SPEECH BY THE CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL UNIVERSITY OF ELDORET

DURING THE 7TH GRADUATION CEREMONY

AT

THE UNIVERSITY OF ELDORET GRADUATION PAVILION
ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29th 2019

Salutation:

- Our Guest of Honour, the Honourable Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry of Education Prof. George Magoha,
- The Chancellor, University of Eldoret, Amb. Prof. Judith Mbula Bahemuka, Chancellors of other Universities present,
- The Chairperson’s of Governing Councils of other universities present,
Members of the University Council,

The Vice-Chancellor, University of Eldoret, Prof. Teresa Akenga,

Vice-Chancellors of other universities present,

Deputy Vice Chancellors,

The University Senate,

All Members of the Teaching as well as non-Teaching Staff

Members of the Students Council,

All invited Guests,

Graduands,
Parents and all Alumni present,

All continuing students,

The University of Eldoret Neighbourhood Community,

Ladies and gentlemen.

Good Morning!
On behalf of the University of Eldoret Council, I take this opportunity to welcome you to this 7th graduation ceremony as we join the graduands in celebrating their singular achievement. I am most delighted to stand before you today, to celebrate with you, particularly those graduating today, your great journey to your much cherished and much deserved degree or diploma.

The joyous end of the long-awaited journey is here. This is your day. It is a historic and a memorable occasion which is a turning point in your life. We are here together with your fellow students, academic and non-academic staff, parents, and friends as witnesses and
celebrants of your great, enviable achievements. Right at the onset, on behalf of council and this entire congregation, I wish you all, warm congratulations!

**Madam Chancellor**

Let me use this occasion to thank the Government for the unwavering support it has given the University in terms of financial backing to develop some of our key capital projects. I appreciate the University Management Board, the Senate, and staff for their hard work and commitment to realize the juicy fruits we are savouring today. I must
also in a special way appreciate our students who have shown endurance and remained focused, disciplined, and peaceful during the year, and indeed all the years of their study, making learning to proceed smoothly.

Our efforts to transform this University have received enormous support from various quarters.

Once again, I would like to thank the Government of Kenya through the Ministry of Education, and other government bodies such as the National Research Fund for availing research funds to students, and
the Higher Education Loans Board for the financial support to most students, most specially the needy ones.

I wish to also thank our other development partners and the local community for the great sacrifice and conducive working environment that they have offered to this University.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Henry Ford, the great American industrialist and business magnate, once said “Coming together is a beginning, staying together is a progress, and working together is a success”. This, we have adhered to in the last
six years since we were awarded the charter. The Council, with the support of our parent Ministry of Education has endeavoured to put in place appropriate standards in accordance with the University Act 2012. This has been instrumental in enabling the Council with the able guidance of the University Management Board to oversee the smooth running of the University. Currently, the University has conducted vetting for the FY 2019/2020 performance contract negotiation, and more so, the University is in the process of implementing the 2019-2024 Strategic Plan which is aimed at addressing the long term development agenda of the University.
Through the various statues and policies implemented by the council and University management board, they have come in handy in assisting the university to enhance prudent governance and better use of resources. These policies and statues act as the University guide in overseeing key operations. By adhering to these policies and statutes, the University has continued to excel in its offering of quality education to meet its mission as a center of Science, Agriculture, and Technology. For instance, this year, the University Council together with the University Management Board came up with the Risk Management Policy, Finance Policy, Income Generating Unit Policy,
Electronic Waste Policy, and ICT Acceptable Use Policy. These have been vital in regulating key operations of the University.

It is also evident that the University is faced with financial challenges. These have stalled completion of key capital projects. I would like to request our government through the Ministry of Education to help and assist the University to meet its mandate and obligation within its operating environment. As the Chair of Council, I would like to assure you that the University Council and Management Board will also on its part work around the clock to seek for more resources, from both
public and private entities, to supplement government efforts to advance the University's Mission and Vision.

Dear Graduands

As Marcus Garvey whom we all know as the celebrated Jamaican Orator once said, “it is with education that we become prepared for our duties and responsibilities in life”. Therefore, with this degree, you now have a responsibility to yourself, your family, and your country. Working hard, as you go into the job market, knowing you were created for a reason and a purpose. Put into good use the skills,
attitudes, and training that you have acquired during your stay in the University to transform your respective environments.

As I conclude, I would like to encourage you to be worthy ambassadors of the University of Eldoret. Go, serve, and serve with honor and pride. Practice good governance, integrity, transparency, and accountability, and always uphold our national values which we cherish and hold so dear in our hearts.

I wish you all the best in your future endeavours.
May God bless the work of your hands. Let me wish each one of you a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year 2020.

Dr. David Ojakaa
Chairman of Council-UoE