



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

**REMARKS BY MR. JOHN P.N. SIMBA, CHAIRMAN OF
THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI COUNCIL, DURING
THE 38TH GRADUATION CEREMONY AT THE
CHANCELLOR'S COURT ON FRIDAY 7 DECEMBER
2007**

**Dr. Joseph B. Wanjui, Chancellor, University of
Nairobi**

**Prof. Karega Mutahi, Permanent Secretary,
Ministry of Education**

**Prof. George A.O. Magoha, Vice-Chancellor,
University of Nairobi**

Members of the University Council

Vice-Chancellors of our sister Universities

**Prof. Jacob T. Kaimenyi, Deputy Vice-Chancellor
(AA)**

Prof. Peter Mbithi, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (A&F)

Principals of Colleges

Deans and Directors

Chairmen and Heads of Departments

Parents/Guardians

Graduands

Members of staff

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the University of Nairobi Council and on my own behalf let me welcome all of you to this the 38th Graduation ceremony of the University of Nairobi.

I am particularly pleased to join the graduands on this auspicious occasion to mark their academic achievement. On behalf of the University of Nairobi Council and on my own behalf, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all the graduands for their resolve, commitment and for never losing sight of the prize to be awarded to them to-day.

Mr. Chancellor, Ladies and Gentlemen, today we congregate here to witness the award of diplomas and conferment of degrees to 3,578 graduands from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences and College of Health Sciences. This brings the total to over 7,000 graduands who have graduated this year. The thirst for knowledge and improved skills to meet the demands of today's knowledge economy is insatiable. We are still expanding to address these challenges and will present even more graduands in the coming years.

For meaningful development to take place in an organization there must be strict observance of rules and regulations. I would like to point out that the positive changes you are witnessing now are as a result of high level discipline that has been inculcated within the University community. I therefore wish to take this opportunity to thank the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha and his management team for a job well done in transforming the University culture and image. Let me also thank the entire University staff and students for their contributions towards this transformation.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, this University has continued to expand its frontiers of knowledge to many Kenyans. To ensure that services rendered are of the highest quality at all times, the institution has implemented various training programmes targeting its employees. This strategy is geared towards strengthening capacity through upgrading of skills and embracing modern management techniques to match those of leading organizations worldwide.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen, the University of Nairobi Council annually signs

performance contracts with the government. The contracts have specific deliverables within set periods. These targets continue to be achieved. On behalf of the University of Nairobi Council, I would like to report that the development witnessed at the University in the last few years is due to this new style of managing public affairs. I am happy with both management and staff for driving this process.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen for a university to gain international recognition, we require world class facilities. As we expand and

upgrade our infrastructure, lack of adequate finances continue to hamper our efforts. I am grateful to the government and our other partners for the financial support which they have extended to the university to enable us address these challenges - but more needs to be done. Our appeal is for additional financial assistance to upgrade our infrastructure and to increase capacity to admit more students.

On our part, both the University council and management, we are exploring ways and means that

will enable us generate additional revenue streams through better utilization of university assets.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen the Council, recognizing that research as one of the core functions of the University requires additional funding, has set aside Kshs. 100 million from internally generated sources to boost funds available for research. Members of staff who engage in research can benefit from this fund, though I must hasten to add that it is not enough. To address this shortage I am appealing to Industry, business and

individuals to collaborate with the University to undertake various researches which will ultimately be beneficial not only to their own activities but to the economy in general.

In 2005, the University launched the Alumni Association. During the past two years, we have witnessed increased activities of the Association. To strengthen this association to play its role of supplementing university income, its membership has to grow. In this regard, I am appealing to graduands of this congregation to enroll in the

Alumni Association and participate in its activities as a way of reciprocating to the institution that has played a role in transforming their lives.

To you our graduands, today is a very important day in your life. Let me take this opportunity to wish you success wherever your journey takes you.

Finally, let me thank the Government and our parent Ministry of Education for their support, to you Mr. Chancellor for your guidance and encouragement, members of the council for their support and understanding, the Vice Chancellor and his

management team for rising to the occasion of managing a complex institution, to the staff and students for ensuring that all our programs remained on course, to the parents and guardians for supporting and encouraging the graduands and to all those who support the University for your faith in this great institution. I wish you All a Happy Jamhuri Day, Merry Christmas, Peaceful campaigns and a Happy 2008.

Thank you.