SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE CABINET SECRETARY FOR MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PROF. JACOB T. KAIMENYI, PHD, FICD, EBS, DURING THE 3RD GRADUATION CEREMONY OF DEDAN KIMATHI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY ON FRIDAY, MAY 29TH, 2015 AT THE GRADUATION SQUARE

The Chancellor DeKUT, Prof. Shellemiah O. Keya,
Chancellor’s from Other Universities
Principal Secretary (Education), Dr. Belio Kipsang,
Commission Secretary, Commission of University Education, Prof. David Some,
Chairman of Council of DeKUT, Prof. Galgalo Dulacha Barako
Council members present,
Vice Chancellor, Prof. P. Ndirangu Kioni,
Vice Chancellors of other Universities present,
Deputy Vice Chancellors,
Staff,
Parents, guardians and sponsors,
Graduands and Students,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
I am delighted to preside over this 3rd graduation ceremony. May I, take this opportunity to congratulate the University and graduands for their determination, smart and hard work that has culminated to this momentous occasion. I note with great pleasure that there are 1266 graduands in various disciplines at this graduation ceremony which is more that double the number last year. My ministry welcomes this growth and the University’s contribution to the development of the country’s high level human resource. It is indeed the pride of my Ministry to see these great men and women from DeKUT excelling and completing their studies, and to join you together with your parents,
guardians, supporters and stakeholders of the University to celebrate this achievement.

Four years ago my ministry introduced the accelerated admission programme with the aim of eliminating the waiting period between sitting of Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) examinations and admission to University. I am pleased to note that Dedan Kimathi University of Technology successfully implemented this programme and that today we are celebrating the graduation of a group of students which joined university without delay. Indeed, this is the first university to graduate these students in the entire country. I am sure that these students are pleased to acquire their degree
qualifications after almost exactly four years after receiving their KCSE examinations results.

I congratulate and thank the University for managing the double intake for these last four years. I would also like to appreciate the students who were ahead for journeying together during their stay here with their younger brothers and sisters.
Ladies and gentlemen,

I note with appreciation that the University is graduating a large number of students in business and technology based programmes. This should indeed be the case as this is one of the university’s in the country which has been identified to train the technological human resource which this country is in dire need of to drive its infrastructure development and industrialization processes for realization of Vision 2030. I am informed that this is the first time we have graduands in Bachelor degree programmes in Food Science and Technology, Geospatial Information Systems, Sustainable Tourism and Hospitality Management, Purchasing and Supplies Management, and in Doctor of
Philosophy in Food Science. I welcome this growth and particularly that of doctoral programmes which demonstrates that the University is paying keen attention to research.

World over Universities gain good reputation because of the quality of their research outputs and hence because of the number of students graduating with Masters and doctoral degrees. I, therefore, support the strategic direction taken by this University, even at this early stage of their development, to introduce masters and PhD programmes.

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

I am aware that DeKUT is a young university with scarce resources, but I am delighted to note that you are already working with private
developers and other investors in Nyeri County in providing student accommodation facilities in the vicinity of the university. This has thus allowed the university to concentrate its efforts on expanding the learning facilities such as the academic blocks, workshops, laboratories, lecture theatres, sports facilities to support the academic and social learning for your students.

In so doing I urge the hostel providers to deepen their cooperation with the University so as to continually improve the quality of accommodation services and also the security of students. It is very important that the community is fully integrated in the university
security systems of ensuring the university and its neighbourhood and safe and secure.

Also, I recognize that through the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, DeKUT is leading in the implementation of GOK/AfDB supported projects and has benefited from modern state of the art equipment worth approximately 350 million Kenya shillings to support the engineering programmes being offered. It is expected that the equipment will play a key role in the delivery of quality and relevant engineering training at the university. Furthermore, DeKUT is also being supported through scholarships to train at Masters degree level: namely in Geothermal Energy
Technology; Advanced Manufacturing and Automation Engineering; Industrial Engineering and Management; Leather Technology; and for a PhD in Mechanical Engineering. Indeed, we at the Ministry are happy with DeKUT’s successful implementation of these projects.

