

**ACCEPTANCE SPEECH BY DR. VIMAL SHAH, MBS, CBS, CHANCELLOR,
JARAMOGI OGINGA ODINGA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ON
THE OCCASION OF THE 3RD GRADUATION CEREMONY HELD AT THE
UNIVERSITY'S GRADUATION COURT**

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

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

**Dr. Bonfance Jumwa Mwandotto, Chairman of the Jaramogi Oginga
Odinga University of Science and Technology Council,**

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

Your Excellencies, the Ambassadors and High Commissioners,

Chancellors of Sister Universities,

Members of the University Council,

Chairpersons of other University Councils,

Vice-Chancellors of Sister Universities,

Members of the University Management Board,

Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology, Senate,

Staff,

Graduands,

Students,

Parents and Guardians,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is indeed a great honor and privilege to stand before you on this historical day in my life. With a great sense of humility and honor, I accept this appointment as the Chancellor of Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology. I take this most humble opportunity to thank , His Excellency the President of the Republic of Kenya for honoring me with this appointment to serve the University.

I wish to extend my deepest respect and appreciation to all the stakeholders in this Institution. Special thanks go to, our Cabinet Secretary, Dr. Fred Matiang'i, Principal Secretary, Prof. Colleta Suda, the Chairman Dr. Jumwa Mwandotto and members of JOOUST Alumni Association, the Council, the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Stephen Agong', members of the University Management, Senate, Staff and students.

May I also take the opportunity to thank the Government, through our parent ministry, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, for your continued support. We look forward to the continued support in order to enhance our effort in fulfilling our mission, vision and mandate.

I stand before you today honored by your trust, and inspired by your charge. I am grateful to the entire University's fraternity for the confidence that you have bestowed on me. I am touched by the greetings from our community of staff, faculty, students, and alumni.

I am indeed honored and humbled to become the Chancellor of Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology named after one of Kenyan's founding fathers and a great nationalist, Jaramogi Oginga Odinga. We shall team up in steering this University to greater heights.

I will work with all stakeholders to ensure that this University grows to become a leading institution in Science and Technology. I am therefore urging the entire University community to redouble their efforts in building this institution to live up to its vision as the beacon in training, research and development.

As the Chancellor of Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology I feel honored to be part of this process. I will always strive to contribute, in any humble way, to the training of skilled human capital that our country so badly needs.

Graduands,

We are proud of you for successfully completing your various courses. Well done and congratulations. It is not everybody who is as privileged as you are. It has been said that for you to succeed you need three kinds of power; the power to begin, the power to continue and the power to finish. You have had all the three powers. Not only did you also finish, you finished strong.

My passion and commitment to the youth remains true. I have mentored and will continue mentoring young professionals. I believe that you young graduands seated here today have been empowered with knowledge and skills that will catapult you into successful business people. The vision to be the leading institution in research and innovation gives me hope on the caliber of graduates that are graduating here today to receive various awards.

I want to pay tribute to my predecessor, the late Professor Jonathan Ole Karei. He was an accomplished scholar, a humble leader and a foresighted mentor who touched the lives of many intellectuals, scholars and the general citizenry.

I knew him as a trustworthy individual and a dependable leader in his own right. I am sure the entire JOOUST community realises how privileged they were to have had him as Chancellor of this University though for a very short time.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We are today releasing to the labour market, and to society, a team of young men and women who are among the best in the country and in the region. They have gone through one of the best institutions of higher learning. They have been equipped with knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary not only for the potential jobs but also to navigate their way through life. Above all, they are itching to apply what they have learnt.

I would once again like to thank the Council under the chairmanship of the council's, Dr. Jumwa Mwandotto, for a sterling performance. Indeed the council's work speaks for itself. I also wish to thank the entire team of dedicated staff of the University, led by the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Agong', for the good work they have done and continue to do for this great Institution.

I join you in this noble task of building our nascent Institution, believing that together, we shall make Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology the University of Choice both regionally and globally.

In conclusion, may I take this opportunity to thank you all for gracing this occasion. It is your presence that has made it so colorful.

Once again thank you very much and God Bless you!