

# Academic Standards: V.C. Assures Kenyans

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Philip M. Mbithi, has on behalf of the University of Nairobi community, expressed deep appreciation to His Excellency, the President, who is also the Chancellor of the University of Nairobi, for presiding over the 17th Graduation ceremony. "We always look forward to this day when the University is able to present to you, those amongst our students judged to be worthy recipients of the University of Nairobi degrees and diplomas," the Vice-Chancellor said.

As the 17th Graduation ceremony came at a time when Kenya was celebrating Ten Years of Nyayo Era and 25 Years of Independence, Prof. P.M. Mbithi took the opportunity to congratulate His Excellency and his Government for guiding this nation to greater prosperity in the past ten years.

"I am sure the University community shares with me, our pride and pleasure for having your able hand steering this country to greater heights and prosperity", said Prof. P.M. Mbithi.

In his address the Vice-Chancellor recalled that on his first occasion of presiding over the University of Nairobi graduation ceremony on 24th November, 1978, the Chancellor announced that a library in memory of the Late Mzee Jomo Kenyatta be built. The library, which has since then been built and fully in operation, serves as the Chancellor's first gift and stands as a fitting monument to the founder President of this nation.

The library has a book capacity of one million volumes and a sitting capacity of 1,500 readers. It serves as a national referral library and is perhaps one of the largest libraries in Eastern and Central Africa regions.

Touching on increase of University places for Kenyan youth, Prof. P.M. Mbithi assured the Chancellor and all Kenyans that the challenge has been taken and expansion in admission and student enrolment has been accompanied by a rigorous and deliberate policy of maintaining internationally acknowledged standards of scholarship. This has been achieved by reaffirming in all teaching departments the



*Vice-Chancellor, Prof. P.M. Mbithi addressing the 17th graduation ceremony.*

need to maintain optimum contact hours per student, increased recruitment of staff, strengthened the role of external examiners, introduction of a semester system with enhanced continuous assessment tests (CATS), closed circuit television teaching in our laboratories when possible, elimination of long vacations and strengthened fourth term practice period.

Prof. P.M. Mbithi thanked the Chancellor on behalf of the students and staff for his continuous concern over their welfare as exemplified by his recent gesture in waiving Customs Duty and Sales Tax for those staff who wish to purchase vehicles. Prof. P.M. Mbithi caused a humorous laughter and a clap of hands from the congregation when he remarked that he was sure the number of old smoky cars will soon leave our parking lots. He disclosed that during the past year the University has initiated a taught Bachelor of Education programme at Kikuyu Campus and which will cater for the training of the ever-increasing demand for graduate teachers.

Prof. P.M. Mbithi felt that in order to meet staff development growth for this University and other similar institutions, the Post-graduate Programme should be expanded from the current student number 1,400 to about 2,000 in the next two years. The Vice-

Chancellor appealed to the Chancellor for more scholarships to enable the University train more Master and Ph.D. candidates.

On the progress of the 8-4-4 System of Education within the Universities, the Vice-Chancellor disclosed that the four national Universities and the Ministry of Education have set up a joint 8-4-4 management committee which is co-ordinating preparations for the 1990 admissions.

## Sagini Thanks Chancellor

The University of Nairobi enjoys an intellectual atmosphere that is fully committed to the ideals of scholarship and patriotism, the Chairman of Council, Mr. Lawrence G. Sagini, said while addressing the 17th Graduation Ceremony of the University of Nairobi graduands.

On behalf of the University Council, the chairman thanked the Chancellor for enabling the University to acquire more facilities to accommodate increased number of students. "Enrolment in this University has increased from 4,450 in 1978 up to 11,325 today", the chairman disclosed.