DEDAN KIMATHI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
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SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR PROF. P. NDIRANGU KIONI ON FRIDAY, 8TH MAY, 2020; DURING THE 9TH GRADUATION CEREMONY AT DEDAN KIMATHI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

- **The Chief Guest,**

• Ag. Chancellor and Chairman of the Dedan Kimathi University of Technology Council, Dr. Jane Nyakang'o

• Members of the Dedan Kimathi council

• Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Dedan Kimathi University of Technology;

• Members of the Dedan Kimathi University of Technology Senate;

- **Distinguished guests**

• The Alumni Association;

• Parents and guardians

- **All our graduands**
- **Ladies and gentlemen**

Good Morning?

It is my pleasure this morning to welcome you all to the 9th Commencement ceremony honoring the achievements of our graduands. I want to extend my congratulations to the class of 2020 graduating today. This is a momentous day as we witness the graduands being crowned with different degrees and diplomas in various specializations. It is the fruits of years of hard work and sacrifice that have culminated in this auspicious occasion that has made us very proud of their accomplishments. Well done.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The University remains committed to providing an academically stimulating, culturally diverse, and quality learning environment that fosters research, innovation, and technology development towards producing relevant technical and managerial human resources and

leaders to contribute to the attainment of national development goals. Our graduates have remained competitive as they make waves in the industries.

Last year, the University topped as the most preferred Public University in the country. Out of the 1880 declared capacity, 1834 slots were taken up under the Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Service. This translated to a 98% uptake of the University's declared capacity.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The University has formed strategic alliances and collaborations with various like-minded organizations to ensure that we empower our graduates with superior skills and the requisite mindset that they need to deal with the challenges they face.

We have partnered with the Kenya Film Commission (KFC) to start a digital media center to reduce the unemployment gaps among the youth through the use of technology by

coming up with digital media products such as films. This partnership aims to provide a platform where young people and interested parties in creative art can use technology in film making and participate in the production of digital media products that can be marketed widely. It is an industry that can provide employment to a lot of young people and where one can achieve a lot with very little investment. It is prudent to develop the capacity of those who are going to use the facilities and therefore scale the Human resource and get more people involved in the project. The university will aid in the provision of capacity development support for the interested parties as the commission's main objective is to provide a vibrant film industry in Kenya. Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (KBC) will provide an avenue for dissemination of content. As a sector, the commission is an enabler within the big four agenda. Kenya Film Commission is also working in collaboration with Konza city to create a digital media city.

We have also partnered with the Kenya Industrial Property to foster quality education, holistic development of students, and the production of relevant human resources and leaders to contribute to growth and development. We recognize that operating a

Technology and Innovation Support Center (TISC) will provide a ready pool of science and technical experts with competence to conduct a patent search, patent drafting as well as assist in patent prosecution and benefit from the IP capacity-building interventions of KIPI which will ultimately result in increased IP creation, protection, and commercialization in the local community.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The University has established a Science and Technology Park to encourage cooperation and synergy between universities, research institutions, and the private sector and create a favorable environment for innovation, renovation, and training. The proposed Science and Technology Park aims at creating high- tech clusters that serve as catalysts to technology development, economic transformation, and wealth creation with a link to university knowledge generation.

To our graduands,

Graduation is a watershed. It marks the beginning of lifelong service to society. We have given you the skills and competencies you require to adapt to the dynamic realities of the modern labor market not only as a worker but most importantly, as an innovator or job creator.

The university has set you on the path to self-realization and service to humanity. Embrace the journey with courage and determination needed to last the course. Once again congratulations to the class of 2020.

Thank you and God Bless.