DEDAN KIMATHI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
PRIVATE BAG- 10143, DEDAN KIMATHI
TELEPHONE: 061-2050000 Ext. 1149, 0727088807
E-mail: pro@dkut.ac.ke; website: www.dkut.ac.ke
Public Relations Department

SPEECH DELIVERED BY DeKUT VICE CHANCELLOR, PROF. ENG. PETER N. MUCHIRI, EBS, 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;
- Ag. Chancellor and Chairman of the Dedan Kimathi University of Technology Council, Dr. James Kariuki;
- Members of the University Council;
- Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs and Research, Prof. Eddy Owaga;
- Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Administration and Finance, Prof. Esther Magiri;
- The University Senate;
- Members of staff;
- Parents and guardians;

- Students;
- Graduands;
- Distinguished guests;
- Ladies and gentlemen;

Good morning?

1. **Opening Remarks**

It is with great joy that I welcome you all to the 20th Graduation Ceremony of Dedan Kimathi University of Technology, as we celebrate 1129 graduands who are now stepping into the professional world.

Today marks a significant milestone in your journey, one defined by hard work, perseverance, and a strong spirit of collaboration. We honour your academic dedication and the resilience that has brought you to this proud moment.

Your success is not only a personal achievement but also a reflection of the quality of education, mentorship, and support you have received at DeKUT. As you graduate today, you carry with you knowledge, skills, and values that will enable you to make meaningful contributions to society and the world at large.

Dedan Kimathi University of Technology is named in honor of Field Marshal Dedan Kimathi Waciuri, we carry forward the enduring spirit of Dedan Kimathi Wachiuri, a legacy rooted in liberation, courage, and self-determination. It is in this same spirit that the University endeavours to contribute to the liberation of the Nation through innovation and entrepreneurship, by providing practical solutions that drive self-reliance, economic transformation, and sustainable development.

Congratulations!

1. Thanks to all Our Stakeholders

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

I would like to express our sincere appreciation to all the stakeholders who continue to play a critical role in the growth and success of this University.

First, we extend our gratitude to the Government of Kenya for its continued support in strengthening higher education, research, and innovation. Your commitment to funding, policy development, and institutional support has enabled us to expand our mandate and deepen our impact as a University of Technology.

We also sincerely recognize the University Council for its steadfast leadership and guidance. Your counsel and oversight continue to anchor the University on a path of accountability, growth, and excellence.

We acknowledge the invaluable support of diplomatic missions and embassies, whose partnerships have strengthened international collaboration, academic exchange, research linkages, and capacity building.

We further appreciate industry partners for their trust and collaboration, particularly in curriculum development, internships, research commercialization, and innovation support, which keep our graduates industry-ready.

To our dedicated staff, we recognize your unwavering commitment and professionalism. You remain the backbone of this institution, driving excellence in teaching, research, and service.

To parents and guardians, we sincerely appreciate the trust you have placed in us. Your sacrifice and support have made today's success possible.

We also deeply appreciate our students, who remain at the heart of the University. Your resilience, creativity, and pursuit of excellence continue to inspire our mission and define our identity.

2. Turning Knowledge into Solutions

At DeKUT, we believe that knowledge is not meant to remain theoretical, it is a powerful tool for addressing real-world challenges and shaping a better future. Through the spirit of dedication, self-confidence, determination, and the best utilization of resources, we equip our students to move beyond understanding problems to actively solving them.

Our students are innovators and solution providers. DeKUT has nurtured them to initiate and drive major societal changes and developments in their communities and beyond. Through a strong academic foundation and experiential learning, they gain not only technical competencies but also essential soft skills such as communication, teamwork, adaptability, and leadership.

In addition, the University places strong emphasis on character development and competence building. This holistic approach ensures that our graduates are not only skilled professionals but also ethical, responsible, and visionary leaders who can thrive in a dynamic global environment.

3. Innovation Ecosystem

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

Under our Innovation Ecosystem, the University has made deliberate investments in strengthening Centres of Excellence as engines of applied research, innovation, and enterprise development. These centres are not merely academic support units; they are

dynamic hubs where ideas are transformed into practical solutions that respond to real societal and industrial challenges.

Through the Centres of Excellence, we have continued to build strong competencies among our staff and students in product development, prototyping, research commercialization, and industry collaboration. This has resulted in a growing portfolio of innovations, registered intellectual property, and patents that demonstrate our commitment to knowledge that creates tangible impact beyond the classroom.

