



**SPEECH BY DR. VIMAL SHAH, MBS, CBS, CHANCELLOR, JARAMOGI  
ODINGA ODINGA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
DURING THE 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADUATION CEREMONY HELD ON FRIDAY 23<sup>RD</sup>  
MARCH, 2018 AT THE GRADUATION SQUARE.**

---

- **The Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education, Amb. (Dr.) Amina Mohamed.**

- The Principal Secretary, State Department of University Education and Research, Prof. Japhet Micheni Ntiba
- Fellow Chancellors from other Universities
- The Chairman of Council, Dr. Walter Juma Ongeti
- Chairpersons of sister Universities present
- Members of the University Council
- The Vice-Chancellor, Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology, Prof. Stephen Agong'
- Vice-Chancellors from sister Universities
- Members of the University Management Board
- University Senate

- Staff
- Graduands
- Students
- Parents and guardians
- Ladies and Gentlemen

I am deeply delighted to preside over the Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology's 5<sup>th</sup> Graduation Ceremony today. I want to thank the graduands for your sacrifice and dedication.

To the faculty and staff, thank you for your dedication that has culminated into today's celebrations. This shows the Universities commitment to produce graduands who are responsive to the labour market.

I thank the University Council for providing an oversight role which continues to shape the University's growth process. I will not forget to thank the University management under the leadership of the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Stephen Agong' for the tremendous role it continues to play in producing skilled capital into the economy.

**Dear Graduands,**

The University has given you all the necessary skills you need to be able to perform optimally in the job market. I will urge to be job creators and not job seekers. Use your intellect to create job opportunities for others, let what you have been taught work for you in providing the necessary skilled manpower to the economy, become good representatives of the University and role models in your respective places of work.

I would implore on you more importantly live and uphold a sense of integrity and moral values. One of the most important things you learn at

university is promoting change while aiming for excellence and distinction, apply this principle throughout your lives.

The reality facing you now is that you must keep abreast with the latest developments in your areas of specialization. Some of the professions you hear of today may cease to exist in the near future. If you decide to become an entrepreneur, you will need to be ahead of the others, quit being a follower.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

Allow me in a special way to welcome the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education Ambassador, Dr. Amina Mohammed to this auspicious

occasion of the 5<sup>th</sup> Graduation Ceremony of Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology. I wish to congratulate you, ambassador for being appointed the Cabinet Secretary for Education. As a University, we are privileged CS that this is the second University Graduation Ceremony that you are attending in the country in your new capacity. I also wish to thank the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education Prof. Micheni Ntiba for gracing this occasion and also congratulate you for being appointed Principal Secretary, University Education and Research.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology, has paid premium to addressing global challenges that are in line with vision 2030. The University has received a number of interested partners on our World Bank funded insefoods project that seeks to address food insecurity in the global front. This goes on to show you that when knowledge is put into good use this are the kind of results it yields, results capable of providing solutions using locally available resources.

**To our graduands,**



It is not enough to simply try and get by in life—that does not move the world forward—you must strive to excel in everything you do—excellence in every task, large or small. The decisions you make starting today will determine what you become. Your academic journey is not over yet and you must be clear on the end result and how you wish to get there. You will face many challenges but this is what the “real world” is all about and the next phase in your life is a great training ground for your future success.

You must think big, dream based on not what is, BUT on what might be. You will have amazing networking opportunities in your next phase—

you will meet new people with different cultures, values, attitudes and knowledge. Take full advantage of this opportunity as my own children have benefitted significantly from networking in their professional lives. It is easy to remain in the comfort zone in terms of the friends' circle but the best lessons in life are learnt through reaching out.

Do not be afraid to be fearless. We all must have goals and we will have fears about achieving them but it is how we handle those fears that determine whether or not and how quickly we get there. Not every project or task we undertake can be successful—when it is not successful,

learn from the mistakes made, and take the necessary remedial measures on the next project.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

The world is swiftly and constantly changing and evolving, human capital is soon going to be extinct. Therefore, it calls upon innovators to rise above the theories and develop new frontier of thinking, new knowledge, new ideas that can be marketed globally.

Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology has a number of programmes that encourage innovative thinking such as bachelor of science degree in forensic science, that is unique. Such programmes need the learners to invent new ways of fighting cyber-crime and solving hacking of systems. I believe that the graduands seated here today are going to offer solutions to economic problems and not become job seekers.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

The University has developed and improved infrastructure and modern teaching and research facilities thereby creating a conducive environment for scholars. I challenge the University to commercialize research output and create new industries that will employ graduates.

Once again let me congratulate you for the hard work and dedication and wish you all the best as you seek to position yourselves in the labour market.

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