

## The University gives Thanks

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The University of Nairobi on Thursday, May 17, 2018 gathered for a thanksgiving celebratory service in Taifa Hall for the successful development and deployment of the first Kenyan University Nano Satellite.

It was an event filled with orchestral tunes and a superb performance by the University of Nairobi choir and the Nairobi Conservatoire Orchestra.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Kenya University Nano Satellite Precursor Flight (1KUNS-PF) was successfully deployed from KIBO (a satellite deployment module) from the Japan Space Agency (JAXA) Tsukuba Space Centre in Tokyo, Japan on May 11, 2018 at 1.30 pm.

Speaking at the event, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi commended the School of Engineering – the KiboCube Team for their dedication to the project that has propelled the University to higher standards.

“The University of Nairobi invites interested collaborators and partners from both the Public and Private sector to work with us on expanding this very important program that will yield enormous benefits for Kenya,” he said.

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The Chancellor, Dr. Vijoo Rattansi, also congratulated the team on the sacrifices they made as they worked towards the success of the programme.

“It is indeed a great milestone for the University. In 2015, at the 55<sup>th</sup> graduation ceremony, I announced that the University of Nairobi had been selected to participate in the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) satellite programme, well this has now come to pass,” she said.

The Principal Investigator is Prof. Jackson Mwangi Mbutia, current Dean, School of Engineering, College of Architecture and Engineering who made a presentation on the project.

The event was graced Dr. Joe Wanjui, the former UoN Chancellor, Prof. Judith Bahemuka, Chancellor, University of Eldoret, representative from the Japan Embassy in Kenya, among others.

1KUNS-PF is a result of scientific and technological collaboration between the University of Nairobi, School of Engineering – the KiboCube Team, the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), University of Rome (Italy), and the Kenya Space Agency.

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