



**UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI**

**SPEECH BY DR. JULIA OJIAMBO, CHAIR OF  
THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI COUNCIL  
DURING THE 60<sup>th</sup> GRADUATION CEREMONY  
HELD ON FRIDAY DECEMBER 21, 2018 AT THE  
CHANCELLOR'S COURT AT 8:00 A.M.**

- **Your Excellency, Deputy President, Hon. William Samoei Ruto**
- **Cabinet Secretary for Ministry of Education, Science and Technology Amb. Amina Mohammed**
- **Cabinet Secretaries, Amb. Monica Juma, Eugene Wamalwa and other Cabinet Secretaries Present**
- **Deputy Chief Justice of Kenya, Hon. Lady Justice Philomena Mwilu**

- **Chief Administrative Secretary and Principal Secretary for University Education and Research, Prof. Collette Suda**
- **Other Principal Secretaries present**
- **Chancellor of the University of Nairobi, Dr. Vijoo Rattansi**
- **Chancellors of other Universities**
- **Excellencies High Commissioners and Ambassadors**
- **Chair of the University of Nairobi Alumni, Mr. Isaack Awuondo,**

- **Partners of the University**
  - **Graduands**
  - **Parents and Guardians**
  - **Other invited guests,**
  - **Distinguished ladies and gentlemen**
-

**Good morning!**

**It is with great pleasure, on behalf of the Council, to welcome you to the University of Nairobi for the 60<sup>th</sup> Graduation Ceremony.**

**I convey my congratulations to all the graduands on this momentous occasion of their life. I also want to take this special opportunity to single out the Deputy President, His Excellency Hon William Ruto, who is among today's PhD graduands.**

**Congratulations, Hon Deputy President, for successfully completing your PhD! Your support and and the goodwill extended to us by the government continues to transform this university into an integrated community dedicated to the learning and personal development of its staff and student community. Receive my heartfelt appreciation. As a council, we look forward to working closely with you and supporting you where necessary.**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**We are a new Council! We have been in office for just over 3 months. We have now settled and embarked on the duties of Council as enshrined in the university statutes.**

**We have familiarized ourselves with the University and have conducted a tour of the University. We have dispensed with the approval of the University Strategic Plan 2018 – 2023. We**

**have also constituted Council committees and are in the process of filling 4 vacancies at the level of Deputy Vice Chancellors and 1 at the level of Principal. We have also defined the Council calendar in line with the governance statutes. We are therefore a Council on the move. On behalf of the Council, let me sincerely thank the University fraternity for facilitating our work in our quest to be the Council that the University deserves.**

**In conclusion madam Chancellor, allow me to mention two things.**

**One, University of Nairobi being a public University, draws funding from the exchequer to meet mandatory obligations. Over the last few years, the levels of capitation to the university from the exchequer has declined significantly. Revenues generated from module II programs have peaked and given the recent developments in the higher education space, this revenue is in danger of total wipe-out. We will do all we can in terms of cost containment including austerity measures**

**that have already been instituted but that will not be enough.**

**To give the University some much needed relief, the Council requests the government to consider urgently remitting long outstanding pension funds arising from the signed Collective Bargain Agreements (CBA)s 2010-2013 and the CBA 2013-2017.**

**Secondly, we invite the government to review the capitation model and augment capitation for old established universities such as the University of Nairobi. As currently structured, enormous public university funding challenges may lead to a total collapse of public university education to the detriment of the masses and the country.**

**Finally, I thank you all for your purposeful presence here today and wish you all God's favour during this festive season and beyond.**

**Dr. JULIA OJIAMBO**

**CHAIR OF COUNCIL,**

**UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI**