

**VALEDICTORIAN SPEECH AT THE 54<sup>th</sup> GRADUATION CEREMONY**  
**AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI**

**BY NJOROGE PETER NJENGA**

The Chancellor, Vice Chancellor, DVC's, Principal of Colleges, UoN fraternity, fellow grandaunts, invited guests, ladies and gentlemen. Good morning!

Let me first begin by saying that having the chance to present this graduation speech as valedictorian is a great honor. I can't say it's a dream come true cause honestly I've never had such lofty dreams. But it's a pleasure nonetheless. Before I begin, I would like to congratulate my fellow graduates on achieving this goal today. As we are all aware campus life is not easy, its full of ups and downs and making it through the four academic years and as graduating today is no small feat. Secondly, I would also like to congratulate the University of Nairobi for this 54<sup>th</sup> graduation ceremony. I know all of us are proud to be graduates and more so graduates from the University of Nairobi. Still the best university bar none.

I've always had the belief that each one of us took our first steps in pursuing our dreams when we decided to enroll to the University. We have spent the best part of our time here acquiring the knowledge and developing the skills in the various diverse focus areas so as to make that dream a reality. Now today we take the final step in our university experience....all those sleepless nights studying, for some all those tracks from houses/prefabs to Chiromo library, the constant stress about the next CAT, exam...it has finally paid off. Now is the time to use the knowledge and skills that the University has bestowed upon us and apply what we have learned in pursuit of our future endeavors. For some that may entail continuation of education and for others is the start of their professional careers. Whichever the case, I would like to wish all success.

As fresh graduates we face many uncertainties be it in our immediate or distant futures. However there is saying that uncertainty is another word for opportunity. Concentrate on improving your future and never give up. Apply for those jobs, go to those interviews. Do not despair for there is a saying that “whats worth the prize is always worth the fight”.

At this time, I would like to thank everyone who encouraged and supported me throughout my academic journey especially my parents Mr and Mrs Njoroge. You taught me from the very beginning the value of education. How a kid from Downtown Nakuru can rise from Koinange Primary to Menengai High School and reach the upper echelons of The University OF Nairobi. I attribute everything I’ve ever achieved to you. And to my brothers Paul Maina and especially Samson Kimani who throughout campus life kept reminding me to stick to what am good at, which is books and passing exams. To my friends (..), classmates, FIFA rivals(Kirimi)..,this is not the end.

Finally on behalf of all graduates, I would like to thank the lecturers and all persons who were involved directly or indirectly in making us University of Nairobi graduates in 2015. Thank you for the opportunity you gave us to be part of this institution and for the support, the knowledge and skills you impacted on us.

As I conclude, I would like to remind each one of us never to forget the bridges we crossed, the memories we’ve made and the bonds we’ve created. And may we always remember the important role that the University of Nairobi has played in helping us achieve our goals.

Once again, congratulation to the class of 2015!

Thank you!