

Dr. Angela Merkel

The first woman in East German to head the Federal Republic of Germany, Dr. Angela Merkel visited the University of Nairobi (UoN) in July 2011 and delivered a moving lecture on political and economic partnerships.

Dr. Merkel spoke on the need to appreciate that the politics requires understanding and reconciliation at two dimensions –at local and international level. “The African continent – as you know so much better than I – has experienced far too many conflicts. Many of the lingering problems have their roots in colonial times. Even today, they frequently stand in the way of the goal of African unity. However, we are also experiencing times of radical political change in Africa, for example in North Africa – starting with Tunisia and Egypt. The communities there are striving for more democracy and the greater rule of law. They want to lead a better life and to see human rights upheld”. This quote was the thrust of her presentation.