

DEDAN KIMATHI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

PRIVATE BAG – 10143, DEDAN KIMATHI

SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE CABINET SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION, PROF. GEORGE MAGOHA ON FRIDAY 8TH MAY 2020 DURING THE DEDAN KIMATHI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY 9TH GRADUATION CEREMONY

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with great pleasure that I join you on this auspicious occasion of the 9th graduation ceremony of Dedan Kimathi University of Technology. I take this opportunity to congratulate all those graduating today, their parents, guardians, and all who have played a role to make this day possible. I congratulate the Dedan Kimathi University council and management for leading and building this great university to the height it has reached.

As the ministry, this is an important milestone in developing the manpower needed for the development of this country. We look forward to the great contributions that you the graduands will make in the development of this country.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We are in interesting times. The coronavirus pandemic that hit the country in March has brought about a paradigm shift in the education sector. Traditional methods of teaching have been

challenged. I'm pleased to note that the university has taken to teaching through the e-learning portal to ensure that students' learning goes uninterrupted. The ministry is also in support of the universities' move to hold this virtual graduation, which will ensure that the graduands graduate on time, and join the job market on time. I commend the university council and management for this progressive decision. I'd like to assure that this virtual graduation complies fully with the law and certificate issued will be valid.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Universities have to continuously reform and reinvent themselves. They should continually adjust to the changes that are happening around the world. They should take leadership and initiatives in responding to changes including incorporating the ICT in the activities.

Universities have three critical functions; research, education and dissemination of knowledge. I note with satisfaction that Dedan

Kimathi University of Technology as a young university is already graduating PhDs and masters in its areas of focus.

As part of the Big 4 Agenda, the Ministry has embarked on the development of a National Science and Technology Park at Dedan Kimathi University. The contract for the construction of the first block to cater for Design, Materials and Manufacturing Block will be signed in the next few weeks. The park has also entered into partnership with the private sector for the manufacturing of electronic devices.

The Science and Technology Park will encourage cooperation and synergy between universities, research institutions, and the private sector and create a favorable environment for innovation and development of high tech industries.

Finally, to the graduands,

We are here today to affirm your successful training and the skills you have acquired. Utilize the skills and competencies acquired

to uplift yourself, your family, and also to sustain a Kenyan knowledge-based economy that is globally competitive. As you go out to start new chapters in your lives, the government will remain supportive of your endeavors. Be entrepreneurial and always search and respond to opportunities. Remember, that success is the sum of small efforts repeated day in and day out and if an opportunity does not knock, build a door.

Congratulations and God bless you all.