

## **2012 Luis A. Ubiñas**

In November 2012, Ford Foundation President Luis A. Ubiñas gave a public lecture in University of Nairobi's Taifa Hall. The well attended public lecture was part of the Foundation's 50th anniversary in Eastern Africa celebrations and it is fitting that it was held in Taifa Hall, famous as a place of rich history with intellectual debates dating back to close to 40 years ago.

While reflecting on the five decades of progress, opportunities and challenges in Eastern Africa President Ubiñas commended Kenya for the great strides the country has made since independence. He said that every Kenyan, young or old has a special responsibility to make this country better and called upon the youth to take their rightful role as leaders rather than being used as pawns by politicians. He urged Kenyans to embrace the "I can make it" spirit which calls for people to be active in choosing all their leaders. This echoes a call being made in all gatherings asking the educated to take charge of how they will be governed.

During the lecture, the President revealed that Ford foundation the University has been awarded a grant of \$ 500,000 to renovate and modernize Taifa Hall. The interaction which was aired live on Citizen TV.