



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

**REMARKS BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR, PROF. PETER
M.F. MBITHI DURING THE LAUNCH OF THE BOOK
“BEYOND POVERTY AND VULNERABILITY IN KENYA”
BY MWANGI MATHAI HELD IN CONFUCIOUS INSTITUTE
BOARDROOM ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22, 2016 AT 5.00
P.M**

The Chief Guest Prof. P. L. O. Lumumba

The Author Mr. Mwangi Mathai and family

Deputy Vice Chancellor, RPE, Prof Lucy Irungu

Invited guests

Staff Ladies and Gentlemen,

I take this opportunity on behalf of University Management and Senate to welcome you all to the University of Nairobi, and specifically, to this important occasion of the Launch of a book by another eminent Kenyan.

Allow me to start my remarks by stating that a University Press is a vital asset for any University, especially now when the visibility of institutional research is being used to define leading institutions globally.

I am very proud to state that in this region, the University of Nairobi is one of the few institutions of higher learning with a vibrant University Press.

Having been in existence for over 30 years, the University of Nairobi Press has become the place to visit by our counterparts in other universities as they seek to establish their own scholarly publishing entities.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the value of a university press to the community of scholars cannot be gainsaid. In academia, career advancement is based on evidence of publishing activity and what better place to begin than in one's own university press.

Ladies and Gentlemen, as we launch the book titled *Beyond Poverty and Vulnerability in Kenya* by Mwangi Mathai, I would like to draw your attention to the significance of the collaborations involved in the project.

Forging partnerships with individuals and organizations on matters of mutual interest is an important policy issue of the University of Nairobi. In this event, we value the partnership with Mr. Mathai who chose to publish his book with the University of Nairobi Press.

Thank you very much Mr. Mathai. In this event, we are also honoured to have with us Prof. P.L.O Lumumba, our Chief Guest, whom I will also refer to as a friend and partner of the University of Nairobi. The association of our Chief Guest with the University of Nairobi goes back a long way.

Currently, Prof. Lumumba is the Director of the Kenya School of Law, an institution that has had a good working relationship with the University of Nairobi for many years. I am also aware that he was recently elected as the Secretary of the University of Nairobi Alumni Association (UONAA). Welcome to the University of Nairobi again, Prof. P.L.O. Lumumba.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to encourage our visitors to explore the range of opportunities available for partnership with the University of Nairobi.

As we keep our doors open to all, the message we are sending is that the University of Nairobi is no longer an ivory tower, as universities are often perceived to be. Very soon, we shall be hosting the second Nairobi Innovation Week.

This event, and many other activities at the University, has demonstrated that we can create greater impact through working with others. I would like to thank those who have continued to support our activities.

Ladies and Gentlemen, let me conclude by saying that as a university, the best way we can serve our society is through sharing the knowledge that we create. I am happy to say that we have done very well in this regard.

The University of Nairobi has some of the most active researchers and prolific authors in virtually all disciplines. Through our open access policy and other relevant policies, we are striving to ensure that knowledge created at the University of Nairobi is accessible to all.

Knowledge, they say, is power and the University of Nairobi is ready and willing to share this very important commodity.

Thank you, Ladies and Gentlemen and once again, welcome to the University of Nairobi.

PETER M.F MBITHI, PhD, EBS

VICE-CHANCELLOR

AND

PROFESSOR OF VETERINARY SURGERY