DEDAN KIMATHI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
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SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE AG. CHANCELLOR AND COUNCIL CHAIRMAN DR. JANE NYAKANG'O ON THURSDAY & FRIDAY, 26 &27TH MAY 2022, AT THE DEDAN KIMATHI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY FREEDOM HALL

Acknowledgements:

- Prof. George Magoha CBS, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education;
- Members of the Dedan Kimathi University of Technology Council;
- Prof. Ndirangu Kioni, Vice Chancellor of Dedan Kimathi University of Technology;
- Prof. Esther Magiri, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Dedan Kimathi University of Technology;
- Members of the Dedan Kimathi University of Technology Senate;
- The Alumni Association;
- Parents and guardians;
- Graduands;
- Ladies and gentlemen;

Good morning?

1. **Opening Remarks**

It is my pleasure this morning to welcome you all to the 12th Graduation Ceremony honoring the achievements of our graduands. Indeed, this convocation is a testimony that you have successfully gone through academic processes, and you are well equipped with relevant skills, knowledge and values commensurate with the demands of our economy. It is my sincere hope that the capacity and competence gained here will go a long way in solving the challenges facing our society. Well done.

2. Timely Completion of Studies

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The University has continued to maintain a student-centric approach that ensures that our students graduate on time. This has seen our graduates join the industry earlier than their peers. I am proud to say that our alumni continued to be leaders in diverse fields, flying the DeKUT flag high. We are delighted by the positive feedback we get from the industry on the performance of our graduates and the impact they continue to make in society.

3. Approved Policies and Plans

Ladies and gentlemen,

As the University Council, we have continued to support policies and initiatives that enhance a vibrant Research, Development, and Innovation Ecosystem at the University. This ecosystem is crucial to the success of the ongoing Dedan Kimathi Science and Technology Park (DeST-Park). In line with this, we have approved the establishment of nineteen (19) centres that are already operational.

The Science and Technology Park, which has attracted three anchor clients, will catalyze the development of new companies, attract international partners, and create high-quality jobs for young people. As it evolves, it will provide employment opportunities to some of you graduating here today.

The council also approved the establishment of the UNESCO chair on futures studies on social-technical anticipatory systems.

4. **Creation of the Office of Career Services and the Financial Aid Office**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

To ensure that our students' needs are catered for, the University established two offices this year. One is the Office of Career Services, which was officially launched in February by the Principal Secretary, State Department for Post Training and Skills Development, Mr. Alfred Cheruiyot. The office seeks to help students explore and develop their careers through industry linkages and mentorship programs. It will also engage our alumni and help them secure employment opportunities.

To ensure timely completion of studies, the University has created a Financial Aid Office, DeFAO, to assist the needy students through robust work-study programs that allow students to work while studying within the University. This helps them earn an income and also learn from various departments.

5. **Staff Welfare**

Ladies and Gentlemen

Let me take this opportunity to also thank our staff members for their unrelenting support and dedication to their work. The council is fully updated on the pending CBA issues. I look forward to full resolution of these matters.

6. **To our graduands;**

The University has confidence in your education and the skills you have been equipped with to deal with the emerging problems. I am sure that you will make the best out of the many opportunities and challenges you will encounter out there. I urge all of you to be good ambassadors of the University; carry yourself with dignity, discipline, and hard work as you build strong careers and enterprises to build the nation.

Once again, congratulations graduating class of 2022!!