

TEXT OF SPEECH OF WELCOME BY B. M. GECAGA,  
CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF UNIVERSITY COLLEGE,  
NAIROBI, AT THE GRADUATION CEREMONY OF THE  
COLLEGE ON THURSDAY, 26TH SEPTEMBER, 1968.

---

Your Excellency Mr. Visitor, Sir; our honoured Guests:

My main and most gratifying task this afternoon is to welcome all of you as our guests to University College, Nairobi, and on behalf of the Governing Council of this College, the Staff and Students, to thank you for coming to share with us this ceremony at which we are greatly honoured by the presence of our Visitor, H. E. Mzee Jomo Kenyatta and Mama Ngina Kenyatta.

It is to us a matter of immense pride and joy that once again this year, Your Excellency, Mr. Visitor, Sir will officiate at this ceremony by affixing, so to speak, the seal of the University on those of our students who have laboured faithfully and dilligently and succeeded, thus deserving the laurels to be dispensed in the presence of the

many/.....

many witnesses who comprise this happy congregation. Likewise we are happy to know that it is from your hand, Mr. Visitor, Sir, that our distinguished guest, Dr. Robert Gardiner, will receive the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws of the University of East Africa of which University College, Nairobi, is a constituent College.

Na sasa mtaniruhusu kuongea na lugha ya kikwetu, yaani Kiswahili;

kwani ni lugha tamu, pia naamini ya kwamba watu wasio na lugha yao wanayojivunia ni kama mti usio na mizizi; vile vile mningependa kuonyesha dalili ya kwamba katika Chuo hiki kikuu hatuchukui tu mambo yafaayo kutoka mila za nchi zingine bali tunahifadhi desturi zetu na mila safi tulizopokea kutoka kwa baba na mama zetu na hata babu zetu.

Wajibu wangu wa kwanza na unaofurahisha ni kuwakaribisha nyote wageni wetu mliotupa heshima ya kufika kushirikiana nasi katika sherehe hii ya kutoa vyeti na digrii kwa wanafunzi wetu waliohitimu. Heshima

/kwetu.....

kwetu iliyo kubwa ni kwamba Bwana Visitor wetu, Mheshimiwa Rais Mzee Jomo Kenyatta, ndiye mwaka huu tena, kama miaka iliyopita, atakayetoa vyeti hivyo na digrii kwanza kwa wanafunzi wetu na baadaye kumpamba digrii ya heshima mogeni wetu mashuhuri Bwana Robert Gardiner. Pia mioyo yetu yachangamka kwa furaha kumwona Mama Ngina Kenyatta hapa miongoni mwetu.

Maneno yangu yatakuwa machache. Huu ni mwaka wa tano kutoka Mwaka wa Uhuru wa Kenya, yaani mwaka wa 1963. Katika muda huo uliopita tumekuwa tukitia bidii kupanua Chuo hiki na mafunzo yake kama sehemu yetu ya kujenga hili taifa la Kenya. Twaamini ya kwamba vitendo ndivyo vyenye maana kuliko maneno matupu tu.

Ningependa kuwaalika kuangalia picha iliyo chorwa ukurasa wa mwisho wa jalada la kijitabu cha mpango wa taratibu ya leo. Hapo mtaona ya kwamba mwaka wa 1963 Chuo hiki cha University College, Nairobi, kilikuwa

na/.....

na wanafunzi 573, katika hao kulikuwako na wasichana 89.

Wanafunzi waliopata vyeti vya digrii mwaka huo walikuwa 18 tu.

Mwaka huu, yaani baada ya muda wa miaka mitano, tumekuwa

na wanafunzi 1894 (yaani kukaribia 2000), miongoni mwao kukiwa

na wasichana 302. Watakaopokeo vyeti na digrii leo ni karibu

300 (295). Hapa naweza kuongeza ya kwamba wiki jana tu waliingia

wanafunzi 800 kuanza mafunzo yao.

Malinganisho hayo nafikiri yatatosha kuonyesha ya kwamba wafanyi kazi

wa Chuo hiki Kikuu, wakiwa wanachama wa Council, Mwalimu Mkuu

yaani Principal na maafisa wake, waalimu kadhalika na wafanyi kazi

wengine, na vile vile wanafunzi wenyewe, hatukulala bali tumekuwa

tukijitahidi kwa uwezo wetu kuitikia ule mwito wako Baba Taifa na

serikali yako wa "Harambee".

Walakini/.....

Walakini katika kazi yetu ya kujenga tunaolewa ile mithali isemayo

"Ajengaye siye atakayelala". Lakini hata iwapo hivyo wajibu

wetu ni kujenga msingi wa kudumu kwa vizazi hata ambavyo

havijazaliwa, kwani sisi jua litakapotushukia twatumaini kwamba

Kenya itaendelea kudumu na kusitawi.

Tukiangalia mbele katika mipango tulioifanya tunatumaini ya kwamba miaka

mitano ijayo tutakuwa na wanafunzi karibu 5000. Pengine wakati huo

itakuwa imeonekana wazi ya kwamba University moja tu haitoshi kwa

mahitaji ya Kenya, bali mbili au tatu zitahitajika.

Hotuba yangu itakoma hapo, kwani Principal, Dr. Arthur Porter, katika

hotuba yake ataeleza zaidi maendeleo ya mwaka uliopita.

Once again I extend to you all a very warm welcome.

26.9.68.