



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

**SPEECH BY PROF. JULIA OJIAMBO, PhD, CBS,
EBS, MBS, CHAIR OF COUNCIL OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI, DURING THE
62nd GRADUATION CEREMONY HELD ON FRIDAY
DECEMBER 20, 2019 AT THE CHANCELLOR'S
COURT AT 8:00 A.M.**

- **Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education, Prof. George Magoha**
- **Cabinet Secretaries present**
- **Chancellor of the University of Nairobi, Dr. Vijoo Rattansi**
- **Chancellors of Sister Universities**
- **Your Excellencies, the Ambassadors and High Commissioners Present**
- **Members of the Council of the University of Nairobi.**
- **Chairpersons of Sister University Councils**

- **Prof. Isaac Mbeche, Ag. Vice-Chancellor, UoN**
- **Vice-Chancellors of sister Universities**
- **Mr. Lintuo Wu, Director of Global Education Partnership**
- **Mr. Isaac Awuondo, Chairman ALUMNI Association**
- **Deputy Vice-Chancellors**
- **College Principals and Senate**
- **Graduands, Parents and Guardians**
- **Staff, Students**
- **Partners of the University**

- **Invited guests**
- **Distinguished ladies and gentlemen**

Good morning?

It's my pleasure in extending a very warm welcome to all of you to the 62nd Graduation Ceremony of the University of Nairobi. I know amongst us today are people who have traversed the length and breadth of our republic just to be here with us for the very first time. To you I say, *karibu sana*. To those who have been with us on other occasions, it is my honour and privilege to welcome you back.

I also like to recognize in our midst the distinguished presence of the Cabinet Secretary for Ministry of Education who is also the former Vice Chancellor of the University of Nairobi Prof. George Magoha. Prof., *karibu nyumbani.*

At the 61st Graduation Ceremony, I indicated that the Council had over the period of a year applied itself in making meaningful changes to how the University is

administered. I want to take this opportunity to assure the University community that we continue to tread this same path. We believe that reform in our business processes is a necessary intervention that will allow us to rise above the culture of mediocrity, break out of the mould of averageness and cast ourselves into the realm of excellence. To this end, I wish to confirm that the Council's own governance strategic planning process is now complete. It is our intention to launch

the resultant strategic plan early next year. We hope that in doing this, we will begin to fashion a rock-solid foundation upon which the University will rest in days to come. We may not be there to reap the fruits of this collective effort for want of immortality but each of us can be resolute in playing our rightful role in defining that future.

To our staff, we thank you most sincerely. For the selfless effort expended in preparation of our students not only for this graduation butal so for the rigours of endless demands that the future holds, we thank you; For the respect of the many decisions that this Council has made and continues to make in governing the University, we thank you; For the maintenance of a peaceful environment for each of us to thrive in our individual and collective pursuits, we thank you.

To the government and all our donors, well-wishers, parents/guardians and alumni, we are grateful for your unwavering support. We are where we are today because of you. On behalf of the University, I request that you continue walking with us in this journey. Your time and presence here today, far beyond your monetary contributions, gives us strength and confirms your belief and commitment to the cause that we pursue. We give you our commitment that as you

have been there when we need you, we the University of Nairobi will be there when you need us.

To our students, we thank you. We thank you for supporting the University stewardship. I know you may have many issues that require the attention of University leadership; let us reason together and work together to find lasting solutions for the benefit of our current and future generations of scholars.

To our graduates of the day, we wish you well. We hope that we spared no effort in giving you the best that we could. We hope that we contributed to making you a better version of yourself. We do not take it for granted that this University was your top choice. We hope that armed with the skills and competencies you have acquired, you will apply yourselves with dedication and that our mark of quality will be manifested through your selfless and unblemished

service to both God and man. Take advantage of all the opportunities that may come our way to gain new skills and retool yourselves for the future. The future belongs to those who adapt the fastest to changes. I wish you lives of long-term achievement and fulfillment as you make a positive contribution in the communities that you will interact with hereafter.

My address will not be complete without taking cognisance of the fact that there is an ongoing process of recruiting a Vice Chancellor. I wish to recognize our staff and students and respective unions and union leadership for your patience and for giving this recruitment process a chance. I wish to also thank you for trusting the institutions rightfully vested with the process. Faced with many reasons to be complicit, I am glad that you have deliberately chosen the high road

and given the invitation to complicity a cold shoulder.

I appeal to you in these late days, to continue being upstanding members of our community. Just as you depend on this university, your university depends on you too! Let us all subordinate ourselves to the greater good of the University.

With those few remarks and on behalf of council, I take this opportunity to assure you, as we have done

before, of our commitment towards making this university an all rounded powerhouse for academic excellence, research pursuits and character formation.

Unitate et labore...in unity and work we strive.

Asanteni sana.

May God bless you all.

**Prof. Julia A. Ojiambo, PhD, CBS, EBS, MBS
Chairperson,
University of Nairobi Council**