In this regard, I am pleased to note that the Engineers Board of Kenya visited the University early this month and that they were satisfied with the University’s capacity to run the four engineering programmes which were under review. We now await the final resolution of the Board so that the students graduating today may get into the next phase of their professional careers without any impediments. My
Ministry has been closely engaged in this matter and I can state here that a lot of progress has been made.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Use of ICT is the new normal in doing business. It is therefore imperative that our universities embrace technology in to improve efficiency and effectiveness in fulfilling their mandate of teaching, research, and knowledge dissemination. In this regard, I encourage universities to work on all the modalities of improving and expanding use of ICT and produce graduates who can compete within the global market. ICT is a rapidly changing environment and those of us in university education cannot afford to be complacent. We have to change and adjust all the time so as to remain relevant and
competitive. I am delighted to note that DeKUT enjoys one the highest connectivity per student of public universities, allowing students to access learning materials available on the e-learning platform, e-library resources, and the internet. To this end also, I welcome the university’s initiative to support ICT innovation and students and young alumni start-up companies through the establishment of the DeKUT IDEAS Hub (Dehub).

To The University Council and Management,

As a Ministry we are committed to supporting the University and increasing access to university education. We are doing this by
supporting capital development projects, recurrent expenditure, providing loans and bursaries to students and developing of enabling laws, supporting rules and regulations for University education, and engaging with statutory and professional bodies to promote a harmonious relationships. We are aware that the resources from government may not be enough. Thus, even as we endeavour to increase the allocations, University Council and management should come up with innovative ways of raising more resources to support the University’s operations and growth.

In conclusion Ladies and Gentlemen,
I wish to thank you for your great contribution towards the well being of this institution this year and also for successfully hosting the recent beatification ceremony of the late Irene Stefan. The ceremony indeed put Nyeri County and the University in the world map. Moreover, I wish to encourage all of you to work hard with great dedication as we continue to better our lives through technology and also making Dedan Kimathi University of Technology a great institution worldwide. Thank you all for this enthusiasm and ‘spirit of togetherness’. I am delighted to be associated with this great institution.
I take this opportunity to encourage our graduands to uphold the ethical values acquired from this university as they endeavour to diligently serve our country. And also to appreciate those who gave you moral support especially, your lecturers, parents, sponsors and your peers.

Graduands, you have to act in an entrepreneurial spirit. This means that the social compact is changing and that you should take responsibility for yourselves. Should you be worried about this? Should you regret the gradual vanishing of the “golden cages” that corporate companies and government/state organizations were so great in building?
I frankly don’t think so. But you better get ready. Change is upon us and it is accelerating. As Peter Drucker states “you cannot manage change, you must get ahead of it” – first in your minds and then in your practice and your lives. Hence my message to you is not a feel-good message but a message of truth and encouragement. The world you inherit today is beset with great challenges. Change is upon us – whether we want it or not. Yet – You belong to a small group with the greatest opportunity in generations: to be the architects and builders of a new world. You may exercise it wherever you stand – but it goes beyond having a job in a company or any other organization. You will not just be a cog in a big machine but you will be a node in a
vibrant network of individuals in society. As such YOU WILL HAVE PURPOSE like no generation before you.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Companies are currently struggling in defining the broader purpose for themselves and their constituents – but they have started to understand that they are not acting in isolation but as part of society. Yet it all comes at a price – you will have to rigorously apply the thinking and reasoning skills, in particular critical thinking that you have learnt in class and your emotional competencies. You should not be content to be just an expert in a domain; you must also constantly work on deciphering what happens in society and smartly act on it.
You must also know that just doing good is not and will never be enough – achieving impact is what counts. Become creators of the future. You can do it and my best wishes are with you.

Lastly May I urge you to be good ambassadors of this reputable University of Technology and wish you success in all your future endeavours.

Thank You and God Bless You All!