



**WELCOMING REMARKS MADE BY PROF. PETER M. F.
MBITHI, AG. VICE-CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI
DURING THE OCCASION OF THE STUDENTS FORUM WITH
THE PRIME MINISTER HELD ON MARCH 18, 2010 AT 4.00 P.M.
IN TAIFA HALL, UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI**

- **The Right Hon. Prime Minister, Raila A. Odinga**
 - **Government Officials**
 - **The Vice-Chancellors of other Universities present (Public and Private)**
 - **Members of the UoN Management Board**
 - **Students from Sloan School of Management, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA**
 - **University of Nairobi students present**
 - **Students from other Kenyan Universities**
 - **Invited Guests**
 - **Ladies and Gentlemen**
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Mine will be fairly brief indeed. Let me take this opportunity, on behalf of the University Vice-Chancellor and Management, to welcome you all to the University of Nairobi.

In particular, I wish to extend very warm greetings to the Right Honourable Prime Minister for once again accepting to choose the University of Nairobi as host of important visitors to the country and attending this function in person.

As you are all aware, it is only last Monday but one i.e. 8th March 2010, when the Prime Minister was at this same venue together with the Managing Director, International Monetary Fund, when they tackled the topic of ‘Economic Transformation in Africa’.

As the premier institution of higher learning in Kenya, the University promotes free exchange of ideas as it upholds the core values of Freedom of Thought and Expression and Innovativeness and Creativity.

Mr. Prime Minister Sir, the University being a renowned centre for research, has always been available for consultation by all stakeholders including the government, to give advice on academic and other policy issues that affect society.

We are indeed happy to have the students from Massachusetts Institute of Technology USA hold this joint debate with University of Nairobi students on the future of Kenya’s economy. This is a good opportunity for the two groups of students to exchange notes on pertinent economic issues of the day,

especially as they impact on a third world country like Kenya. It is obvious that the challenges facing a student in America are quite different from those facing a Kenyan student, more so when seen from an economic perspective.

Hon. Prime Minister, one core function of the University as established under the Laws of Kenya is “To participate in the discovery, transmission and preservation of knowledge and to stimulate the intellectual life and cultural development of Kenya”.

This forum is but another opportunity for the University to discharge this mandate.

I now wish to kindly welcome you, the Right Honourable Prime Minister, to give your official opening remarks.

Thank you very much.