DEDAN KIMATHI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
P.O. BOX 657, 10100 – NYERI KENYA
TELEPHONE: 0712 388 613
e-mail: vc@dkut.ac.ke**; website:** www.dkut.ac.ke
Office of the Vice Chancellor

SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, STATE DEPARTMENT FOR HIGHER EDUCATION, MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, DR. BEATRICE INYANGALA, CBS DURING THE 19TH GRADUATION CEREMONY HELD ON 19TH DECEMBER 2025, AT DEDAN KIMATHI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

Acknowledgements

- The DeKUT Ag. Chancellor and Council Chairman, Dr. James Kariuki;
- Members of the University Council;
- The 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;
- Ladies and gentlemen;

Good morning?

1. **Opening remarks**

It is my great pleasure to join you during this auspicious occasion of the 18th graduation of this great University, Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (DeKUT). Indeed, this is a momentous occasion filled with lots of joy and celebration as parents and guardians witness the culmination of a journey of resilience, as the graduands celebrate their years of hard work and dedication.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

2. **Commendation for ethics, values, and international accreditation**

I wish to take this opportunity to sincerely congratulate Dedan Kimathi University of Technology for its outstanding commitment to upholding high standards of ethics and institutional values, a commitment that was recently recognized by the Public Service Commission when the University ranked among the **top 10 best performing public institutions in the Values and Principles Compliance Report.** This is a testament to the good leadership, integrity, and professionalism embedded within the University's culture.

I commend the University for **achieving accreditation under the prestigious Washington Accord**—one of only three institutions in the country to attain this international standard. I gladly note that now, Kenya will be the third country in Africa to attain the Washington Accord Accreditation for Engineering programs, after South Africa and Nigeria. This remarkable milestone places Dedan Kimathi University of Technology on the global engineering education map, enhancing international recognition of its engineering degrees and expanding global job mobility opportunities for its graduates. This level of accreditation not only raises the bar for engineering training in Kenya but also aligns perfectly with our national goals of producing globally competitive, industry-ready professionals."

Ladies and Gentlemen,

3. DeKUT Science and Technology Park

The Ministry of Education is pleased to support the development of the DeKUT Science and Technology Park, which holds great potential for national development through the commercialization of technology, and the creation of start-ups and spin-off companies. This is a commendable strategy for job and wealth creation, as well as youth empowerment in the country. We are pleased to acknowledge the impact of Semiconductor Technologies Limited at DeKUT's Science and Technology Park, which has carved out a niche in the country's technology industry. We encourage the graduands to take advantage of the Science Park by establishing their own start-up companies within it.

4. Advancing innovation and sectoral impact through higher education

During my recent visit to Dedan Kimathi University of Technology, I was profoundly impressed by the breadth and depth of the institution's commitment to innovation, technological advancement, and the strategic development of human capital.

The tour of the University's cutting-edge facilities, including the Virtual Reality (VR) Lab and the Centre for the Development of Electronic Devices and Semiconductor Technologies Ltd, underscored the University's role as a national trailblazer in applied research and digital innovation. These facilities are not just impressive in design and function; they represent Kenya's future-facing posture in science, technology, and industrial capacity-building.

This is a strong example of how universities can create relevance and direct impact across other sectors of the economy through research, innovation, and collaboration.

I commend the University for developing virtual Mechatronic Laboratories which is leveraging on emerging technologies in virtual reality and Industrial metaverse to create Virtual Laboratories to support technical training, especially in Technical and Vocational Institutes.

I also commend the University for organizing **training of TVET Trainers** in emerging technologies in **Industry 4.0** and **industrial metaverse**. This sets a good example of how universities can contribute to improvement of TVET education.

5. **National Contributing in Coffee Technology**

I commend DeKUT for being a Centre of Excellence in Coffee Technology, which supports training, capacity development and research in coffee. We note that coffee is among the top cash crops in the country which supports a major part of Kenya's economy. We thank the University for supporting the training of coffee extension officers to promote increased coffee production in the 32 coffee growing counties in the country.

6. **Implementation of the New Funding Model**

Further, I appreciate the University for successful implementation of the new funding model where 2 cohorts have successfully enrolled in the University. Currently, the 3rd cohort is applying through the KUCCPS portal. I urge the students to apply so that they can benefit from government funding in their degree programmes.

7. **CBA Implementation**

I would like underline the Government commitment in the implementation of collective bargaining agreements. The Ministry is committed in ensuring industrial harmony is maintained to ensure uninterrupted service delivery to the students in our Universities.

We call for patience as we fully implement the recently signed CBAs.

8. **Competence Based Education (CBE)**

The Government is very keen on the implementation of CBE across all Education Levels in the country. We note that the first CBE Cohort will join the Universities in the year 2029. I therefore urge all the Universities to fast track the implementation of CBE curriculum in readiness to full integration of CBE by year 2029.

9. Congratulating the graduands, parents and guardians

Parents and guardians,

I also offer my congratulations and deepest gratitude to you, parents and guardians. Your unwavering support, encouragement, and sacrifices have been the silent strength behind this success. You share in this proud achievement.

To the graduating class of Dedan Kimathi University of Technology, congratulations on reaching this remarkable milestone. Your journey has been marked by perseverance, resilience, and determination and today, you reap the rewards of your hard work.

As you step into the next chapter of your lives, whether into the workforce, entrepreneurship, research, or further studies remember this: the true mark of education is not just knowledge, but character. Carry forward the values of integrity, innovation, and service that have been instilled in you here at DeKUT.

In a world that is constantly changing, let adaptability be your ally, curiosity your compass, and purpose your guide. Go out and be architects of transformation in your communities, your nation, and beyond. The future is not something to be waited for – it is something to be created, and you are the creators.

Once again, congratulations and may the road ahead be filled with success and significance!