



**SPEECH BY THE CHANCELLOR, JARAMOGI OGINGA
ODINGA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DURING THE 9th GRADUATION CEREMONY HELD ON
FRIDAY 22nd APRIL, 2022 AT THE UNIVERSITY
GRADUATION SQUARE, MAIN CAMPUS, BONDO.**

- **The Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education, Professor George Magoha**
- **The Principal Secretary, State Department for University Education and Research, Amb. Simon Nabukwesi**
- **The Ag. Chairman of Council, Dr. Jonah Kangogo**
- **Members of the University Council**
- **The Vice-Chancellor, Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology, Prof. Stephen Agong'**

- **Vice-Chancellors from sister Universities**
- **The University Management Board**
- **Members of the University Senate**
- **Staff**
- **Graduands**

- **Parents and guardians**

- **Distinguished ladies and Gentlemen**

It is a great privilege and honor to preside over this ceremony by welcoming you all to Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology's 9th graduation ceremony.

Let me congratulate today's graduands for your success. We are gathered here in this joyous occasion to celebrate your hard work,

dedication and commitment that has culminated in today's celebration. It has been a difficult and uncertain time for everyone, but I would like to commend the graduands for the adaptability and creativity you have shown in completing your studies.

Congratulations to your families, guardians, faculty and staff who contributed to your success. It has no doubt taken great vision and dedication to pursue a successful end-goal towards attainment of your achievement today.

I thank the University Council for providing an oversight role which continues to shape the University's growth process, not forgetting the

University Management under the leadership of the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Stephen Agong' for the tremendous role they continue playing in producing skilled capital into the economy.

Dear Graduands,

The University was created to have a transformational impact on our region, economy, people and our community, today we have made the best use of technology to ensure the unsurpassed delivery and experience of blended learning to deliver this virtual graduation. I think

we can be proud of the impact we've had. As graduates, you will play a vital role in supporting this mission, across our region and beyond.

I wanted to leave you with some simple guiding principles as you move into the future. The first one is to be resilient. The most successful people are some of the most resilient, the ones that quickly bounce back after a crushing blow or a minor setback. You are entering the world today in one of the worst economic conditions, so you will need to be resilient. Experts say that the best way to do this is to have a clear set of goals and to not lose sight of them. Remember that failures and mistakes are part of life and use them as a learning experience. Stay grounded in

your values and be flexible. The most successful entrepreneurs failed many times before they found what worked.

And finally, never, ever compromise your integrity. Your reputation is everything and without it, you are nothing. Be known for being honest, fair and consistent in all that you do. There is nothing more powerful in any business than trust. It unlocks doors and is by far the most important element to anyone's success. With trust comes respect, and how you earn respect is by doing what's right, regardless of personal risk. By now you know the difference between "right and wrong", so always strive to do what is right.

One of the most important things you learn at the university is promoting change while aiming for excellence and distinction, apply this principle throughout your lives. Use the knowledge and expertise you have acquired not only for your private benefit but also for the benefit of society at large, to advance the general public good.

As you begin a new chapter of your life, please go forward with confidence, knowing that all of us across the university support you and wish you every success for the future.

The university gates will always be open to you, whether you are looking for career advice or thinking about another course to enhance your skills.

Ladies and gentlemen,

While a graduation ceremony is an occasion to make merry at one's achievement, it is also an opportune time for reflection. Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology was granted its charter on 13th February 2013 with the mandate to serve as a national resource for

the creation and preservation of knowledge, and to produce human resource for the job market in the country and beyond. This graduation today attests to our ability to fulfill this mandate.

In this regard, I wish to thank all members of staff for remaining dedicated and focused. I thank all our partners: the local and international organizations that have shown interest in working with us. I cannot forget the local leadership and community with whom we have forged a formidable partnership for our mutual good. Their steadfast support to the University has been our strongest pillar of strength.

The University is in the process of developing and improving infrastructure and modern teaching and research facilities thereby creating a conducive environment for scholars. These capital projects once complete will open up research opportunities within the Lake Victoria Basin and position the University as a global centre of excellence in teaching, research and outreach as well as being a leader in university education.

Finally, dear graduands,

There is more to achieving a degree than the degree itself. You have expanded your horizons, reached a new founded appreciation of community and humanity. You have a sense of common purpose and not least by gains in your confidence and abilities. You have also made the kinds of friendships that last a lifetime – it is indeed an invaluable gift.

Once again, let me congratulate each and every one of you on this occasion of your graduation, and as you leave this Institution, please bask in the importance of your achievement.

As a new member of our growing alumni community, you will always be part of the JOOUST family.

Thank You and God bless you all!