

**SPEECH BY DR. BONFANCE MWANDOTTO, PhD, HSC, CHAIRMAN,
JARAMOGI OGINGA ODINGA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL, ON THE OCCASION OF THE
UNIVERSITY'S 3RD GRADUATION CEREMONY HELD ON FRIDAY,
27TH MAY 2016 AT THE UNIVERSITY GRADUATION COURT**

**Dr. Vimal Shah, Chancellor, Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of
Science and Technology,**

Dr. Fred Matiang'i Cabinet Secretary, Education, Science and Technology

**Prof. Colleta Suda, Principal Secretary, State Department of Higher
(Universities) Education,**

**Your Excellencies, the Ambassadors and High Commissioners and other
Dignitaries present,**

Chancellors of Sister Universities,

Members of the University Council,

Chairpersons of other University Councils,

**Prof. Stephen Agong', Vice Chancellor, Jaramogi Oginga Odinga
University of Science and Technology,**

Vice-Chancellors of Sister Universities,

Members of the University Senate and Management Board,

Staff,

Graduands,

Students,

Parents and Guardians,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

May I take this opportunity, on behalf of the entire University Council, to convey our congratulations to our Chancellor, Dr. Vimal Shah, on his appointment as the Chancellor of Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology and being conferred an honorary degree of the Doctor of Science *honoris causa*.

I join the Chancellor in warmly welcoming you all for accepting our invitation to grace this occasion. I recognise with great appreciation the presence of all our visitors who have made time to be with us today.

I would like to assure you of the support of the entire University Council in fulfilling the mandate and steering our University into a formidable centre of excellence in education, research and innovation.

In the same vein, I wish to convey our special message of congratulations to all the graduands on their momentous achievement. This marks the end of one stage and ushers them into another in their pursuit of academic excellence. I am confident that our graduands are fully prepared for the life ahead. I have no doubt that the kind of training that they have received here will fit them into the practical side of life and enable them employ their knowledge for the good of the nation and humanity in general.

Dear Graduands,

Today, you are receiving the key to the door of your future professional success. I trust that the leadership qualities that you will demonstrate out there will reflect the values that you have nurtured during your years here.

This is your achievement; but you should always remember the sacrifices others have made to ensure that you stand here today. Strive to payback for the

sacrifice by serving society with utmost diligence and selflessness, a service that forever seeks to make a positive change and put a permanent smile on the faces of the millions of suffering people in the world.

Chancellor Sir,

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 foremost pillar of strength.

Allow me to sincerely thank the members with whom we serve in the University Council. The members have taken up the challenges including: putting in place structures and systems for the development and maintaining the desired standards of quality for our University. We are on course towards positioning ourselves as a centre of excellence in training, research and innovation; and still ensuring we remain at the grass root with the people through community outreach.

As a Council, we feel greatly honored to serve this Institution at this point in its history. Allow me to also pay tribute to the members of the University Management Board and Senate for their commitment to duty and immense contribution to the University's success.

Chancellor Sir,

I wish to record the appreciation of the Council to the Government, which has continued to give us support. I wish however to state here that, as has been outlined in our Strategic Plan and the Master Plan, this University is entering a

crucial stage of its development, a stage where we shall need the support of all our stakeholders with the Ministry's full support to accord more deserving Kenyans access to quality education.

I therefore appeal to you, Sir, to kindly support us in seeking for more resources from the Exchequer. In the same way, I call upon all our stakeholders to join in an effort of establishing our University as a leading centre of academic excellence in this region and beyond.

Chancellor Sir,

I pledge to work closely with you in addressing the challenges in the access of quality education. Together with the University senate I would like to assure you of making this great University a leading Institution for academic excellence in training, technology and Innovation.

Our University has continued to receive numerous commendations. The University recently won funding for establishing an African Centre of Excellence for Edible Insects. This Competitive effort will bring to the University Ksh. 600 million towards research and capacity development in Africa. This is no mean fete. In the last one year, the University also won the fire award in financial management reporting and was the only University among other state corporations.

We do not want to rest there. We want to be recognized world over for our innovation and technology. This Mr., Chancellor Sir, is our driving force.

With God's wisdom, I am ready with my team to promote and profile, our brand and image globally.

Once again, may I wish all the graduands a prosperous life in the future.

Thank you and wish you God's Blessings!