SPEECH BY PROFESSOR ISAAC M. MBECHE, AG. VICE CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI, DURING THE 61ST GRADUATION CEREMONY HELD ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2019 AT THE CHANCELLOR’S COURT FROM 7.30A.M.
• Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education, Prof. George Magoha

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

• Former Chancellor, Dr. Joe Wanjui

• Chancellors of Sister Universities

• Your Excellencies, the Ambassadors and High Commissioners

• Chair of the University of Nairobi Council, Prof. Julia Ojiambo

• Former Chair of Council, Dr. Idle Farah

• Chairpersons of Sister University Councils
• Vice-Chancellors of sister Universities
• Deputy Vice-Chancellors
• College Principals and Senate
• Graduands, Parents and Guardians
• Staff, Students
• Partners of the University
• Other invited guests
• Distinguished ladies and gentlemen
It is my great pleasure to welcome you all to the University of Nairobi. This is the 61st University of Nairobi graduation ceremony since its establishment.

Ladies and gentlemen, this is a momentous day as we witness 4,107 graduands being crowned with different degrees and diplomas in various specializations. Madam Chancellor, the graduands before you this morning consist of 20 PhDs, 429 Masters, 3,082 Bachelor degrees, 575 Diplomas and 1 Postgraduate Diploma.
Let me congratulate all the graduands for their achievements. It is the fruits of years of hard work and sacrifice that have culminated to this auspicious occasion that has made all of us very proud of their accomplishments. Well done!

The University of Nairobi remains committed to producing high quality holistic graduates for local and international job markets, businesses and industry.

I wish to affirm to our stakeholders and particularly potential employers that our graduates have been properly trained, educated and examined as per
University regulations and procedures. Our graduates have remained competitive even when they venture into further studies in international universities or secure employment with top organizations both locally and abroad. We shall continue to uphold our procedures and standards to ensure the integrity of our academic processes and outcomes.

Madam Chancellor, with the decreasing funding from the exchequer and internally generated revenues especially from Module II Programmes, the University management has been engaging the government and other stakeholders on how to improve the situation.
The management has been working hard to identify the reforms which must be implemented in order to ensure the stability and sustainability of the University of Nairobi is maintained.

The University is looking for funds to build new student hostels especially those which will help the University to attract international students. Indeed, the University is undertaking a feasibility study which will be used as a basis for concluding the process we started of constructing new student hostels.
Madam Chancellor, the University has performed quite well in its mandate of teaching, research, consultancy and corporate social responsibility. It has been at the forefront in research and extension by continuing to be involved in research activities that are relevant and responsive to the developmental needs of our country and in particular the government’s Big Four Agenda. We endeavor to grow the research kitty by entering into multi-disciplinary research collaborations with local and international institutions.
The University of Nairobi management is committed to maintaining good industrial relations with the unions for the mutual benefit of the University and all staff members. We will continue embracing dialogue as a means of resolving industrial disputes and placing high priority in allocating resources to promote staff welfare thereby boosting morale and creating a conducive work environment.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank the Chancellor and the Chair of Council for finding time to engage the newly elected UNSA leaders. The
student leaders raised pertinent issues which the University management is addressing. I would like to assure the student community that management will work closely with the student leaders in addressing student welfare issues in order to ensure a comfortable learning environment. I also want to acknowledge the support that the Chancellor and the Chair of Council have continued to give me. I am very grateful for this.
Once again, congratulations to the class of 2019. It is our hope that you will have a positive and lasting impact on the society that you will be serving.

Finally, I would like to encourage you to join the alumni association and seek to make significant contributions to your alma mater.

It is now my pleasure to invite the Cabinet Secretary for Education Prof. George Magoha to address the congregation.
Thank you and God Bless You.

ISAAC M. MBECHE, PhD, FKIM
AG. VICE CHANCELLOR
AND
PROFESSOR OF MANAGEMENT SCIENCE