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SPEECH DELIVERED BY BONIFACE JOSHUA GITHAE WAMONI, SCHOOL OF BUSINESS MANAGEMENT AND ECONOMICS, DEDAN KIMATHI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, DURING THE 19TH GRADUATION CEREMONY HELD ON FRIDAY, 19TH DECEMBER 2025, AT DEDAN KIMATHI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

The Acting Chancellor and Council Chairman, The Chief Guest, 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 Boniface Joshua Githae Wamoni, a student from the School of Business Management and Economics. As the valedictorian, I am humbled to stand before you during this splendid occasion.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Standing here today still feels slightly unreal. Let me confess something: in 2023, during my second year, I stumbled on the word *"valedictorian."* I remember stopping for a minute and thinking, "*This… this is who I want to become.*" But honestly, I didn't know it would actually come to pass. I didn't know that the quiet dream planted in my second year would lead me to this very stage today. And that's the magic of life, sometimes a small seed of desire becomes your reality when you keep showing up, even when you're unsure, even when it feels far. But this speech is not about me. It's about us; our journey, our resilience, and the story we now share.

We walked into this University as strangers—some confident, some confused, some just following a friend who said, *"kujeni tukatafute class!"* But somewhere along the journey, something extraordinary happened: we grew. Not just in knowledge, but in character, ambition, and courage.

We learned that success isn't always loud. Sometimes it's quiet, like submitting an assignment at 11:59:59 PM and pretending that was the plan. Sometimes it's standing up again after failing a CAT you were convinced you had passed. Sometimes it's simply showing up when life felt overwhelming. But we showed up again and again, and that is why we are here today.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

To our lecturers: thank you for challenging us, believing in us, and for the surprise CATs that reminded us that life is full of unexpected tests. Thank you for teaching us more than what was in the course outline. You shaped our minds, but more importantly, you shaped our confidence. We will carry that with us forever.

To our families: words will never be enough. Thank you for the sacrifices, the prayers, the encouragement, and the gentle reminders that *"hiyo fee tunalipa si mchezo-make use of it."* Thank you for the check-ins and the constant hope you held for us. Your love has been our backbone. Your faith in us has been our fuel. Today is not just our graduation-it is yours too.

To our friends, the family we chose along the way, thank you for keeping us going. For the laughter that healed stress, the notes shared moments before exams, the late-night study sessions, the deep conversations, the support that carried us through the toughest days, and the group work where… we all know one person did most of it. Today, we honour them. They know themselves. Thank you for reminding us that we never walked this journey alone.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

My fellow graduates, this moment is big, but it is not the peak of our lives. It is only the beginning. The world will test us. But it will also invite us into opportunities, challenges, risks, and rooms we once dreamed of being in. And if our journey here has proven anything, it's this: We do not back down. We do not quit. We do not fear the future.

Remember this: a dream you whisper in your second year can become a reality on the graduation stage. So, whatever you whisper next whisper boldly.

As we step forward, let us choose to be courageous. Let us choose to pursue purpose, not comfort. Let us choose to create impact, not excuses. And in ten years, when people ask, *"What happened to the Class of 2025?"* the answer will be simple:

We happened;

We showed up;

We changed things;

We left a mark.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Today we leave these gates not with fear, but with fire. Not with doubt, but with direction. Not as students, but as graduates ready to define the future.

Congratulations, my fellow graduates. May our dreams be bold, our courage unshakable, and our impact undeniable.

Here's to the Class of 2025, the class that dared, endured, and conquered.

Thank you.