



## STRATHMORE UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION

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To all our Strathmore Alumni and Friends:

### *Destruction... Devastation... Despair...*

So seemed all around last January and February, when beloved Kenya went to the brink. No one saw it coming; no one thought it possible. The post-election crisis became Kenya's greatest challenge ever. Hundreds died. Many thousands were displaced. Would Kenya survive? Could it recover?



Dislocated Kenyans during post-election crisis

**Strathmore was also affected.** Though it saw no violence, it felt the same tension and anxiety that gripped the nation. Classes were postponed. Students and staff were stranded upcountry. Some were displaced. All were upset.

So Strathmore called out to its family. Invoking the school's motto, *Ut Omnes Unum Sint* ("That All May Be One"), Vice Chancellor John Odhiambo convened an all-school meeting. Over three days Strathmore debated and deliberated – and decided that a traumatized Kenya needed Strathmoreans to be exemplars of reconciliation.



Strathmore students and staff atop Mount Kilimanjaro:  
Kenyans Climbing for Peace

**The Strathmore community pulled together** in true *harambee* spirit. It raised funds for the distressed. Students organized relief efforts in stricken areas. Classes began again to get the community back to normal. Off campus, many Strathmore alumni were active with their colleagues in professional associations, serving as societal ballast by exerting steady and patriotic influence upon the nation's contending leaders.

**Providence has smiled on Kenya.** Power sharing was successfully negotiated. National reconciliation has begun. Like too many African states, Kenya had gone to the edge of disaster. But it pulled back. It saw where it did not want to go. It averted civil war. Patriotic pragmatism, exercised by citizen leaders imbued with professional competence and personal integrity as Strathmore advances, prevailed.

As reconciliation continues, **Strathmore's achievements** so far this year include:

- Founding the **Strathmore Center on Governance**, with The Hills Program of Governance and the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, DC, strengthening Kenyan leadership capacity.
- Establishing **East Africa's first private sector student loan program**, with the World Bank/IFC, increasing needy student access to Strathmore.
- Opening of its new **School of Hospitality and Tourism**, paving new pathways in professionalism in a critical Kenyan business sector.



Mwai Kibaki (center) and Raul Odinga (r) agree to share power



Strathmore Board Chair Prof. Terry Ryan receives the mace from President Kibaki as Prime Minister Odinga looks on.

As reconciliation continues, so also Strathmore is recognized. Strathmore was gratified to be the first public stage of reconciliation which President Kibaki and new Prime Minister Odinga shared when both joined the University's charter awarding ceremony. So much work remains to do, now more than before. Strathmore's transformative role in advancing competence, integrity and service remains critical, now more than ever.

### *Reconciliation... Resurgence... Renewal...*

Just six months later, these are now the watchwords. **Kenya has succeeded.** It has passed an important test. Now Kenya must endure. And so Strathmore again is being called to do more. Through its culture, achievements, and friends like us worldwide, Strathmore is uniquely positioned to help Kenya assure its prosperous, purposeful, and democratic destiny. With your support Strathmore is building a better Kenya and a better world. Please join me again in our Strathmore New Kenya Annual Fund – this year titled “One Nation, One Kenya!” – to strengthen Strathmore and Kenya. With best wishes and many thanks,

Sincerely,

P.S. Thanks to **two challenge grants**, your donation before September 30 will again be leveraged this year. **For all donations**, we will again receive \$1 for every \$2 our friends contribute before year's end, increasing each donation by 50%. Please help us maximize this largess. **Specifically for Strathmore alumni**, a new challenge grant this year will also match shilling for shilling, dollar for dollar, every donation from a Strathmore alumnus. Strathmoreans, unite! Please participate, and please get your classmates to join, too!