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**SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE CABINET SECRETARY FOR  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
PROF. JACOB T. KAIMENYI, PHD, FICD, EBS, DURING  
THE 51<sup>st</sup> GRADUATION CEREMONY OF THE UNIVERSITY  
OF NAIROBI ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 29<sup>th</sup>, 2014 AT THE  
CHANCELLOR'S COURT**

- **The Chancellor, Dr. Vijoo Rattansi**
- **Chancellor's from Other Universities**
- **Chairman of Council of the University of Nairobi, Dr.  
Idle Farah**

- **Council members present**
- **Vice-Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha, CBS**
- **Vice-Chancellors of other Universities present**
- **Deputy Vice-Chancellors**
- **Teaching and non-teaching staff**
- **Parents, guardians and sponsors**
- **Graduands and Students**
- **Distinguished Guests**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen**

**I am delighted to join you during the 51<sup>st</sup> graduation ceremony and to congratulate the University and the graduands for their determination and hard work that has culminated in this momentous occasion. The University is releasing a cohort of 5,090 graduands from some disciplines**

**that are essential in driving Kenya's development agenda. Key among these include: engineering, architecture, land development, mining and meteorology, veterinary medicine, and agriculture.**

**This University has been steadily increasing the number of PhD graduands in the last three years, making the University of Nairobi a leading institution in the region in terms of the largest population of PhD holders in teaching and research fraternity. I want to challenge the Universities to adopt training policies for developing the capacity of staff, including a rewards system for those supervisors who successfully produce PhD's.**

**Ladies and Gentlemen, a graduation ceremony is the outcome of every student's academic pursuit, but it is more importantly a time to reflect on one's achievements, and the future of one's life and career. As you graduate today, please take time to thank those who have stood by you, teachers, parents, sponsors and even your peers.**

**Ladies and Gentlemen, the University has remained in the fore-front in providing quality and relevant education and training. This is very important for the country and I note that the 156,000 alumni that the university has produced are serving and championing development within the private and public institutions in Kenya and beyond. The excellence of the university is reflected in the Webometrics ranking**

recently released the University was ranked number 1 in East Africa, 9 out of 1307 in Africa, and 907 out of over 22,000 universities in the world. There is no doubt that the achievement is due to good governance and management by the University Council and management.

It is now policy that universities must review training programs, mounting new courses that equip students with entrepreneurial skills so that they can set up their own business and also create employment opportunities for others. I wish to advice the University to establish an efficient internal quality assurance mechanism. This is essential if the university is to train manpower to meet demand in the labour market, I wish to emphasize that

**universities should not lose sight of quality which can be enhanced by observing the key aspects of consulting with industry as they develop curriculum in order to meet the aspirations of the employer; incorporate a practical component in all curricula to ensure that the knowledge, skills and experiences learnt are put into practice to achieve the objectives of training.**

**Ladies and Gentlemen, I am aware of that the University is working within scarce resources, but I believe that the University is up to the task of prudently managing its resources, indeed, I am happy that the University is already aggressively pursuing and exploring Private-Partnerships opportunities to attract investors to construct the following**

**but not limited to learning facilities: workshops and laboratories, lecture theatres, hostels, sports facilities to support the academic and social learning.**

**Ladies and Gentlemen, the Government is committed towards transforming the country into a knowledge-based economy, where creation, adaptation and use of knowledge are envisaged to be critical factors for economic growth and development. I wish to single out the Elimika Initiative, spearheaded by the University of Nairobi, which has carried out research in five counties, and have disseminate the results on the uptake of the Constitution among Kenyans. My ministry will thus take up the challenge of putting in place mechanisms to enhance research and innovation in the**

**country, including the development of a science, technology and innovation policy, increased provision for research funds, universities should encourage their students and staff to fully utilize the fund.**

**Madam Chancellor, the University of Nairobi research kitty has surpassed the Kshs. 3 billion, and there is indication that more support, linkage and contribution is on the increase. I would like to insist that even as the University undertakes research, it should be charting out a bigger direction for innovation and knowledge transfer through incubation centers. The University's Science Park should be at the forefront as a critical link for end users, providing**

**opportunity for application to solve societal problems through extension and other outreach activities.**

**Ladies and Gentlemen, I take this opportunity to challenge our graduands to uphold the ethical values acquired from this University as they endeavor to serve our fellow Kenyans with a lot of diligence. You should also make use of the entrepreneurial skills to establish enterprises and may you be good ambassadors of this reputable University. I wish you good luck in all your future endeavors.**

**Thank You.**