



**SPEECH BY AMB. STEVEN LOYATUM, CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL
JARAMOGI OGINGA ODINGA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY, ON THE OCCASION OF THE UNIVERSITY'S 6th
GRADUATION CEREMONY HELD ON FRIDAY, 14th DECEMBER 2018 AT
THE UNIVERSITY GRADUATION SQUARE**

- **H. E Hon. Uhuru Kenyatta C.G.H., President of the Republic of Kenya and Commander-In-Chief of the Defense Forces**
- **The Right Honorable, Raila Amolo Odinga E.G.H**
- **The Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education, Amb. (Dr.) Amina Mohamed**
- **Chief Administrative Secretary and Principal Secretary, State Department of Education and Research, Prof. Collete Suda**
- **The Chancellor, Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology, Dr. Vimal Shah**
- **Chancellors of Sister Universities**
- **Chairpersons of other University Councils**
- **Members of the University Council**

- **The Vice Chancellor Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology, Prof. Stephen Agong'**
- **Vice-Chancellors of Sister Universities**
- **Members of the University Senate and Management Board**
- **Staff**
- **Graduands**
- **Parents, sponsors and Guardians**
- **Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen**

I am delighted to welcome you all to the 6th graduation ceremony of Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology. On behalf of the University council, may I take this opportunity to congratulate the graduands for your perseverance and dedication that has enabled us gather here today.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Let me take this early opportunity to congratulate the President of the Republic of Kenya, His Excellency, Hon. Uhuru Kenyatta President of the Republic of Kenya and the Rt. Hon. Raila Amolo Odinga for the awards of Doctor of Sciences (*Honoris Causa*) Degree. It is a great privilege for this growing university named one of the founding fathers of this great nation, Jaramogi Oginga Odinga.

It is with such spirit that we gather every year to celebrate the life of a visionary. His thoughts will continue to guide us from generation to

generation as we cherish the democracy whose foundation he laid through difficulties. Let me quote one of the great speeches he delivered in Kamukunji Grounds thus, “This is the first time you are truly happy to remember that we struggled for independence and won. It is the freedom to come together as we are doing today, discussing the future of our nation. It is the freedom to feel perfectly safe as a Kenyan anywhere you live in this Republic, perfectly confident that your government will protect you and your property. That your children and your children’s children will inherit the property you have honestly acquired in Kenya.

It is freedom to live an honest life. Speaking your mind in the Church, Mosque, press, parliament, the university, county council and even in the cabinet.”

Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology is pegged on this tenets, our core values embody the spirit of transparency, fairness and accountability. Our students who are gathered here today are among the most disciplined students in the country, we pride ourselves of being open and transparent even with the student bodies to avert situations of unrest.

Dear Graduands,

As you depart from this great institution, please remember that you have been molded into a professional who should come back and rebuild your institution. We urge you to be part of the growing alumni that will help build this university to a level where you want to see it yourselves.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The University council continues to lay great emphasis on research and innovation. We are continually encouraging our students to be creative and come up with innovative ideas that will propel them and the university to global standards.

The University, Master plan (2013-2065) and Strategic Plan (2016-2021) provides the framework on which steady progress towards a world class University is anchored. In the current (2018/2019) financial year, the University underwent transition and certification to ISO 9001:2015 to safeguard provision of quality services to all interested parties.

We will not relent on our quest to have quality service delivered to our clients, majorly the students. The University through the Council, with the support of the management board continues to oversee the prudent management of University funds to guarantee financial stability and sustainability. We are one among the few universities who have managed to remit all our statutory deductions and ensure that we meet all our financial obligations as required by the law.

We want to remain in this drift but can only do so through public-private partnerships, research and innovation. We are therefore requesting like-minded organizations to join hands with us in making this university one of the greatest institutions regionally.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As the university council, we have continuously made a concerted effort to deliver on the commitments that the University has made to the people of Kenya and the academia at large. We undertake to address in the best way possible the challenges facing the University.

As the University continues to grow in size and scope, facilities are an immediate challenge. The Council has to move with speed to ensure that the growing student population is commensurate with the learning facilities. To tackle this challenges however requires a huge outlay of financial resources that the University does not readily have.

For this, the University has undertaken to oversee Private-Public Partnerships as a way of bridging this gaps.

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

I am aware that the university has accomplished a lot within the short period of its existence. This would not have been possible were it not for the committed leadership of those charged with giving strategic direction to the University's Management.

The Council has and will continue to work with the University Management to ensure that competent staff in all cadre, quality facilities and financial resources are mobilized for the sustainable development of the University.

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

Recently, we have had 49 students who have joined our University from diverse countries in Africa to study under our INSEFOODS project in Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security programme.

We are pleased to note that this is in line with the Government's requirement to develop market driven programmes. JOOUST is on course and we intend to attract students globally in such projects as this.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The University council embarked on a stakeholders' engagement forum which has so far resulted in 2 staff engagement fora with an aim of improving our services and attracting clientele.

I can assure you that we intend to have more of such engagements with a wide array of our clients including our students so that we can be able to improve on the quality of our University.

As a university council, we believe that through such avenues we could be able to get to the root of what ails our system with a view of making necessary adjustments. This is aimed at ensuring that we are productive as a University as well as offer quality service to our customers, mainly the students.

Dear Graduands,

You are now joining our growing alumnus; the role of alumni throughout the world cannot be underrated. With a strong alumni base we can be able to have role models and inspiration to fellow students; act as career mentors; provide expertise and an opportunity to access professional development; improve student recruitment efforts and most importantly, increase efforts in collecting funds and supporting the University's reputation.

Let us work together in building this great university. I am particularly very pleased to welcome the Rt. Hon Raila Odinga being now our alumnus to be at the forefront in the establishment of the Center.

With this few remarks let me thank you all for gracing this occasion and wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy new year!

