



**UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI**

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**SPEECH DELIVERED BY, MR. JOH SIMBA, CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI DURING 35<sup>TH</sup> GRADUATION CEREMONY OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI HELD ON FRIDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER 2006 AT THE  
CHANCELLOR'S COURT.**

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

**Minister for Education,**

**Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education, Prof. Karega Mutahi**

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

**Members of the University of Nairobi Council**

**Vice-Chancellors of other Universities**

**Deputy Vice-Chancellors of the UON**

**Principals of Colleges**

**Deans of Faculties and Directors of Institutes and Centres**

**Chairmen and Heads of Department**

**Graduands**

**Distinguished Guests**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

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**I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all the graduands of the 2005/2006 academic year for making this day to become an everlasting moment for themselves and the institution. It has taken sacrifices of both duration and resources to make today's function successful. I therefore congratulate all graduands, professors, the parents/guardian for their worthy effort and take this moment to welcome all of you to the 35<sup>th</sup> graduation ceremony of the University of Nairobi.**

**It is through graduation that a university proudly displays its harvest after years of hard work. Today therefore marks a new beginning for the graduands as they enter another critical stage in their lives. The University is formally releasing you to the larger society so that you can make a positive contribution to it.**

**This year Mr. Chancellor Sir, that university has managed to build on the gains we made to become a world class institution. As an on-going exercise to re-energize our system, we launched the Service Charter that among others defines the need to offer quality services. As the supreme organ of the institution council undertakes to play its rightful role to ensure that the tenets espoused in the service charter are fully adhered to.**

**We have also continued to expand our physical infrastructure and face lifting the existing ones. Through internally generated revenues. We have managed to acquire the former British Council building in Kisumu to house our existing operations and also entrench our presence in the Western Kenya region with future prospects of opening a campus.**

**The restructuring exercise that started last year is now complete and all units have settled in the new outfits. Many have held brainstorming sessions to adopt the best administrative tricks their new outfits. As council we are happy to note the entire exercise went on smoothly though there is still room for improvement.**

**We have also institutionalised staff performance appraisal as an annual exercise and in fact this year's annual awards to outstanding employees was based on the**

appraisal system. In future, our employment dynamics will be on the appraisal system.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, as a way of perfecting good industrial practice, we recently signed a recognition agreement between the University Council and the Universities non-teaching staff union (UNTESU) to bring to an end a year-long misunderstanding that had dragged on. The Union shall represent the interest of non-teaching staff from middle grades and above. This registration of UNTESU is an addition to two existing unions – Kudheihia and UASU representing workers in grade 1-1V and teaching staff respectively. We are indeed holding negotiations with the later after the collective bargaining agreement lapsed in June, 2006.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, the University of Nairobi has improved in its financial discipline. It among other things report to the government on time, and has been able to honour its financial obligations without delay. Despite this rosy performance, we have been unable to maximize on output due to lack of adequate resources. Resources allocated to research activities for instance are quite minimal yet as an academic institution we need to handle alot of research. Lack of adequate financing has also meant that the university has to supplement government funding to the tune of over 50% of its expenditure. This has meant tht areas that would traditionally have benefited from Module ii funds are gien

**back seat – this includes completion of stalled buldings and investment in new projects. I however thank the government for factoring a salary increament of all staff in this year’s budget. Once negotiations are done, the University will effect the increament to all cadres of staff without any delay.**

**As we focus a head in building this University our occupation is that council is to render the necessary support that will prosper this university to be among leading international universities. This will only be measured by the quality of the products we release to the market. Those graduating today should always remember that they are the number one ambassador of their alma mater. Your continued support should therefore be through the budding university of Nairobi Alumni Association and University of Nairobi shall fore remember you.**

**I take this moment to congratulate you again of your mean achievement and wish you success in your future endeavours.**

**With those few remarks I wish to know take this opportunity to officially welcome the Chancellor of University of Nairobi to deliver his official address to the 35<sup>th</sup> congregation of the University of Nairobi.**

**Thank you.**