We have established 28 centres of excellence, which are self-funded. Allow me to highlight just a few;

- DeKUT Centre for Energy Studies (DeCES)-Conducts academic and scientific research to provide sustainable energy solutions along the energy value chain. Some critical projects are producing cook stove liners and hydraulic wood splitters.
- Our Centre for Mechanical Engineering Design (CMD), in collaboration with Kenya Forest Research Institute (KEFRI) has co-developed and commissioned machineries for mechanizing tree seedling production in the country to meet the presidential directive of planting 15 billion trees to contribute to climate change; Already DeKUT has supplied 3 key machineries to KEFRI, which are already in operation in their various stations.
- Through our Data Science and Artificial Intelligence Lab (DSAIL), we have developed AI driven solutions in environmental conservation, agriculture and health care, including the RHD Monitoring Project, which automates echocardiogram screening;
- Further, DeKUT Virtual Mechatronics Lab has developed virtual training solutions for technical courses using Industrial Metaverse and Virtual reality. Through this initiative, DeKUT is supporting 60 TVET institutes through the training of their instructors, to improve the quality of education in TVET.

- In addition, Our Coffee Technology Centre (CTC) in collaboration with New-KPCU, the Coffee Research Institute, and the Ministry of Cooperatives is developing National human capital for coffee extension officers in the coffee growing regions in the country. This is to support the government initiative of training 1600 coffee extension officers to enhance coffee production in the country.
- The Centre for Spatial Information Science and Systems (CSISS), has a strategic partnership with the Kenya Space Agency, which focuses on advancing space science through collaborative research, training and capacity building. By leveraging satellite data and Artificial Intelligence, this initiative enables detailed crop mapping, agricultural monitoring, and the sustainable management of land and water environments.

Emerging directly from DeKUT centres, we have recorded 33 student innovations and are proud to report the establishment of 4 startups, and 6 patents this year adding up to 18 registered startups and 37 patents so far. These ventures are not only creating employment opportunities but are also contributing to solving national and global challenges in areas such as engineering, agriculture, ICT, and industrial technology.

To demonstrate this, I wish to highlight the following innovations which are receiving the Student Innovator of the Year Award today:

i. **Calmind – Mental Health Digital Platform**
   Griffins Gitari Njagi, Joshua Senteu, and Grace Jane Wanjiku, graduating Computer Science students in the School of Computer Science and IT, are the innovators behind Calmind. It is a student-focused digital mental health platform that integrates CBT-based tools, AI support, and anonymous engagement features to enhance accessible mental wellness services.
ii. **Terracraft Technologies – Student Verification System**
   Ambrose Wabwile Murakhi, a 4th Year BTECH Building Construction student from the School of Engineering, is the innovator behind Terracraft Technologies, whose

system will improve student identification, attendance tracking, and controlled access to university facilities.

iii. **Collastrong – Waste-to-Skincare Innovation**

Duncan Kimanthi Kioko, who is graduating today with a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Chemistry, together with Maryanne Ngari Mwieria, an alumnus, are the innovators behind Collastrong. This start-up transforms fish-processing waste into biodegradable skincare products, promoting sustainability and circular economy practices.

In recognition of this remarkable progress, the University was honoured with an Student-Led Innovations award by the Head of Public Service and Secretary to the Cabinet, a testament to our growing reputation as a leading institution in innovation and applied research.

These and many more success stories affirm a key shift in our mission: we are not only graduating students with academic qualifications, but we are also nurturing innovators, entrepreneurs, and problem-solvers.

At Dedan Kimathi University of Technology, we are actively developing solutions for the Nation and the world, turning knowledge into innovation, and innovation into impact.

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

In recognition of the quality and impact of our graduates, the University was honoured with the Excellence in Engineering Education Award at the 2026 Engineering Partnerships Convention (EPC), a clear affirmation of the standards of training, innovation, and professional competence that define DeKUT. This achievement reflects not only academic excellence, but also the practical relevance and industry-readiness of our graduates, who continue to distinguish themselves in engineering and technology-driven fields.

4. DeKUT Science and Technology Park

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

We thank the Government of Kenya for the support of DeKUT Science and Technology Park, which is set for turning research output to commercial products and create park for wealth and job creation for National development.

DeKUT STP proudly hosts the first Semiconductor Technology Company (STL), which is run by DeKUT graduates. We thank STL CEO, Dr. Eng. Anthony Githinji, for providing a good training and research field for our staff and students.

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

Let me recognize two of our graduands, who have trained in semiconductor:

1. Ann Njeri – BSc Electrical and Electronic Engineering
2. Hope Balewa – BSc Mechanical Engineering

5. Congratulating the Graduands

To the graduands, you have been equipped with key skills, knowledge, competencies, and strong character formation that DeKUT has diligently nurtured in you throughout your academic journey. We are confident that you are destined for greatness wherever you will go, within Kenya and in the Nations of the world.

It is for this reason that I stand here with great confidence and pride to bless you and formally release you into the world of work.

Allow me to finalize my speech with the blessings in the book of **Numbers 6:24**, as you graduate and proceed to the world of work.

"May the LORD bless you and keep you;

May the LORD make His face shine upon you and be Gracious to you.

May the Lord turn His face towards you and give you peace.

May you prosper in all your endeavours and be great in the Land!”

Congratulations to the Graduating Class of 2026!