



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

**SPEECH BY THE CHAIRMAN, UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, DURING THE 62ND GRADUATION
CEREMONY HELD ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2019 AT
THE CHANCELLOR'S COURT FROM 7.30A.M.**

- **The Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education,
Prof. George Magoha**
- **The Chancellor, Dr. (Mrs.) VijooRattansi**
- **Chancellors of Sister Universities**
- **Chair of University Council, Prof. Julia Ojiambo**
- **Members of the University Council**
- **Ag. Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Isaac Mbeche**

- **Deputy Vice Chancellors, Principals of Colleges, Directors of Institutes and Deans of Faculties and Schools**
- **The entire Academic Fraternity**
- **Fellow Alumni of the University of Nairobi**
- **Parents and Guardians of Graduands**
- **Graduands**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen**

On behalf of the University of Nairobi Alumni Association (UONAA) and as an alumnus of this reputable University, I am delighted to join you today as you transition from the University to the world of work and other ventures. Your graduation is a result of your individual commitment, collective effort from all the stakeholders and more so the Government of Kenya, the University Fraternity, your Parents and Guardians.

I wish to encourage you today that as the youth and future leaders of this country, you have a place in the leadership and governance of this great Nation. You just need to believe in yourself and in the abilities that have brought you this far.

The Association eagerly looks forward to your connection with your alma mater in order to willingly give-back to the community which nurtured you. You can do this initially by registering with the

Association whose membership categories range from Annual to Life Membership. The UONAA Secretariat is strategically placed at this graduation square to provide you with the relevant information and guidance on how you can become a member. You can also become a member through the UONAA Membership Portal. My appeal is to our honorable guests who are graduates of this esteemed institution to join us to support the many areas of need for our

University, in line with our slogan “Our Alumni, Our Strength”.

As an Alumni Association, we continuously endeavour to support our alma mater to ensure that it surpasses its set standards, thus maintain its high ranking position and to increase its visibility against other institutions of higher learning all over the world. We continue to support the University Bursary Fund, Nairobi Innovation Week, Student

Prizes, Sports Days and our Graduation Ceremonies just to mention a few.

As a way forward and to enhance Alumni engagement and growth, we have empowered our smaller teams, referred to as Alumni Chapters to cascade the Association's activities, as well as establish their own projects for the benefit of their disciplines, Campuses and Colleges. The Alumni Chapters are discipline, campus, or geography based to enhance participation

and involvement of all our alumni. The Association periodically hosts events that are meant to bring former graduates together, mainly for networking and social interaction. These chapters have the mandate to provide guidance and mentorship, thus helping to shape the future of faculties and schools in terms of curricula development and implementation.

The Mombasa Alumni Chapter, launched on the 5th of April this year, is the latest of the seventeen (17) chapters so far launched. Please feel encouraged to identify with an existing Chapter or help us launch new ones to enable you continue with the camaraderie and friendships that started off when you joined this great University in your first year.

During the Month of August this year, UONAA through our Vice-Chairperson Dr. Anne Aseey secured

four Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Scholarships to University of Toronto Canada. The four students that benefited from this Scholarship are;

- 1. Willis Phabian Akala Opondo – PhD in Sociology**
- 2. Wamvua Andrew Mshambala – PhD in Education**

**3. Ivy Wambua Maina – MBA, Strategic
Management**

**4. Valentine Mukami Gatune – Masters in Project
Management**

**The International Visiting Graduate Student (IVGS)
Study Abroad program is a fully sponsored academic
scholarship administered under the Centre for
International Experience, University of Toronto,**

Canada. As an Association, we will endeavor to take another cohort to Canada in 2020 for the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee. We are also in constant engagement with other partners and stakeholders to support our students and graduates get more exposure and experience both locally and internationally.

On the same breadth, our Association has rolled out an ambitious Alumni Scholarship Fund that targets

to support 1000 needy and bright students over the next 5 years. Applications for this Fund opened on 16th December and will close on 13th January 2020. We will aspire to continue growing this fund to enable our students complete their studies on schedule and without much disruption. I humbly appeal to all our esteemed alumni who are part of this Ceremony to support us in this noble initiative through donations and sponsorships. We will be

reaching out to you all and the many organizations you represent more directly.

Our dream of setting up an Alumni Center is still on course despite the hurdles we have encountered over the past few years. I appeal to all our alumni, to kindly support us either in cash or kind, when the time comes to make this Center World Class.

I also take this opportunity to appreciate and thank all the UoN partners who have supported students and the graduands today in various training and placement opportunities through the newly created Office of Career Services. We are encouraged by such fruitful relations among partners such Huawei, Workmate Virtual Job Finder, Fuzu and the Ministry of ICT Ajira Program just to mention a few. They have promoted practical skills through provision of

attachment and internships, soft skills, career talks, specialised trainings, mentorship and coaching. I urge the graduating class to remain open to these opportunities even as you exit from the University.

Finally, I wish to notify all our alumni that on Saturday 30th November, 2019, the Association convened an Annual General Meeting (AGM); amongst other items of agenda was election of office bearers. I am glad to announce that the following University

alumni who are registered with the Association were elected to steer the Association for the next three years:

Position

Office Bearer

Mr. Isaac Awuondo - Chairman

Dr. Anne Aseey - Vice-Chairperson

Prof. P. L. O. Lumumba- Secretary

Dr. Fronica Monari	-	Deputy Secretary
Mrs. Mildred Owuor	-	Treasurer
Dr. Hastings Ozwara	-	Deputy Treasurer
Mr. Johnson Kinyua	-	Organizing Secretary
Mr. Andrew Gakiria	-	Deputy Organizing Secretary
Mr. John Orindi	-	Newsletter Editor
Mr. Brian Ouma	-	Co-opted Member
Dr. James Michira	-	Co-opted Member

In concluding my remarks, I appeal to you our graduands, to register with the Association, which will serve you in future as a link with your alma mater and give you more opportunities in future to reconnect, support and engage in activities of the Association.

On behalf of the Association, I wish you all a happy festive season.

**God bless you all as you start to chart your futures;
and I wish you well in all your future endeavours.**

God bless the University of Nairobi

Thank You.