

## **Madeleine Albright and Thomas Daschle**

The University of Nairobi was again privileged to host a 'town hall' discussion by famous personalities. The discussion was held on Wednesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010, at the Taifa Hall. Dr. Madeleine Albright, Chairman of the National Democratic Institution (NDI), and former US Secretary of State; Senator Thomas Daschle, Senate Majority Leader; students, staff and the wider university community.

Dr. Albright's topic was "helping democracy deliver". According to Albright, democracy is not just theoretical government of the people, by the people but it must also deliver. "If you want to progress and you believe in democracy there must be tangible benefits to the people such as roads, hospitals and schools etc. Kenya is on the right path in that there is tangible proof of efforts towards social-economic benefits including, infrastructural development, new education orientation and a health sector push for better hospital care.

Albright emphasized that women must support each other if they are to succeed, she alluded to the fact that while the US has a 200 year history of democracy, she was the first woman to trail the blaze for a top position in government; Condoleezza Rice and how Hillary Clinton are still facing the challenges of relentless, aggressive stance for women. "As women leaders we have had to push, it has not been easy".

Senator Daschle's topic was the role of the legislature in the implementation of reforms. This topic centered mainly on reforms in Kenya's new constitution. Daschle emphasized the importance of citizen participation in electing their leaders; perhaps one should remember that Daschle's election was ensured by his winning of 14 more electors.

Daschle emphasized that if Kenya was going to move forward, it will require the participation of youth. He urged the youth to not only be voters, but to also pressurize for the right people to hold positions. "This will help to kick out the negative elements in the leadership" he noted.

Albright is a professor of Law and has continued to lecture in various institutions in her home country.