

**SPEECH GIVEN BY PROF DANKIT NASSIUMA, VICE
CHANCELLOR, KABARAK UNIVERSITY DURING THE
THIRD GRADUATION CEREMONY HELD ON
FRIDAY, 16TH NOVEMBER 2007.**

Your Excellency Mr. Chancellor Sir, the Board of Trustees, Members of the Governing Council, Management, Parents, Guardians, Staff, Students, Graduands, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we celebrate this 3rd Graduation Ceremony, I wish to welcome each one of you here today. I particularly would like to welcome our guest speaker, Rev. Dr. Ergur Caner to Kabarak University and to this special occasion.

I wish to congratulate our graduands on their academic achievement. This occasion is a result of your hard work and marks a new season in your lives- a season that comes with new challenges and choices. As a University, we are proud of you and are confident that you will be able to handle the challenges of the new seasons.

I want to thank the Board of Trustees, Members of the Governing Council, Parents, Stakeholders, Staff and Students for the contributions and team spirit that has culminated into this auspicious occasion.

The University has grown from less than 100 students at inception in 2002 to over 1000 students today which is a 10 times growth in 5 years. Staff (teaching and non-teaching) has also increased from below 50 to over 200 during the same period. We are thankful to God for enabling us to come this far.

The University has three Schools/Faculties: School of Business, School of Science, Engineering and Technology as well as the School of Education, Arts and Theology. The degree programs offered include Bachelor of Commerce

degree, Bachelor of Business Management & Information Technology, Bachelor of Science in Economics, Bachelor of Science in Economics & Mathematics, Bachelor of Science in Computer Science, Bachelor of Education Science and Bachelor of Theology among others.

We intend to introduce new degree programs in Environmental Technology, Telecommunication as well as Law in the very near future. We also intend to start postgraduate degree programs.

Our degree programs are benchmarked to internationally competitive standards and we will continuously work to enhance the quality of both teaching and learning. Some of our Lecturers are involved in the British Council sponsored Post Graduate Certificate in Academic practice and Kabarak University hosts the program. In our commitment to ensure high academic standards and to nurture scholarship, we are moving into the module system which will guarantee student centered learning. All this is geared towards enhancing the quality of learning and teaching.

Mr. Chancellor, Sir, our graduates have received the best possible training and we are confident in their ability to face the challenges of nation building and service to humanity.

The University offers partial scholarships for those students who excel in their academics. The financial support includes the Chancellor's List, The Dean's List and the Work for Study program. Through these programs, the University has, in the last five years disbursed about 6 million shillings to deserving students.

These efforts are modest and largely depend on what the University is able to raise. I believe that this is one of the areas where our partners could lend a hand. I want to particularly thank the Trans National Bank which has been supporting students pursuing academic programs here. We

commend them for the support and urge other corporate bodies to emulate them.

At the moment, we are working on a framework to establish an Endowment Fund which we hope will be ready sometime early next year. Once this is in place, we are hopeful that we will use the funds to support more needy students.

We provide a variety of services to our students. The University medical clinic is managed by AAR and has a resident doctor. The University also offers counseling services as well as sports and recreation programs. We also have adequate and homely accommodation facilities and a safe and friendly learning environment for study.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, We take our corporate responsibility seriously and are involved in a number of activities aimed at impacting positively on the surrounding community. We house the public run Health Center and members of the public are able to access medical services within our campus. Recently, a Voluntary Counseling & Testing facility was opened and members of the public are saved the trouble of traveling long distances to access medical services.

Our students have also been active in community outreach activities. SIFE club has run programs targeting the local community at Kampi ya Moto while the Fonacon Club has continued to make financial and food donations as well as paying visits to charity homes. Some students were, as recently as a week ago, involved in a clean up exercise in Nakuru town. We shall, in the coming year, play an even greater role.

Our library has a sitting capacity of about 1,500 and can house up to over 100,000 volumes of books in both print and electronic formats giving our users access to as good material as can be found in any good library anywhere in the

world. With the library's Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) our users can access online journals and internet browsing within and outside of the library building throughout.

In keeping with the University vision, we are committed to producing graduates with the knowledge, skills, and moral character desirable in the work place and the communities that they will serve in. We are happy that our first two batches of graduates have continued to distinguish themselves in their various work stations. We wish to encourage our graduands today to follow in the footsteps of their predecessors.

Plans are underway to launch the Alumni in the near future and we are hopeful that the alumni will play a significant role in building the university.

Mr. Chancellor, Sir, I wish to conclude my remarks by urging the graduands to heed the words of the Psalmist that says

"Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful, but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night".

Our graduands are part of our treasured resource and I urge each one of you to watch your walk and make the best use of the education that you have acquired here at Kabarak University. Please serve as good ambassadors wherever you go to serve God and humanity.

Thank you very much. I wish you a blessed Christmas season and a fulfilling new year.

The Lord bless you.