



SPEECH BY THE CABINET SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION,
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PROF. JACOB T. KAIMENYI,
PHD,FICD,EBS,DELIVERED DURING SECOND GRADUATION
CEREMONY OF DEDAN KIMATHI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
HELD ON 25TH APRIL, 2014.

- Chancellor Dedan Kimathi University of Technology, Prof. Shellemiah O. Keya
- Principal Secretary for Education, Dr. Belio Kipsang
- Principal Secretary for Science & Technology, Prof. Colleta Suda
- Chairman of Dedan Kimathi University of Technology Council, Dr. Dulacha Barako
- Members of the University Council
- Vice Chancellor Dedan Kimathi University of Technology, Prof. P. N. Kioni
- Vice Chancellors of other Universities present
- University Staff and Students
- Parents and Guardians
- Graduands and All Invited Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is with great pleasure that I join the graduands, parents, guardians, the fraternity of Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (DeKUT) and all well-wishers as we celebrate the Second Graduation Ceremony of this Great University. The occasion is significant to me noting that, DeKUT was the first University I visited immediately I assumed the office of Cabinet Secretary for Education, Science and Technology at your first graduation ceremony.

May I from the onset, state that graduation is a milestone in every student's life as it affords them an opportunity to look back at what they have achieved. This is also the moment where parents and guardians are provided with an opportunity to celebrate the results of their

investments through the successful student's academic pursuit. It is equally a significant occasion where quality products in the form of Human Resources are presented to society and the entire world for service to humanity.

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

May I take this great opportunity to also congratulate You, The University Council, Management and the entire University staff for pooling your efforts together that has enabled production of quality graduates - particularly in the area of Engineering, only one year after becoming a fully-fledged University.

I am indeed happy to note that DeKUT has so far kept the promise of following the footsteps of their founding Heroes towards making it a

Premier Technological University. Your commitment and efforts in offering unique programmes in areas such as Geothermal Technology, Leather Technology, Wind Energy, and Coffee Technology that are geared towards providing the necessary manpower for achieving the National Development agenda is Commendable.

Therefore I wish to urge you to remain focused in your mandate of training and research in Applied Science, Engineering and Technology for this is the future of Our Nation.

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

I would like to commend the partnership that is existing between the University and the neighboring community especially in the provision of Hostels to DeKUT students. This has complemented the Governments

efforts by providing accommodation, while the university concentrates in developing critical teaching learning facilities. This kind of partnership with hostel providers has enabled the University to accommodate all the students. This has greatly enhanced the capacity of DeKUT to enroll more students resulting in significant growth in student population and improved quality of services.

I also note, with gratification that this University has ventured into coffee technology that aims at adding value through processing, packaging and even marketing of coffee. I wish to challenge the farmers from this region and beyond together with private investors in this sector to partner with this University that is set to help you reap optimal returns on your investments.

I wish to assure you Government's support as you partner with DeKUT to enable it realize its vision and mission aimed at improving our livelihoods.

Mr Chancellor Sir,

As you are aware, Kenya's thriving urge to be a middle income country by 2030 is based on development of a robust knowledge based Economy. My Ministry is mandated to provide competent Human Resource for the realization the national development agenda.

Furthermore, a specific State Department within My Ministry has been set aside to coordinate and facilitate formulation of Policy, Planning and Funding in Science, Technology and Innovation that are core in the transformation of our economy.

My Ministry has made significant progress in operationalizing Policy and Legal reforms and the most significant are the Universities Act 2012, ST&I Act 2013, and TVET Act of 2013. These have enhanced Access, Equity, Quality, Relevance and Good Governance in our Universities thus making them be Globally Competitive. In spite of the robust initiatives from the reforms, challenges such as the ever increasing demand for quality higher education; the mismatch between skills acquired and labour market needs; and the escalating cost of education continue to bedevil our pursuit for excellence in service delivery.

However, I am confident that the brilliant reforms in TVET shall make Kenya emerge as an African Tiger having positioned our-selves as an

Information Technology Hub in the region. We have the Potential; Let us keep Moving, We will get there soon.

Mr Chancellor Sir,

The Jubilee Government is committed towards promoting Science, Technology and Innovation by: increasing provision for research fund to be managed by the National Research Fund; Establishment of the National Commission for Science; Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI); and provision of equipment for Applied Sciences, Engineering and Technology; and capacity building of university staff at Masters and PhD through the Higher Education Science and Technology Project (HEST GOK/ADB Project).

I am happy to inform that DeKUT is a key beneficiary and will train teaching staff in Mechanical Engineering and Geothermal and Energy Technology. It is significant to also note that under this programme 30 students are in the pipeline for training in Geothermal Technology with extensive involvement and support of KENGEN and Geothermal Development Corporation.

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

We have gathered here today to witness the Administration and Award of degrees, diplomas and certificates to the 2014 graduates from various Schools and Institutes.

As for the graduands; after the strain of sitting final tests, credits, exams, and the rigorous research undertaken by Masters and PhD

candidates. I strongly feel that most of you are really looking forward to this auspicious moment.

However, I would like you as you go out as ambassadors of this Great University by offering Outstanding Service to our Nation with a difference. This is a remarkable Mark you can leave on every Heart that you Serve. When this is done the society will be able to recognize and appreciate the input of this university into the transformation of your life. Always uphold the highest level of integrity and Ethics in your service – It makes a difference and distinguishes you from all other Kenyans.

Once more, I wish to congratulate you, your parents and guardians for your sacrifice to attain this. May you utilize the skills and competencies

acquired to uplift yourself, your family and also to sustain a Kenyan knowledge based economy that is globally competitive.

With those few remarks, I say
May God Bless You All