

IDIS MAKES HISTORY AT THE DECEMBER 2015 UoN GRADUATION



The Institute of Diplomacy and International Studies (IDIS) of the University of Nairobi (UoN), in December 2015 University of Nairobi graduation made history by graduating the oldest candidate who also is a famous Kenyan politician-Senator Geoffrey Gitahi Kariuki.

Prof. Amb. Maria Nzomo

IDIS has grown rapidly in the last fifteen years, to become a regional and international “Institute of Choice”. IDIS journey started in 1973, as a Diplomacy Training Program, charged with the all important and strategic role of training future diplomats for the entire Africa region.

From this humble beginnings with only **18 diploma level students in 1992**, and only **three founder academic staff** – including the current Director – Prof. Maria Nzomo - the Institute now had by 2015, a student body of **over 1500 students**. It has also **grown to become the leading trilingual research and training Institute of its kind in Africa, with a Pan African and global outreach and a broad based curriculum that attracts students from different parts of Africa including Nigeria, Turkey, Germany, Egypt, South Africa, Cameroon, Tanzania, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Rwanda, South Sudan, Burundi and Zambia**, just to mention a few. Over the years her Institute has maintained a **leadership position in the training of diplomats and conflict managers** who perform negotiation, mediation and other diplomatic functions in different parts of the world. The Institute awards Doctorate degrees in International Studies, Masters degrees in: International Studies, Diplomacy, International Conflict Management, and Strategic Studies. It also offers a Bachelor of Arts degree International

Studies; Post-graduate diploma and ordinary diploma programs in international Relations and Strategic Studies.

IDIS has also **developed numerous national, regional and international collaborative partnerships** with like-minded teaching, research and training institutions, including National Defence College(NDC): Defence Staff College(DSC), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Centre for Parliamentary Studies(CPST) etc.

Despite its comparatively small size at the CHSS, in the last **15 years IDIS has rapidly expanded its academic programs** from **ONE** to an additional **SEVEN degree and diploma programs, Postgraduate, MA (3) programs**. Our largest program remains the MA programs in International Studies, International Conflict Management and Strategic Studies.

In **December 2015 and previous three graduations, IDIS has led the pack among the institutes at the College of Humanities and Social Sciences**, registering the largest numbers of PhD, MA and BA graduands. On the average, we have had **2-3 PhD each year, 145 MAs; a 120 BAs & about 85 PGDs & Diplomas**.

With a **few exceptions, all our students are Module II students**, from whom the university derives significant **amount of revenue**. **Our foreign students**, including those deriving from collaboration with NDC and DSC, **have not only contributed significantly to boost the international image of the UoN but also brought in significant amount of revenue** to the UoN.

Over the years, IDIS has also graduated to some high profile policy makers, including **Amb. Muthaura – former head of civil service**. This year, **IDIS star PhD graduand is Senator Geoffrey Gitahi Kariuki**- also the oldest PhD Graduand at December 2015 UoN graduation.