



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

**SPEECH DELIVERED BY MR. JOHN SIMBA, CHAIRMAN
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI COUNCIL DURING 47TH
GRADUATION CEREMONY, ON FRIDAY AUGUST 24, 2012
AT THE CHANCELLOR'S COURT**

Chancellor of the University of Nairobi, Dr. Joseph Wanjui,

Minister for Education, Science & Technology Hon. Prof. Margaret Kamar,

Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education, Prof. Crispus M. Kiamba,

Vice-Chancellor, University of Nairobi, Prof. George Magoha

Members of the University of Nairobi Council

Vice-Chancellors of other Universities

Deputy Vice-Chancellors of the University of Nairobi

Principals of Colleges

**Deans of Faculties, Schools and Directors of Institutes
and Centres**

Chairmen and Heads of Department

Graduands

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my great pleasure, on behalf of the Council of the University of Nairobi, to welcome all of you to this 47th graduation ceremony, I wish to congratulate the graduands present today, this day is important as it marks your passing out of the University, which has nurtured, sharpened your skills and is now ready to release you into the job market. I wish to assure all the

stakeholders that the University will continue to nurture and actualize the careers of our of students, “it will be our duty to train them to become professionals in their chosen career path” I wish to remind the graduands that even as you go out that education is endless; come back and gather new skills and knowledge to enable you to keep abreast of new developments in the job market. I commend the members of academic staff who have made it possible for this cohort to successfully complete their studies. You have remained diligent and committed to you calling of nurturers of the youth and the society at large. Congratulations on a job well done.

Mr. Chancellor sir, the University has continued to perform very well in performance contracting, I wish to report that in the contract period 2010/2011, the University managed the rare feat of scoring, Excellent, the only public institution to score that since performance contracting was introduced in 2003/2004.

I want to appreciate the staff, students and other stakeholders for their contribution. As Council, we commit to making available resources for meeting the performance targets negotiated with the government through the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology. I am also proud to note that the University has gone through the second surveillance audit for ISO. Indeed, the University has continued to perform well

meeting all the expectations, as provided in its Quality Management System. The University is therefore maintaining high standards of operation, which no doubt will translate to greater customer satisfaction.

Ladies and gentlemen, in spite of financial constraints, the University has been negotiating with the unions especially to address allowances. The matter of house allowance and salaries are to be picked by the Inter Public Universities Council Consultative Forum (IPUCCF), under the general direction of the newly constituted Public Service Salaries and Remuneration Committee.

I wish to applaud members of staff for their patience and mature attitude in their engagement with the management, which ultimately will lead to a situation that all of us can live with, there is no doubt then that at the end of the day, we will all triumph.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, the University is grateful to the government for continuous assistance in form of capitation i.e. grants disbursement. However, the funds so allocated are never adequate to meet the University's requirements, as contained in the budget. Consequently, the University has relied heavily on internally generated funds; this has impacted on its ability to pay staff salaries and other benefits.

I would like to request the government to raise the level of capitation in order to enable the University to meet more of its operational costs. The University continues to utilize its internally generated funds to support a fleet of vehicles, greater investment in ICT, teaching equipment, labs and lecture theatres and generally improving the working environment. Given our ability and track record in utilizing those funds, we believe that if we are given more resources, we will maintain prudent financial management, cost reduction and cost containment measures.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, the University has faced challenges, the biggest one being the greater competition from other universities for resources. It is true that we are all fishing from the small pool and the catchment is not as developed as it should be. In spite of this challenge, the University has undertaken to maintain high standards and therefore continue to attract high caliber students. I also attribute some of our success to the fact that our students continue to appreciate what it means to co-exist peacefully with others.

At the international level, the University has continued to be ranked very highly, recently, the web metrics ranking of universities ranked UoN number 14 in Africa,

and 1435 worldwide. Indeed other universities are benchmarking with the University of Nairobi, these universities are from the eastern Africa region and beyond. I wish to assure all the stakeholders that the University will continue to nurture and actualize the careers of our of students, “it will be our duty to train them to become professionals in their chosen career path”

Ladies and gentlemen, the University management has taken steps to provide students with an environment that would enhance physical, mental, spiritual and intellectual development with a view to produce a holistic graduate capable of fitting in the world of work. I wish to encourage our students to make use of the

available facilities in order to make their life more comfortable.

Ladies and gentlemen, as I conclude my remarks today, I wish to state that the University has the necessary intellectual capacity to assist the government in addressing many of the challenges that affect the development of our country. “The country looks upon the University as one of the key sources of practical solutions.” There is thus a challenge for the University to give an account of itself by continuing to be relevant and sensitive to the development needs of the people of Kenya. As the Chairman of Council, I pledge that the

University will take the necessary steps to meet its obligations to the citizens of this land.

Once again, I congratulate the graduands and wish you well in your future careers.

Thank you