



## **Prof. Nzomo (centre) with Dr. Nzau (left) and Dr. Maluki during the defense presentations.**

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#### **Oral Defense for Final Year Masters Students**

The Director, Institute of Diplomacy and International Studies (IDIS) Prof. Amb. Maria Nzomo challenged graduate students at the Institute to observe high academic and professional standards in their research projects. She added that IDIS has instituted a raft of measures besides deploying highly qualified and competent personnel to ensure students produce high quality research theses at the end of their studies.

Prof. Nzomo spoke during an oral defense session of some of her MA student's supervisee at IDIS on April 21, 2017.

During the event, nine students were given a chance to demonstrate mastery of their research topics as well as understanding of the research process, to a panel of four academics from the institute.

Upon presentation of their projects, the students heard from the panel regarding the areas to improve on before embarking on research work.

Frank Mwiti whose project is on the use of public diplomacy to counter terrorism in the horn of Africa termed the session eye opening.

"By sitting in and listening to the panelists' feedback, I was able to refine my thoughts on various aspects of the research," said Frank.

All IDIS students who intend to graduate in December 2017 are expected to undertake oral defense of their research projects in line with new guidelines issued by the University of Nairobi graduate school.

Prof. Nzomo cautioned students against engaging in academic malpractices such as plagiarism; emphasizing that violators would face disciplinary action.

The defense panel that was chaired by Prof. Nzomo also included Dr. Patrick Maluki; Dr. Mumo Nzau and Dr. Martin Ouma.

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