



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

**ADDRESS BY PROF HENRY MUTORO DEPUTY VICE-
CHANCELLOR (ACADEMIC AFFAIRS) UNIVERSITY OF
NAIROBI AT THE AFRICA DAY AT THE GAZI
UNIVERSITY, TURKEY 21ST-22ND MAY 2014.**



Honorable Rector, Gazi University
Members of the Academic Community,
Distinguished Guests,
All Protocols observed,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

On behalf of the Vice-Chancellor University of Nairobi, I consider it an honor to be part of this momentous event dubbed “Africa Day”. Gazi University has realized great achievements as the largest state university in Turkey. The journey has been long but its culmination is a source of joy for all of us present at this function.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Let me reflect briefly on the continent of Africa. Africa is the world's second-largest and second-most-populous continent. At about 30.2 million km² (11.7 million sq mi) including adjacent islands,

it covers six percent of the Earth's total surface area and 20.4 percent of the total land area. With 1.1 billion people as of 2013, it accounts for about 15% of the world's human population. The continent is surrounded by the Mediterranean Sea to the north, both the Suez Canal and the Red Sea along the Sinai Peninsula to the northeast, the Indian Ocean to the southeast, and the Atlantic Ocean to the west. The continent includes Madagascar and various archipelagoes. It has 54 fully recognized sovereign states

("countries"), nine territories and two *de facto* independent states with limited or no recognition.

Africa's population is the youngest among all the continents; 50% of Africans are 19 years old or younger.

Algeria is Africa's largest country by area, and Nigeria is the largest by population. Africa, particularly central Eastern Africa, is widely accepted as the place of origin of humans and the Hominidae clade (great apes), as evidenced by the discovery of the earliest hominids and

their ancestors, as well as later ones that have been dated to around seven million years ago, including *Sahelanthropus tchadensis*, *Australopithecus africanus*, *A. afarensis*, *Homo erectus*, *H. habilis* and *H. ergaster* – with the earliest *Homo sapiens* (modern human) found in Ethiopia being dated to circa 200,000 years ago. Africa straddles the equator and encompasses numerous climate areas; it is the only continent to stretch from the northern temperate to southern temperate zones.

And now let me turn my attention to Kenya where the University of Nairobi is located. Kenya is located across the equator on the east of the African continent. Neighboring countries are Ethiopia to the North, Somalia to the East, Tanzania to the South, Uganda to the West and Sudan to the Northwest. Anthropologists refer to Kenya as the “cradle of humanity” due to the various discoveries of skull of the oldest men in the history of man.

I am aware that Kenya and Turkey have agreed on a dozen areas of co-operation aimed at further growing the relationship between the two countries.

The 2nd Joint Economic Commission (JCC), established in accordance with the Article 8 of the Agreement on Trade and Economic Cooperation between the two countries, the technical teams identified priority areas as trade, industrialization, transport, agriculture, tourism, education,

health, immigration, science and technology, and development of arid lands.

The agreement provides a general framework for dialogue and cooperation and includes health, education, water, sanitation, good governance, promotion of bilateral trade and investment, environmental protection, tourism, food security, agriculture, livestock and fisheries as areas of shared interests.

The University of Nairobi has experts in all the above areas and we look forward to playing a very supportive role in the implementation of the projects.

The inception of the University of Nairobi is traced back to 1956, with the establishment of the Royal Technical College which admitted its first lot of A-level graduates for technical courses in April the same year. On 20th May 1964, the Royal College Nairobi was renamed University College Nairobi as a constituent college of inter-territorial,

Federal University of East Africa. In 1970, the University College Nairobi transformed into the first national university in Kenya and was renamed the University of Nairobi.

In view of the rapid expansion and complexities in administration, the University underwent a major restructuring in 1983 resulting in decentralization of the administration, by creation of six (6) colleges headed by principals.

The following are the names and respective locations of the colleges:

- 1. College of Agriculture & Veterinary Sciences situated at Upper Kabete Campus**
- 2. College of Architecture & Engineering situated at the Main Campus**
- 3. College of Biological & Physical Sciences situated at Chiromo Campus**

- 4. College of Education & External Studies situated at Kikuyu Campus**
- 5. College of Health Sciences situated at the Kenyatta National Hospital**
- 6. College of Humanities and Social sciences situated at the Main Campus -Faculty of Arts ; Parklands-Faculty of Law; Lower Kabete Campus -Faculty of Commerce**

Our Vision is to be a world-class university committed to scholarly excellence.

Our Mission is to provide quality university education and training and to embody the aspirations of the Kenyan people and the global community through creation, preservation, integration, transmission and utilization of knowledge.

As an institution of higher learning, the University of Nairobi has contributed greatly to the development of Kenya. The university, in turn, has benefited much from its location, in the country's capital, Nairobi, as

well as, from the efforts of the nation's diverse population. Below are some highlights of the University development, as well as, factual information on its setting:

30 Faculties, Schools, Institutes, Centres

Over 300 Programmes

84,000 Students

70,000 Undergraduate Students

14,000 Postgraduate Students

2,052 Strong Academic Staff

3,380 Administrative & Technical Staff

237 International Links

Kshs 3B Annual Research Kitty

148,824 Alumni

The University of Nairobi currently has over 20 students from Turkey pursuing various degree courses. We look forward to increasing this number and collaborating in the following areas:

- a) Conduct joint research activities within the fields of study to be mutually agreed and subject to availability of funds;**
- b) Exchange of scholars on terms and durations to be agreed;**
- c) Exchange of students both undergraduate and postgraduate,**
- d) Participation in conferences, symposia and seminars;**
- e) Joint Publications;**
- f) Joint proposals for solicitation of funding;**

- g) Exchange of information and documentation both written and electronic;**
- h) Use of each other's facilities subject to adequate prior notice convenience and availability.**
- i) Exchange of faculty members in the field of mutual interests and on terms to be agreed.**
- j) Collaboration in joint research and publications;**
- k) Capacity building through exchange programmes and short courses;**
- l) Exchange of academic data and information; and**

m) Joint Organization of scientific meetings such as seminars, conferences and colloquia.

As scholars, the importance of excellence in academics cannot be gainsaid. It leads to applications that directly benefit the people of a state and beyond. Without knowledge, we would not be able to transform an unstable nation into a stable nation, shortage into plenty, still into movable. To a large extent, it enables scholars to actively transform our nation and our natural, social, and individual worlds for the better.

May the “Africa Day” grow to contribute to, and shape the academic thought for the development of Turkey, Kenya, Africa and the world.

Thank you and God bless you.