

Adieu, Dr. Joseph Barrage Wanjui



Chairman of Council, Dr. Idle Omar Farah with Dr. Joseph Barrage Wanjui.

After ten years at the helm, Dr. Joseph Wanjui, has come to the end of his tenure as Chancellor, Dr. Joseph Barrage Wanjui, was appointed on June 17th 2003, by the former president, H.E. Mwai Kibaki, in what was viewed as an important step in bringing the Chancellor closer to the staff and students. He hit the ground running and has never stopped.

“It was your choice to come to this University, this investment has paid off; he would tell the cohort of graduating class. But, that did not mean that they were to forget the bigger things waiting that include opportunities to start or enhance careers and now, that they were more complete in terms of knowledge, to put it into good use to make them powerful.

Dr. Joseph Barrage Wanjui is a father and a parent and like all good parents, he believes in discipline. He has appreciated the parents and guardians in the University Community for their sacrifice and commitment in ensuring that their children go through University. “It has not been easy to do this as the world and national economy continues to falter. This has not stopped parents also from continuing to offer support and proffer advice”.

Dr. Joseph Barrage Wanjui has challenged the University to maintain and provide the kind of graduate who will play a bigger role in the state. “Our graduates must go out to create employment, to be self-employed so that there is growth. In the challenging times that we live in,

it is individuals who are growing the economy and the graduate, who has been privileged to be educated must view themselves as the linchpin from which opportunities can be created for others”.

Dr. Joseph Barrage Wanjui brought in a new spirit into the University; he added experience from industry to give value to the activities of the University. He has

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Dr. Wanjui with Vice-Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha shortly after presiding over the 49th Graduation Ceremony at the Chancellor’s Court in August 2013. Looking on is Mrs. Anne Wanjui.

motivated the University to recognise and use its diverse resources to keep the lead as a centre of excellence. This new spirit echoes a sentiment voiced in 1964, by Dr Julius Gikonyo , the then Minister for Education that one little island, oblivious of the changes going on around it, remain in Kenya, the Royal College Nairobi. It is not enough to change a name, but a fundamental change in the administration and spirit is required. It is not in doubt that the appointment of Dr. Wanjui, with his vast experience and long service as CEO, with business acumen and sound management principles heralded some fundamental change in spirit and the administration of the University.

When Dr. Wanjui was first

appointed Chancellor, he stated that “the status quo was not an option” and therefore we must introduce change to the way we do things. This inspired management to restructure the University, introduce performance targets and appraisals, and develop an intense training for change management.

Dr. Wanjui can take pride in the University; it took bold steps even in hiring top managers and being unshakeable in its commitment to achieve excellence. His words that a world class university is one that

society admires and emulates have been echoed in the University of Nairobi taking a leadership role, being a point of reference for the nation, and the City of Nairobi where she draws her name. As we bid adieu to Dr. Wanjui, we do so strong in the knowledge that the University is not an ivory tower; it is not on a pedestal but rather, is engaging in programs and processes that accelerate the social economic development of Kenya.

Adieu to you, Dr. Joseph Barrage Wanjui.

We will continue to revitalise and engineer ourselves daily, being audacious in our plans, goals and objectives. That is the way Joseph Barrage Wanjui has taught by example, and it is the way to go.