UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

SPEECH DELIVERED BY DR. JOE BARRAGE WANJUI, CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI DURING THE GRADUATION OF THE SCHOOL OF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY, MATER HOSPITAL ON 11TH AUGUST 2006 AT 2.30 P.M.
Ladies and gentlemen,

His Grace, Archbishop Ndingi Mwana’a Nzeki

C.E.O, The Mater Hospital, Mr. Kennedy Ayoki

Sit Liz Fletahoo – Principal Leader Sisters of Mercy, Kenya

Graduands

Members of Staff

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN
It is for me a distinct pleasure to be here this afternoon to preside over the graduation ceremony of the School of Nursing and midwifery.

Since the foundation in 1972, the mater school of midwifery has established itself as an institution of distinction. The School has made major strides in offering health training to Kenyans.

It is indeed very pleasing to note the exemplary work done by the School in its continuous effort to offer specialist health training in midwifery and nursing.
One of its major contributions is the training of over 1382 qualified midwives who have both provided exemplary service in governmental as well as Non-governmental institutions.

In its training the school has proved to many that it offers world class quality training. Over the years, the quality of training has always been high. This year for instance, all the 13 students undertaking midwifery passed exemplarily in examinations conducted by the Nursing Council of Kenya, with 12 students scoring
distinctions. Also take note that in the past years, the School has always performed well in national examinations.

It is undeniable fact that central to the progress of any nation is the development of human resource through training and education. This country needs more doctors, nurses and midwives to ensure that the country is able to meet its development goals. Without a healthy population development of any country is thwarted. The School of midwifery has played its role in meeting the above requirement and it is my humble
request that the training should be expanded to increase access to more Kenyans who may be practicing without the requisite training.

There is no doubt that if we are to improve the standard of living of our people than we must improve their health. In the 21st century, labour investment comes not where labour is cheap but where it is skilled. The bottom line therefore is that we have to increase our healthy services to as many Kenyans as possible, if we are to put them in the right health frame to jump this country’s economy.
I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate all the graduands, their lecturers, and the parents for the sacrifices that today’s event is successful.

Labour migration to the west has affected the nursing profession more than any other in the country. This trend has occasioned a pare annual shortage of nursing professionals in this country. My humble request to the graduands is to use this opportunity to develop a
vibrant healthy sector in the country through local practice.

I humbly request all the graduands to be cognizant of this critical role they play in development of this country and offer their services professionally, diligently and be the best example to the others.

With those few remarks, I once again congratulate the graduands and wish them the best of luck. To the lecturers I congratulate you for your good work and to
all members of this gathering I thank you for your attention.