DEDAN KIMATHI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

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Public Relations Department

SPEECH DELIVERED BY AG. CHANCELLOR AND COUNCIL CHAIRMAN, DR. JAMES KARIUKI, DURING THE 20TH GRADUATION CEREMONY HELD ON FRIDAY, 12TH JUNE 2026, AT DEDAN KIMATHI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

Acknowledgements

- The Chief Guest, Your Excellency, Dr. Mutahi Kahiga, Governor, Nyeri County;
- The Principal Secretary, State Department for Higher Education and Research, Ministry of Education, Dr. Beatrice Inyangala, CBS, who is represented by Mr. Dennis Ademba;
- Members of the University Council;
- Vice Chancellor, Prof. Eng. Peter Muchiri, EBS;
- Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs and Research, Prof. Eddy Owaga;
- Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Administration and Finance, Prof. Esther Magiri;
- The University Management and Senate;
- Members of staff;
- Parents and guardians;
- Graduands;
- Distinguished Guests;
- Ladies and gentlemen;

Good morning?

Ladies and Gentlemen;

The University Council is mandated to set the overall strategic and policy direction of the University, provide oversight, and ensure that the institution aligns with national goals and standards.

Therefore, allow me to introduce the University Council Members:

1. **Ms. Linet W. Muganda** - Committee Chair, Strategic Planning and Development Committee
2. **Ms. Esther Nyamoko** - Committee Chair, Human Resource and Staff Welfare Committee
3. **Ms. Pauline Kurgat** - Committee Chair, Finance Committee
4. **Ms. Christine Minyuki** - Representative, Principal Secretary Ministry of Education
5. **Prof. Eng. Peter N. Muchiri**, **EBS** - *Ex Officio* Member and Council Secretary

1. Opening Remarks

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted to welcome you to the 20th Graduation Ceremony of Dedan Kimathi University of Technology. I extend my sincere appreciation to all who have joined us to celebrate this important milestone.

Over the years, DeKUT has grown into a Premier University of Technology, producing graduates who continue to make meaningful contributions in industry, government, entrepreneurship, research, and community development both nationally and internationally.

To all our graduands, congratulations on this remarkable achievement!

2. Ministry Funding DeKUT Science and Technology Park (DeST-Park)

Ladies and Gentlemen;

With immense gratitude, I would like to thank the Ministry of Education for its unwavering support and commitment to advancing innovation and research at DeKUT.

The Government has approved Kshs. 2.127 billion to support the development of the **Science and Technology Park**. Once fully operational, the Park is expected to facilitate job creation, support over 500 start-ups, and attract at least 10 anchor industry partners.

The Park is anchored on two strategic thematic areas – Design, Materials and Manufacturing (DMM), and Agri-tech. These investments are not merely infrastructure projects; they are strategic initiatives aimed at enhancing graduate employability, promoting industrialization, supporting entrepreneurship, and equipping our students with future-ready skills required in a competitive global economy.

Semiconductor Technologies Development

DeKUT Science and Technology Park gladly hosts the first Semiconductor fab lab in the continent, the Semiconductor Technologies Limited (STL). STL is collaborating with the University in training, research and development of semiconductor technology in the country. We gladly thank Dr. Anthony Githinji, the founder of STL for the good collaboration in cutting edge technologies, which led to recognition of DeKUT and an invitation to join H.E the president in a state visit to the United States of America.

Washington Accord Accreditation

DeKUT was awarded the Washington Accord Accreditation for Engineering programs. I am glad to note that this is the first of its kind in Kenya and 3rd in Africa after South Africa and Nigeria. The recognition signifies the labour mobility and global recognition of our graduates.

3. Awards, Recognition and Institutional Excellence

Ladies and Gentlemen;

The University continues to receive national recognition for its commitment to excellence, innovation, accountability, and quality service delivery. These achievements reflect the collective efforts of the University Council, Management, staff, students, alumni and partners.

i. Excellence in Engineering Education Award

Ladies and Gentlemen;

The University was recently honoured with the prestigious Excellence in Engineering Education Award at the Engineering Recognition and Excellence Awards held during the 7th Engineering Partnerships Convention.

The award recognizes DeKUT's outstanding contribution to engineering education through innovation, research, academic excellence, and industry engagement. It affirms our continued commitment to producing highly skilled engineers equipped to address modern challenges and contribute to sustainable national development.

ii. Public Service Commission (PSC) Award

I am pleased to report that DeKUT was recently ranked among the top ten best-performing public institutions in Kenya out of more than 500 public institutions evaluated by the Public Service Commission (PSC). Notably, the University achieved second position among all public universities in the country, underscoring its commitment to excellence, accountability, and quality service delivery.

This recognition is a testament to the dedication, professionalism and teamwork of the entire DeKUT community.

4. Mwai Kibaki Referral Hospital

I would like to pass our sincere appreciation to His Excellency the President of the Republic of Kenya for designating the Mwai Kibaki Referral Hospital to Dedan Kimathi University of Technology as the University's training and research hospital. This designation not only provides a conducive environment for medical education and offer essential facilities for clinical training, research, and innovation, but it's also expected to strengthen healthcare service delivery within the region while advancing the University's mandate of producing highly skilled healthcare professionals capable of addressing the country's evolving health needs.

5. Infrastructure Development

Ladies and Gentlemen;

The University continues to improve its infrastructure that enhances teaching, learning, research, innovation, and student welfare.

Improved Road Network within the University

I am pleased to report that the Ministry of Roads and Transport, though the Kenya Rural Roads Authority (KeRRA) has approved the construction of a road network within the DeKUT Science and Technology Park. This development will significantly improve accessibility and support industrial and innovation activities within the Park.

Affordable Hostel Project

We thank His Excellency the president of the Republic of Kenya for awarding DeKUT with affordable hostel program under the Ministry of Lands, Public Works, Housing and Urban Development. Through this program, DeKUT will have additional 3,600 hostel units to address accommodation needs of our increasing student population.

These developments reflect the University's commitment to creating a conducive environment for academic excellence and holistic student development.

6. Congratulating the Graduands

Allow me to take one or two minutes to prepare you for what's ahead after graduation.

The next chapter of your lives, you do so at a time when the economic environment presents both challenges and uncertainties. Yet, history has consistently shown that difficult times also create opportunities for innovation, resilience, and growth.

Do not be discouraged by the obstacles before you. Instead, view them as opportunities to demonstrate your creativity, adaptability, and determination. The knowledge, skills, and values you have acquired at the university have prepared you not only to seek opportunities but also to create them.

Remember that success is rarely a straight path. There will be setbacks and disappointments, but each challenge carries a lesson and every difficulty presents an opportunity for growth. Remain focused on your goals, continue learning, and embrace change with confidence.

As you leave this institution, carry with you the belief that your future is not defined by current economic circumstances but by your character, perseverance, and willingness to make a positive difference in society.

"The future depends on what you do today." — Mahatma Gandhi

Congratulations on this remarkable achievement. May you go forth with courage, purpose, and confidence, ready to shape a better future for yourselves, your communities, and our nation.

Congratulations to the Graduating Class of 2026!