DEDAN KIMATHI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
P.O.BOX 657 - 10100, NYERI
Telephone: 0727088807, 0709202963
Email: pro@dkut.ac.ke; website: www.dkut.ac.ke
Public Relations Department

SPEECH DELIVERED BY KIHONGE KAGIRI DeKUT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, DEDAN KIMATHI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, DURING THE 20TH GRADUATION CEREMONY HELD ON 12TH JUNE 2026, 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.

First — graduates — give yourselves the loudest round of applause. You earned this.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Today is one of those rare days where everyone looks successful at the same time. The gowns are flowing, cameras are flashing, parents are smiling like shareholders after dividends, and suddenly every relative who ignored your calls for four years is posting: "My son… my daughter… we thank God!"

You have survived CATs, exams, deadlines, missing marks, semester fee balances, group work where one person disappears until presentation day. Today, you finally graduate.

But allow me to begin with a story. There was a young lion who had just graduated from the School of Hunting. He was the best student. He had distinctions in roaring, chasing, and survival skills. On graduation day, he walked into the forest expecting animals to

line up and surrender themselves because, after all, he now had a certificate. Unfortunately, the gazelles did not care about his GPA. The zebra did not ask for his transcript. Even the rabbits continued running.

After several frustrating days, the lion went back to his father and complained: "Dad, I graduated top of my class. Why is life so difficult?" The father laughed and told him: "My son, graduation only proved you learned how to hunt. Life now wants to see whether you can adapt." And that is the lesson I bring to you today.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

The ideal job you have always dreamed of may not exist immediately after campus. It is not waiting for you somewhere in a perfect wrapped package. Instead, it is your mindset that transforms any role into an opportunity.

Do not cage yourself inside your degree. Be open to discovery. Your papers were never meant to limit you; they were designed to equip you. Coming to university was never just about lectures and exams. It was about building confidence, stretching your thinking, solving problems, and interacting with people from cultures and backgrounds you may never have encountered otherwise.

So, do not sit back and say:
"I am an accountant; therefore, I cannot do sales."
"I studied engineering, so I cannot work in communication."
"I did procurement, so entrepreneurship is not for me."

No.
Get out there and try.
Explore.
Dream.
Discover.

Sometimes the opportunity you overlook is the very one that positions you for your next breakthrough.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Personally, I studied Leather Technology. If you told my lecturers years ago that one day I would be in real estate selling land, Mugunda Maguta Maguta, they would probably ask whether I missed the exam question! But I chose to explore. And by the way, you should support your fellow alumni! Life rewards people who are willing to learn beyond titles. Do not limit yourself to a job description. Every role can become a platform for impact. Wherever you go: Create change. Touch lives. Cause a difference in your corner of the world.

And as you leave this institution today, remember something very important: You are not leaving Dedan Kimathi University of Technology. You are graduating into the Dedan Kimathi University Alumni Family. Today, we officially welcome you to the DeKUTAA family. A family of professionals. A family of innovators. A family of dreamers and builders. And because family must stay connected, I encourage every one of you to immediately register on the alumni portal through our alumni website: www.dekutaa.com

Ladies and Gentlemen;

That portal is your gateway to networking opportunities, mentorship, welfare support, partnerships, investment and lifelong engagement with your fellow alumni. And speaking of networking, allow me to invite all of you to our upcoming DeKUTAA Gala Dinner happening on 12th December 2026 at KICC. Tickets are already available on our website at only Ksh 1,000. This year's theme is: Financial Literacy, Leadership and Governance. You will have an opportunity to network and learn from distinguished marketplace leaders among our alumni, including renowned speakers already making impact across industries. This is not just a dinner. It is a room full of opportunities.

Finally, graduands, as you step into the next chapter of life, remember this: The world outside campus is not looking for people who know everything. It is looking for people willing to learn anything. Be humble enough to start. Be courageous enough to fail. Be resilient enough to continue. And be bold enough to reinvent yourself. You already carry the potential. Now go out and prove it.

Congratulations Class of 2026!

Welcome to the Alumni Family, and may your future be greater than your fears.

Thank you, and God bless you all!