

Prime Minister Matteo Renzi gives moving lecture at UoN

H.E. Matteo Renzi, the Prime Minister of Italy, has challenged universities to be frontiers in building different strategies for a better future.

While delivering a public lecture at the University of Nairobi, the Premier, called on students and academia to use their intelligence to create new approaches and ideas on ways to deal with the issues affecting society.

The Prime Minister said that the students were the future stakeholders of the vision of the world and that his wish was for them to see that they could be leaders with the ability to create this vision.

During the interaction on "Challenges of Development: Building Bridges to Combat Extremism," Prime Minister Renzi noted that indeed terrorism is one of the greatest challenges the world is facing. Renzi condemned the recent attacks on Garissa University College saying that an attack on a university is an attack on everyone. He said that everyone has a role to play in dealing with the menace as it is an attack on our identity and freedom. He revealed that the Italian government will remain close to Kenya. The Premier noted that his government has set up a scholarship fund to support the students who survived the attack.

On matters development, the Prime Minister said that Africa is rising to become a world leader economically. He called on all to invest in technology, stating that technology is a great asset for any nation. Renzi pointed out that technological innovations such as M-Pesa by Safaricom, has empowered Kenyans to conduct different transactions.

And as he concluded his remarks, the Prime Minister said, "We need to choose courage, not fear. Education is the key for the future. Invest in education, invest in the future. We must respond to our challenges with the right knowledge."

Dr. Vijoo Rattansi, Chancellor, 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 and Prof. Peter Mbithi, Vice-Chancellor are among those who spoke during the event.