

SPEECH BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL, 5TH GRADUATION CEREMONY

The Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education Science and Technology (MoEST), Dr. Fred Matiang'I,

Chancellor Dedan Kimathi University of Technology, Prof. S.O Keya,

Council members,

Vice Chancellor, Dedan Kimathi University of Technology, Prof. P. N. Kioni,

Deputy Vice Chancellors,

Deans and Directors,

Registrars,

Teaching and non-teaching staff,

Parents and guardians,

Graduands and Students,

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning,

It is with much delight that I welcome you, on behalf of Dedan Kimathi University of Technology University council, to our fifth graduation ceremony. In the same breath, I congratulate our graduands for successfully completing their courses.

This occasion marks a great day in initiation of the University's graduands as they receive their hard earned reward and are ushered into the world to be forces of development nationally and internationally. To the University, it is a mark of growth as we have nurtured and equipped you over years and we are confident that we are releasing you to the world to make a positive impact. This graduation ceremony has been specially held to enable those students who completed their studies mid-year and immediately after the fourth graduation held in April acquire their certificates and continue to the next phase of their careers. The Council considered this a prudent decision as it empowers our graduands and saves them valuable time.

We are proud of you.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the four years since the award of charter, the council with the support from the ministry of education science and technology has put in place standards in accordance to the University Act 2012 and the charter. This has helped the council, through the able University Management Board, run the University this far. The University appreciates the financial support from the government that has helped in construction of infrastructure and material acquisition enabling us offer quality education to our students.

The University is implementing 2014-2019 Strategic Plan that aims at addressing the long term development of the University as it responds to the political, legal and economic changes in the medium- term nationally and globally. The direction taken through the implementation will ascertain that the University contributes to niche areas of vision 2030 and beyond and also contribute towards realization of the Technical, Industrial, Vocational and Entrepreneurship Training goals.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The students' population now stands at 6,944. Laying great emphasis on fostering research, innovation and technology development, DeKUT continues to grow her mix of academic programmes spread over Engineering, ICT, Food Technology, Health Sciences, Applied Sciences, and Business Studies. The introduction of PhD in Mechanical Engineering early this year put us on the map of history having registered and admitted ten students in one cohort. More Technical courses are also being offered at our Institute of Technical and Professional Studies.

We continue to excel in more ways than one which is a clear sign of our growth to a premier University Excelling in Quality Education, Research and Technology Transfer for National development. In the year 2015/2016, our students featured with amazing innovations developed from right here in our institution. This is an indicator that we are indeed providing academically stimulating, culturally diverse and quality learning environment that fosters research, innovation and technology development towards producing relevant technical and managerial human resource and leaders to contribute to attainment of national development goals as our mission states.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish to thank the government through the ministry of Education for their support towards the growth of the institution and the financial support to the students through the Higher Education Loans Board. It is my hope that we will continue working together for the betterment of our Nation through Quality Education. My gratitude goes to the University Management Board, for their dedication in running this institution. It's through the board that most of the mentioned above, not limited to, have been made possible. I also wish to appreciate the whole Dedan Kimathi University fraternity and stakeholders for their cooperation and support throughout the years. To the graduands, all the best as you face the world.

Thank you and May God bless you all.