**SPEECH BY THE CHAIR OF COUNCIL AT THE 68TH GRADUATION CEREMONY**

**UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI ON 16th DECEMBER 2022**

**Prof Miriam K. Were**

**Hon.Ezekiel Machogu , Cabinet Secretary for Education**

**Principal Secretary for Higher Education Dr. Mary Nyangala**

**Dr.Vijoo Rattansi, Chancellor of the University of Nairobi**

**Members of Parliament and Government officials present,**

**Council members present,**

**Prof. Kiama Gitahi, Vice Chancellor of the University of Nairobi,**

**Mr. Isaac Awuondo, Chairman of the university of Nairobi Alumni Association,**

**Members of the Senate,**

**Staff and students,**

**Graduands of class 2022,**

**Invited Guests**

**Distinguished Ladies and gentlemen,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**,

It is a great honour, indeed, for me to witness the 68th Graduation Ceremony of the University of Nairobi.

**Dear Graduands**,

On behalf of the University of Nairobi Council, and on my own behalf, I take this opportunity to congratulate you all for being honoured today. You completed your degree courses and passed the required examinations. Those who have travelled this same journey know what it means to get to this point. Congratulations sana!!

I also congratulate you specifically for having fulfilled all the requirements of the University of Nairobi for graduation. We cannot take this for granted. We live in an era of modern technology where things are supposed to be accomplished quickly. Many young people are becoming mesmerized by what they see on social media. Much as we appreciate social media, we should not allow it to take away our ability to persevere and concentrate on accomplishing our goals. Discipline and perseverance are important virtues in the world of academia. For this reason, I applaud today’s graduands for their tenacity to reach the finish line.

**Dear Graduands**,

I wish you the best in your future plans. By now, your aspirations are clear. Your degree gives you a good foundation towards fulfilling your personal dreams. However, regardless of your specialization, I encourage you to expand your dreams into broader dimensions. Think about how to apply what you have learned in this University to help others in your communities and nations. Value the contribution you can make and ensure that your aspirations are both ethical and moral.

To the University Community and other stakeholders of our esteemed institution,

I assure you that Council will continue to support policies and programmes that are aimed at accelerating the transformation agenda. I note with great appreciation the Vice-Chancellor’s passion for the ongoing reforms in different critical areas. As Council, we intend to sustain this momentum to achieve greater gains for the university and our country. This University is to maintain world-class status.

**As I conclude,** I emphasize that we should always portray ourselves as a university that produces caring people who are ready to uplift others and that Nairobi University is not an ivory tower. This is the ideal upon which the University of Nairobi was established and on which its future continues to be built.

**Finally,** allow me to take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas, 2022 and Happy New Year, 2023 full of God’s blessings.

God bless us all as we move into the future.

**Prof Miriam K. Were**

**Chair of University Council.**