



**SPEECH DELIVERED BY EDWIN MAKORI NYAKWAMA, VALEDICTORIAN CLASS
OF 2017, DURING THE 6TH GRADUATION CEREMONY AT DEDAN KIMATHI
UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY ON FRIDAY, 28TH APRIL, 2017 AT THE
UNIVERSITY GRADUATION GROUNDS**

Recognition of all the guests

- Your Excellency, Thabo Mbeki, the former President of the Republic of South Africa,
- Cabinet Secretary for Education Dr. Fred Matiang'i,

- Prof. Shellemiah O. Keya, Chancellor,
- Chairperson of Council , Dr. Jane Nyakang'o,
- Council Members,
- The Vice Chancellor,
- Deputy Vice Chancellors of DeKUT,
- Registrars,
- Senators,
- Staff,
- Graduands and students,
- Guardians and parents,
- All invited guests and all protocol observed

Good Morning,

My name is Edwin Makori Nyakwama and I will be graduating with a Bachelors Degree in Business Administration, Accounting and Finance option. Today is a great day for all the graduands and their parents and guardians. This is the culmination of four to five years of hardwork, we have been taught, examined and mentored appropriately.

My colleagues and I are proud to be graduands of this prestigious institution which has molded us to be what we are today. Beside academic rigor, we have been molded through programmes like climb to educate, sports, clubs and spiritual nourishment. We can proudly say that DeKUT been our home and our mother and therefore we cannot forget her. We are all going to join the alumni association of this great institution.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As the graduating class of 2017, we are humbled to Have his Excellency, the former President of Republic of South Africa, Thabo Mbeki, graduate with us in this great University that is named after a great freedom fighter, Field Marshal Dedan Kimathi Wachiuri. Kimathi stood for the rights of generations and generations of Kenyans; and served as a renaissance icon for the rest of Africa. We recognize the accomplishments of our heroes and have endeavored to walk in their footsteps in order to champion peace, equality, innovation, integrity and economic empowerment of our people.

Your Excellency, Sir,

I take this chance to welcome you to this home of heroes and also into the Graduating Class of 2017. Congratulations! We are happy to have you as an Alumni; another hero's name added to our profile.

We, the Class of 2017 - as part of the DeKUT family - have been ambassadors of peace, a tradition we wish to be upheld. The peace and tranquility that has prevailed in DeKUT has enabled us to graduate at least a year ahead of our colleagues in other institutions with whom we completed secondary school education. We applaud the University Management, our lecturers and the rest of the DeKUT family for making this possible.

We wish to thank the university for ensuring everything was in place and accessible to all of us when we needed it. We thank the government for the financial support it has given us through HELB and sponsorship. I equally thank our parents and guardians for being important pillars to our success by offering us moral and financial support, which was a great sacrifice just like our freedom fighters.

My fellow graduands,

This is our day and it serves as the testimony that we worked smart for us to have come this far and our good work is being rewarded today. You can concur with me that we have been carefully baked and indeed we are ready to go out there and support the economy. Job opportunities are limited my brothers and sisters; this is a fundamental fact. However,

the boon has begun and entrepreneurship is taking its roots in many regions in our contemporary society. So, focus on providing solutions by being entrepreneurial at all times for this is the greatest gift you have received from Dedan Kimathi University of Technology.

On the other hand,

Let this degree not mark the end of our achievements but instead be a part of the larger journey of our life accomplishments and should be taken as a launching pad, projecting us to wherever our futures lie. Many people experience only one graduation from a higher institution of learning. I challenge all of us today to be steady in our growth, both academically and in our careers. Let us make learning a lifetime endeavor.

Finally,

As you go out be the providers of peace. The values like dialogue, team spirit, which we have learned from DeKUT should never go to waste.

To all our guests, thank you for gracing this occasion.

May God bless Dedan Kimathi University of Technology, and may God bless you all.

Thank you!