



**UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI**

**REMARKS BY MR. JOHN SIMBA, CHAIRMAN,  
UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI COUNCIL, DURING THE  
OCCASION OF THE 48<sup>TH</sup> GRADUATION CEREMONY, ON  
FRIDAY DECEMBER 7, 2012 AT THE CHANCELLOR'S  
COURT**

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

**Hon. Prof. Margaret Kamar, Minister for Higher  
Education, Science and Technology**

**Prof. Crispus Kiamba, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of  
Higher Education, Science and Technology**

**Prof. George Magotha, Vice-Chancellor, University of  
Nairobi,**

**Chancellors of sister universities,**

**Council Members**

**Deputy Vice Chancellors,**

**Principals of Colleges,**

**Graduands**

**Students**

**Members of staff**

**Distinguished guests**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

**I am honoured to welcome all of you to the 48<sup>th</sup> graduation ceremony, an occasion in which we are releasing over 7,000 graduates into the labor market. I congratulate the graduands, who today harvest the fruit of their hard labour. It was wise for your parents and guardians to bring you to this University, and we confirm that the investment has paid off. You are**

**leaving us today with a heavy responsibility, which we believe you have been well prepared to face, in the world of work and life. We ask that as you go out, you remember to enjoin with us, to mobilize alumni and map the future development of your alma mater.**

**Ladies and Gentlemen, the parents and guardians present here, have made sacrifices and worked hard to provide for their children. Today we recognize their effort as a contribution to the development of this nation and we wish to thank them for this. Please maintain the momentum of continuously nurturing and mentoring these graduates so that they achieve their full potential.**

**Ladies and gentleman, while a graduation ceremony is an occasion to make joy at ones achievement, it is more so an opportune time for reflection. The University was founded 56 years ago and it still serves as a national resource for the creation and preservation of knowledge. This knowledge has continued undivided by mundane distractions. In this regard I wish to thank members of staff for remaining dedicated, focused and paying an expensive price under a moderate working environment.**

**I want to thank the international organizations; foundations and foreign governments who have assisted us with funding to enable us carry out the**

**much needed research and training. I cannot forget the local individuals and organizations who have come forward to assist the University to reward excellence, through prizes and to give sponsorship, internship etc.**

**Mr. Chancellor, Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen, allow me to sincerely thank the members of the Council who serve with me. The members have taken up the challenges including: refining structures and systems and maintaining the standards of quality while still ensuring that there is equity for all Kenyans to access university education. At a personal level we are honored to serve this great institution. Allow me to also pay tribute to the members of the University Management Board and Senate for their commitment**

**to duty and immense contribution to the success of our programmes.**

**Mr. Chancellor sir, I wish to report that the rating of the University as a corporate, has improved considerably. We have a better public image and thanks to the improved discipline and commitment of staff and students, we have been able to run academic programmes and achieve our targets without interruption. Indeed in the last seven years, we have been demonstrating our brand of excellence, and as part of taking the lead, the University emerged the top in the state corporations' category for the Performance Contract 2010/2011. We have continued to perform well and it is not a mean boast that since 2005, the University of Nairobi has been among the leading**

**institutions among the state corporations under the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology. Ultimately, the Performance Contract process which has been measured at the college and key central departments will change so that the targets will be cascaded to individual staff.**

**Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish to record the appreciation of the Council to the Government which has continued to give financial and other support, indeed, the Exchequer has been cognizant of the many calls we make requesting for more funding, and we have proved to be prudent managers of the resources invested.**



**As I conclude my remarks, I would like to once again thank all of you for honoring us with your presence at this important ceremony. I wish you good cheer in the coming festivities of Christmas and a happy new year. Thank you and God bless you all.**

**Thank you.**