

UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

2025 VALEDICTORY SPEECH FOR THE 74th GRADUATION

CEREMONY – 11TH DECEMBER 2025

**Cabinet Secretary for Education, Hon. Julius Ogamba Migos
Chancellor Prof. Patrick Verkooijen
Chairperson of the University Council, Prof. Chacha Nyaigotti-Chacha
Members of the University Council,
Vice Chancellor, Prof. Margaret Hutchinson
Governors Present,
Hon. Judges
Members of Parliament
Higher Commissioners and Ambassadors present
Faculty members
Members of the Auxiliary staff,
Partners,
Parents,
Distinguished Guests,
Class of 2025,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Good morning.**

Allow me to honor the presence of our families, our mentors, and every brave soul seated here today – **The Class of 2025.**

My name is Christopher Ombewa Krehle, a proud Bachelor of Science in Human Anatomy graduate. Today, I am privileged to speak not only for anatomists, but for every dreamer, fighter and winner gathered here.

Fellow graduands,

We stand shaped by resilience – a character carved in fire. We rose when the fees tried to drown us, when our families gave the last of the little that they had. We rose when doubt pressed hard, when systems stalled, even when odds refused to shift. We rose together. Now listen to this small lesson I learnt from the anatomy dissection lab:

“The body thrives because countless small parts work in rhythm.”

And today, I see the rhythm in us – Doctors, Engineers, Nurses, Lawyers, Artists, Scientists, Economists, Teachers – each essential, each determined, each burning forward!

For all the time it took, our efforts were quiet but undeniable: the group discussions on empty stomachs, the resilience forged in darkness, the moments that slipped beyond our control, the nights we cried, prayed, and tried again.

These were our silent victories – our shared heartbeat.

We are undoubtedly proof that brilliance blooms in adversity, a generation that refuses to surrender.

And now, standing at the edge of tomorrow, I am thrilled – **wildly thrilled** – because we have mastered the art of creating something from nothing, stretching a coin into possibility, and turning hardship into muscle. That is not weakness. **That is power. That is legacy.**

Yes, the job market is uncertain. But we carry something rarer than opportunity: **GRIT**. We are the souls who build ladders from scraps, who rise not by luck but by courage, and who know that community is our ultimate and greatest strength.

So, unto you, my fellow graduates, I say:

May we imagine boldly. Lift others as we climb. Build doors where none were. And importantly – rise together.

May your impact stay loud, your dreams stay bright, and your courage unshakeable.

And now that we're stepping out, don't mind the world quaking – that's nature announcing our formidable arrival!

Congratulations, Class of 2025!

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UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

(Written and edited in collaboration with John Mavine Omondi, H302/3206/2021, Class of 2025)