



**UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI**  
**SPEECH BY PROF. AMUKOWA ANANGWE, PhD, EGH,**  
**CHAIR OF COUNCIL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF**  
**NAIROBI, DURING THE 71<sup>st</sup> GRADUATION**  
**CEREMONY HELD ON FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 20, 2024**  
**AT THE CHANCELLOR'S COURT**

**Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Education, Hon. Julius  
Ogamba,EBS  
Chancellor of the University of Nairobi, Professor  
Patrick V.Verkooijen  
Your Excellences the Ambassadors and High  
Commissioners  
Ag. Vice Chancellor Prof. Margaret Hutchinson  
University staff  
Parents and guardians  
Distinguished guests and most importantly, graduands,**

**Good morning?**

**It's my pleasure in extending a very warm welcome to all of you to the *71st Graduation Ceremony* of the University of Nairobi. This occasion marks a significant milestone for our institution, *for the 4,145 students graduating today, and for Koitalel University, a proud constituent college of UoN, graduating 194 students.* I know amongst us today are people who have traversed the length and breadth of our republic just to be here with us for the very first time. To you I say, *karibu sana.* To those who have been with us on other occasions, it is my honour and privilege to welcome you back.**

**I would also like to recognize in our midst the distinguished presence of the Cabinet Secretary for Ministry of Education who is also an alumnus of the University of Nairobi *Hon. Julius Ogamba, EBS.* Waziri, karibu nyumbani.**

**We are excited to witness an increase in our graduate numbers—from *3,500* in September 2023 to the *4,145* we celebrate today. Notably, we have seen a rise in our PhD graduates. These numbers affirm our role as a transformative force in Kenya's education landscape.**

**As Council, we are grateful for the opportunity to serve this University. This is a duty that we do not take lightly and are always conscious of the weight of the University's hopes and dreams placed upon our shoulders. We have spent the last *15 months* understanding, in great detail, the depth and breadth of the University. We have participated in University activities where Council presence and participation was necessary. Over the same period we have applied ourselves in making meaningful changes to how the University is administered. We may have inadvertently stepped on some toes but I want to confirm that our actions, at all times, are guided by the greater good of the University.**

**The theme of today's graduation, "*Transforming Society with Adaptive and Innovative Graduates*," aptly reflects the University's mission. Our graduates today are equipped not only to adapt to the ever-changing landscape of the modern world but also to innovate and lead in transforming society for the better.**

**On this occasion, I would like to extend heartfelt congratulations to our Chancellor for his installation and for presiding over his very first graduation ceremony. Your leadership will inspire and guide us as we continue to steer this great institution forward. The Council, along with the entire university, is fully committed to supporting you, as you spearhead the transformative initiatives known as the “*Big 5*,” aimed at equipping Kenya’s younger generations for the future of work and ensuring a more sustainable and resilient economy.**

**As we continue on this journey of transformation, I challenge our management and faculty to explore collaboration opportunities across institutions. These partnerships will help us deliver on the “Big 5” initiatives and strengthen Kenya’s tertiary education sector. Together, we can build a foundation that prepares students for future challenges.**



**Hon CS, I would like to report that the University successfully admitted 7,731 *Module I* students and 2,856 *Self-Sponsored* students for the *September intake*. This achievement reflects our commitment to growth, and we remain focused on increasing these numbers in the next intake. However, Hon CS, we wish to raise a concern regarding the discrepancy between the 11,000 declared admission vacancies across UoN's teaching programmes and the 7,731 KUCCPS-placed students. UoN, as Kenya's largest and oldest university, deserves fair consideration, and we kindly request your office to look into this matter.**

**To the UoN management, I challenge you to maximize the use of the KUCCPS admission platform to ensure that more students are admitted to fill the declared vacancies. This is crucial for bridging the gap between our declared admission slots and the actual intake.**

**To our dear students and their guardians, we have heard your concerns regarding the state of the halls of residence. Efforts are underway to refurbish them, and I commit that the *Council will set aside 30% of revenue collected* towards the restoration of hostels over the next three years. Additionally, we are in advanced discussions with the Ministries of Education and Treasury to add 4,000 bed space, on top of our current capacity of 9,856.**

**Our university continues to grapple with financial challenges. Rest assured that we are doing all we can to address this by stemming revenue leakage as well as considering a myriad of alternatives geared towards revenue growth. This, admittedly, is and continues to be an uphill task but I believe that together and in the long run, we have the right mettle to overcome this challenge and build and secure a legacy of a self-sustaining university. It will not happen overnight but assuredly I say to you, consistency of thought, purpose and action will eventually yield perfect results.**

**The Council to this end has prioritized resource mobilization to ensure the long-term sustainability of UoN. We are actively seeking partnerships that will enable the university to grow and thrive amidst financial constraints.**

**To our beloved staff, we thank you most sincerely. For the selfless effort expended in preparation of our students not only for this graduation but also for the rigours of endless demands that the future holds, we thank you; For the respect of the many decisions that this Council has made and continues to make in governing the University, we thank you; For the maintenance of a peaceful environment for each of us to thrive in our individual and collective pursuits, we thank you.**

**On behalf of the Council, I want to acknowledge the ongoing negotiations around the 2017-2021 Internal CBA with UASU, KUSU, and KUDHEIHA. Council approved the negotiations on August 12, 2024, and I assure you that we are committed to seeing this process through, ensuring your welfare is prioritized.**

**To the government and all our donors, well-wishers, parents/guardians and alumni, we are grateful for your unwavering support. We are where we are today because of you. On behalf of the University, I request that you continue walking with us in this journey. As the University of Nairobi remains steadfast in its support of the government's agenda and Africa's Agenda 2063. We will continue to align our priorities with national and continental objectives for a prosperous future.**



**To our graduates of the day, we wish you well. We hope that we spared no effort in giving you the best that we could. We hope that we contributed to making you a better version of yourself. We do not take it for granted that this University was your top choice. Today you stand at the threshold of a new chapter. As you go forth into the world, I urge you to remain resilient and innovative. Remember the words of Romans 12:2: *“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”* Embrace change, lead with integrity, and never stop learning. The world awaits the impact you will make.**

**With those few remarks and on behalf of the Council, I take this opportunity to affirm our commitment towards making the University of Nairobi the gold standard by which our peers measure their excellence in academic pursuits, character formation, talent nurturing and relevance to society.**

***Unitate et labore...in unity and work we strive.***

**Asanteni sana and may the Almighty God bless you all.**