

Higher learning > 263 students graduate with degrees and diplomas at city university

Kiboro calls on State to fund private varsities

Investment in quality education is key to market growth, says Riara Chancellor

BY FAITH NYAMAI

Nation Media Group board chairman Wilfred Kiboro yesterday urged the government to fund both private and public universities.

This, he said, will help the universities address the huge financial crisis they are facing.

For the past two years, Dr Kiboro said, private universities have been hit hard by the government's decision to fund all students who score C-plus and above, a majority of whom end up in public universities.

"Universities need to be able to access grants from the government to be able to run the institutions owing to the financial crisis they are facing," said Dr Kiboro.

Private universities can barely

attract half the number of students they used to admit in the past as most are absorbed by public universities.

In public universities, the Module II (parallel) programme, which absorbs self-sponsored students, has also cut admissions to almost half, denying them much-needed revenue. Previously, private universities gained from absorbing the high number of students who had not been placed in State-funded universities.

"Investment in education is very fundamental, just the same manner the government gives incentives to people in the corporate sector," he said.

Dr Kiboro also asked employers not to discriminate against graduates from private universities, as many of them have skills that fit market needs.

"The market should realise some of the best skills are found in these students," he said.

Although the university is relatively young in the marketplace,



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Riara University Chancellor Wilfred Kiboro (left) presents an award to a student during the institution's graduation ceremony yesterday. Right: Dr Wilfred Kiboro (centre), Riara University founder David Gachukia (left) and Vice Chancellor Robert Gateru.

Dr Kiboro said it has attracted both local and global partnerships, evidence that it is offering quality education. The university has partnered with international organisations to enhance research and innovation, he said.

Dr Kiboro was speaking during the third graduation ceremony of Riara University, where he also serves as chancellor.

