



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

**SPEECH BY DR. JOSEPH BARRAGE WANJUI, CBS,
CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI, ON
THE OCCASION OF THE 48TH GRADUATION CEREMONY
ON FRIDAY DECEMBER 7, 2012 AT THE
CHANCELLOR'S COURT**

**Minister for Higher Education, Science and Technology,
Hon. Prof. Margaret Kamar**

**Your Excellencies, the Ambassadors and High
Commissioners**

**Prof. Crispus Kiamba, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of
Higher Education, Science and Technology**

**Dr. John Simba, Chairman, University of Nairobi
Council**

Council Members

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

Parents and Guardians

Graduands

Academic Members of staff and students

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the University of Nairobi as we celebrate this joyous occasion of the 48th Graduation ceremony. The graduands here today have gallantly fought academic battles, navigated steep and numerous academic corners but have kept the faith, and finally you have won the race! This would not have been possible without your diligence and hard work. Congratulations!

Ladies and Gentlemen, we are today presenting another 7,426 graduands drawn largely from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences and the College of Health sciences. These, together with the other graduands from the 47th graduation ceremony, held in August brings the total to over 12,000 graduands this

year, clearly demonstrating the University's commitment to the attainment of Kenya Vision 2030.

As fresh graduands, you are now at the beginning of a great race of bigger things in life, including opportunities to make careers and create jobs. Let me however remind you that even as you celebrate the successful completion of your studies, we are releasing you to a world full of challenges. Luckily, you are well equipped with skills and requisite competencies to surmount any of these challenges. You are now more complete in terms of knowledge which gives you power to conquer the world.

Ladies and Gentlemen, today's graduation ceremony would not have been possible without the immense contribution of our dedicated staff. They have put in many hours as they teach and mould our students into innovators, knowledge seekers and eventually, well rounded citizens ready to contribute to nation building. I take this opportunity to thank all staff unions and management for ensuring a harmonious working relationship prevails at the institution. I would like to particularly commend all parties for ensuring a quick resolution of the recent industrial action between our staff and the University council and the government. I however appeal to staff to always exercise more patience and embrace dialogue and negotiations instead of resorting to industrial action.

On their part, our students have continued to make us proud and living up to the name of our institution- the University of Nairobi. Our students have continued to excel both at the national and international level. I congratulate and commend them for engaging in social responsibility activities that positively profile our image. I am however charging them with the responsibility of protecting the image of our University which has taken many years to build.

Ladies and gentlemen, as you all know, the country is heading towards a highly competitive general election under the new constitution. I wish to caution both students and staff from being misused by those seeking

elective posts but rather be peace agents. Let us all participate actively in the decision making process that determines the quality of leadership the we put in place. The future of this great nation lies in our resolve to ensuring a peaceful and democratic power transition through the ballot. The University's vast experience in analyzing political trends should be utilized to ensure that the populace engages in stimulating intellectual discourses on elections and electioneering.

Ladies and Gentlemen, over the years, the University has registered tremendous improvement in terms of student numbers and physical expansion. Allow me to congratulate the management and staff of the University of Nairobi for their hard work geared towards

the University's quest to become a World Class University. The continued excellent performance is about re-energizing oneself to new experiences and better practices of management. I am humbled by your resilience and determination to excel even further. Keep it up.

Ladies and gentlemen, for a ship to keep to her sail route and withstand sea turbulence to safely dock at the end of her journey there must be an astute and courageous captain. Let me join the University community in congratulating Dr. John Simba on his conferment with an honorary Doctor of Laws degree by the University of Nairobi. As was recounted in his citation, Dr. Simba has in the last seven years injected

into this academic institution, a business approach into the management of its programmes and affairs with a legal precision and with brilliant results. What a befitting honour! Congratulations. I commend the University for honouring both men and women who have made outstanding contribution to the institution and society as a whole.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the growth of a country is guaranteed through its human resources base. The European economic slide has resulted to reduced job opportunities, high interest rates and unstable food prices that affect our people. These are challenges which we as scholars must address and I therefore

challenge our graduands today to use the knowledge and skills to address them.

Ladies and Gentlemen, as I conclude my remarks, allow me to thank our government for its continued support towards the University. The resources allocated to the institution has enabled it discharge its mission of discovering, disseminating and storing knowledge for the good of this country. The government has ensured peace and tranquility in the country- a pre-requisite to any academic inquiry. I would like to assure the government that the resources allocated to us are prudently utilized and the holding of a graduation ceremony such as today's is a manifestation that things are well at the institution.

Finally, I wish to once again congratulate the graduating class of December 2012 for their achievement, the parents and guardians for your helping hand and the University staff for holistically moulding these graduands. I wish you all an informed voting and a Merry Christmas and Prosperous 2013.

God Bless.