

The University of Nairobi community yesterday, April 13, 2015, held interdenominational prayers following the electric cable explosion at Kikuyu Campus in which 167 students were injured and one died.

Led by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi, the University prayed for those still recuperating in hospitals and the family of the departed comrade. In addition, UoN joined the nation in praying for those injured during the Garissa University attack and for the families of those who lost their loved ones.

Speaking during the prayer session held at Kikuyu Campus, the Vice-Chancellor urged students to remain calm, be strong and together the University shall overcome as goodness shall prevail over evil. Prof. Mbithi expressed displeasure at the security threats directed towards students. He commended the students for coming out to help their injured colleagues even as the situation returns to normalcy. Prof. Mbithi congratulated the students for holding peaceful SONU elections. The University has put in place security measures and extra security vigilance to ensure that the safety of students is not compromised.

Prof. Isaac Mbeche, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Student Affairs noted that the blast incident came at a time when students were extremely tired after the rigorous SONU campaigns, elections, counting of votes and swearing in ceremony and hence Sunday was a time to relax and the unfortunate blast happened. Following recent insecurity incidences in Garissa, Prof. Mbeche noted that it was normal for students to react, as they reacted.

Speaker after speaker praised the students for coming out strongly to rescue fellow students who were injured during the incident. Many people came to the rescue of the injured students, key among them staff members, well-wishers, Kenya Red Cross, Kenya Police, among others.

Those who spoke during the prayer meeting include the Deputy Vice-Chancellors Research, Production and Extension, Prof. Lucy Irungu and Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs, Prof. Henry Mutoro.

In a separate development, a students' association at the University of Nairobi- IDIS Forum for International Affairs (IFIA), held a night vigil at the main campus in memory of those who lost their lives in the Garissa University attack and the Kikuyu Campus incident. The students who also lit candles during the session, prayed for the quick recovery of comrades injured in the separate incidences.