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SPEECH DELIVERED BY KELVIN NJENGA NJOROGE, INSTITUTE OF GEOMATICS, GIS AND REMOTE SENSING, DEDAN KIMATHI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, DURING THE 18TH GRADUATION CEREMONY HELD ON 16TH MAY 2025, AT DEDAN KIMATHI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

The Chancellor, The Chief Guest, the Council Chairman, Members of the University Council, the Vice Chancellor, the Deputy Vice-Chancellors, The University Senate, University staff, parents, guardians and sponsors, fellow graduands, ladies and gentlemen**,** Good morning.

I am Kelvin Njenga Njoroge, a student from the Institute of Geomatics, GIS and Remote Sensing. As the valedictorian, I am humbled to stand before you during this splendid occasion.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Today, we stand at the threshold of a new dawn, our hearts alight with dreams and our spirits fortified by the journey that has brought us here. This moment is not merely a culmination but a clarion call—a summons to rise, dare, and shape the world with the boundless potential each of us carries. As Barack Obama once reminded us, "Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the Change that we seek." We, the Class of May 2025, are the architects of tomorrow.

Our path has been illuminated by the love and sacrifices of our families, whose unwavering support has taught us the power of authenticity. They have shown us that true strength lies not in perfection but in the courage to be ourselves, to stand tall in our truth. To them, we owe a debt of gratitude that words can scarcely repay.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

“Life,” as Vusi Thembekwayo so eloquently put it, “is a canvas that stretches across the vast expanse of time. Each brushstroke forms the contours of our existence, the vibrant colours reflecting our choices.” In the interplay of these opposites, we discover who we are. We have learned happiness through moments of sadness, compassion through the sting of suffering, and even love through the ache of loss. This is the beautiful paradox of being human: to feel deeply, to embrace the full spectrum of our emotions, and to grow through every experience. Let us not mourn the days gone by but cherish them as the foundation upon which we build our futures.

In the spirit of PLO Lumumba, who calls us to rise above mediocrity, I urge you to reject the temptation of complacency. We are not here to merely exist but to make a difference. Lumumba's words echo in our hearts: "Africa will not be changed by those who are comfortable with the status quo." So, we too, must refuse to be swayed by the shallow allure of fleeting success. Let us pursue impact over applause, substance over appearance, and purpose over popularity.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Jeff Koinange once shared a story of resilience, of ordinary people achieving extraordinary feats through sheer determination. We, too, are those people. In the words of Theodore Roosevelt, "The credit belongs to the person who strives, who dares greatly." You are the doers of deeds, the dreamers who act, the builders of bridges where walls once stood. Do not fear failure, for it is not the critic who counts, but the one who perseveres, who steps boldly into the arena of life.

As we step into the unknown, let us carry with us a hunger for growth, knowledge, and a commitment to leave this world better than we found. Let us be the change-makers, the innovators, the voices that speak truth to power. Let us live with audacity, love with abandon, and lead with integrity. As Obama said, "The future rewards those who press on." So press on, Class of 2025. Press on with courage, conviction, and an unwavering belief in the power of your dreams.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Influence is not the privilege of the few but the birthright of us all. Impact is not confined to grand gestures; it is forged in the quiet moments of kindness, the bold choices to stand

for what is right, and the relentless pursuit of excellence. Let us navigate the twists and turns of life with open hearts, always learning, striving, and daring to be more.

Congratulations, Class of 2025. Our story is just beginning, and I am certain the best is yet to come. Let us go forth and write a legacy that will echo through the ages.

Thank you.