



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

**SPEECH BY DR. VIJOO RATTANSI, OGW,
CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI
DURING THE 58th GRADUATION CEREMONY HELD
ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2017 AT THE
CHANCELLOR'S COURT AT 7.30 A.M**

The Cabinet Secretary for Education, Dr. Fred

Matiang'i,

Vice-Chancellor Prof. Peter Mulwa Mbithi,

Fellow Chancellors,

Chairman of the Alumni Association, Dr. Isaac

Awuondo,

Governors,

Members of Parliament,

University Staff,

Invited guests,

Family,

**Friends and most importantly, graduants, good
morning!**

I am indeed privileged to preside over today's graduation ceremony. As a country, we have just emerged out of a long politicking season.

As a university, we have surmounted many challenges confounding us in the course of this year.

Along the way, the sun has set on the lives of a number of our gallant scholars and their voices have fallen silent, never to be heard again. Our deepest condolences to all who have lost their loved ones. May our prayers and warmest thoughts ease the pain of your loss.

Today's graduation therefore holds a special place in my heart. It is a triumph against many stark odds.

Scars of standing up for right will itch us for a long time, but this house infinitely united for good, shall not fall.

Like the persistent wind that eventually wears away the stone leaving the earth's splendor for the admiration of the gods, this university too shall overcome and stand the test of time.

In every graduation, the leadership of this university extols the virtue of hard work. We praise all who have made it possible to fashion the graduation and make it a success. This graduation is no different. We cannot thank the students, faculty, non-teaching staff, the parents or guardians and the government any less! I however, want today's graduants to do more!

As a university, I would like to believe we have given you, at all levels, the best education in this side of the continent. In the Kenyan context, this education ought to be leveraged for societal benefit.

The best academic papers must be complemented with requisite skills and competence painstakingly developed over time with keen attention to detail.

Kenya will become a more sustainable society but only if the future is anchored on the solid foundation of a critical mass of educated and accountable citizenry whose values and behaviour resonate with the ideals of respect for cultural diversity, tolerance, inclusivity for equity sustainable production and consumption.

Our graduates, the challenges facing self and country have never been greater. Patriotism, subordination of

self-enrichment for utilitarianism and critical thinking are qualities that remain rare yet in high demand. I invite you to cultivate these qualities individually and collectively and I assure you that your future will be full of bliss. Remember, there is enough in this country for everyone's need but not enough for everyone's greed.

May the Almighty order thy steps as you head out and into the world. Whatever thy dreams and aspirations, may they come true; whatever thy destination, may thy sails take and safely land you; whatever thy needs, may they be met. My blessings I give thee that you may go in peace to serve.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous year 2018. May God bless you all, may He

**bless the University of Nairobi and may He bless
Kenya.**

DR. (MRS) VIJOO RATTANSI, OGW,

CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI