

2014 Valedictory Speech

A LIFE OF SERVICE TO SOCIETY

Chief Guest, The Chancellor, Vice Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellors, Principals of Colleges, Deans, Directors, lecturers, parents, my fellow graduands.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen. All protocol observed.

Good morning.

I am very happy to be here today. It is a great honour and privilege to be given this opportunity to say a few words on behalf of my fellow graduands. Today is the day we have been waiting for with earnest as successfully completing our degree courses is an amazing achievement that we should all be proud of. I would like to believe that we all cannot help but express that joy and gratitude that we feel to God, our families and friends.

Graduation is one of those bitter sweet times in our lives when we can't help but look back fondly at the friendships and memories that we made during our time at this great university. Yet at the same time, we are excited and eager to embark onto the unknown future.

I can honestly say that I feel some kind of unease at what lies ahead. I am sure we are all struggling with questions such as: Will I get a job? Where will it be? What kind of boss will I get? What about the money? However, for today, let us push aside these worries to savour this moment and celebrate our accomplishments.

On behalf of my colleagues, I would like to thank all those who made it possible for us to be here: our parents and guardians. We recognise and

greatly appreciate the numerous sacrifices that you have made over the years to ensure that we get a sound education.

I would also like to say thank you to all the staff at the School of Pharmacy, both the faculty and the support staff. It has been an adventure full of ups and downs. As Aristotle the Greek philosopher said; "The roots of education are bitter but the fruit is sweet". It has been an experience that I would not want to change for anything. It has been a place where I have been able to grow and also learn a great deal. There is no doubt that the education I have acquired will be very valuable as I move forward in life.

Now to my colleagues - we have all been equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills that are required to lead a life of service. It is important that we use our knowledge and abilities to make a change in our communities. We can all make a positive impact in our own little ways wherever we are. We do not have to wait for change. We can go out and make this world a better place to live for all of us.

I truly believe that the opportunity to study at the University of Nairobi brings with it the duty and responsibility, to be of service to others. In concluding, I would like to quote a great statesman, John F. Kennedy, to exemplify the importance of what I have shared with you this morning.

"Let us think of education as the means of developing our greatest abilities, because in each of us there is a private hope and dream which if fulfilled, can be translated into benefit for everyone and greater strength for our nation".

God bless Kenya; God bless the University of Nairobi and God bless you all.
Asantenisana

KATU MUTUNGI