

2016 VALEDICTORY SPEECH FOR THE 56TH GRADUATION
CEREMONY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

Your Excellency the President, Madam Chancellor, Cabinet Secretaries, your Excellencies the Ambassadors, Vice Chancellor, Deputy Vice Chancellors, Principals of Colleges, Deans, Directors, Our beloved Lecturers, Parents, my Fellow Graduands, Ladies and Gentlemen, Good morning!

I am privileged to be here today representing the graduating classes of the 56th Graduation Ceremony of the University of Nairobi. Our hearts are full of gratitude that you could all be here today to partake in our celebration.

I am humbled to address such a wonderful gathering here today ó all under the umbrella of cherishing success. History brings us here through a winding trip that can only be defined by the faithful as a miracle. It is indeed a miracle to those of us who only witnessed others rewarded but never thought about the dawn of our day. Now it's our turn. Our turn to take those powers to read and do all that appertains to the degree.

The Sakina, John, Catherine and Mohammeds of today are not exactly the same people they were when they were first enrolled to join the majestic University of Nairobi. We have grown into wholistic individuals with broader scope of knowledge, more enlightened visions of our future and better skilled to smoothly transition into the world out there.

All this can be genuinely attributed to the morals, attitudes and values that have been instilled in us through our course of being in the University.

Thanks goes to Almighty for granting us the chance to be part of this prestigious institution. Our heartfelt gratitude also goes to the entire University of Nairobi fraternity from the teaching to the non-teaching staff for willingly guiding us towards the realization of our academic goals.

To our parents, friends and well-wishers, thank you for understanding that the only inheritance that you could dedicate to us was this education. We promised never to let you down and today you can attest to this.

Finally, to my fellow graduating students, I congratulate you all on this great achievement we have attained. A chapter in our lives has been closed to open the door for more chapters to be filled. The package we have received in the University of Nairobi has opened enormous doors of opportunities for us. I see us going beyond the borders of Kenya to globally affecting lives and making great impact to the world.

Ralph Wadon Emerson once said and I quote, "do not go where the path may lead you, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail" unquote.

Just yesterday the Global ranking revealed that the University of Nairobi has been ranked amongst the top 300 universities, not only in Nairobi nor in Kenya, not even in Africa but in the whole 7 standing continents.

So, I would not be wrong if I concluded that University of Nairobi is the best University in the region and one of the best in globe. I am proud to be a graduate in this prestigious University.

To God be all the glory, Amen.

Sakina Shabbir Mohamedali

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