

VICE CHANCELLOR'S SPEECH ON THE OCCASION OF THE AWARD OF THE CHARTER TO KABARAK UNIVERSITY BY HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT MWAI KIBAKI – FRIDAY, 16 MAY 2008

1. Your Excellency President Mwai Kibaki, the President of the Republic of Kenya and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of Kenya; Your Excellency Mr. Chancellor Sir; The ^{Asst} Minister for Higher Education, Science & Technology Hon. ^{Asman Kamama} ~~Dr. Sally Kosgei~~; The Chairman of CHE, The Secretary of CHE, Your Excellencies the Ambassadors; distinguished guests, staff and students. ^{Fellow VCs}

2. First, I wish to take this opportunity to formally welcome Your Excellency, Mr. President to Kabarak University. I also thank your Excellency for coming to Kabarak University and presiding over

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today's Charter Award ceremony. Your presence here affirms your commitment to education in this nation.

3. Your Excellency Mr. President, let me also welcome our Chancellor, the ~~2nd~~ President of the Republic of Kenya, His Excellency, Hon. Daniel Toroitich Arap Moi, the second President of the Republic of Kenya and founder of this institution. *We are grateful for his generosity and willingness to share the future with others.*

4. Last but not least, I wish to extend my warm welcome to the many dignitaries who have joined us today; government ministers, the Commission Higher Education, Vice Chancellors from other universities, the Board of Trustees, the Governing

Council, Parents, Staff and Students. Their presence makes this occasion all the more memorable. We are particularly grateful to our parents and partners who have supported us over the years. I am sure that this occasion also fills them with much joy.

5. As the Kabarak University community, today's occasion marks the culmination of the great vision and foresight of H.E. Hon. Daniel Arap Moi the 2nd President of the Republic of Kenya. He has tirelessly worked to shape the rich legacy that Kabarak University has today. We are therefore humbled that the time which God chose for us to be awarded the charter has come.

6. Your Excellencies, I wish to begin my remarks by thanking the Almighty God for His faithfulness to our institution. I also wish to acknowledge the hard work and tremendous effort of men and women who have been part and parcel of the achievements that we are celebrating today. I also wish appreciate the creativity and tireless work by our Lecturers as well as the non-teaching staff. It is my joy to also pay tribute to our dear students and our ALUMNI who have done us proud by their hard work and exemplary character in the work place.

7. Kabarak University started as Moi high school Kabarak in 1979 and it quickly became a popular and excellent school of choice and

hope for many who yearned for quality education. Many in this gathering who hold very senior positions in this country can attest to it. In 1999, H.E Hon Daniel T. Arap Moi, the second President of the Republic of Kenya commissioned a steering committee with notable members who are here being ^{Mr Benjamin Kipkulei} ~~Hon Sally Kosgei~~ and Prof. Crispas Kiamba to prepare a proposal for the establishment of Kabarak University. The committee proposal led to Kabarak University being granted a Letter of Interim Authority (LIA) from the Commission for Higher Education on 16th October 2000.

8. In September 2002, the University admitted its first group of 109 undergraduate students who have since graduated. The student

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numbers have steadily grown to the current number of 1000^{distributed} in six degree programs. This is in line with our desire as a University to be small and strong. The University started with 59 members of staff and this has grown to the current 175

9. Your Excellencies, the road to the award of the charter today has been a long and arduous one having started in 2000 and lasted about eight years. I want to thank The Commission for Higher Education for its meticulous attention to detail that has helped us to reach where we are today through constant advice and encouragement. We are sincerely grateful the Commission team for being supportive throughout the eight years.

10. From the time that the letter of interim authority was given, the University embarked on the development of various academic programs as well as administrative and social structures. Kabarak University currently offers degree programs within three schools. The Business School offers bachelor degree programs in Commerce, Economics, Business Management and Information Technology and Economics with Mathematics. The School of Theology, Education and Arts offers degree programs in Theology and Education (Science). The School of Science, Engineering & Technology offers degrees in the basic Sciences as well as Computer Science.

11. We intend to start new degree programs in Law, Telecommunications, Health Sciences, Environmental Technology as well as Education (Arts) at undergraduate level. At masters level, we intend to start programs in Business, Education and Theology. In developing its programs, the University focuses on areas in which it has competitive advantage and in line with its vision and mission. It also takes into account the Nation's manpower requirements. The university is currently laying emphasis on a few areas of study that include Electronics & communications, Telecommunications, information technology, Business Management, accounting and finance, Theology &

Chaplaincy, Law and health sciences. Each of these programs is based on integrating academic learning and faith within our modular system of teaching and learning.

12. Towards enhancing the Teaching and learning experience, We have been able to, and continue to recruit highly qualified staff in all sectors of the University. Some of our lecturers are currently involved in a British Council sponsored programme, Post Graduate in Academic Practice (PCAP) which is aimed at improving learning and teaching in higher education and equipping our Lecturers to effectively transmit information to students in a way that leads to the discovery of knowledge through scholarship and research.

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Having our lecturers in this programme is part of benchmarking our academic quality to those of international standards.

13. The University continues to work on ways to promote research among our staff as integral part of academic work and currently allocates a portion of its budget towards research and attendance of academic conferences by our staff. We also continue to support staff pursuing various academic programs aimed at enhancing their capacity. At the moment there are 6 Lecturers pursuing PhD programs both locally and internationally while 10 others are undertaking various programs ranging from diploma to masters level.

14. At an infrastructural level, we have continued to improve our learning resources over the years. Our library is one of the most modern in Africa and is fully networked and provides internet and Public Access Catalogue Services within and outside of the library, thereby ^{enabling} providing our library users access to online resources available virtually anywhere in the world. The University has provided our students and staff with state of the art ICT facilities to support their learning and working objectives. We are confident, therefore, that our students undergo very high standards of training.

15. Your Excellencies, This day marks a new era for us as a University and opens new challenges in our drive towards our vision. I want to assure your excellencies that the Charter will not make us relax but will inspire us to work harder. In keeping with the Kabarak University vision, we are committed to producing graduates with the knowledge, skills, and moral character desirable in the work place and ⁱⁿ the communities that they will serve in. We will go beyond words and produce something worthwhile as **Mark Twain said that "Noise produces nothing and often, a hen who has merely laid an egg makes so much noise as though she has laid a star"**. We will move as per the words of the Lord in **Heb 12:1-2** "... we will throw off

everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles and we will run with perseverance the race marked out for us. **We will fix our eyes on Jesus**, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God”.

16. Finally, I wish to thank H.E the President once again for gracing our occasion and granting us the charter. May God bless you and grant you wisdom as you continue to manage the affairs of this great Nation. We also thank H.E the Chancellor, the trustees and all our distinguished guests as well as those who have send us messages of goodwill. And finally, I want to express my gratitude

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to all the students, Staff and the entire Kabarak community for their contribution to the successful realization of this day.

God bless you all

• Good Will Messages

I now wish to invite Chairman of the University Governing Council, Prof. John Lonyangapuo to make his remarks and invite the Chancellor.