

SPEECH BY THE CHAIRMAN UNIVERSITY COUNCIL, DEDAN KIMATHI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, DR.DULACHO GALGALO BARAKO, DURING THE FIRST GRADUATION CEREMONY ON 17TH MAY, 2013

- **Chancellor of Dedan Kimathi University of Technology, Prof. Shellemiah Keya**
- **His Excellency former President, Hon. Mwai Kibaki**
- **Cabinet Secretary for Education, Prof. Jacob Kaimenyi**
- **Governor, Nyeri County, His Excellency, Nderitu Gachagua and other County leaders**
- **Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education, represented by Mr. David Watene**
- **Chancellor of Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Prof. Francis Gichaga**
- **Chancellor of Maasai Mara University, Prof. Philip Ngunjiri**
- **Chancellors of other Universities present**
- **Members of Dedan Kimathi University of Technology Council**
- **Vice Chancellor Dedan Kimathi University of Technology Prof. Ndirangu Kioni**
- **Vice Chancellors of other Universities present**
- **Secretary, Commission for University Education, represented by Mr. Joel Mberia**
- **Deputy Vice Chancellors**

- **Registrars**
- **Deans**
- **Staff and Students of Dedan Kimathi University of Technology**
- **Parents and Guardians**
- **Graduands**

All Protocols observed

Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the Dedan Kimathi University of Technology Council, I wish to welcome all of you to this inaugural graduation ceremony and congratulate the graduands for their well deserved awards.

Graduation marks the critical stage of passing out of the University which has been your abode for the last couple of years having been nurtured and your skills sharpened. We are now ready to release you to the world of work, either as job seekers or even better as job creators.

Ladies and gentlemen, let me take this opportunity to sincerely thank the Government for bestowing on me the onerous task of steering this young University. I accept the appointment with

thanks and humility and pledge my commitment to roll up my sleeves to lead fellow Council members in steering this institution to greater heights of accomplishment.

But before I move on to outline the vision of my Council, I wish to acknowledge the great accomplishments by our predecessors who ably steered the former Kimathi University College of Technology. I have no doubt in my mind their meticulousness was the basis upon which much was attained, culminating in the elevation of the University College to a fully fledged University.

I thank them for enabling us inherit the management of an institution with well defined structures and human capital base that is highly professional and motivated. As a Council we fully understand our mandate with regard to mobilizing resources and human capital with a view to realizing the vision of being a premier technological University excelling in quality Education, Research and Technology transfer and powered by the motto Better Life through Technology.

We appreciate the fact that running a university of technology provides great challenges due to the high costs of mounting and running science based programmes. We need more resources and we therefore appeal to the ministry of education to consider actualizing the proposal of unit-costing measures by releasing more money to train scientists and ICT specialists in public universities.

Nonetheless we remain greatly indebted to the Government for availing funds to put up key facilities that have completely changed the face of this institution since her elevation to university status in 2007. Through Government grants we have managed to build the following facilities:

- Resource Centre, Phase one and Two
- Oxidation Ponds
- Engineering Workshops
- Dining Facility
- Sewerage System
- Sports Fields
- Road Network
- Rehabilitation of Hostels
- Academic Block (ongoing)

With regard to accommodation of our students, we have adopted a model that is popular all over the world. This entails looping in private entrepreneurs to put up hostels around the university. This has proved rewarding in that it gives us the opportunity to concentrate on the core business of providing priority learning facilities like workshops and laboratories.

This does not however mean that we have totally surrendered the accommodation issue to private developers. As a young university, we are only having a priority list and with time, we should be able to build hotels once the necessary learning facilities are in place.

The University Council will continue to address staff welfare with a view to attracting and retaining qualified personnel so as to guarantee quality education. We are an equal opportunity employer and I invite top notch individuals to apply for positions that we advertise from time to time.

We have great respect for the supreme law of the land and therefore take the issue of industrial relations with the weight it deserves. Both teach and non-teaching staff have freedom to join trade unions operating within the law and we respect collective bargaining agreements entered between them and the university.

Finally as the chairman of the Council, I pledge this university's commitment to take the necessary measures to enable it fulfill her mandate as spelt out in the Charter establishing it.

THANK YOU