



**SPEECH BY PROF. STEPHEN G. AGONG', PhD, FAAS, VICE-  
CHANCELLOR, JARAMOGI OGINGA ODINGA UNIVERSITY OF  
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DURING THE 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADUATION  
CEREMONY HELD ON 23<sup>RD</sup> FEBRUARY 2018 AT THE GRADUATION  
SQUARE.**

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- The Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education, Amb. (Dr.) Amina Mohamed,
- The Principal Secretary, State Department for University Education and Research, Prof. Japhet Micheni Ntiba
- The Chancellor, Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology, Dr. Vimal Shah
- Chancellors of Sister Universities
- The Chairman of Council, Dr. Walter Ongeti,
- Chairpersons of other University Councils

- **Members of the University Council**
- **Vice-Chancellors of Sister Universities**
- **Members of the University Senate and Management Board**
- **Staff**
- **Graduands**
- **Parents, sponsors and Guardians**
- **Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen**

Let me start by welcoming you all to Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology's 5<sup>th</sup> Graduation Ceremony. We are here to celebrate our graduands whose dedication, hard work and perseverance have borne fruits today. Indeed, we also want to thank the mentors who have seen the graduands through this path, namely parents, guardians and sponsors who have been instrumental in seeing you through this academic journey.

**Mr. Chancellor Sir,**

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Amb. Dr. Amina Mohamed for being appointed the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education, similarly, I would like to congratulate Prof. Micheni Japheth Ntiba for being appointed the Principal Secretary, State Department for University Education and Research. Feel most welcome to the University.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology continues to produce graduates' students who are job creators. Our students have continued to shine in areas of innovation and practical skills relevant to the

current job market. I am confident that the University has adequately prepared them for the task ahead.

Last year alone we were able to bag awards as the University that best demonstrates Innovation and creativity. The innovations clearly demonstrated our commitment to research and innovation. We intend to upscale these innovations and patent them towards our research for development and for commercialization objective.

**Mr. Chancellor Sir,**

The University continues on its path towards world class recognition as it seeks to be competitive in training, research and community outreach. Our staff continue to participate in high profile research projects funded by grants from the National Research Fund and other internal donors.

Recently one of our Postgraduate students won a prestigious global award by being nominated a L'Oréal –UNESCO for Women in Sciences awardee from our School of Mathematics and Actuarial Sciences. Her work is already contributing towards food production and the engineering sector.

This goes a long way to demonstrate the seriousness we take in advancing sciences, and technology for the good of our Country.

**Dear Graduands,**

When you go out there be our good ambassadors and be exemplary in the work you do. As a University, we remain committed to academic quality and integrity. That is why we adhere to strict quality standards and guidelines.



The diversity in the University has impacted in you the values of tolerance, peaceful co-existence and dialogue. Use these values to protect the integrity of this great Institution. Like the others who graduated ahead of you, do not hesitate to come back to interact with your mentors, join our alumni network and grow it and partner to build this great University.

You have displayed discipline and commitment to complete your studies. I would therefore implore on you to remain good ambassadors of this University as you serve your communities and the country.

**Mr. Chancellor Sir,**

We continue to open our doors to our stakeholders, collaborators and partners as we aim at being a world class University. We have collaborated with various research and corporate bodies as we aim to improve the quality of education offered. Our recent open day demonstrated the thirst with which the public had to learn about what the University offers. We received overwhelming response from our partners, the community and stakeholders. We will continue to open our doors for consultation and feedback on our programmes, products and services.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

Our ultra-modern laboratories are now complete and ready for utilization. This will go a long way in increasing our student's practical capacity. We are still embarking on expanding and improving our physical infrastructure. Currently we are expanding our health care unit to include more bed space and enable the facility to accommodate our increasing student numbers.

More recently we acquired property for our Kisumu Campus. This is with an aim of expanding and reaching out to our clientele with adequate teaching space.

**Mr. Chancellor Sir,**

We have embarked on internationalization by enriching our academic experience through collaborations with international bodies and Universities. One of the collaborations we have had recently is from the Alexander Von Humboldt Foundation through which a research Centre is being established at the University to deal with environmental health of Lake Victoria. We want to encourage and invite more collaborations of this nature to increase our presence globally.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

Let me thank our staff for their continued dedication and effort in the quest to produce world class graduates. I appreciate our scholars who have gone beyond the call for duty to respond to calls for grant proposals through various collaboration and research initiatives to the tune of over 80 million shillings. I would wish to congratulate them for this achievement. As a science and technology institution, we are ready to lead in innovations that are geared towards solving societal challenges.

**Finally,**

Let me thank the Government through the Ministry of Education for the continued support.

I would also like to thank the University Council, led by the Chairman of Council, Dr. Walter Ongeti for the steadfast guidance and direction you continue to give this University. We value the transformative leadership that you continue to provide.

**To our Chancellor,**

We appreciate the steadfast leadership that you continue to offer this University.

With those remarks, I wish our graduands all the best in their future endeavors.

**Thank you and may God bless you all!**