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SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE CHANCELLOR OF DeKUT 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 Council Chairman DeKUT University;
- Members of the University Council;
- The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Eng. Peter. N. Muchiri;
- Deputy Vice-Chancellor Prof. Esther Magiri;
- The University Senate;
- Members of staff;
- Parents and guardians;
- Students;
- Graduands;
- Distinguished guests;
- Ladies and gentlemen;

Good morning.

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

1. Thank the Government for the appointment.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to express my deepest gratitude for the honor and privilege of being appointed as the Chancellor of this great Institution by the President of the Republic of Kenya, Dr. William Ruto. I am dedicated to contributing my utmost to the success and progress of this great institution.

2. **Acceptance of the Appointment as the Chancellor of DeKUT.**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with a profound sense of responsibility and commitment that I accept this esteemed role, and I am truly humbled by the trust and confidence the government has placed in me. I am fully aware of the rich history, culture, and academic excellence that DeKUT represents. As I embark on this new journey, I am excited about the possibilities and committed to contributing to the growth and success of our esteemed Institution.

During my tenure as the Chancellor, I aspire to foster an environment that promotes academic excellence, innovation, Technology, entrepreneurship and inclusivity. I am eager to collaborate with the University Council, staff, students, alums, and the broader community to enhance DeKUT's reputation as a center for learning, research, innovation and positive societal impact. With proper education, innovation and research, people can be productive and self-reliant in all areas of human development.

With the collective efforts of our dedicated University Council, staff, students, and stakeholders, I am confident that we can realize the University's goals and vision. I look forward to collaborating with you and joining the DeKUT community.

I am honored and excited to serve as the Chancellor and contribute to the continued success of DeKUT.

3. **Resource Mobilization**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I want to express my deep commitment to resource mobilization as we embark on a new chapter of growth and excellence at DeKUT. As your Chancellor, I am fully aware of the importance of securing the necessary resources to support our academic mission, research endeavours, and the overall well-being of our University fraternity.

A thriving academic institution is built on vast financial support and effective utilization of available resources. To this end, I am dedicated to implementing a comprehensive and sustainable resource mobilization strategy that aligns with our vision for DeKUT.

Resource mobilization requires a collective effort, and I am eager to work collaboratively with our University fraternity, staff, students, and external partners to achieve our goals. I am confident we can secure the resources needed to propel DeKUT to greater heights through transparent communication, strategic planning, and a shared commitment to excellence.

4. **Developing strategic partnerships and collaborations**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I pledge to foster and develop strategic partnerships and collaborations as a critical pillar of our University's growth and success. Recognizing the transformative impact that collaborative efforts can have on academic excellence, research, innovation, and community engagement, I am dedicated to establishing meaningful connections with external entities.

5. **Shaping and contributing to the Nation's future**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

DeKUT plays a crucial role in shaping and contributing to the Nation's future through its commitment to education, research, and community engagement. It is my aspiration that during my tenure as chancellor, the University will continue to contribute to the nation's development by training and molding problem solvers, innovators and entrepreneurs.

6. **Looking forward to the development of the DeKUT Science and Technology Park**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As a University, we are dedicated to providing an all-inclusive supporting infrastructure to assist businesses in setting up, to innovate, and grow. It is on this premise that a National Science and Technology Park (STP) was established. It is an engine for innovation, incubation, development and commercialization of Technology. STP creates opportunities to commercialize Agro-tech research outputs through technology transfer from the rich human resources at the University. Further, by enabling networking and collaboration through well-structured processes and networks between suitable partners for innovation, DeKUT STP promotes investment opportunities for developers to realize significant returns. It is envisaged to stimulate the development of entrepreneurship, which will drive job creation in the country and develop self-reliant youths.

I am excited about the potential of this Park and believe that, with collaborative effort and dedication, we will create a thriving entrepreneurial hub within DeKUT.

7. **Conclusion**

Ladies and Gentlemen

As I conclude, you have the story of my life. What matters is not how you start the race. What matters is how you finish the race.

Albert Einstein, the father of modern physics at the age of 28 said that success in life is not just what you learn in school, success is only determined by 20% of what you know and 80%of what you do with the knowledge. If you are a Professor among us, think about that. If we create synergies in our University and not create Chinese walls and not work in silos, we shall move our University to the next level.

May God bless you and your families this holiday season and Merry Christmas and a happy new year to you and your families.

God bless you all!

Congratulations to the graduating Class of 2023!