



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

**REMARKS BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR, PROF. G.A.O.
MAGOHA ON THE OCCASION OF THE PRIZE
PRESENTATION CEREMONY AT TAIFA HALL ON
FRIDAY, AUGUST 2, 2013 AT 9.00 A.M.**

Chairman, University of Nairobi Council

Chairperson, University of Nairobi Alumni Association

Deputy Vice-Chancellors

Principals of Colleges

Deans/Directors of Faculties/Schools/Institutes

Heads of Departments

Distinguished donors

Prize recipients

Parents

Members of staff

Invited Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

I welcome all of you to this important occasion of the 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 academic years' prize presentation to our outstanding students.

I particularly welcome the prize recipients, parents, and our donors without whom today's function would not have been possible. This ceremony, as in the past, is meant to award top achievers in all academic departments, with prizes donated by various individuals and organizations.

I would also like to congratulate the awardees for attaining their best performance in their areas of specialization. As an institution, we are honoured that we had you as our student and hope that you will keep the spirit of the University of Nairobi burning wherever you will go and remain our faithful ambassadors.

Ladies and Gentlemen, today we are going to award 330 students for 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 academic year with prizes donated by 74 donors. The general trend as in the past few years is the impressive performance from female students in the fields presumed to be the

male domain. This shows that our ladies have come of age and have taken the competition to their male counterparts. It further debunks the myth that only male students can perform well in certain courses. In this regard, I urge students to remain competitive and challenge more organizations to volunteer prizes for our best performing students.

I also take this opportunity to thank individuals and organizations that have made this day successful by donating prizes. We are happy that you have joined us in celebrating intellectual excellence by our students.

Your recognition of our best students is testimony of the quality of graduates from this University. As an Institution, we are grateful for your support and proud to be associated with you. I hope that we shall continue counting on your support in future as we engage in many other activities.

I wish to challenge other organizations – both in public and private sectors – to support activities that will improve the quality of academic programmes at the University because the ultimate beneficiary of our products is the industry. At the moment, we only have

74 donors yet the University of Nairobi alumni are in worldwide service. Indeed our appeal in the last prize giving ceremony has yielded seven more donors, which confirms a positive rating by our stakeholders. In the same spirit, I wish to appeal to our donors with prizes that are less than Kshs. 10,000/- to upscale them so that they are in tandem with the current economic situation.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I am happy to recognize and welcome new donors who have joined in the 2011/2012 and 2012/2013 Academic Years, whose prize

presentations ceremony will be held next year. These include Kenya Institute of Supplies Management, Kenya Meteorological Society, The Insurance Regulatory Authority, Mau West Limited, Denis Adari Foundation, Mboya Wangong'u and Waiyaki Advocates and Paul Musili Wambua (Kisumu Law Campus Award). Specifically, I wish to single out and congratulate the Kenya Institute of Supplies Management and Kenya Meteorological Society, who in their wisdom considered backdating their awards to include the academic years we are awarding today and they are here to present their awards.

I also take this opportunity to thank the entire University community for dedicating their time and energy to the service of the Institution. We have embarked on a long and difficult journey of transforming the University of Nairobi into a model institution of higher learning in this country and region. The fact that we are here today to celebrate excellence is indeed confirmation that our efforts are already bearing fruit. Let us work together to ensure that the gains that we have made in this short period are not lost.

Let me also thank the parents and guardians who are with us here today for the sacrifices they made to ensure that these young men and women completed their studies. By excelling in their studies, they have proven that your investment was not in vain. Congratulations for a job well done!

For those receiving prizes today, you are certainly a shining example to many in this country. You will go down in the history books as some of the outstanding students the University produced. I hope you will

extend the same spirit to the places you have started your careers.

On behalf of the University of Nairobi Council, Senate and on my own behalf, I wish you success in your future endeavours.

Thank you.