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Public Relations Department

SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE DeKUT COUNCIL CHAIRMAN DURING THE 15TH GRADUATION CEREMONY HELD ON 15TH DECEMBER 2023, AT DEDAN KIMATHI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

Acknowledgements

- The Chancellor, General (Rtd) Dr. Julius Waweru Karangi EGH, CBS, DCO, LOM
- Dr. Wahome, Representing the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education, Hon. Ezekiel Machogu
- 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?

1. **Welcoming the new Chancellor and Introduce the members of the University Council**

Chancellor Sir,

We are honoured to welcome you as the second Chancellor of Dedan Kimathi University of Technology. Indeed, we are very proud of your appointment and look forward to benefit from your knowledge, experience and networks, for the betterment of our University. The University Council is fully committed and we look forward to supporting your aspirations of this great institution.

Chancellor Sir, welcome to Dedan Kimathi University of Technology!

I now request all the members of the University Council to be upstanding so that I can formally introduce you to the Chancellor and to everyone here present.

1. Dr. Davidson Mghanga
2. Ms. Esther Nyamoko
3. Ms. Pauline Jeruto Kurgat
4. Ms. Linet Muganda
5. Prof. Peter Muchiri (Vice Chancellor)
6. Absent with Apology: Mr Calleb Ogot (Council member who is the representative of the PS, Ministry of Finance).

2. **Welcoming everyone to the 15th Graduation Ceremony**

Chancellor Sir,

It is my pleasure this morning to welcome everyone here present to the 15th Graduation Ceremony, honouring the achievements of our graduates. Indeed, this is a testimony that the graduands have successfully gone through the academic process and are well equipped with relevant skills, knowledge and values desired in the world of work today. I sincerely hope that the capacity and competence gained here will go a long way in solving the society's challenges.

Congratulations to all the graduands!

3. University Council achievements

Chancellor Sir,

The University Council is committed to strengthening the policy framework in the University to align with the National laws and guidelines. As we come together to celebrate the joyous occasion of our second graduation ceremony since our appointment to the University Council, I am filled with immense gratitude and a sense of accomplishment.

Chancellor Sir,

I am happy to announce that the Council is committed in improving the University infrastructure especially following on the key flagship projects as envisioned; in first, the DeKUT Comprehensive Cancer Management Centre and second, the DeKUT Science and Technology Park (STP), will go a long way in creating societal transformation and impacting the national of our country.

The establishment of the DeKUT Comprehensive Cancer Management Centre will be a key driver to improving patients care in Cancer management, Oncology research and capacity building, for better health of our citizens.

The DeKUT Science and Technology Park, will play a big role in providing a platform for commercialization of research and innovations, establishment of start-up companies and enhancement of entrepreneurial ecosystem in the University. The Council has also overseen that DeST-Park is registered as a member of the International Association of Science Parks and Areas of Innovation.

Chancellor Sir,

The University has been able to expand its research activities through the establishment of over 22 Financially Independent Centers, which have been involved in various research activities and projects. Through these Centres, the University has also attracted a lot of funds through partnerships and grants from multiple institutions.

Chancellor Sir,

Allow me to commend the former Vice Chancellor Prof. Ndirangu Kioni for his vision and commitment to the growth of this University. Prof. Kioni served as the first Vice Chancellor from December 14th 2012 after the University was awarded the Charter. His leadership and hard work was exemplary.

On August 23rd, 2023, The University Council, in consultation with the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education, appointed Prof. Eng. Peter Muchiri as our new Vice Chancellor to steer the university to the next level. Prior to his appointment, Prof. Muchiri served as the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic Affairs and Research). Again, congratulation as well Prof. Peter Muchiri, you have your work cut out for you.

4. Congratulate the Graduates

Chancellor Sir,

I would like to congratulate our awardee for Honorary Doctorate Degree, *Honoris Causa*, Mr. James Waibochi. Through your exemplary service to the society and in the establishment of this University, you have provided our graduands a role model in commitment and dedication to every noble cause. You demonstrated that the pursuit of ideas and visions should not be limited by the present challenges. The pursuit of the vision provides a better future for all of us!

Finally, to our graduands, today marks the beginning of lifelong service to society. We have given you the skills and competencies you require to adapt to the dynamic realities of the world of work, not only as an employee but also as an entrepreneur and job creator.

We look forward to thriving enterprises started by yourselves in the coming years. Be assured of the University's support as you walk this adventurous path. We are proud of you. And, as you pursue your dreams out there, be good ambassadors of DeKUT.

As I congratulate you, I want you to reflect on the words of a man considered as the greatest and most influential scientist of all time-Albert Einstein

"Education is what remains after one has forgotten what one has learned in school."

Congratulations to the Class of 2023!