DEDAN KIMATHI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
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Office of the Vice Chancellor

SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE AG. CHANCELLOR AND COUNCIL CHAIRMAN DURING THE 18TH GRADUATION CEREMONY HELD ON FRIDAY, 16TH MAY 2025, AT DEDAN KIMATHI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

Acknowledgements

- The Principal Secretary, State Department of Higher Education and Research, **represented by** Dr. David Watene, Director, International University Education;
- The Deputy Governor, H. E. Hon. David Kinaniri Waroe;
- Members of the University Council;
- Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Eng. Peter N. Muchiri, EBS;
- Deputy Vice-Chancellor AA&R, Prof. Eddy Owaga;
- Deputy Vice-Chancellor A&F, Prof. Esther N. Magiri;
- The University Management and Senate;
- Members of staff;
- Parents and guardians;
- Students;
- Graduands;
- Distinguished guests;
- ***Special Guests***
- Ladies and gentlemen;

Good morning?

Ladies and Gentlemen;

First, let me register an apology from the Chancellor, Gen (Rtd) Dr. Julius Waweru Karangi, who is not able to join us today due to circumstances beyond his control.

The Universty Act, 2012 provides that the Council Chairman represents the Chancellor in his absence.

The University Council is responsible for setting the overall policy direction of the University, providing oversight and ensuring it aligns with national goals and standards.

I would like to introduce the University Council:

1. Ms. Linet W. Muganda- Committee Chair, Strategic Planning and Development Committee
2. Ms. Esther Nyamoko- Committee Chair, Human Resource and Staff Welfare Committee
3. Dr. Davidson Mwaisaka- Committee Chair, Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee (Who is out of the Country)
4. Ms. Pauline Kurgat- Committee Chair, Finance Committee
5. Ms. Calleb Ogot- Representative, Principal Secretary National Treasury
6. Ms. Christine Minyuki- Representative, Principal Secretary Ministry of Education
7. Prof. Eng. Peter N. Muchiri, EBS- *Ex Officio* Member and Council Secretary

The University Council, in concurrence with the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education, appointed Prof. Eddy Owaga as the DVC Academic Affairs and Research, effective from 21st February 2025. We welcome Prof. Owaga to this academic leadership role.

1. Opening Remarks

I am pleased to welcome each of you this morning as we celebrate DeKUT's 18th Graduation Ceremony. On behalf of the Chancellor and the University Council, I extend my sincere appreciation to all of you for joining us on this momentous occasion.

Today, we celebrate the outstanding achievements of our graduates and acknowledge the hard work and commitment that have shaped your academic journeys.

This ceremony 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 here will serve as powerful tools in addressing the challenges of our society and making a meaningful impact.
Congratulations!

2. DeKUT's Recognition for Excellence

Ladies and Gentlemen;

We gladly note that this graduation comes at a time when DeKUT has been ranked among the Top 10 best-performing public institutions (out of 585 institutions including constitutional commissions and independent offices, Ministries and State Departments, State Corporations and SAGAs, Public Universities, Statutory Commissions and Authorities, Technical and Vocational Education and Training Institutes) by the Public Service Commission and securing 2nd place among all Public Universities in Kenya.

Our success is a testament to the dedication, professionalism, and teamwork of the entire DeKUT community. It reinforces our leadership in higher education and public service and highlights the impact of our collective efforts in building a value-driven, inclusive Kenya.

I am also happy to learn that DeKUT's Mechatronics Engineering programme has earned accreditation under the prestigious Washington Accord, signifying global recognition of its Engineering qualifications. This milestone enhances international mobility for DeKUT graduates, enabling them to pursue employment opportunities both in Africa and worldwide.

3. Mwai Kibaki Referral Hospital Dedicated to DeKUT

We thank His Excellency the President of the Republic of Kenya for dedicating the Mwai Kibaki Referral Hospital to DeKUT through Legal Notice No. 148, as a training and research hospital for the University. This will provide facilities for medical education for our students and serve as a vital center for clinical training, research, and innovation. It will also enhance the quality of healthcare services in the region while supporting the University's mission to develop competent healthcare professionals who are well-equipped to address the nation's health challenges.

