DEDAN KIMATHI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
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Office of the Vice Chancellor

SPEECH DELIVERED BY DeKUT VICE CHANCELLOR 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, Mr. David Waroe;
- The DeKUT Ag. Chancellor/Council Chairman, Dr. James Kariuki;
- Members of the University Council;
- Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs and Research, Prof. Eddy Owaga;
- Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Administration and Finance, Prof. Esther Magiri;
- The University Senate;
- Members of staff;
- Parents and guardians;
- Students;
- Graduands;
- Distinguished guests;
- Ladies and gentlemen;

Good morning?

1. **Opening Remarks**

It is with immense joy that I welcome you to the 18th graduation ceremony and celebrate 1239 graduands as they step into the realm of professional life. Today, we celebrate the academic endeavor, perseverance, and collaborative spirit that has defined your journey. Your achievements, marked by this pivotal moment, are not just a personal triumph but a testament to your dedication and the quality of education at DeKUT.

We also sincerely thank the parents and guardians whose unwavering support and trust in DeKUT have nurtured these talents. I want to thank the Chancellor, the University Council, the Ministry of Education, and every member of the DeKUT fraternity for your dedication to excellence, which has led to this remarkable graduation day.

Dedan Kimathi University of Technology is named after Field Marshal Dedan Kimathi Wachiuri, who led a Mau Mau struggle to liberate our country from the hands of our colonial master. In the spirit of Dedan Kimathi, we believe we can leverage on Technology to empower

our country and thus our motto stands "Better Life Through Technology".

Congratulations!

2. **Washington Accord Accreditation**

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

The University is committed to offering quality education that meets the global standards. I am glad to inform you that the Bachelor of Science in Mechatronics Engineering programme passed the prestigious Washington Accord Accreditation by the International Engineering Accreditation Committee. This recognition affirms that our curriculum meets the highest international engineering education standards and grants our graduates global recognition, giving them a competitive edge in

pursuing careers. DeKUT now joins two other Kenyan universities with this status, making Kenya the third African nation, after South Africa and Nigeria, represented in the Washington Accord.

3. **EBK Recognition of BSc. Chemical Engineering and BSc. Telecommunication and Information Engineering Programmes**

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

I am also glad to announce that, the Engineers Board of Kenya (EBK) has recognized DeKUT's Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering and Bachelor of Science in Telecommunication and Information Engineering programmes. This recognition affirms that our curricula meet the highest national standards set by the EBK, ensuring our students receive industry-aligned, high-quality education that prepares them to succeed in their careers.

In addition, the Kenya Nutrition and Dietetics Institute (KNDI), has officially recognized our Bachelor of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics.

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

4. **Institutional Re-Accreditation Audit by the Commission for University Education**

I am glad to inform you that DeKUT has successfully undergone the mandatory 5 years institutional re-accreditation audit by the Commission for University Education (CUE), which has affirmed the quality of our degree programs, teaching facilities and supporting infrastructure. Therefore, our students are assured of quality of education in this University.

5. **DeKUT's Commitment to Industrial Collaboration**

Ladies and Gentlemen;

DeKUT’s strong industry collaborations reflect our commitment to offering programs aligned with high-demand areas. These partnerships enhance graduate

employability through practical experience while giving them a head start in their careers, and reinforce our reputation for producing industry-ready graduates.

DeKUT is building on its international collaboration portfolio and has now over 80 international cooperation agreements enabling joint research, and exchange programs in countries like France and USA among other.

DeKUT in collaboration with STL and other international is developing a centre of excellence in semiconductor and micro-electronics.

KenGen and GDC

DeKUT is in collaboration with among others, Kenya Energy Generating Company (KenGen) in training of their technical staff in their Geothermal Training Institute.

I am happy to celebrate the 44 staff from KenGen who are among the graduates today. We welcome other corporates to make DeKUT their training and research centre.

DeKUT's Pivotal Role in Enhancing TVET

In addition to strong industry partnerships, DeKUT is a key player in transforming technical and vocational education across Africa. As a partner in the Skills Initiative for Africa (SIFA), co-funded by AUDA-NEPAD, BMZ, and the EU, the University is helping modernize TVET systems and prepare youth for Industry 4.0.

DeKUT conducted month long Training of Trainers from TVET under the Virtual Mechatronics Lab initiative, equipping educators from National polytechnics and technical training institutes with skills in virtual industrial metaverse, technology and digital twinning.

Further, DeKUT in a collaboration with ministry of Trade and Industry is offering the Rapid Tech Skills Training Program under the Kenya Industry and Entrepreneurship Project (KIEP) and the Strengthening Kenya's Innovation Ecosystem (SKIES) initiative. DeKUT is also offering practical training in high-demand fields such as Data Science, Cybersecurity, AI, and Software Engineering.

These programs bridge the skills gap between education and work of work, empowering students with real-world experience and entrepreneurial skills.

Chancellor Sir, through the university interaction with the industry, we have gladly noted that the industry clearly recognizes the unique skills and competencies of DeKUT graduates. We are highly optimistic of the value proposition DeKUT graduates will offer in the market. Indeed, the University is headed to a great future Ahead.

6. **Start-ups Success story**

I would like to recognize 3 ladies graduating today with Bsc. in Electrical and Electronics Engineering today. These ladies are Co-Founders of a start-up called Umeme Sense. Umeme Sense is a smart metering solution designed to enhance transparency, efficiency, and accountability in renewable energy monitoring. It captures real-time data on energy generation, consumption, and Renewable Energy Certificate (REC) eligibility, helping small- to mid-scale producers track and verify their contributions to the clean energy economy.

The three graduands are Sheila Otuko, Mercy Runo and Sylvia Maina. I congratulate the team for this remarkable achievement.

Through the DeKUT I2B program, Umeme Sense was able to be part of the Research to Commercialization (R2C) Program by the Kenya National Innovation Agency (KeNIA). From this linkage they have been able to successfully register the start up as a limited company in Kenya and have secured partnership with the Rural Electrification Renewable Energy Corporation (ReReC). Umeme Sense has won the best prototype in Mombasa during the 31st Institution of Engineers of Kenya (IEK) convention and will also be exhibiting in Rwanda during the IEEE Entrepreneurship Summit 2025.

7. **Congratulating the Graduands**

Graduands of the Class of 2025;

I extend my congratulations on reaching this significant milestone. Today, you are a testament to the power of determination, resilience, and intellectual pursuit. Congratulations on your unrelenting determination to move forward and complete your studies. Thank you for maintaining discipline and exemplary character during your stay at DeKUT. We gladly welcome you to be good ambassadors of your alma-mater.

As we cherish the fruits of your hard work, I pray that success follows you in everything you do.

Allow me to finalize my speech with the blessings in the book of **Numbers 6:24**, as you graduate and proceed to the world of work.

"May the LORD bless you and keep you;

May the LORD make His face shine upon you and be Gracious to you.

May the Lord turn His face towards you and give you peace.

May you prosper in all your endeavours and be great in the Land!"

Congratulations to the Graduating Class of 2025!