



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

**REMARKS BY MR. JOHN P. N. SIMBA, CHAIRMAN,
UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI COUNCIL, ON THE
OCCASION OF THE 41ST GRADUATION CEREMONY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI AT THE
CHANCELLOR'S COURT ON FRIDAY SEPTEMBER
18, 2009**

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

Hon. Dr. Sally Kosgei, MP, Minister for Higher Education, Science and Technology

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

Council Members

University Staff

Parents and Guardians

Graduands

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

It gives me much pleasure to welcome you all to the 41st Graduation Ceremony of the University of Nairobi. The graduation ceremony marks the culmination of a successful completion of our academic programme and provides an opportunity for an institution to show case achievements.

I wish to start by extending my sincere congratulations to the class of 2009 from the four colleges graduating today for their hard work. You are about to join over 100,000 alumni of this great University that have continued to demonstrate the institution's culture of excellence both at the national and international levels. The difference

they are making in the society is an indication of the quality of our academic programmes.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, allow me to thank you for your stewardship which has enabled the University of Nairobi to discharge its mandate of teaching, research, consultancy and community service successfully.

I also pay tribute to the gallant parents, our dedicated staff, the community and other stakeholders who have contributed towards producing the holistic graduands whom we are graduating today. To you all - a big thank you.

Indeed it takes a lot of sacrifice on the part of all concerned to mould and mentor these graduands into responsible citizens who are now ready to compete favourably out their and apply the skills learned.

As we present the over 3948 graduands today, we take cognizance of the fact that it has not been an easy journey. We however wish to take stock of the challenges encountered along the way and celebrate our achievements and recognize that there is still room for improvement.

Mr. Chancellor, the University community is indeed grateful that despite your busy schedule,

you have always found time to visit the institution. This has provided us with an opportunity to benefit from your wise counsel as you appraise yourself on issues on the ground.

Your three-day tour of all the six colleges of the university in February this year witnessed the inauguration of several development projects. We cannot take for granted such commitment from you. Thank you.

Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in lauding the alumni of this University who have continued to fly our flag high and make their alma mater proud. I would like to register our gratitude for

the generous donation of Ksh. 5 Million by the alumni early this year towards the University Bursary Fund. My appeal to corporates, alumni and other donors is to make further donations towards the Bursary Fund and also Academic Prizes to motivate our students and staff to work even harder. May I assure all donors that the Council shall always ensure that all donations made shall be utilized in the most prudent manner.

Mr. Chancellor, may I commend the management and staff for their hard work and dedication to duty that has ensured that the institution is on the right path to becoming a world-class University.

To ensure the creation of a conducive working environment, the Council and the staff have continued to engage in fruitful dialogue to improve the terms and conditions of service. I would like to reiterate the University Council's commitment to the implementation of the Collective Bargaining Agreements (CBAs) that it has signed with respective unions.

As I conclude my remarks, our students too deserve appreciation for their discipline and focus on study that has enabled the university management direct its energy towards improving the learning environment. I urge the students to

keep up the spirit and zealously guard the image of their institution.

Once again, thank you all for honouring us by attending our graduation ceremony.

Thank you.