4. Ministry Funding DeKUT Science and Technology Park (DeST-Park)

Ladies and Gentlemen;

With immense gratitude, I would like to thank the Ministry of Education for its unwavering support and commitment to advancing innovation and research at DeKUT.

We are especially grateful for prioritizing the construction and equipping of our Science and Technology Park (DeST-Park), focusing on two key thematic areas—Design, Materials and Manufacturing (DMM), and Agri-tech. These facilities will not only support research, development, and commercialization but will also provide incubation centres and create new opportunities for enterprise development and job creation. This investment is a testament to the Ministry's dedication to fostering industrialization, STEM education, and student employability across the country.

Within the DeST-Park, DeKUT hosts the Semiconductor Technologies Limited (STL), which is a first of its kind in Africa. Through the DeST-Park, we aim to foster knowledge transfer, and expose our students and faculty to cutting-edge developments in the semiconductor technology. Together, we are advancing the frontiers of science and technology and co-creating innovative solutions to address some of the most pressing challenges in society today.

5. Ongoing initiatives

(a) Research and Innovation Mainstreaming

Ladies and Gentlemen;

I appreciate the University's strategy on research and innovation mainstreaming which is actively positioning the University as a hub of research, innovation, and scholarly excellence. This innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystem provides a good framework for knowledge transfer for national development and impact.

(b) AI Technology in Teaching

Ladies and Gentlemen;

We appreciate that the University has embraced emerging frontier technologies of AI on education and has responded by forming a dedicated team to develop strategies for integrating AI into teaching and learning.

(c) Competence-Based Education Mainstreaming

Ladies and Gentlemen;

In addition, DeKUT has made significant strides in integrating Competency-Based Education (CBE) by building staff capacity, aligning curricula with industry needs, and enhancing infrastructure to support learner-centred, skill-driven education.

(d) CBA full implementation and arrears paid

Ladies and Gentlemen;

I am glad to note that DeKUT has fully implemented the 2021–2025 Collective Bargaining Agreements (CBAs) in line with national guidelines, with adjustments reflected in the December 2024 salaries. This achievement underscores the University's commitment to staff welfare, fairness, and excellence in human resource management.

6. Quality infrastructure for teaching

Ladies and Gentlemen;

The university Council is committed to further expanding the University's infrastructure to ensure our students benefit from the best possible learning spaces and our staff enjoy a conducive and efficient work environment.

We note that the current austerity measures by the Government has affected development of key infrastructural projects. However, the University Council will support optimal deployment of available resources to ensure the progress of the University. We believe the university is on the right trajectory and has a great future ahead!

7. Congratulations to the Graduates

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Today marks the beginning of your lifelong commitment to serving society. Equipped with the knowledge, skills, and competencies gained at DeKUT, you are ready to navigate the ever-evolving world of work, whether as employees, entrepreneurs, or job creators.

Let me take some few minutes to prepare the graduating class of 2025.

You are graduating at a time when there are limited job opportunities and you are required to be innovative to create a job for yourself. Let me tell you, you need patience and alot of resilience.

Allow me to borrow a leaf from one of the most successful teams in NBA-National Basketball Association history (The San Antonio Spurs) who have a quote from social reformer Jacob Riis hanging in their locker room:

"When nothing seems to help, I go and look at a stonecutter hammering away at his rock, perhaps a hundred times without as much as a crack showing in it. Yet at the hundred and first blow it will split into two, and I know it was not that last blow that did it – but all that had gone before."

When you find time, i want you to have a look at THE PLATEAU OF LATENT POTENTIAL.

We often expect progress to be linear. At the very least, we hope it will come quickly. In reality, the results of our efforts are often delayed. It is not until months or years that we realize the true value of the previous work we have done.

This can result in a "valley of dissapointment" where people feel discouraged after putting in weeks or months of hard work without experiencing any results. However, this work was not wasted. It was simply being stored. It is not until much later that the full value of previous efforts is revealed.

Allow me to leave you with a quote by H.E. Kofi Annan to inspire your journey:

"Knowledge is power. Information is liberating. Education is the premise of progress, in every society, in every family."

Congratulations to the Graduating Class of 2025!