

**Speech by The Chancellor, Kabarak University, H.E Hon. Daniel T.
Arap Moi, CGH, EBS
During the Kabarak University 7th Graduation Ceremony on
18th November 2011**

The Guest Speaker,
Members of the Governing Council
Faculty and Staff
Parents and Guardians
Graduands
Distinguished Guests
Ladies and Gentlemen

I greet you all in Jesus' name.

First, let me join the Governing Council Chairman and the Vice Chancellor in congratulating the graduands for their hard work and commitment to their studies.

I wish to thank all those who have worked tirelessly to prepare the students and make this graduation a success. A graduation ceremony is always an important day because it is an occasion when we celebrate the successful academic nurturing of men and women. It is my joy to see people with such great potential graduating from this university to go out to serve the nation.

This 7th graduation is an important milestone in the institution's achievements as we see today and I am confident that the university will continue to grow even more. As I have always stated, I would wish for the university to remain small but of high quality.

I fully support the university's plans to initiate new programs, especially the Health Sciences degree programs. I have no doubt that the envisaged programs will make Kabarak University a center of academic excellence. As you continue to pursue these programs, I want to urge you to ensure that quality is not compromised.

It is always a pleasure to see young people making efforts for the betterment of their lives. My urge to the graduands is that wherever you

go, use your knowledge to serve others selflessly and in humility. In addition, you will find it useful to distinguish yourselves as persons of integrity and moral uprightness so that you earn respect among your peers and the society at large.

Today, we are commissioning you to go out and serve as champions of truth and integrity in this country. This nation needs you to be the voice of reason amid all the chaos and confusion; to be a source of hope and inspiration amid all the despair, and to be your brother's keeper.

Let your motivation to work go beyond getting money but wherever you go, serve with commitment and diligence knowing that you are serving God. You need to play your rightful role in society rather than remain passive members.

Education is expensive, especially higher education, but I must once again commend the parents, guardians and sponsors for having chosen to invest in the education of our youth even in the current harsh economic challenges. May you be blessed for having worked hard to help shape this remarkable generation of truth.

We all must ensure that our country remains peaceful and stable for it to develop. Peace is very vital as we pursue various development goals. We know of countries that have enormous resources but lack of peace has made them to be among the poorest in the world.

Given our colonial legacy, there can be no quarrel with redress and social equity for economically and socially disadvantaged poor in our nation. However, pervasive inequities cannot be wished away by invoking constitutional idealism based on the bill of rights. Such an approach has many dangers that could mainly benefit the political and economic elites. This will simply reproduce severe class inequalities that already exist. Similarly, using ethnicity to redress social equity could produce ethnic groups and ensure that we continue to construct identities primarily along the lines of tribe.

It is thus important for us as a nation plagued by social and economic inequalities, to have our goal as well as our strategies aimed at eroding and dissolving ethnic groupings and ensuring that our identities are rich, multiple and dynamic rather than being frozen along tribal lines.

We must never lose sight of the fact that the ultimate goal is to establish a non-ethnic society in which social and cultural diversity is celebrated

and seen as a source of vitality, and in which tribe ultimately has no political or economic significance.

In conclusion, I wish to reiterate my call to all Kenyans to continue living in unity and working towards lasting cohesion for the prosperity of this country. We must never take the peace in our nation for granted.

As we come to the end of the year, I wish all of you a merry Christmas and a prosperous new year.

God bless you.

H.E Daniel T. Arap Moi, CGH, EBS
Chancellor, Kabarak University