

**SPEECH BY**  
**PROF. LUCY IRUNGU, DVC (RPE)**  
**AND CHAIRMAN,**  
**UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI PRESS EDITORIAL**  
**COMMITTEE**  
**AT THE BOOK LAUNCH CEREMONY OF**  
***THE NATIVE SON: EXPERIENCES OF A KENYAN***  
***ENTREPRENEUR***  
**BY DR. JOSEPH BARRAGE WANJUI**  
**ON JULY 28, 2014 AT 5.00 P.M.**  
**IN THE VICE CHANCELLORS PARLOUR**

**Our Guest of Honour Prof. George Magoha, Vice-Chancellor, University of Nairobi**

**The feted author, Dr. Joseph Barrage Wanjui**

**Distinguished guests**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

**It is my pleasure to welcome all of you here today, on this occasion to launch the book *The Native Son: Experiences of a Kenyan Entrepreneur* by Dr. Joseph Barrage Wanjui, published by the University of Nairobi Press.**

**I am particularly pleased that Dr Wanjui chose to publish yet another title with the University of Nairobi Press.**

**Dr. Wanjui, who has authored two other titles; *From Where I Sit* (East African Publishing House, 1986) and *My Native Roots: A Family Story* which was published by UoN Press and launched in 2009, could not have chosen a more appropriate publisher given the intrinsic relationship he has with the University of Nairobi. By publishing with the University of Nairobi Press, you have shown faith in a Publishing House that continuously supports teaching and research – the two core functions of the University of Nairobi.**

**African scholarly research is relatively invisible globally. The University of Nairobi therefore established the University of Nairobi Press as a strategic approach**

**to promoting scholarly communication locally and to broaden the reach of the institution's scholars.**

**Apart from celebrating the author, Dr. Joe Wanjui today, this book launch is also an opportunity for the University of Nairobi Press to exhibit and articulate its contribution to global knowledge.**

**Ladies and gentlemen, the University of Nairobi Press sponsors works in specialized and emerging areas of scholarship that do not have the broad level of readership needed to attract commercial publishers. The Press collaborates with various partners and scholarly associations in its publishing programmes, being the only publishing house in the region that consistently offers a forum in the genre of scholarly publishing and has remained relevant in academic scholarship among the academic community in our University, in the country, and in the region, despite numerous challenges.**

**The University of Nairobi's mission is to create, preserve, integrate, transmit and enhance utilisation of knowledge to embody the aspirations of the Kenyan**

**people. I am therefore very pleased that through his autobiography, Dr. Wanjui has willingly shared his vision, experiences, and the lessons that he has learnt, that we can learn from.**

**Ladies and gentlemen, as a research intensive university, we have accumulated knowledge and understanding and it is through publishing that we can share this knowledge with all Kenyans.**

**Ladies and gentlemen, many more Kenyans contributed to or witnessed the growth of Kenya as a nation through the various milestones, a rich part of our history that has not been fully captured in a format that lends credence to academia.**

**I therefore wish to appeal to all of us present here today to begin writing our memoirs, autobiographies, and biographies and have them published by reputable publishing houses. I know that the University of Nairobi Press will be willing to take up the publishing of such important recollections.**

**As I close my remarks, I wish to challenge the University of Nairobi Press to make this book launch count by engaging at least five new authors from this gathering.**

**To Dr. Wanjui, I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate you on this addition to your already published titles and on your contribution to knowledge. I wish you well in your new “retirement” phase, where I dare say a lot more is expected of you.**

**Finally, I wish to thank the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha for sponsoring the book launch we are witnessing today and for gracing the occasion.**

**Thank you.**