



**SPEECH BY DR. VIMAL SHAH, MBS, CBS, CHANCELLOR, JARAMOGI OGINGA ODINGA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DURING THE 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADUATION CEREMONY HELD ON FRIDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2018 AT THE GRADUATION SQUARE.**

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- H. E Hon. Uhuru Muigai Kenyatta C.G.H., President Of the Republic of Kenya
- The Right Honourable, Raila Amolo Odinga
- The Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education, Amb. (Dr.) Amina Mohamed.
- The Chief Administrative Secretary and Principal Secretary, State Department of University Education and Research, Prof. Collette Suda
- Fellow Chancellors from other Universities
- The Chairman of Council, Dr. Walter Ongeti and members of the University Council
- Chairpersons of sister Universities present
- 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
- Graduands

- Continuing Students
- Parents and guardians
- Ladies and Gentlemen

I am elated to preside over this 6<sup>th</sup> Graduation Ceremony of Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology. Congratulations to the 2018 2<sup>nd</sup> Cohort for the hard work and commitment that has culminated in today's celebration. To your parents, guardians and mentors, we continue to thank you for the continued support to your children and the University, without your support we could not have been seated here today.

Let me also thank the University fraternity led by the Chairman of Council Dr. Walter Ongeti and the Vice Chancellor Prof. Stephen Agong', for the strategic direction in shaping the university's growth process, the faculty for your steadfast commitment to steer the graduands to this end.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

Let me take this rare opportunity to congratulate the President, His Excellency Uhuru Kenyatta and the Rt. Hon Raila Amolo Odinga for being conferred with Doctor of Sciences Degrees (*Honoris Causa*). We appreciate and acknowledge the role played by the President of the Republic of Kenya and the Rt. Honorable Raila Odinga in shaping Kenya's socio-economic space.

I wish to extend my congratulations to the Rt. Hon Raila Odinga for your recent appointment as AU special envoy for infrastructure development.

The focus on the award of these honorary degree awards marks a major turning point for JOOUST in decorating the head of state and a senior

citizen. This therefore acts as a mark of growth for the institution and it marks the second of its kind where we have had 2 graduations in a year, this means that students will not have to wait for too long to graduate.

**Dear Graduands,**

The University has given you all the necessary skills you need to be able to perform optimally in the job market. Use your intellect to create job opportunities, 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.

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.

While the current trends in higher education trend towards the fields of science and technology, it is just as important as ever to keep in touch with changes in learning trends and to forecast possible future growth. The state of our workforce depends on how higher learning adapts to the changing needs of the workplace and those who fail to adapt to these shifts may be left in the digital dust.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

There is a growing concern about the employment prospects of recent university graduates all over the world. Governments have for years put

pressure on universities to be relevant and responsive to society's needs. It was initially focused on applied research, but recently, improving employability has been added to the list.

Therefore, it calls upon all of you candidates to be outstanding at whatever task, you are called upon to perform. It starts with being active and going out of your way to stand out of the crowd. It requires you to keep abreast with the local trends and technology. The University may have limited resources to enable you acquire all the up-to-date technological skills, you should be able to research and come up with innovations that will secure your future and career.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

I want to most sincerely thank the Ministry of Education for your support and efforts made in making University education accessible. We however acknowledge the resource challenges that we continue to experience as a public university. Capitation continues to be a huge challenge to all public universities. Improving the outcome quality of our graduates continues to be a standing commitment.

We are determined more than ever to look further at avenues through which the University can supplement its resources to be able to tap into other avenues of revenue collection. Key among these is making use of innovations by partnering with industry so as to make them marketable, research proceeds through writing fundable proposals, while at the same time engaging with our partners in areas of support where possible.

**Dear Graduands,**

I want to encourage you to be positive always, be principled, pro-active and productive. Don't get discouraged when a job you really want does not pan out for you, it just opens up jobs to other opportunities. Make connections; your biggest assets are your network. Be patient; It won't be easy but you have to start somewhere. This is just the first step on the stairwell, so don't give up, and know that the best is yet to come.

Develop good time management habits early on. Your workload will only increase with time, and so will your responsibilities Be ready when they do.

**Never Stop Learning;** The people who succeed, are not necessarily the people who graduate at the top of the class or have the most money or best connections, it's people who are adaptable and can evolve with the industry and that are competitive and have more job security. So don't get complacent, read the news and trade publications, be aware of what is going on in your industry and where it is headed. That way you can make sure to hone skills, or take classes to acquire a new skill if necessary. Do not let yourself become outdated.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,** with this few remarks, let me wish you a happy festive season.

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