

2013 Valedictory speech

“WE ARE DESTINED FOR GREATNESS”

Chief Guest, The Chancellor, Vice Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellors Principals of Colleges, Deans, Directors, our beloved teachers, parents my colleague graduands and all protocols observed; Distinguished Guest, Ladies and Gentlemen. Good morning!

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

On behalf of my colleague graduands, I hereby extend our sincere gratitude and appreciation to all of you who gave us this opportunity. You have proved to us that indeed hard work pays.

To our parents, thank you for understanding that the only inheritance you could dedicate to us was this education. We promised never to let you down and today you can attest to this. We did that and we have successfully completed our task. To God be all the glory.

To the Government of Kenya, we appreciate the financial support we have received. No Kenyan child should ever fail to get University education due to poverty. Adequate resources should be availed to all the bright children of this country.

And on our part, the only assurance I can give is that my colleague graduands and I will pay the HELB loans and will encourage our brothers and sisters from the socio-economically corners of our great country to apply for the loans.

And to the School of Mathematics, thank you! I am short of words of equivalent intensity to describe what I feel. In you, a seedling sprout and you regularly watered it to enhance its growth. And so, we can see the fruits of your labour

Now to my colleagues – whose focus for an excellent academic award at the end of the course has been the best uniform to identify us – bravo! . Our efforts have been rewarded. We have fought the good fight .

But – let me pose a challenge to us. How do we want this nation to remember us? The University is challenging us to go out there and offer a helping hand in solving issues that require our knowledge and hands in all the corners of our currently described global village. Let's help each other break records. I draw from the philosophical remarks of Napoleon Hill that if you can't win in a race let the fellow ahead of you break the record. We are the class of 2013, let's go out and break records in all our different areas of endeavor.

And to the youths of this country who are coming in after us –you have the opportunity to craft your future today so do not waste it. We will always be there to guide and tell you that the future can only be brighter. The sky is not the limit.

Lastly, may I take this opportunity to remind us of the great adage on success. That “success is not measured by the glowing glories we receive, but by the many obstacles that we overcame”. Let this be our great mantra as we march to our glorious destiny.

God bless Kenya. God bless the University of Nairobi and God bless all of you. Thank you and thank you very much.

“We are destined for greatness”.

JUMA VICTOR OGESA