



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

REMARKS BY DR. IDLE OMAR FARAH, CHAIRMAN,
UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI COUNCIL, ON THE OCCASION OF
THE 49TH GRADUATION CEREMONY OF THE UNIVERSITY
OF NAIROBI AT THE CHANCELLOR'S COURT ON FRIDAY
AUGUST 23RD, 2013

Prof. Jacob Kaimenyi, Cabinet Secretary for Education

Dr. Joseph Barrage Wanjui, Chancellor of the University of Nairobi

Prof. G. A. O. Magoha, Vice-Chancellor, University of Nairobi

Chancellors and Vice-Chancellors from other universities

Council Members

University Staff

Parents and Guardians

Graduands

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

Ladies and gentlemen it is indeed a great pleasure to join you on this auspicious occasion of the 49th Graduation Ceremony of the University of Nairobi. I wish to take this opportunity to express my most sincere congratulations to the graduating class of 2013. It is the fruits of years of hard work that have culminated in this day, marking a significant achievement and making all of us very proud of your accomplishment. I thank the parents and guardians for supporting the young people graduating today; your work has not been in vain.

Ladies and gentlemen, on October 22nd, 1990 on this ground, I graduated with a Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine degree. The day was indeed a historic one as that graduation was the

first to be held on the Chancellor's Court. Little did I know that 23 years later, I would address the congregation as the Chairman of Council. I am grateful to the government for appointing me Chairman of the University of Nairobi Council and according me the honor and privilege to serve my country and my alma mater. The University of Nairobi Council is endowed with talent and I believe that together, we can commit to ensuring that the University meets and advances its core objectives and obligations to society.

Ladies and gentlemen, over the past few months, we have witnessed a major restructuring in the higher education sector. These changes have come about as a result of the enactment of the Universities Act 2012. As you may be

aware, the University of Nairobi is now operating under the newly awarded charter which was presented to us on March 1st 2013 by our former President Mwai Kibaki. As a leading institution in Kenya, the University of Nairobi must remain a leader in embracing the new developments in the sector in terms of the implementation of the Act. As part of these developments, the University will continue to submit to external audits that specifically focus on our academic curriculum, management structures, human resource processes and infrastructural developments.

At this juncture, I wish to thank the government for keeping its promises to settle the second phase of the collective bargaining agreement signed in October 2012. Equally, I

thank the members of staff for upholding industrial peace, conducting themselves with restraint and dignity as they patiently waited for the government to meet the promise. I wish to affirm that the Council, will continue engaging the unions in order to reach amicable solutions regarding their welfare. I also challenge the students' union to emulate members of staff by reaching out to authorities whenever they have outstanding issues and to embrace dialogue. Indeed, the University is an ideal place to incubate the nation's future leaders and therefore it is important for you to acquire good leadership values and skills.

Ladies and gentlemen, being the leading University in Kenya clearly reflects the commitment and dedication that

students, staff and management make towards upholding the University's mission. In this regard, I would like to thank my predecessor, Dr. John Simba for his visionary leadership and stewardship of the University and posting good results in the last seven years. I wish him success on his appointment as the Chancellor of Pwani University. The Council is committed to building on the firm foundation laid down by the previous leadership, and will work closely with the University management led by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha in order to realize further development.

Mr. Chancellor sir, the University has been able to discharge its mandate effectively because of the support that we have received from our stakeholders. The government continues

to support us financially, providing the recurrent expenditure that we require to run this institution. On its part, the University has also continued to generate cash flows to supplement government capitation. Our services have increased making it mandatory for us to acquire more resources to put up more facilities including laboratories, classrooms, and lecture theatres among others. Even as we seek to diversify revenue sources, we appeal to the government to increase funding beyond the current 38 per cent budgetary support, so that our internally generated funds can be directed towards research and infrastructural development.

I wish to congratulate the University Management on the commencement of the construction of the ultra-modern, eco-friendly, University of Nairobi Towers. On completion, the Towers will house our increased academic and administrative activities. The Council will ensure that the project is completed as planned.

Once again, congratulations to the class of 2013. It is our hope that you will have a positive and lasting impact on the society you will be serving. I want to encourage you to join the alumni association and seek to make significant contributions to your alma mater. Thank you