DEDAN KIMATHI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
P.O.BOX PRIVATE BAG-10143, NYERI
Telephone: 061-2050000, 0727088807
Email: pro@dkut.ac.ke; website: www.dkut.ac.ke
Public Relations Department

SPEECH DELIVERED BY MR. JAMES WAIBOCHI, HONORARY DOCTORATE AWARDEE, DURING THE 15TH GRADUATION CEREMONY HELD ON 15TH DECEMBER 2023, AT DEDAN KIMATHI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

Acknowledgements

- Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education, Hon. Ezekiel Machogu;
- The Chancellor DeKUT, General (Rtd) Dr. Julius Waweru Karangi EGH, CBS, DCO, LOM
- The Council Chair DeKUT University;
- Members of the University Council;
- The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Eng. Peter. N. Muchiri;
- Deputy Vice-Chancellor Administration and Finance, Prof. Esther Magiri;
- The University Senate;
- Members of staff;
- Parents and guardians;
- Students;
- Graduands;
- Distinguished guests;
- Ladies and gentlemen;

Good morning?

It is an honour to join you today as you celebrate the 15th graduation ceremony and as we release over 700 graduates into the world of work.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I sincerely thank the Dedan Kimathi University of Technology for considering and honouring me with this honorary Degree for the nearly 40 years I was involved in founding and developing KIT to the Dedan Kimathi University of Technology. I did not expect this honour but I proudly accept it with gratitude.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I dedicate this award to all the people, dead and alive, who contributed towards the development of KIT in any way. I dedicate it to the founders, the trustees and Board members of the Institute, I also dedicate it to the school children who contributed one or two shillings each; the farmers who contributed a lot of money from their sales of Coffee, Tea and Milk; the Teachers and Civil servants who contributed from their meagre salaries and Businessmen from all the towns and markets of Nyeri; the Nyeri people living in the nearby diaspora of Nairobi, Nakuru and Nanyuki who collected large sums of money and remitted to the trustee account. Finally, I dedicate the award to hundreds of Nyeri people who walked a distance of over twenty miles, from Nyeri to Kiganjo to Marua and back to Nyeri for the purpose of raising funds. I would like to pay special tribute to the

late Amos Wamunyu, the then owner of White Rhino Hotel, who collapsed at Marua during the walk and had to be assisted back to Nyeri by fellow walkers, me included. We should all be grateful to all those people because without them there would be no DeKUT as we know it today.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I congratulate the University Management for the development which has been done since I retired from the University college management in 2011.Many buildings have been built since then and the student population has increased tremendously. The development has by far exceeded the expectations of the people of Nyeri. To me DeKUT is the best University of Technology in Kenya today.

Lastly, I would like to congratulate the students graduating today and wish them success in their future. I advise you students to thank your parents and guardians who helped you to get this far despite financial difficulties. The parents and guardians sacrificed a lot and deserve your thanks and support.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I know that your priority today is to get jobs. I was the Director of Kenyanization of Personnel Bureau for a long time and I know that jobs are scarce. The Bureau's mandate was to replace non-Kenyans with Kenyan employees. University students used to come to the Bureau for placement in employment. The Bureau is no longer there and expatriates to replace are few or none. Universities have increased and are releasing thousands of students into the job market every year. Therefore, do not choose jobs. Take what you can get within reasonable time. During my time at the Bureau, I knew some students who wasted valuable time and opportunities trying to obtain jobs they did not train for. For instance, some had graduated from Teacher training colleges but did not want to be teachers, because as they said, their parents forced them to take courses they did not want. You should also be creative, start your own business as soon as you can and become an employer, thus creating jobs for many other people, some of whom could be future graduates like you. When you get a job, do it well to the satisfaction of your employer. That is the only way you can retain the job and earn promotion. Being a graduate is not enough; you must also be productive, loyal and respectful to your employer.

Thank you and God Bless you.

Congratulations to the graduating Class of 2023!