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SPEECH DELIVERED BY BRIAN KAMAU GITHENYA, SCHOOL OF COMPUTER SCIENCE AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, 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 Brian Kamau Githenya, a student from the School of Computer Science and Information Technology. As the valedictorian, I am humbled to stand before you during this splendid occasion.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Let me begin with a story about Prigogine's theory of the chaotic evolution of dynamic systems. Chaos theory reveals that some of the most beautiful phenomena in life emerge from disorder. Consider the mesmerizing spirals of galaxies, the intricate veins of a leaf, or the delicate flutter of a butterfly's wings—each stunning pattern finds its origins in chaos.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

In 2020, we embarked on this academic journey amid one of the most recent global COVID-19 pandemic. For the first time in our University's history, lectures went digital, and we found ourselves navigating the uncharted waters of online learning.
To ease the transition, the University provided us with e-learning bundles, limited to platforms like KENET web conferences, Google, and YouTube. These bundles were a lifeline—but let's be honest, we didn't just use them for academic purposes. While they powered our online classes and research, they also became our gateway to the lighter side of the pandemic.
History might remember this as the time academia accidentally sponsored our YouTube Premium experience, proving that there's room for laughter, learning, and a little mischief even in times of disorder.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

After exhausting our precious e-learning bundles, the real challenge began—calculus, statistics, and probability lectures became an actual test of resilience. The class would start, you'd settle in, and then, just as the first slide appeared, it would buffer. When you finally reconnected, you'd be on slide seven, lost and confused. The lecture was over before it began. In physics, they call this the "point of no return." It felt like time travel, except you'd land not in the future but in utter bewilderment.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

But we adapted! We found heroes like the Organic Chemistry Tutor (OCT—he deserves his flowers), Khan Academy, and countless other YouTube educators who, alongside our lecturers, became our guiding lights. By this time, the class had unofficially split into three groups. Group A: the heroes who attended online classes religiously; Group B: the brave souls who tried but were thwarted by "Wi-Fi connected" and "No internet connection" struggles; and the hypothetical Group C: those who didn't even realize a semester was happening.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Eventually, we made it to campus. After three months, we entered a world transformed by masks, hand sanitizers, and social distancing. DeKUT started producing hand sanitizer—a unique scent product we often debated whether it was sanitizer or an ongoing chemistry experiment. For some, however, this era was a blessing in disguise. Introverts thrived, embracing remote jobs, solo hobbies, and the beautiful avoidance of awkward handshakes.

But that's only part of our story. Today, I stand before a class of resilient, talented, and ambitious individuals motivated by dignity and refusing to give in to hopelessness. The challenges we faced during the pandemic were not just obstacles—they were the fires that forged us into stronger, better versions of ourselves.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

With COVID-19 as proof of what we can endure, there are no limits to what we can achieve. It's incredible how, amid confusion, pain, and turmoil, the hand of God remains upon us. And when you finally see the wonders of His guidance, you can only stand back in awe and proclaim, "You are truly the Monarch of the Universe." Let this be your revelation: God's intelligence is so thorough that He ensures you win.
Statistically, those who have gone before us have left a significant mark—disrupting cultures, transforming the tech space, and revolutionizing the economy. We will undoubtedly achieve equally great things, if not greater. Yet, these accolades don't make our lives valuable or our joy more valid.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

We are the Class of 2024. Our dedication and commitment create energy that is stronger than any opposition. This energy shines so brightly that it illuminates the world. No man, no darkness, no myth can extinguish it. We were born to manifest God's glory, and as we let our light shine, we unconsciously inspire others to do the same.
Let us go forward, shining brightly, embodying hope, and illuminating the world.