DEDAN KIMATHI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
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Office of the Council Chairman

SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE AG. CHANCELLOR AND COUNCIL CHAIRMAN DURING THE 17TH GRADUATION CEREMONY HELD ON FRIDAY, 6TH DECEMBER 2024, AT DEDAN KIMATHI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

Acknowledgements

- Principal Secretary, State Department for Energy, Mr Alex Wachira
- Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education, Julius Ogamba, EBS;
- Members of the University Council;
- The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Eng. Peter. N. Muchiri;
- Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Esther N. Magiri;
- The University Management and Senate;
- Members of staff;
- Parents and guardians;
- Students;
- Graduands;
- Distinguished guests;
- Ladies and gentlemen;

Good morning?

1. Opening Remarks

Ladies and Gentlemen;

First, I start by welcoming you all this morning as we celebrate DeKUT's 17th Graduation Ceremony. On behalf of the Chancellor and the University Council, I thank you all for coming.

This is yet another great moment when we gather to celebrate the outstanding achievements of our graduates and acknowledge their hard work and commitment. This occasion marks the culmination of your efforts, signifying your readiness to step into the dynamic professional world with confidence. The skills, knowledge, and values you have gained during your time at DeKUT will serve as powerful tools in addressing the challenges of our society and making a meaningful impact.

Congratulations!

2. Thanking All stakeholders

The success of this great University depends on the commitment of various parties and stakeholders.

With immense gratitude, we acknowledge the outstanding support from the Government of Kenya through the Ministry of Education.

I commend the University Management, the Staff and the students for their role in maintaining the smooth operations of the University and ensuring that we continue to celebrate success after success.

I cannot forget to appreciate the Council members that I work with for their commitment and focus on the interests and good of this University; I appreciate their great ideas and expertise which has made our work very easy. On behalf of the University Council, I want to renew our promise that we shall work tirelessly with a view to elevating the status of this institution to be at par with the best through quality leadership and governance.

Introduce the members of the University Council.

Dr. James Kariuki
DeKUT Council Chairman

Ms. Pauline Kurgat
Council Member and Chair Finance Committee

Ms. Linet W. Muganda
Council Member and Chair Strategic, Planning & Development Committee

Ms. Esther Nyamoko
Council Member and Chair Human Resource & Staff Welfare Committee

Ms. Christine Minyuki
Council Member, Rep. PS, Ministry of Education

Dr. Davidson Mwaisaka
Council Member and Chair Audit, Risk & Compliance Committee

Mr. Calleb Ogot
Council Member, Rep. PS, National Treasury

Prof. Eng. Peter N. Muchiri
Vice-Chancellor, Ex official Council Member

3. Why DeKUT?

Ladies and Gentlemen,

(a) Collaborations

DeKUT has entered into various partnerships and collaborations that serve as key drivers to its innovation, research and entrepreneurial ecosystem. The collaborations entered into with various esteemed academic institutions, industry players and international organizations have enriched our learning experience, bringing cutting-edge research opportunities, practical exposure, and access to a world of expertise.

(b) DeKUT Science and Technology Park (DeST-Park)

Notably, DeKUT as an entrepreneurial University is keen on developing research innovations, and transforming innovations into value products, business start-ups and spin off companies. From state-of-the-art research labs to dynamic startup incubators, the students are immersed in an environment that encourages them to think broadly.

The DeKUT Science and Technology Park, established by the government through the Ministry of Education will provide a great platform for the commercialization of innovation and creation of jobs. The park will be a beacon for groundbreaking ideas, fostering a culture where innovations will seek to solve day to day community problems. Whether developing cutting-edge technologies, conducting transformative research, or launching new ventures, this ecosystem has empowered them to become innovators and changemakers. We highly commend Semiconductor Technologies Ltd for setting base as the first anchor client of DeKUT-STP. Through the partnership of STL and DeKUT the University has managed to build capacity for human capital development in semiconductor supply chain for the benefit of the country.

(c) Financially Independent Centers

Ladies and Gentlemen;

The University has made remarkable strides in expanding its research activities by establishing over 20 Financially Independent Centers (FICs). These centres have spearheaded diverse research initiatives and projects, attracting substantial funding through strategic partnerships and grants from various institutions. They support cutting-edge research, community engagement, and student development without relying solely on institutional budgets. By generating their own resources, they embody the entrepreneurial spirit, enabling them to respond swiftly to emerging opportunities and challenges. These centers equip the students with independence, adaptability, and vision which are key to success, not just in academia, but also in life.

(d) Towards a Green University

In line with DeKUT's Vision 2040 and the 2023-2027 strategic plan, the University sets on becoming a fully carbon-neutral, sustainable, and environmentally conscious University. In this regard, we are in the process of transitioning to green energy systems on the entire campus. By harnessing the power of the sun and wind, we have reduced our carbon footprint, empowered the next generation with the tools to address climate change, and transformed our university into a model of sustainability.

Indeed, this initiative will not only significantly contribute to our commitment to a green campus but is also aligned with Kenya's broader mission to reduce carbon emissions in adherence to its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to global emission reduction targets, while reducing our ongoing monthly and annual electricity costs.

4. Congratulations to the Graduates

Ladies and Gentlemen;

To our graduates, thank you for your hard work, dedication, and resilience. You have navigated challenges, embraced opportunities, and grown into remarkable individuals during your time at DeKUT.

As you step into the next chapter of your life, I urge you to endevour to pursue excellence, create lasting impact, and build a future defined by progress and purpose. Let me prepare you irrespective of your stage in academic journey.

Journey to success

The journey to success is not easy, it is full of challenges and achievements (like what we are witnessing today). As you travel through this complicated path, your tenacity and drive to overcome challenges and celebrate achievements demonstrates your character and potential.

To put this into perspective, let us take a hypothetical case of 4 people who are set on a journey to various destinations using shared means of transport. Let’s assume the point of departure for all is at DeKUT.

Individual #1: Destination, Nyeri town
Individual #2: Destination, Nairobi City
Individual #3: Destination, Voi town
Individual #4: Destination, Mombasa City

I want us to focus on the mindset of individual #4. On reaching Nyeri town, the journey has just started but for individual #1 he is home and dry.

Individual #4 cannot be distracted by the arrival of Individuals #1, 2 and 3.

Depending on your individual future plans, you may have reached your destination; or the journey to success has just started; and to some there is some distance to cover.

Therefore, the journey to success requires a combination of focus, effort, and a positive mindset.

To sum up this hypothetical case; A renowned American Author, Earl Nightingale sums it by saying "All you need is the plan, the road map, and the courage to press on to your destination"

To the graduating Class of 2024, lift up your eyes and dare to stare at your future because your future is here for you to seize. Go ahead and live your Dreams. I wish you all the best for your future.

Congratulations to the Class of 2024!