



**REPUBLIC OF KENYA**  
**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**

**SPEECH BY EDUCATION CABINET SECRETARY FOR  
EDUCATION, HON. EZEKIEL MACHOGU, CBS, DURING THE  
68<sup>TH</sup> GRADUATION CEREMONY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF  
NAIROBI ON DECEMBER 16, 2022**

**Dr Vijoo Rattansi, Chancellor of the University of Nairobi;**

**Prof. Miriam Were, Chair of Council;**

**Council Members;**

**Vice Chancellor, Prof. Kiama Gitahi;**

**Faculty;**

**Graduands and Parents;**

**Invited Guests;**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**I am happy to join you during the important event of the 68<sup>th</sup> Graduation Ceremony University of Nairobi today, during the celebration of the award of degrees, diplomas and fellowships to over 6,000 graduands who have successfully completed their academic programmes.**

**I applaud the University community for this achievement, the second this year. It gives me great satisfaction to be part of this kind of gatherings to celebrate, which always give us hope that our academic institutions are fulfilling**

**their mandate of teaching and learning that churn out the necessary human resource to drive our country's economy.**

**Let me begin my remarks by sending my warmest regards to our special guests today, the graduands and their families. You faced many challenges as you navigated your way through the long and sometimes difficult academic journey, but you emerged victorious. I have a lot of faith in your capabilities because you have been prepared to be the best after going through great minds of scholars available at this premier institution. I congratulate you.**

**It takes a great deal of investment, and high risks, to produce one qualified graduate. This University has produced over 9,000 graduates this year (having held another graduation ceremony in September) and in the process made our country richer.**

**The availability of skilled manpower to attend to the divergent needs of modern society, including globalization, technological advancement, climate change and a myriad complex socio-economic issues, is one of the key pillars for accelerating development.**

**To the staff of our esteemed University, and other stakeholders who made this happen, I say “Well done!”. I specifically want to commend the parents, guardians and other benefactors for the worthy investments in these young people. The government of H. E. President William Ruto emphasizes and has prioritized the empowerment of young people to enable them take advantage of favourable economic and political climate to prosper.**

**Paramount to note that, graduation is more than an academic tradition or rite of passage. In many ways, it**

**signifies new beginnings, new opportunities and also new challenges.**

**Am aware that some of you have already assumed important roles in society. As alumni of the university, don't forget to support your alma mater. We are called upon to be proud of our Universities and get involved in addressing the challenges that they face.**

**I am informed that the University of Nairobi has created a special purpose vehicle or an endowment fund where you**

**can contribute. I urge each one of us to support the university of Nairobi Foundation to enhance the viability and sustainability of the University.**

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

**You are aware that the country is in the process of reviewing and developing a curriculum that is relevant to our development needs. I am happy that H.E the President listened to the voices of the people and appointed a task force to review the Competency Based Curriculum (CBC).**

**We are working with the Committee to ensure that the interests of all stakeholders are taken into consideration.**

**As you may know, based on the team's interim report, the President directed that Grades 7, 8 and 9 be domiciled in our primary schools. I appreciate the fact that you gave your contributions to the Working Party, which must have been an integral part in making the recommendations. I urge you to make more submissions as so long as the window of doing so is open.**

**Already, the issue of financing higher education has featured prominently during the public participation forums.**

**The government is conscious of the need to make our universities sustainable, but I also know that Universities have great potential to utilize their internal capacities to overcome their perennial financial deficits.**

**I want to congratulate the University of Nairobi leadership for initiating reforms geared towards enhancing your financial health.**

**Given that your students are currently the primary sources of revenue, it is imperative that you develop marketable and relevant programs that can attract students from all corners of the globe.**

**I also challenge the University of Nairobi to direct more energy in research as an alternative business solution. Research is where you have more competitive advantage.**

**Finally, my dear graduand!**

**As you conclude your journey as a student, I urge you to use the knowledge that you have acquired from this University sufficiently. Use it to make the world a better place! Seize all the opportunities that come your way. Build relationships and be patriotic to your country.**

**I thank you all and wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy  
New Year.**