
**SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE CABINET SECRETARY FOR
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
PROF. JACOB T. KAIMENYI, PHD, FICD, EBS, DURING
THE 52ND GRADUATION CEREMONY OF THE UNIVERSITY
OF NAIROBI ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 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-Chancellor designate, Prof. Peter Mbithi**
- **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 52nd graduation ceremony, first I congratulate the University and the graduands for their determination and hard work that has resulted in our gathering here today. The University is releasing a cohort of graduands from what we consider disciplines that are critical for driving Kenya's development agenda. Included in these disciplines is medicine, law, commerce, dental science, pharmacy, sociology etc.

I am happy that the University has committed to steadily increasing the number of PhD graduands in the last three years, today's figure of 87 makes the University a leading institution in the region in terms of producing doctorates.

Ladies and Gentlemen, a graduation ceremony is the dream fulfilled at the end of every students pursuit of excellence; it is equally a time for reflection not only on past achievements, but also the future of one's life, career and interests. I exhort the graduates to remember 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 and meeting the excellence required in this country. The over 165,000 alumni of the University continue to serve and champion development in the private and public sector in Kenya and even beyond. Again, the excellence of the

university is reflected in the Webometrics ranking and performance contracting. There is no doubt that the achievements are due to the good governance and management practices engaged by the University Council and management.

I want to caution the University to observe quality, through review of training curriculum that meets industry needs through regular consultation, and to implement practical components so as to address the knowledge and skills gaps in the market and achieve the objectives of training.

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is true that Universities are operating with scarce resources. It is however the

responsibility of the University to prudently manage its resources which indeed, the University of Nairobi is setting, a good example by cultivating and exploring Private-Partnerships' opportunities to attract investors to construct learning facilities that support the academic and social life of our students.

Ladies and Gentlemen, you are aware that the Government is committed to transforming the country into a knowledge-based economy. Here the creation, adaptation and use of knowledge are critical factors for economic growth and development. I want to encourage Universities to seek funding for research from NACOSTI, and various

organizations which have come up as partners with government in enhancing research and innovation.

Madam Chancellor, the University of Nairobi is making good progress in enhancing the research kitty. I am aware that the kitty has surpassed the Kshs. 3 billion mark, and there is interest from more organizations in supporting, research activities. I exhort the University to undertake research, in a bigger direction, towards innovation and knowledge transfer through incubation centers. The University's Research, Production and Extension division will be critical for end users, providing opportunities for uptake to solve societal problems through extension and other outreach activities.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I take this opportunity to commend Prof. George Magoha for his sterling performance in the last 10 years, in steering this University. His good work in reforming the University will forever be remembered. I wish him well as he pursues other interests. I also take this opportunity to congratulate the incoming Vice-Chancellor Prof. Peter Mbithi, for his appointment as the Seventh Vice-Chancellor and request all of us to support him to ensure that he succeeds in taking this University to greater heights of development.

Finally, I challenge our graduands to uphold the ethical values acquired from this University as they endeavor to

serve their fellow Kenyans. You must make use of the knowledge you acquired and be good ambassadors of this reputable University. I wish you well in all your future endeavors.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Thank You.