



## UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

### SPEECH BY THE CHAIRPERSON, UONAA DURING THE 53<sup>RD</sup> UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI GRADUATION CEREMONY

The Cabinet Secretary for Higher Education, Prof. Jacob T. Kaimenyi,  
The Chancellor, University of Nairobi, Dr. RattansiVijoo,  
The Principal Secretary, Ministry of Education,  
Chairman, Commission of Higher Education,  
Chancellors of Sister Universities,  
The Chairman of the University of Nairobi Council, Dr. Idle O. Farah,  
Members of the University of Nairobi Council,  
The Vice-Chancellor, University of Nairobi, Prof. Peter M. F. Mbithi,  
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.  
All Protocols observed.

We are assembled here today to celebrate an important milestone in the lives of today's graduands; fully aware that after many years of hard labour, a time has arrived to reap the fruits of your sweat. This is indeed a culmination of the three crucial cycles through which our students undergo before they become products ready for the market namely; Admission process, Training period and a Graduation day!

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Alumni Association, I take this opportunity to extend a cordial congratulatory message to the University as well as the September 2015 Graduating Class from the College of Architecture and Engineering (773); College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences (442); College of Biological and Physical Sciences (643) and College of Education and External Studies (3,442). Sending a total of 5,300 graduands to the market is not a mean achievement.

To the graduating class, we take pride in knowing that today you join the University Alumni fraternity. Many before you have trodden this path in this prestigious Institution of Learning and are ready to welcome and embrace you and in fact help nurture your careers. We therefore urge you to re-affirm your membership after one year, whether or not you are engaged in any meaningful employment.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We wish to let this congregation know that the Association continually seeks to engage the University Alumni to share its vision and to support any of its three flagship projects namely: Alumni Centre (Ksh.1 Billion), Scholarship Fund (Ksh.100 million) and Endowment Fund (Ksh.10 Billion). This can be done through the various categories of membership subscription details of which are available at the Association office.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you are aware, the University alumni forms one of the key pillars of the University, through which the University Mission, Vision and Objectives can be attained. The Association will therefore undertake to explore innovative opportunities of transacting University business: Training, Research and Consultancy services in order to reap value added benefits.

To enable the Association achieve its mandate, we have put in place.

- i. Alumni Information Management System (AIMS)- Whose overall purpose is to automate the operations of the Association, making it possible to search a spectrum of information pertaining to the University Alumni; updates on membership payments and statements; events management; and dissemination of information in a timely manner. The system allows the members to pay and

renew their membership online, purchase merchandise online; voting for new office bearers; social networking and make donations online towards the projects of the association including the annual Bursary Fund of Kshs. 2 Million

- ii. Work Study Programme - The Association recently signed a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding with the University and Beta Health Care Pharmaceutical Company. The programme intends to assist the bright but financially challenged students to work with the industry and earn some income as well as translate their theoretical learning exposure into practical exposure; discover their subtle abilities and potentials and gain the much required work experience for their future professional advancement. In the initial stage, the programme will benefit students from the Schools of Medicine and Pharmacy. However, in future, this support will be extended to the rest of the University.
- iii. The Association had a colourful ceremony to celebrate its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2015 culminating into a dinner at the Great Court for Alumni, friends and well-wishers. Notable achievements is the Launch of 13 Alumni Chapters, the latest being the School of Education Alumni Chapter. Before the end of 2015, the Association intends to launch the IDS and Law Alumni Chapters. To this effect, other disciplines are encouraged to follow suite.

Lastly, as an Association, we once again extend our congratulations to the graduands, parents and guardians and indeed the entire University of Nairobi fraternity for so ably, playing their role in pursuit of knowledge and human development not only in Kenya but around the world.

May God bless you all.

Thank you!

**Dr. Betty M. Gikonyo**  
**Chairperson, UONAA**