**UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI**

**2022 VALEDICTORY SPEECH FOR THE 68TH GRADUATION**

**CEREMONY – 16TH DECEMBER 2022**

**Madam Chancellor,**

**Cabinet Secretary,**

**Chairperson and members of the University Council,**

**Vice-Chancellor,**

**Deputy Vice Chancellors(AA),**

**Associate Vice-Chancellor(RIE),**

**Chief Operations Officer,**

**Deans of Faculties,**

**Your Excellencies the Ambassadors**

**Our beloved Lecturers,**

**Parents,**

**Fellow Graduands,**

**Distinguished Guests,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen.**

**Good Morning!**

**My name is Miheso Collins Lemashon a graduand of Bachelor of Science in Human Anatomy Faculty of Health Sciences.**

**I am privileged to stand here today representing the graduating classes of the 68th Graduation Ceremony of the University of Nairobi. We are grateful that you could all be here today to partake in our celebration.**

**I want to begin by expressing gratitude to the Almighty for granting me the chance to be part of this prestigious institution, the University of Nairobi, for the opportunity to join the intercalated program while continuing with my primary studies in the Faculty of Medicine and thus manage to achieve a degree within a degree.**

**At least now I have something to assuage the concerned minds of my villagers who had started complaining that I have been in the University for too long. I am thankful to my mentors in the department of Human Anatomy under the leadership of Prof. Obimbo, the B.Sc. Anatomy alumni and M.Sc. students who collectively helped fashion my scientific thought processes. I extend my gratitude to the technical staff whose love, encouragement and expertise enabled me to complete my research projects. This new family I made has been an inspiration to be a better version of myself.**

**My success and all of you were also made possible through the tireless efforts of our lecturers, each one giving their best to make sure we understood complex concepts. All the lectures we attended, presentations we sat through, books and notes we tirelessly read have culminated to this point. It has been an overwhelming, intoxicating journey, but we've made it. I want to thank us for believing in ourselves, doing the hard work, never quitting, and having no days off. Much appreciation for the input of the non-teaching staff for willingly guiding us towards the realization of our academic goals by creating a reasonably conducive environment.**

**To my parents, thank you for understanding that the only inheritance you could dedicate to me was this education. I thank you, mum, for the love and support you continue to shower upon my siblings and me, always believing in me and encouraging me to pursue opportunities in my life. Your prayers and sacrifices have been nothing but invaluable. To all my friends who journeyed with me, I am genuinely grateful.**

**As we are gathered here under the umbrella of cherishing success, history has brought us through a winding trip that can only be defined by the faithful as a miracle. When we joined this premier institution a few years ago, for many of us, the first few steps were shaky; we never knew what lay ahead. However, we were all thirsty and wanted to drink from the fountain of knowledge, from the very best in the country and the region.**

**It's now our turn to take on those powers to read and do all that appertains to the degree. We have grown into holistic individuals with broader scope of knowledge, more enlightened visions of our futures and better skilled to transition into the world out there smoothly. This can be attributed to the morals, attitudes and values instilled in us throughout our stay at the University.**

**Finally, to my fellow graduands, I congratulate you all on this outstanding achievement. A chapter in our lives has closed to open the door for more chapters to be filled. We have heard it said that life is a river; most of us fail to realize that the river is circular, and the end of one chapter ushers the beginning of another. The pain of seeing you leave is softened only by the knowledge that each of us is destined for bigger and better things. It bids us better to remember that we are children of the community, a reflection of all who have stood behind us in our endeavours. As such, we should never forget to give back.**

**To quote Paul Kalanithi: “as our skills have increased, so have our responsibilities.” This calls us to employ the skills we have garnered for the betterment of society. When in the end, we are called to give an account of ourselves, to provide a ledger of what we have done, then we should be able to stand proud and say that we did all we could to ensure our fellow man had a better life.**

**Congratulations, class of 2022!**

**Thank you.**

**MIHESO COLLINS LEMASHON**

**FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES**