

**Sheikh Technical Veterinary School and Reference Centre  
(STVS).**

**Graduation Ceremony**

**July 25, 2012, Somaliland**

**Prof. Lucy W. Irungu**

**Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research, Production and  
Extension),**

**University of Nairobi**

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Protocol:

- Distinguished Faculty,
- Graduands
- Alumni, parents, and families
- Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for the invitation and for your very warm welcome. I am delighted to be part of this special occasion.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Today as we celebrate the graduation of the sixth cohort of the Sheikh Technical Veterinary School and Reference Centre (STVS), we also congratulate the parents, families and faculty, whose love and support brought you this far.

The proud history and strength of STVS is embedded in the strength of the students and faculty at STVS and the collaboration and partnerships with the various institutions, i.e African Union, Inter-Governmental Authority for Development (IGAD), Terra Nouva, European Union and Italian Cooperation and academic partnership with University of Nairobi, Makerere University, University of Addis Ababa, among others.

When the wonderful partnership was started and STVS initiative launched, I am sure that no one knew what the coming years will bring. I however trust that the partners hoped that progress and change would come through this initiative.

What we have today is a vibrant training and reference centre which aims at delivering professional livestock services to Somaliland and the Horn of Africa region, an area occupied by over 57 million pastoralists.

The excellent performance that has been demonstrated at STVS has shown that this initiative can and will support food security and sustainable development in the livestock industry in the region.

Today, we can confirm that all that effort has brought progress and change – and that this year's graduating class have been adequately prepared to be agents of that progress and change. I am especially looking forward to continuing the partnership between STVS and University of Nairobi.

To the graduating class, I believe that the excellent training programmes that have been articulately developed by STVS faculty and the academic partners have challenged you to reach your highest potential and make a difference in your communities and in the world. I do trust that you have received a fine education from STVS and will be that progress and change in your communities and the world.

I also trust that other lessons you learned from the people you met here and the friendships you built are now your strongest building blocks to your success.

Whatever you choose to do, do not be afraid to take risks or change course.

Congratulations to each one of you. Thank you for giving me this chance to share this special day with you.

Thank you.