture and Engineering, Biological and Physical Sciences, and Education and External Studies
Thursday August 28, 2014

Our Vision
A world-class university committed to scholarly excellence.

Our Mission
To provide quality university education and training and to embody the aspirations of the Kenyan people and the global community through creation, preservation, integration, transmission and utilization of knowledge.

Core Values
- Freedom of thought and expression
- Inquisitiveness and creativity
- Good corporate governance
- Team spirit and teamwork
- Professionalism
- Quality customer service
- Responsibility corporate citizenship and strong social responsibility
- Respect and conservation of the environment.

College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences
The College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences (CAVS) is one of the six colleges of the University of Nairobi. CAVS comprises two faculties: Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine. These faculties comprise four and five teaching departments respectively, backed by teaching, research and consultancy facilities and units. The Faculty of Agriculture offers seven degree programs, namely: Bachelor of Science in Agriculture, Bachelor of Science in Food Science and Technology, Bachelor of Science in Veterinary Education, Bachelor of Science in Agribusiness Management, Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Education and Extension, Bachelor of Nutrition and Dietetics and B.Sc. Agro-Ecology and Environment Management. The Faculty of Veterinary Medicine was established in 1940 as a diploma school for animal diseases but later, Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine was offered from the mid 1960s. It comprises five teaching departments. Among these, one is pre-clinical department, namely: Department of Veterinary Anatomy and Physiology which is located at Chiromo Campus. The Faculty offers three undergraduate degree programs, namely: Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine, Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Technology and Bachelor of Science in Wildlife Management and one diploma programme in Animal Health and Production. In addition, the Faculty runs a postgraduate diploma and certificate courses.

GRADUANDS SUMMARY

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<tr>
<th>Graduation Award</th>
<th>Diploma</th>
<th>B.Eng.</th>
<th>B. Tech.</th>
<th>M. Eng.</th>
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<td>160</td>
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The College of Architecture and Engineering
The College has a long history and strong tradition in this region for quality training and research in the areas of engineering technology, the built environment studies and design. It started under the Royal Technical College of East Africa in 1956 with the Faculties of Architecture and Engineering, providing quality and specialized education to students from the Eastern Africa region. Currently, the College offers 24 degree courses at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels, and has a student population of 2000 with a staff complement of 170 comprising of 5 professors, 18 associate professors, 33 senior lecturers, 105 lecturers, 8 assistant lecturers and one graduate assistant. The academic staff enjoy the support of qualified and competent technical staff in all the teaching and research units. The common theme running through these subjects is the exercise of human control over man's physical environment.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Graduation Award</th>
<th>Diploma</th>
<th>B.Sc.</th>
<th>M.Sc.</th>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>504</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>679</td>
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The College of Education and External Studies
The College of Education and External Studies (CEES) is situated in the serene environment of Kilimani which is one of the colleges of the University of Nairobi which has undergone various transformative changes to cope with global educational changes. The College consists of the School of Education, School of Continuing and Distance Education, Centre for Open and Distance Learning and Open University Learning and E-Learning Centre.

In spearheading global educational goals, the College has played a key role in the training of teachers for secondary and tertiary institutions in the East Africa region and early childhood teachers also trained at the School of Education to strengthen education from early years. It offers programmes in education and other disciplines at undergraduate and graduate levels.

GRADUANDS SUMMARY

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<th>Graduation Award</th>
<th>Diploma</th>
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<td>Master's Degree Awards</td>
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<td>310</td>
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<tr>
<td>Doctor of Philosophy Degree Awards</td>
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<td>3,180</td>
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The School offers undergraduate and postgraduate courses in the following broad areas:
- Systematic and economic biology, physiology and biochemistry, phytochemistry, cell sciences, molecular biology and biotechnology, virology, bacteriology and mycology, Parasitology, immunology and insect sciences.

The School of Mathematics

The School of Mathematics is one of the largest in the University of Nairobi with an establishment of 44 teaching staff and 6 non-teaching staff. The school enrolls about 1700 students each year.

