



## UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

### **UoN awards 5,342 degrees and diplomas**

*August 23, 2013*

The University of Nairobi held its 49<sup>th</sup> Graduation Ceremony in which 5,342 graduands from the Colleges of: Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences, Architecture and Engineering, Biological and Physical Sciences, and Education and External Studies. The four colleges graduated 1 DSc, 21 PhDs, 815 masters and over 3,000 bachelor degrees. The DSc was conferred to Prof. Geoffrey Maloiy.

The chief guest during the ceremony, the Secretary for Education, Prof. Jacob Kaimenyi, challenged universities to establish mechanisms for capacity training of staff and benchmark with other universities in order to achieve global competitiveness. He reiterated the government's commitment to increasing access to higher education by establishing new university colleges and providing bursaries and other support to the institutions. He said that one of the major actions for equity that the ministry and the Constitution are stressing is mainstreaming gender and diversity and praised the University for putting in place solid policies to support the move.

The graduation ceremony was the last one to be presided over by Dr. Joseph Wanjui who is expected to hand over to his successor in the next three months. Dr. Wanjui has been UoN Chancellor for over 10 years during which period he has presided over 18 graduation ceremonies, in the process, conferring and awarding over 70,000 degrees and diplomas, respectively. He also oversaw the facelift of infrastructure and construction of new ones. In May 2013, Wanjui inaugurated the commencement of the construction of the 22-storey University of Nairobi towers. The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha said in his remarks to honour Wanjui's tenure at the University.

Prof. Magoha also defended the University's postgraduate programmes insisting that they remain competitive locally and internationally. Said he, "Postgraduate research work undergoes a rigorous vetting exercise by internal and external examiners, hence ensuring that only original work by students is passed. This procedure upholds our standards and the integrity of our academic processes".

Prof. Magoha commended academic staff for their research efforts which raised over KES 3 billion, he indicated that researchers from the College of Health Sciences had been responsible for raising 73 percent of the research fund and challenged staff from other

colleges to emulate the example. The new chairman of Council Dr. Idle Omar Farah , was also introduced to the Congregation. Dr. Farah who replaced Mr. John Simba over six months ago is also the Director-General of the National Museums of Kenya.

The graduands consisted of top notch professionals among them engineers, architects, building and construction professionals, veterinary surgeons, actuaries, agriculturists, scientists, surveyors and teachers among others. The remaining two Colleges of: Health Sciences; and, Humanities and Social Sciences will constitute the 50<sup>th</sup> Congregation to be held in December, 2013.

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