DEDAN KIMATHI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

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SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, STATE DEPARTMENT FOR HIGHER EDUCATION, MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, DR. BEATRICE INYANGALA, CBS, 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;
- Ag. Chancellor and Chairman of the Dedan Kimathi University of Technology Council, Dr. James Kariuki;
- Members of the University Council;
- The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Eng. Peter N. Muchiri, EBS;
- Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic Affairs and Research, Prof. Eddy Owaga;
- Deputy Vice-Chancellor Administration and Finance, 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 on this auspicious occasion of the 20th Graduation Ceremony of this great institution, Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (DeKUT).

Indeed, this is a momentous occasion filled with joy and celebration as parents, guardians, faculty, and friends witness the culmination of a journey marked by resilience and determination. Today, our graduands celebrate the fruits of years of hard work, dedication, and sacrifice that have prepared them for the next chapter of their lives.

2. **Commitment to Excellence in Education**

I applaud the DeKUT Chancellor, Council, Management, staff, and students for their outstanding performance and unwavering commitment to excellence and quality in education. This achievement is evidenced by prestigious recognitions such as the Excellence in Engineering Education Award and the Washington Accord Accreditation for Engineering programmes, which affirm the University's adherence to internationally

recognized standards in engineering education. The University's excellence is further reflected in its ranking among the top ten best-performing public institutions in the Values and Principles Compliance Report. These recognitions not only raise the bar for education in Kenya but also aligns perfectly with our national goals of producing globally competitive, industry-ready professionals for the labour market.

3. **The DeKUT Science and Technology Park**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Ministry of Education remains committed to supporting the development of the Dedan Kimathi University of Technology Science and Technology Park, an initiative that presents immense potential for national development through the commercialization of technology, as well as the growth of start-ups and spin-off enterprises.

This initiative represents a commendable and strategic approach to job creation, wealth generation, and youth empowerment in our country. It aligns strongly with our national aspirations of leveraging innovation and research to drive sustainable economic transformation.

As a Ministry, we also take note of and commend the impactful contribution of Semiconductor Technologies Limited within DeKUT's Science and Technology Park, which has successfully carved out a niche in Kenya's growing technology industry and continues to demonstrate the value of advanced technological innovation.

In this regard, I would like to encourage the graduands to fully embrace the opportunities presented by the Science and Technology Park by pursuing innovation and, where possible, establishing their own start-up companies within this enabling ecosystem.

4. Advancing Innovation, Research Excellence, and Industry-Relevant Training at DeKUT

In the face of increasing financial constraints within the higher education sector, universities are called upon to deliberately strengthen their financial resilience by expanding engagement in research, innovation, and knowledge transfer. These areas not only advance academic inquiry but also position institutions to attract competitive funding and generate practical solutions that respond to emerging societal needs. Universities should therefore intensify efforts in grant writing, collaborative research, and innovation-driven initiatives that enhance both institutional sustainability and national development.

Although the Government continues to support research through the National Research Fund (NRF), it is evident that the scale of demand for research financing surpasses available public resources. This reality underscores the importance of diversifying funding sources through strategic partnerships with international development agencies, industry players, and philanthropic organizations. In this regard, the Ministry of Education has been instrumental in forging collaborations that link Kenya's higher education ecosystem to global funding networks, thereby expanding opportunities for research, innovation, and capacity development.

It is equally critical to ensure that what is taught within lecture halls is effectively translated into practical, context-driven solutions that address challenges faced by communities and the country at large. Universities must therefore strengthen the integration of teaching, research, and innovation so that knowledge creation is directly aligned with real-world impact. Access to international funding remains central to achieving this objective, as it enables institutions to scale up innovations and convert ideas into tangible outcomes.

In this context, Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (DeKUT) stands out for its remarkable progress in both research and innovation. The University has demonstrated commendable leadership in securing research grants, fostering partnerships, and most notably, advancing a strong culture of innovation that translates ideas into impactful solutions. This success is worthy of high commendation and serves as a model of excellence for other institutions seeking to strengthen their innovation ecosystems and broaden their funding base.

5. **Congratulate the graduands, parents and guardians**

Parents and guardians,

I also extend my heartiest congratulations and sincere appreciation to you, the parents and guardians. Your unwavering support, encouragement, and sacrifices have been the quiet but powerful foundation behind this success. You equally share in this proud and historic achievement.

To the graduating class of Dedan Kimathi University of Technology, I congratulate you on attaining this remarkable milestone. As you step into the next chapter of your lives, whether into employment, entrepreneurship, research, or further studies, remember this: the true measure of education is not only knowledge, but character. Uphold the values of integrity, innovation, and service that have been carefully nurtured in you here at DeKUT.

In a world that is constantly evolving, let adaptability be your strength, curiosity your guide, and purpose your compass. Go forth and become architects of transformation within your communities, your nation, and beyond. The future is not merely to be awaited, it is to be created, and you are well equipped to create it.

Congratulations Graduating Class of 2026!