



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

**REMARKS BY MR. JOHN P. N. SIMBA, CHAIRMAN,
UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI COUNCIL, ON THE
OCCASION OF THE 44TH GRADUATION CEREMONY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI AT THE
CHANCELLOR'S COURT ON FRIDAY DECEMBER 3,
2010**

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

Hon. Prof Hellen Sambili, MP, Minister for Higher Education, Science and Technology

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

On behalf of the Council and the University community, I am honoured to welcome all of you to the 44th Graduation Ceremony, the second one in 2010. For the graduands, I can see your bright faces testament of the spirit of illumination, deeply reflected within you. Your parents, guardians, friends and faculty share in your joy and excitement. Your achievement is a source of pride for all of them. Today they are here to witness your triumphant crowning. On behalf of the council and all present – congratulations.

Mr. Chancellor, Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen, in the year 2010, the University performed quite well in its four-pronged mandate of teaching, research,

consultancy and corporate social responsibility. Staff remained dedicated, providing quality education as evidenced by the graduands in front of us today. The University is at the forefront in research and extension, by continuing to be involved in research activities that are relevant and responsive to the development needs of our country. To ensure the eye remains on the ball in research matters, the council and the management, have established the position of a Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research and Extension to spearhead the research and development mandate of the university. Recruitment to fill this position is ongoing.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the University has a challenge to fulfill its intellectual direction. In 2010, the University fulfilled this challenge by hosting numerous town hall forums and international discourse in the areas of governance, ethnicity, development, poverty and human development to stimulate debate on these important issues. That distinguished leaders and professionals with a national and international appeal continue to select our university as their preferred venue for town hall forums is a manifestation of the esteem with which they hold this University. Let me thank the all those from the university and outside who through constructive participation ensured that these gatherings succeeded. I wish to assure all of you that

this opening up of the university to interaction will continue.

Mr. Chancellor, Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen, the University recently held the 2005/2006, 2006/2007 prize presentation ceremony, honouring 180 recipients who have excelled in almost all disciplines offered at the University. We wish to thank all those donors, who annually send their prizes, attend in person and interact with the University community. We wish to appeal to many other organizations to partner with us, draw up more prizes and even enhance the value of the prizes to reflect the changing economic realities. We also wish to congratulate those students for their outstanding

performance that made them worthy of the prizes they got.

I wish on that note to thank the Chandaria Foundation (Dr. Manu Chandaria), the Mary & David Kiamba Family, and the Karen Hospital Academic Excellence, for the new awards as well as enhancing the value of their cash prizes. This is truly the spirit of alumni honouring their alma mater.

Mr. Chancellor, Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish to report that in the academic year 2009/2010, the University maintained its development index by establishing linkages with industry in areas of research and development. In seeking partners with

industry, the University has been able to consolidate its activities which have since borne fruit. Examples of such valuable linkages include the World Trade Organization Chairs at the University; Kenya Seed Company for marketing new seed varieties developed at the University; Technoserve for entrepreneurship and business plan writing with IT; and the UN Human Health Services Agencies who are partners in strengthening training at the College of Health Sciences.

Ladies and Gentlemen, 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 mandate has expanded enormously, and our modules that include regular, module II, outreach and now distance and e-learning, make it imperative that we acquire more resources especially to put up more infrastructure for offices, laboratories, classrooms and lecture theatres. Even as we seek to diversify revenue sources, we appeal for increased funding to address these challenges. The Alumni Association is to be applauded for its decision to erect an Alumni Centre. This centre will allow the Alumni to conduct their business while at the same

time playing the role of a focal point for linking the Alumni and the University.

Ladies and Gentlemen, my work as Chairman of Council has been realised due to the committed support of other Council members. These Council members with their diverse skills and professions, a great mix for service, have brought on board their talents to complement the representation from government and the University Senate. I thank them for their support.

Ladies and Gentlemen, while today is a celebration, we must remain committed to the academic excellence that we state in our mission and vision.

We are challenged to be the hub of knowledge, and to provide the leadership in offering versatile programmes to equip Kenyans with the necessary knowledge and skills to build this nation.

Once again, congratulations to the class of 2010, may you reap abundantly wherever your journey takes you. It is our hope that you will have a positive and lasting impact on the society you will be serving.

Thank you Mr. Chancellor, Sir, and our parent ministry for your support and encouragement. Professor Magoha and his management team, staff

and students for ensuring that our programmes have remained on course.

Finally, as the festive season is drawing near, I wish to take this opportunity to wish you all a memorable Jamhuri Day, a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Blessed 2011.

Thank you