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SPEECH DELIVERED BY WINNIE NJERI MUTHONI, REPRESENTATIVE DeKUT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, DEDAN KIMATHI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY DURING THE 17TH GRADUATION CEREMONY HELD ON 6TH DECEMBER 2024, AT DEDAN KIMATHI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

The Principal Secretary, State Department for Energy, Mr. Alex K. Wachira, Representative of the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education, Dr. Gideon Kivengea, Director of Research, The Acting Chancellor and Council Chairman Dr. James Kariuki, Members of the University Council, the Vice Chancellor, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Administration and Finance, The University Senate, University staff, parents, guardians and sponsors, fellow graduands, ladies and gentlemen; Good morning?

I am incredibly pleased to stand before you, representing the DeKUT Alumni Association Executive Committee and the entire DeKUTAA fraternity, saying **CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2024!**

My name is Njeri Muthoni, a graduate of the year 2020 when DeKUT became the first University to hold a virtual commencement for its graduates. It is a unique opportunity for me to be among folks with whom I'll share an alma mater while wearing this powerful academic regalia.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Most of you have shared paths, experiences and resources that have led up to this auspicious day. From here, the relationships you have created with your classmates, your lecturers, people with whom you shared hostels, sporting equipment, food and many other things will change, due to distance and the difference in which you will hit different milestones. You might lose the sense of community and togetherness this great place gave you. Each of you will take a different path, leading you to various destinations. I want to assure you that you are ready! For the challenges and opportunities that will come with the degree that you shall receive shortly.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

DeKUT has prepared you to be a resource that benefits the world, our country, and, most importantly, your communities. DeKUT has given you the unique opportunity to be near the remembrance of great African giants. I hope the greatness of this very place we stand in, the freedom hall which honours exceptional Africans has inspired you, the kindness of Sr. Irene Nyaatha has stirred empathy in your heart, the words of Thabo Mbeki, in the hero's garden, have reminded you of your africanacity, and most significantly, the busts of Nelson Mandela and Dedan Kimathi have reminded you of how great you can be.

So, go forth and be great! Again, on behalf of those who have sat where you sit today, a very hearty congratulations, and welcome to The Dedan Kimathi University of Technology Alumni Association!

Congratulations once more!