

REMARKS BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR DURING THE LAUNCH OF NURSING SCIENCES ALUMNI CHAPTER & 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS – TUESDAY 11TH DECEMBER, 2018 AT NAIROBI SAFARI CLUB

Chancellor, University of Nairobi; Dr. Vijoo Rattansi

Chairman, University of Nairobi Alumni Association; Mr. Isaac Awuondo

Chief Guest; Dr. Dabar Abdi Maalim, Commissioner, Ethics & Anti Corruption Commission and Nursing Sciences Alumnus.

Key Note Speaker, Dr. Muringo Kiereini, Patron Kenya Nightingale Welfare Association

Members of UONAA Executive Board Present

Members of University of Nairobi Management Present

University of Nairobi Alumni

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Evening.

I am delighted tonight to join the University of Nairobi Alumni Association and the School of Nursing Sciences for the Launch of Nursing Sciences Alumni Chapter and the 50th Anniversary Celebrations. It is during forums like this that alumni get an opportunity to re-unite, connect and share ideas with the University team on how to make our alma mater thrive.

I wish to take this opportunity to welcome our Chief Guest. Dr. Dabar Abdi Maalim who is currently a Commissioner with Ethics & Anti-Corruption Commission and also our proud Alumnus. He joined UON in 1987 to pursue Diploma in Advanced Nursing (DAN), the highest level of education that nurses could undertake in East Africa and was only offered at the University of Nairobi.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At my inauguration as Vice-Chancellor, I formulated a Reform Agenda revolving around Ten (10) major strategic issues: World Class University Status, Fundraising, Resource Mobilization and Sustainability Strategy, Infrastructure Development, Graduate Skills Enhancement Programme, Students' Experience in Campus, University Research, Develop Visionary, Innovative and Creative Leadership, Our Alumni Our Strength, and Community Service. In order to address all these strategic issues to their logical conclusion, our key stakeholder and strategic partner is our Alumni, who are our pillars of strength and a great resource partner. We intend to enhance the financial resources through establishment of an Endowment Fund, Creation of University Foundation, Partnering with Private Sector to finance capital projects and increasing involvement of Alumni in fundraising for our alma mater.

I am personally gratified by the efforts made and commitment shown by the Association in bringing the over 245,000 of our graduates together in a number of similar fora like this one tonight. I urge the Association to leverage on technology especially in their quest to tap to our alumni spread across the globe. I am also pleased to note that the University of Nairobi has been ranked position 66 globally in alumni relations and 300 globally on employability of its

graduates. I believe we can do even better if we continue pulling together as one and sharing ideas on how we can make our Alma mater shine globally. The University will continue to support the Association in order for it to play its rightful role in supporting the University.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the University Management , I wish to sincerely thank the Association for the support it has continued to offer the University on a yearly basis especially with regard to the students Bursary Fund, Graduation Ceremony, Students Prizes, Innovation Week, University Open Day and Research Awards, just to mention a few. As a registered Gold Life Member of this association I feel proud when I see alumni coming back together in such gatherings to network engage and share ideas with University Management on how to take our University to the next level. I would like to challenge your chapter officials to continue organizing forums like this to bring alumni together to support the School in Infrastructure development and purchase of Equipment for use by our current students.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am pleased to point out that the School of Nursing Sciences has grown over the years since its inception. The school now has a student population exceeding 650 taking courses from post basic diploma, BScN, MScN to PhD in various specialties of Nursing Sciences. Nursing graduates of UON have continued to lead the way globally by winning prestigious scholarship awards and innovation of strategies for solving health problems for communities.

Recent examples of such graduates include **Brian Muthee** (winner of Rhodes scholarship award from Oxford University) and **John Kiragu**, an alumnus and an innovator (winner of UNLEASH Global SDG talent and nominee of the 1000 Global innovators for solutions for UN SGDs in

Copenhagen Denmark 2017/2018). John is the innovator for Pregmum, an e-health and off-site maternal and foetal monitor device for improving maternal health outcomes.

The School of Nursing Sciences in partnership with AMREF has endeavored to increase access to higher education for diploma nurses & midwives in Kenya through the blended e-learning program.

It is remarkable to note that the Nursing School prides itself as a regional centre, in conjunction with the East African Kidney Institute, in training of renal nurses for the country and the region with the aim of increasing capacity at county and regional level for renal service provision and improvement of overall livelihood of Kenyans through training and research in the areas of Renal Nursing.

In concluding, I now challenge the Association to jointly work with the Schools and Faculties and at the same time seek partnerships with industry in Internships, Industrial Attachments and Job Placements for our graduates. Such opportunities will equip the graduates with relevant skills and offer them requisite exposure and help us nurture and develop future generation of young leaders. To the School of Nursing Sciences and Nursing School Alumni, congratulations for the launch of your Alumni Chapter, I urge you to continue working together to ensure that you achieve your aspirations.

Let me take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous 2019.

Thank You and God Bless

Prof. Peter M.F Mbithi