



SPEECH BY THE CABINET SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PROF. JACOB KAIMENYI AT DEDAN KIMATHI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY DURING THE UNIVERSITY'S FIRST GRADUATION CEREMONY ON FRIDAY, 17TH MAY, 2013.

- His Excellency Hon. Mwai Kibaki, CGH, the third President of the Republic of Kenya,
- Permanent Secretary Higher Education, Science and Technology , Prof. Crispus M. Kiamba, CBS, MBS,
- Chancellor Dedan Kimathi University of Technology, Prof. S.O Keya
- Council Chairman of Dedan Kimathi University of Technology, Dr. Dulacha Galgalo Barako,
- Council members present,
- Vice Chancellor Dedan Kimathi University of Technology, Prof. P. N. Kioni,

- Vice Chancellors of other Universities present,
- Deputy Vice Chancellors,
- Teaching and non-teaching staff,
- Parents, guardians and sponsors,
- Graduands and Students,
- Distinguished Guests,
- Ladies and Gentlemen,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with great pleasure that I join today's graduands, their parents, guardians and well-wishers as we celebrate this first inaugural graduation ceremony of Dedan Kimathi University of Technology. This is the first graduation which I am attending following the award of Charters to the twenty two (22) public universities. It is indeed the pride of my Ministry to have the first of the fifteen recently elevated university constituent colleges graduate her first cohort of students under the new dispensation.

Graduation is a milestone in every student's life and is also a moment to stop and reflect; to look back at what you have achieved in the many programmes and courses taken in numerous tests and examinations and chart the way forward in professional career.

The fact that you are graduating today is a clear testimony that you have successfully gone through the rigors that culminate in being conferred with degrees or awarded Diplomas and Certificates. I congratulate you, your parents and guardians for your sacrifice and effort that has enabled you to attain this.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Let me take this opportunity to sincerely thank His Excellency the President, Uhuru Kenyatta for giving me the honour to offer my services as the first Cabinet Secretary under the country's new constitutional dispensation. I am glad to say my new position puts me in familiar grounds having been involved in university administration for years with my last stint being the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs at the University of Nairobi.

As I take the helm of leading this critical Ministry, I remain well aware of the ever increasing demand for quality higher education. This behoooves the Ministry and the Government in general to go an extra mile in making it possible for as many qualifying students to join institutions of higher learning. Equally important is the

strengthening of Quality Assurance mechanism to make our institutions globally competitive. In this regard, I call upon universities and other institutions of learning to strengthen their quality assurance systems by establishing functional directorates of quality assurance as well as adhering to set standards and adopting best international practices.

The Commission for University Education which is the accreditation and quality assurance body will continue to be restructured and strengthened in order to effectively and efficiently deliver on its extended mandate conferred by the recently enacted Universities Act, 2012. It will thus be expected that each one of us remains vigilant to ensure that quality standards are maintained in our

institutions of higher learning as they continue to provide the much needed human capital required by our growing economy.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is gratifying to note that about 75% of Dedan Kimathi University training programmes are in science and technology and the institution continues to discharge its original mandate of training certificate and diploma holders in engineering related fields. This is in line with the Ministry's policy that encourages technical institutions elevated to university status to continue training the much needed technicians who are key to the realization of the Vision 2030.

On the issue of funding, the Government through my Ministry remains committed to inject more funds towards the promotion of Science and Technology courses as the country remains focused on realization of its development goals set in Vision 2030. We hope to achieve this through implementation of differentiated unit-cost as proposed by past reports on university education and the latest Sessional Paper No. 14 of 2012 on Education and Training.

Even as we talk about funding, I wish to underscore the importance of prudent utilization of grants and other resources from the Government and other partners by all education institutions. It is only through this that we can reap maximum benefits from the resources that we continuously invest in this vital sector.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the last few years, there has been considerable expansion of access to university education. In 2008, the total number of students admitted through the Joint Admission Board (JAB) was 16,134, by the year 2011, this number had gone up to 41,996 and this year JAB has admitted 53,010 representing an increase of 11,000 from the previous year. Even, then this is only 35% of the over 119,000 qualified for university education in the year under review. The

number of qualified students is expected to grow particularly in the next few years as the Free Primary Education (FPE) programme, introduced in 2003 take full effect in the year 2014 when the first group of students who joined standard one at the onset of FPE programme in 2003 sits for their Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (K.C.S.E).

Whereas, there has been considerable expansion in infrastructural development facilities, I am aware that more resources are still required to match the expansion in university enrollment. To this end, my Ministry will continue to seek ways to raise the funding levels in public universities, and on their part the universities must pursue innovative ways of mobilizing extra resources to support

themselves and find ways of delivering quality education at an affordable cost. Universities will thus need to be more creative in exploring avenues of supplementing government effort. We encourage managers of our universities to engage in income generating activities as long as this is within the law establishing them.

Ladies and Gentleman,

Providing accommodation to students has proved to be an expensive undertaking bearing in mind that the universities are also required to provide critical facilities

for learning. One practical way of achieving this is entering into Public-Private Partnership, particularly with regard to students' accommodation.

I am pleased to note that DeKUT is a trailblazer in this area and has partnered with the local community who are providing student accommodation facilities. This has enabled the university to utilize its available resources in providing core education facilities.

The advantage of taking this route is two pronged: the university spares funds for priority projects while the local community gets a sense of ownership which translates to a perfect symbiotic relationship. I urge other institutions of higher learning to utilize similar opportunities to increase the much needed access.

Finally, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish to pay tribute to our Chief Guest for today's function, His Excellency Hon. Mwai Kibaki, the immediate former president for his dedication and support to the education sector and specifically for higher education that experienced tremendous expansion during his tenure. It is befitting that this University has recognized these efforts and considered conferring a Doctorate Degree in Humane Letters.

On behalf of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology and on my own behalf, please join me in congratulating His Excellency for this well deserved award.

Thank You and God Bless You All.