SPEECH DELIVERED BY MR. JOHN P.N. SIMBA, CHAIRMAN, UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI COUNCIL DURING THE 40TH GRADUATION CEREMONY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI HELD ON FRIDAY 19 DECEMBER 2008 AT THE CHANCELLOR’S COURT
Chancellor of the University of Nairobi, Dr. Joseph Wanjui
Hon. Dr. Sally Kosgei, Minister for Higher Education, Science and Technology
P.S., Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology
Representatives of Foreign Missions
Members of the University of Nairobi Council
Vice-Chancellor, University of Nairobi, Prof. George Magoha
Vice-Chancellors of other Universities
Deputy Vice-Chancellors of the University of Nairobi
Principals of colleges
Deans and Directors of Faculties, Schools, Institutes and Centres
Chairmen and Heads of Departments
Granduands
Parents and Guardians
Staff
Students
Distinguished Guests
Ladies and Gentlemen
On behalf of the University of Nairobi Council, I wish to warmly welcome you all to the University and in particular to the 40th Graduation Ceremony.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, today’s graduation is the second one this year targeting graduands from the Colleges of Health Sciences and Humanities and Social Sciences. Two months ago, we held the 39th Graduation ceremony where we had graduands from the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences, College of Architecture and Engineering,
College of Biological and Physical Sciences and College of Education and External Studies.

Ladies and Gentlemen, as you are aware, our University was also affected by the post-election skirmishes of January and February 2008, leading to the postponement of opening after Christmas and New Year. But after eventual re-opening, Management and Senate were able to refocus our academic programmes to save on lost time. I wish to take this opportunity to thank our staff for their dedication and our students for their co-operation,
therefore ensuring that this year’s graduations are held on schedule.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, the University Council remains committed to providing the necessary physical and human resources and to keep us focused in our quest to realize our vision which is to be a world class University committed to scholarly excellence. To date, ours remains the University of Choice and the premier institution of higher learning in the republic. Council fully supports efforts by management in transforming the university into a
leading centre of academic excellence in the region and beyond.

Ladies and Gentlemen, as you are aware, our University recently obtained ISO 9001:2000 certification, which is a big leap forward as we zero in on service delivery and customer satisfaction. It means that when it comes to standards, we are now comparable with the best. Management has assured Council that the processes and procedures put in place in the process of ISO certification are continually being monitored and audited, and
where need arises, new Quality Management Systems (QMS) procedures will be documented.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, ours is a public university and we heavily rely on the exchequer disbursements to fulfill our obligations. I wish to thank most profoundly the government of Kenya through the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology for the funding we continue to receive which goes a long way in meeting our budgetary needs. As the University continues to expand in terms of student numbers and campuses, we urge
the government to ensure there is commensurate increase in funding so that service delivery is not affected.

Finally, let me thank the University Management team led by the Vice-Chancellor Prof. George Magoha for the professional manner in which they have managed the University, and the University Senate for the way they have conducted our academic programmes, including examinations. It is on account of your good work that we are able to graduate students today. To the graduands, I wish
you all the best in your current and future endeavours.

Thank you and May God bless you.