

**KABARAK UNIVERISTY**  
**THE CHANCELLOR'S SPEECH GIVEN ON THE**  
**INAUGURATION CEREMONY OF PROFESSOR DANKIT**  
**NASSIUMA ON 7<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2007 AT KABARAK**  
**UNIVERSITY.**

"The Board of Trustees, Members of the Governing Council, The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dankit Nassiuma, Chancellors and Vice Chancellors from other universities, Students, Staff, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I greet you all in Jesus' name.

First, let me offer my congratulations to Prof. Dankit Nassiuma on his inauguration as Vice Chancellor of Kabarak University. He is an energetic, humble and respected scholar whose contribution we look forward to.

Kabarak University started in 2000 and this year marks five years since its inception. We started it with a view to responding to the growing demand for university education in this country and in the East African region in general. At the time, thousands of Kenyan youth were going to the United Kingdom, the United States of America and India among other countries to seek university education. The country was in turn losing millions of shillings in foreign exchange and so we felt that there was need to curb this outflow.

My main desire, however, was to start a university which would be a center of academic excellence and at the same time produce people with strong moral values and integrity. Indeed the University's moral code derived from 1 Peter 3:15 states: "As members of Kabarak University family, we purpose at all times and in all places, to set apart in one's heart, Jesus as Lord." I urge you to commit yourselves to

this moral code. You must always remember that the "Fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge."

The University should place greater emphasis on producing both conscientious and servant leaders. They should be persons of unquestionable moral uprightness and integrity. This is what will give graduates of this University an edge over all others. If you do this, you will have lived true to the University's vision and mission.

I have over the years warned against tribalism, as this is the cause of most of problems bedeviling the African continent and I urge the youth of this nation to shun away from this vice. I am happy to note that students in this University come from diverse backgrounds and coexist harmoniously. Do not let yourselves to be divided along the lines of tribalism.

The quest for academic excellence depends largely on the quality of leadership in any institution, more so in an academic institution that prepares the youth to fit in the various roles of nation building. It is with this in mind that we made the new appointments in the University Management; that of Prof. Dankit Nassiuma as Vice Chancellor and Prof. Peter Kibas as Deputy Vice Chancellor. I am confident that these two professors will stimulate and actualize our desire to transform this institution into a center of excellence. I therefore urge you to work together in order to attain academic excellence.

There is a greater need for you to maintain unity of purpose at all times as you manage the affairs of this University. The staff, students and parents will all look up to you. You should therefore not compromise your moral integrity. More importantly, I urge you to make this institution a financially viable entity.

The task of leadership is demanding and requires a lot cooperation among key players in any organization. I

therefore urge the members of the Governing Council, Management, all Staff, Students and Parents to support the new Vice Chancellor. That is the only way that will guarantee success in this institution.

I did emphasize the core values that form the foundation of this University earlier in my speech. Students have a greater responsibility in protecting the image of the University. I challenge each one of them to avoid practices that may tarnish the University's good name and call upon them to act in a manner that will endear them to those they interact with. There is value in observing moral uprightness.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I have stated before that this University should play a leading role among universities in this country and region. This requires each one of us to play our role if this goal is to be realized. I therefore wish to see more research output and publications for use in both higher and lower institutions of learning.

I have previously stated that Kabarak University is not a profit making institution. This is because of my desire to see many young Kenyans acquire quality university education. The University, must however, operate in a financially viable manner. It must be able to meet its needs and chart its own plans for the future. University managers, on the other hand, need to ensure that any growth does not undermine the quality learning. We must never compromise on quality.

Before I conclude this speech, let me thank all the Lecturers and Non-Teaching staff members for their invaluable contribution both individually and collectively. The success of this University is your success as well.

Finally, I want to wish all the students success in their examinations, which will commence at the end of this week. Keep working hard for a better future.

Thank you and may God bless you abundantly."