

**ALUMNI SPEECH DELIVERED BY DR. BETTY M. GIKONYO, CHAIRPERSON,
UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ON THE OCCASION OF THE
43RD GRADUATION CEREMONY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI HELD ON
FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 24, 2010**

The Minister for Higher Education, Mr. William Isaac Ruto, MP
The Chancellor, University of Nairobi, Dr. Joseph Barage Wanjui
The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education
Chairman, Commission of Higher Education
Chancellors of Sister Universities
The Chairman of the University of Nairobi Council, Mr. John Simba
Members of the University of Nairobi Council
Vice-Chancellor, University of Nairobi, Prof. George A. O. Magoha
Vice-Chancellors of Sister Universities
Deputy Vice-Chancellors
Principals of Colleges
Deans of Faculties and Directors of Institutes
Lecturers and Staff
Fellow Alumni
Graduands
Parents and Guardians
Ladies and Gentlemen

I am delighted to be associated with the University of Nairobi during this memorable event of the 43rd Graduation Ceremony, a time we all have been eagerly awaiting, to celebrate the success of our children.

On behalf of the Alumni Association and on my own behalf, it is my great pleasure to take this opportunity to congratulate **the Class 2010** of the College of Biological and Physical Sciences, College of Architecture and Engineering, College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences and College of Education and External Studies. Today, the University takes pride to confer and award **4,473** degrees and diplomas to the deserving graduands, indeed this is a milestone in the history of the University of Nairobi.

As we celebrate this day, we need to thank the almighty God for having brought us as far as this, in the same breath, we recognize the respective roles played by the various stakeholders: students, staff, sponsors, parents and well-wishers towards realization of this remarkable achievement. To all of you, we say a big bravo.

As a world-class university, the University of Nairobi continually aspires to produce quality graduates of impeccable track record fit for the job-market world over and at the same time, the University sets the pace for other Institutions of Higher Learning.

Remarkably, the numbers of UON alumni continues to increase exponentially and within no time get absorbed in the job-market globally.

Mr. Chancellor, Sir, today the Association marks her 5 years since its launch in February 2005. During this period, the Association has been involved in a number of activities towards the universities growth and development and in realization of her alma mater socio-corporate responsibility. These activities are summarized as follows: University Bursary Fund worth Ksh.7 million, Concrete Benches Project worth Ksh. 966,680/= and Prizes for Academic Excellence worth Ksh. 300,000/=, among other activities.

To the Class of 2010, I wish to inform you that today you have become members of UONAA, vide your payment of convocation fees. However, in future, you need to re-affirm your membership to the Association by formally registering. I welcome you to the fellowship of the Association and let us unite and rigorously participate in its activities and benefit other needy Kenyans who aspire to join the University of Nairobi.

The Association has established six (6) Chapters that are charged with the responsibility of organizing discipline-based activities. The Chapters include: MBA, Human Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, Range Management, Journalism and Science-based. The Class of 2010 is hereby challenged to spearhead establishment of additional Chapters, thereby, strengthening and helping the Association realize her Mission and Vision, and those of the University as a whole.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, we have initiated a mammoth project for the Association – construction of the UON Alumni Centre. The project is estimated to cost **Ksh 283 million**. To facilitate this project, all the alumni will be expected to contribute generously towards its accomplishment. This is our project, come all as we join hands to realize our dream of having Alumni Centre, a one stop-shop housing all activities of the Association. We eagerly look to the University Council to allocate the Association a suitable parcel of land for the project.

The Association has set aside seed money of **kshs. 20 million** and our appeal to all the stakeholders and well wishers is to remain focused on the project and generously contribute towards the project.

In conclusion, I wish to plead with the members of the Association to turn up in large numbers during the **Alumni Gala Re-union Dinner**, which has been scheduled for **October 29th 2010**.The dinner will offer a forum to chart the way forward for the Alumni Centre Project.

Finally, I congratulate the Class 2010 for a job well done and may our almighty Lord bless you abundantly.

Thank you.