SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR PROF. P. NDIRANGU KIONI ON FRIDAY MAY 28TH, 2021 DURING THE 10TH GRADUATION CEREMONY AT DEDAN KIMATHI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

1. Acknowledgments

- **The Chief Guest, Principal Secretary State Department for University Education and Research, Amb. Simon Nabukwesi**
- **Ag. Chancellor and Chairman of the Dedan Kimathi University of Technology Council, Dr. Jane Nyakang'o**
- **Members of the Dedan Kimathi University of Technology Council**
- **Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Dedan Kimathi University of Technology;**
- **Members of the Dedan Kimathi University of Technology Senate;**
- **Distinguished guests**
- **The Alumni Association;**
- **Parents and guardians**
- **All our graduands**
- **Ladies and gentlemen**

2. Opening Remarks

Good Morning?

It is my pleasure this morning to welcome you all to the 10th graduation ceremony honoring the achievements of our graduands. Today marks yet another milestone in the University calendar when we celebrate the culmination of years of hard work. I want to extend my congratulations to the class of 2021 graduating today and also take this opportunity to thank the parents, families, friends and colleagues who made this day possible.

This celebration reminds us that: to you a lot is given and that from you a lot is expected. All said and done, today is a day for you the graduands, it is a day for you to celebrate the efforts and hours you have put into your studies during the last few years that you have been a student of this University; it marks the sacrifices and hard choices you had to make to be successful in your studies. It marks an important milestone in your life.

Forge ahead knowing the University has invested in all the necessary resources required to give you a solid foundation to build your career.

4.Strategic alliances

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Over the years, the University has formed strategic alliances and collaborations with various like-minded organizations to ensure that we empower our graduates with superior skills and the requisite mindset that they need to deal with the challenges they face.

Last year, we partnered with the Kenya Film Commission (KFC) to start a digital media center which aims at curbing some of the challenges our youths are facing today such as unemployment through the use of technology. The partnership provides a platform where young people and

interested parties in creative art can use technology in film making and participate in the production of digital media products that can be marketed widely.

In line with this, we launched the DeKUT Film, Animation and Gaming Hub in May, 2020, which was presided over by the Cabinet Secretary, Information, Communication and Technology, Joe Mucheru. This was an initiative by KFC which seeks to devolve filmmaking and create opportunities at the grassroots. The Film, Animation and Gaming Hub is already operational with over 35 trainees at the moment. This creative industry is open to students, staff, and members of the public who are animators or film makers.

5.Accreditation of programmes

Ladies and gentlemen,

The University remains committed to providing an academically stimulating, culturally diverse, and quality learning environment that fosters research, innovation, and technology development towards producing relevant technical and managerial human resources and leaders to contribute to the attainment of national development goals. The programmes offered by the University are approved by the Senate and the various designated bodies like the Commission for University Education (CUE) and the Engineers Board of Kenya (EBK) with B.Sc. in Chemical Engineering, B.Sc. in Geology, M.Sc. Telecommunication Engineering, M.Sc. Biomedical Engineering, M.Sc. in Machine Tools Design and Manufacturing, M.Sc. in Civil Engineering, Bachelor of Technology in Building Construction, M.Sc. in Chemistry and M.Sc. in Forensics and Security Management being the latest programs to meet the CUE accreditation threshold.

6. Looking into the future

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The University, through DeHUB and the startup center at the Science and Technology Park, aims at providing a platform for our graduands and alumni to grow their businesses.With Kenya's youth making up 75.1% of the population and constituting the majority of the innovators and startup companies. The Science and Technology Park will offer an opportunity for these innovations to be developed into viable businesses. The STP will serve the role of facilitating rapid technology transfer, the creation of new companies and commercialization innovations for the purpose of wealth creation.

7..Final word to the graduands;

We have given you the skills and competencies you require to adapt to the dynamic realities of the modern job market not only as an employee but also as an entrepreneur and job creator. We look to thriving enterprises started by you in the coming years. Be assured of the University's support as you work in this adventurous path. We are proud of you. And, as you pursue your dreams out there, be good ambassadors of DeKUT.

Once again, congratulations to the class of 2021.