

At the 57th University of Nairobi's graduation ceremony, the Chancellor, Dr. Vijoo Rattansi conferred degrees and awarded diplomas to 3,645 graduands consisting of 48 PhDs, 355 Masters, 2,568 bachelors, 13 post graduate diplomas and 674 diplomas.

The ceremony drew graduands from the Colleges of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences, Architecture and Engineering, Biological and Physical Sciences and Education and External Studies. In addition, School of Law and School of Nursing.

Dr. Rattansi celebrated the great achievements of the graduands. Drawing from the wise thoughts of Theodore Roosevelt and William Ernest Henley, Dr. Rattansi shared words of wisdom and caution to the graduating class of 2017.

"Graduates we send you into the world as our ambassadors. We, your forbearers may have fallen short of being the perfect role models. Be better than us. Heed the word of the scriptures that you may not be corrupted or conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is good and acceptable and perfect" she said. "You will be faced with many odds including those hell bent on keeping you down, stifling your growth, stealing your thunder and extinguishing your candle that theirs may appear brighter. In light of all these, never lose hope, never despair and certainly light yourself another candle! Sometimes you will succeed and sometimes you will fail."

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi also congratulated the graduands.

"Graduation is a culmination of hard work and sacrifices by the graduands, parents, sponsors and staff of the University. It is a special moment for members of the university community to celebrate with pride the unleashing of new entrepreneurs, employees and talent into the market," he said. "Every generation has a unique historical moment to make a significant contribution to the human civilization and survival of mankind and this is the time for the millennial generation."

Prof. Mbithi noted that the higher education sector has experienced serious challenges emanating from the rapid globalization.

"The era of globalization has been marked by fierce competition and shrinking revenue opportunities. However, there are also abundant opportunities that we can harness from the extensive changes," he said. "Universities of the 21st century must embrace ingenuity and innovativeness in their business approach in order to surmount the challenges that confront them."

Speaking on behalf of the University of Nairobi Alumni Association (UoNAA), Mr. Barrack Muluka called on the graduating class of 2017 to join the association.

"The association is engaged in many initiatives and we call upon you to register with us and given back to your great alma mater," he said.

Valedictorian, Ms. Asya Essajee, from the School of the Built Environment, College of Architecture and Engineering gave an inspiring valedictory.

“Success is guaranteed with a combination of a vision, commitment, focus, patience, persistence and persuasion when faced with life’s challenges,” she said. “To all graduating students, we have all overcome many challenges to get to where we are today, and every one of us has achieved success in our own ways.”

Congratulations to the Graduating Class of 2017!