

**SPEECH GIVEN BY PROF. JOHN LONYANGAPUO,
CHAIRMAN, KABARAK UNIVERSITY GOVERNING COUNCIL,
DURING THE THIRD GRADUATION CEREMONY 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,

On behalf of the Governing Council and the entire Kabarak University fraternity, I wish to extend my warm message of congratulations to the graduands standing on their hard earned success. We are proud of you and are happy to share this special moment in your life with you.

The thousands who are gathered here today are testimony to the growing confidence and esteem with which the Kenyan public holds you. It is also a testimony to public approval of the programs that we offer here. It is therefore necessary for you to reward that confidence and trust by discharging your mandate efficiently and effectively anywhere you are called upon to serve. We have placed a great premium on the core values of creating leaders who are fit to serve both God and mankind and we will look forward to seeing how you fit in this role.

The Governing council will continue to improve the physical infrastructure that supports teaching and learning activities so as to guarantee the best services to our students. We are considering constructing a Ladies hostel and are working to complete on-going work at the Students Center and the Senate building. Already more learning space has been created following the conversion of the former library building into lecture rooms.

The Governing Council has hired experienced academics and has effected better terms with a view to retaining them. We are committed to improving these terms and so all staff should expect better things in future.

During last years' graduation ceremony, I urged the government to increase funding to the universities so as to enable more qualified students to access higher education.

I want to reiterate that call to the government and further call for more support for privately run universities. These universities play a major role in curbing the loss of millions of shillings in foreign exchange that go towards meeting university fees abroad and also in producing the much needed manpower essential towards the realization of the national vision 2030. Funding to our private universities will create more space for our youth. An academically endowed youth is a recipe for economic and social development of this country.

Your Excellency Mr. Chancellor Sir, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and gentlemen, allow me to share the following thoughts with our graduands today.

This graduation is a major turning point in your individual lives as you will, from now on learn to fend for yourself and seek ways to pursue the various options available in life. The options will include seeking employment, pursuing further studies and other avenues for self development. All these options are achievable and so I will not talk about them. In stead, I wish to address three challenges that you are likely to encounter and also offer some advice on what you may do to overcome them.

The first challenge may be your shaken confidence and faith after a few failed attempts to secure employment. What I wish for you to understand is that God has a divine design for your life and He will meet the desires of your heart in His own time. You must therefore keep the faith and trust in Him.

Secondly, you will find yourself cast into a turbulent world reeling in moral decadence. The earthly attractions will weigh down on you but if that ever comes your way, remember and apply the

values of moral uprightness and belief in God and you will remain afloat.

Thirdly, you may, like many graduates, find yourself becoming illiterate by not replenishing your intellectual resource. Make it a point to read and generate knowledge for that is what this graduation is really all about.

Finally, Your Excellency Mr. Chancellor Sir, I wish to conclude my remarks by reminding our graduands some of the expectations that we have of them.

We expect that you use your knowledge to serve God and humanity. But as you serve humanity, remember to be respectful to all, remember to be humble, remember to be morally upright and above all remember put God first in all your undertakings.

Once again, I congratulate each one of you on your earned success.

Thank you, and may the Lord bless you abundantly."