

MZEE AT SIXTH GRADUATION CEREMONY, UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

The following is the text of the speech by H.E. the President Mzee Jomo Kenyatta, Chancellor of the University on the occasion of Nairobi University graduation on 29th, October, 1976.

"On this sixth graduation day, we have come here to bear formal witness to the fact that your claim to have been trained at the highest national institution of learning is valid. In doing so we congratulate you on your success and the awards of diplomas and degrees just made. At the same time, we express our deep appreciation of good work of your professors, which together with your own, have led to this auspicious and happy occasion."

"Today's ceremony is indeed auspicious in that, the University has also conferred an honorary degree to a distinguished son of Africa, Mr. Amadou Mahtar M'bow. This is a token of recognition of his long and outstanding services to the development of education not only in his own country Senegal, but also in international field."

"Mr. M'bow received his higher education in France at the University of Paris. Upon his return to his country he became a teacher and lecturer in his country's schools and colleges. In 1957, he was appointed minister for education and culture in the first national government of Senegal and later as minister for youth and cultural affairs. He was also a member of the National Assembly and a member of his country's commission for Unesco. He joined Unesco in 1970 as an Assistant Director-General for Education and in 1974, he was appointed the 6th Director-General of Unesco, the first African to hold that high office."

"In congratulating Mr. M'bow it is our hope that his will be a living example for those of you who have now graduated to emulate."

"For most of you this ceremony is a passing out parade. You are now leaving the University fully trained and equipped in your various fields as doctors, engineers and so on. But the test is still to come. You have to prove yourselves in the battle-ground of nation building upon which you now embark. Like good soldiers, your government, your people and your country expects you not to let them down in our common struggle against our enemies underdevelopment, ignorance and disease."

"The degree of your success or failure in the nation-building endeavour will now depend not largely on the training and equipment which you already have, but upon your ability to work with others. This will be a test of your maturity as a graduate. No doctor, engineer or anybody else can function entirely on their own. The doctor will need his nursing and technician staff as much as the engineer will need his draughtsman and foreman if they are to do their job well."

"It is one thing however to work with others as one among many and quite another to work as one of a team. The essence of any nation-building is team work. We must strive to think and work in unity as a Nation and not as graduates and non-graduates or as this group and that other group. Such groupings only serve to dissipate our efforts in whatever enterprise we engage."

"To fit into a team calls for certain qualities that we must cultivate. First, one will need self-discipline as well as self-respect. No one will respect you merely because you are a qualified doctor if you do not give proper attention to your patients or you attend to them in such a state of intoxication that you can hardly read your thermometer. Nobody will consult you if you are the sort of lawyer who cannot be trusted with their client's money."

"It is not enough, however, to have self-discipline and respect. You must also learn to respect others. If we loved and respected others as we did ourselves, we would more easily create the team spirit that is so necessary and ~~so~~ lacking in the world today. The ^{divisions} ~~schisms~~ that so beset organisations, nations and the world would be bridged."

"Another cardinal quality is a sense of realism. There is a tendency in the world today for too many people to try to avoid facing reality. But we live in world that is real, and although it is good to have ideas and ideals, these should always be tested against reality and not just swallowed hook, line and sinker. He will be the most frustrated zealot of a graduate, who, full of ideas, attempts to impose them upon his firm. He must study the reality of the firm and persuade his colleagues that his ideas deserve testing if he is to avoid such frustrations."

"But above all, as a graduate, one must recognise one's responsibility to others and to the nation. Wananchi and the nation have discharged their responsibilities by making it possible for you to enjoy the facilities this university offers. so that you can get proper training not only to be an architect or a lawyer but also to think. The nation in turn expects you to reciprocate. To make your own contribution towards the development of our beloved republic."

"We wish you all every success in the future".

"H A R A M B E E"