The physical location of the school is at Chiromo Campus, which is the Science Campus of the University of Nairobi. School of Mathematics offers specialized training in Pure Mathematics, Applied Mathematics, Statistics, Biomathematics, Actuarial Science, Modelling and Operations Research. The educational and research activities of academic staff and students span a broad range of topics in mathematics, statistics, probability and modelling.

Centre for Biotechnology & Bioinformatics (CEBB)

The theme of CEBIB Biotechnology programmes is to support applied and strategic research activities leading to research and development of biotechnology products by utilizing modern biotechnology tools and also conduct high quality basic research. The areas of research include: malaria, development of an in vitro screening procedure for identifying drugs and biomaterials.

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The President of the Republic of Kenya, H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta lays the Foundation stone for the University of Nairobi Towers. Once complete, the towers will reflect the position of the University of Nairobi as the leader in architectural thought, innovation and champion towards the provision of environmentally friendly solutions.

Dr. Vijoo Rattansi is taken through the paces of dental procedures by the College of Health Sciences Principal, Prof. Isaac O. Kilwage during her tour of the University. Dr. Rattansi toured all the six colleges over a period of two weeks during which she was acquainted with activities in research, teaching and community service.

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The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha unveils former Chancellor, University of Nairobi, Dr. Joseph Wanjiku's 3rd book "Native Son, Experiences of a Kenyan Entrepreneur" during the launch ceremony at the Vice-Chancellor's parlor. The book was published by the University of Nairobi Press.
UoN establishes Molecular Biology Application Lab

The University of Nairobi (UoN) in partnership with QIAGEN, Germany and Bio-Zeq Kenya have established a Molecular Biology Application Laboratory.

KARI’s initial motivation was to conduct basic HIV research, epidemiology and carry out research aimed at the discovery of an HIV/AIDS vaccine. Over the years, KARI has experienced tremendous growth, and conducted nine HIV vaccine trials, ten basic sciences research projects, multiple epidemiologic research projects and most important established an international accredited research laboratory. In addition, KARI has pioneered the discovery of highly potent and broadly neutralizing antibodies against the HIV virus, this pioneering work has had tremendous impact on the search of an HIV vaccine. The Institute is now recognized as a centre of mucosal immunology in the region having pioneered research projects on mucosal sampling and standardization of mucosal immunity assays. These mucosal assays have now been incorporated in the evaluation of immune response against candidate HIV vaccines.

The University of Nairobi continues to be a seed searching, active, fact finding community, proposing solutions for adoption by society. In the last ten years, in collaboration with government and NGOs, staff and students have spearheaded initiatives to find solutions to problems such as rapid population growth, poverty and disease, which constrain development activities. Such research carried out has been key to accelerating social economic progress propelling Kenya at international, scientific and technological fora.

The University portfolio for research is staggering 3 billion. This figure is astonishing more so when one considers that only 10 years ago, the portfolio was 300 million. In order to consolidate research, the University established a Research, Production and Extension division about three years ago. The division, which is handled by the DVC, Prof. Lucy Iwungu, has been critical in creating a culture of innovation through acquisition, preservation, integration, transmission and utilization/ application and knowledge.

Stakeholders can take advantage of the opportunity presented and collaborate with the University in research and training of forensic sciences investigators. The use of molecular biology in medicine has revolutionized the way research, surveillance, diagnosis, treatment and prevention are conducted. Molecular biology is at the core of understanding how the living world functions. The move comes at an appropriate time as there have been minimal advances in molecular biology in Africa. These advances are also being applied in forensic sciences to improve in forensic investigation.

The University of Nairobi is keen on creation of new scientific knowledge that has informed policy and improved practice in various fields, industry players can widen their scope of collaboration to include research which is key to the development of the nation.

We congratulate University of Nairobi on the 51st Graduation. We are proud to be associated with UoN.

Growth of research portfolio

The University of Nairobi has been building research uptake management capacity. The University is a member of the Developing Research Uptake in Sub-Saharan African networks and has received bursaries in continuing professional development in research uptake, support for MPhil programmes, and support to stage events. The network is important for facilitating the UoN to research for a bigger impact on policy-making and society.