



**SPEECH BY HON. PROF. MARGARET  
KAMAR, EGH, M.P, MINISTER FOR  
HIGHER EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND  
TECHNOLOGY DURING THE 45<sup>TH</sup>  
GRADUATION CEREMONY OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI HELD AT  
THE CHANCELLOR'S COURT ON  
FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup>, 2011, 9AM**

**Chancellor- University of Nairobi-Dr.**

**Joseph Wanjui**

**Chancellors of other Universities**

**The Chairman of University of**

**Nairobi Council-Mr John Simba**

**Members of the University Council**

**Senior Officials of MOHEST**

**The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. George**

**Magoha**

**Vice-Chancellors from other**

**Universities**

**Ambassadors and High**

**Commissioners**

**Deputy Vice-Chancellors**

**College Principals**

**Distinguished Scholars**

**Parents, Guardians and Sponsors**

**Students**

**Graduands**

**Distinguished Guests**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

I am delighted to be with you during this 45<sup>th</sup> graduation ceremony. This is my first graduation ceremony that I am presiding over since I was appointed the Minister and therefore a very special moment for me. Let me start by congratulating the graduands of the

2011 class. Indeed, their hard work has culminated in this momentous occasion.

I congratulate the University for releasing into the labor market, the many graduands gathered here today. I note with gratification that the graduands have pursued courses in key areas central to Kenya's national development priorities and in key skills shortage areas such as Engineering, Architecture, Land development, Veterinary Medicine, Science and Education. This is a remarkable achievement as these are expected to be the drivers of Vision 2030.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I note that as a response to the growing demand for human resource development, the University of Nairobi has trained PhD level personnel in Agriculture and related courses as a way of boosting capacity in addressing challenges in the Agriculture sector.

**Mr Chancellor,** this is the way it should be. I say this because we in the Ministry have noted that in our noble effort to create more opportunities for Kenyans to access higher education, there will be a greater demand for teaching staff. I

wish to appeal to each of our higher education institutions to step up efforts in mainstreaming the professional development of staff to cater for the existing and anticipated demand for lecturers.

The Government is committed to increasing access to higher education. To this end, my Ministry and indeed the Government has continued to establish new University Colleges as well as awarding bursaries and scholarships to students in regular and self sponsored students in public and private universities. To enhance equity, we have put in place affirmative action

targeting female students as well as students from Arid and Semi Arid Lands (ASAL) and those with special needs.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Let me take this opportunity to underscore the need for each university to establish a quality assurance department to ensure quality is sustained. In addition, Universities are expected to continuously bench-mark with other University's not just within the region but also globally. This will definitely assure the global competitiveness of our graduands.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The mandate of Universities remains that of teaching, research and extension. However innovation and knowledge incubation centers are increasingly being viewed as critical links with end users. This also provides opportunities for research application to solve societal problems through extension work and other outreach activities. To this end the role of research cannot be over-emphasized.

I am happy to note that this University has established a division for Research,

Production and Extension to mainstream research and dissemination through grant writing. In this regard, i wish to urge the staff to take advantage of the annual grant writing competition sponsored by the National Council for Science and Technology (NCST).

**Distinguished guests,**

I note that the University of Nairobi has a new Council. I wish to congratulate them on their appointment. I urge them to use their professional experience to spear-head the development and governance of this university. I also wish to commend the University staff

for having worked tirelessly to ensure that those graduating today successfully completed their studies. I also would like to thank the parents, guardians and sponsors for having provided the necessary support to the graduands.

As I conclude, I wish to once again congratulate the graduands and urge them to be good ambassadors of this reputable university. The University has adequately prepared you for the challenges ahead you by equipping you with the virtues of hard work, commitment and integrity. I do hope you will make a positive difference as

you go out into the world to render  
service to humanity.

My best wishes to you all.

Thank you very much and God bless you  
all.