



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

**SPEECH TO BE DELIVERED BY THE VICE-
CHANCELLOR PROF. GEORGE A.O. MAGOHA
DURING THE 48TH GRADUATION CEREMONY ON
FRIDAY DECEMBER 7, 2012 AT THE
CHANCELLOR'S COURT**

**The Chancellor, University of Nairobi, Dr. Joseph
Barrage Wanjui**

**The Minister, Ministry of Education, Science &
Technology, Prof. Margaret Kamar**

**Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Higher
Education, Science & Technology**

Permanent Secretaries

**Chairman of the University Council and members
of Council present**

Vice-Chancellors from sister Universities

Deputy Vice-Chancellors

Principals of Colleges, Deans and Directors

Members of Staff

Graduands and Parents

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen

It gives me great pleasure to welcome all of you to the University of Nairobi and to the 48th graduation ceremony of this great Institution.

This ceremony, Ladies and Gentlemen, features granduands mainly from the Colleges of Health Sciences; and; Humanities and Social Sciences, and a few others from other Colleges who for one reason or another did not manage to graduate during the 47th graduation ceremony held in August , 2012.

In today's ceremony, Mr. Chancellor Sir, we are presenting to you over 6000 students for the conferment of degrees and award of diplomas. Among the degrees conferred during this congregation is one honorary degree to be awarded to Mr. John Nyangeri Simba, Chairman of the University of Nairobi Council, for his outstanding service in the private and public sectors of this country. --- PhD, ...masters ...bachelors ... and diplomas.

In terms of discipline, we are also releasing to the market a group of highly trained and competitive professionals at all levels comprising of ... doctors ... dentists, ... pharmacists -... lawyers, ... business executives and other specialists. This is in addition to the vets, engineers, architects, designers, scientists and teachers among others who graduated in August 2012. Thus our contribution of 12,000 graduates annually, at different levels, is a conscious step in helping the country to realize some of the tenets of the KenyaVision 2030.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the growth of the University of Nairobi has not been limited to enrollment, which, today stands at over 62,000 students but has also extended to learning facilities and services that assures quality higher education. Of special mention here is the expected commencement of the construction of the University of Nairobi Towers, which will house many academic functions and be a welcome solution to the ever increasing demand for facilities for higher education. Refurbishment,

upgrading and automating our existing facilities has also been ongoing to bring them in conformity with current expectations for excellence.

Equally worth mentioning, is the continued revision of curriculum and the introduction of new courses to align them with the current trends in the market. In the process, we hope our stakeholders will provide feedback continuously in order to strengthen our products and services. This year we have introduced... programmes, a number of which are also being offered outside Nairobi in our Mombasa and Kisumu campuses, in order to increase access to higher education to many qualified Kenyans.

Ladies and Gentlemen, research is the pinnacle of any academic institution. At the University of Nairobi, our academic staff have been some of the most active and talented researchers, recognized worldwide. Of special mention are those whose activities have earned the University a good reputation and contributed generously to our

research kitty. They include..... This Mr. Chancellor Sir, has led to the increased number of International links and collaborations, resulting partly in consistent good performance in international rankings. These links are also a boon for student and staff exchange. A growing list of these partners has been an impressive addition to our achievements in the past 10 years. It is worth mentioning the effort between the School of Medicine and partners, which yielded the first Surgical Skills Centre in the region. The Centre is expected to impart practical surgical experience among health care professionals in Kenya and the rest of Africa.

Our staff has continued to excel in performance and top managers have led by a good example. I am happy to announce that our Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic Affairs) Prof. Jacob Kaimenyi was recently awarded a honorary fellowship of the Pierre Fauchard Academy for his outstanding performance in the field of dentistry. On behalf of the University Senate, I would like to thank Prof.

Kaimenyi for his outstanding achievement. I would also like to thank other academic staff and students, who through their individual and collective contributions have played a role in profiling this great University locally and internationally.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, the University of Nairobi encountered a few challenges this year. Key among them was the industrial strike which paralyzed activities in all public universities in the country for two weeks. To avoid such situations in future, I am requesting the government to prioritize agreements with unions, so that relations do not deteriorate to the level of withdrawing labour. Equally important, is my humble appeal to our union leaders to embrace dialogue and cultivate positive relations with the Council in order to ensure harmonious coexistence and unnecessary disruption of our academic activities. Ladies and Gentlemen, we are entering into a fluid political period characterized by partisan campaigns where various parties will be fighting for

your support. The University of Nairobi, being a government institution, serves the government of the day and will not condone any partisanship in our conduct and services to the public, including allowing partisan political activities within our precincts. I wish to appeal to all of you to provide leadership and ensure that this country conducts peaceful elections and to move our development agenda forward.

Today Ladies and Gentlemen, we are passing out over 6,000 graduands bringing our alumni to over 140,000. Indeed, in the last seven years, we have witnessed a phenomenal growth of 62,775 graduands which points to the increased demand for our brand. To strengthen this alma mater, I am requesting you to join our Alumni Association so that you can continue making your valued contribution to this institution in a structured manner.

I would also like to thank you all for making this day a success and more so for the sacrifices you

have made in acquiring your honours. With those few remarks, I would like to wish you a happy graduation, Merry Christmas and prosperous 2013.

I now take this opportunity to invite the Minister for Higher Education, Science and Technology to give her remarks and invite the Chancellor to address the congregation.

Thank you.