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STATE DEPARTMENT FOR UNIVERSITY EDUCATION

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

URGENT

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

STATE DEPARTMENT OF UNIVERSITY EDUCATION & RESEARCH

INTERNAL MEMO

TO: Principal Secretary

FROM: Ag. Director University Education

DATE: 24th April 2018

SPEECH DELIVERED BY AMB. (DR.) AMINA MOHAMED, EGH, CAV THE CABINET SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION DURING THE DEDAN KIMATHI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY 7TH GRADUATION CEREMONY TO BE HELD ON 27TH APRIL, 2018

Attached herewith please find the Cabinet Secretary's speech during the university during the 7th graduation ceremony for Dedan Kimathi University of Technology to be held on 27th April, 2018

JAMES M. KIBURI
Ag. DIRECTOR UNIVERSITY EDUCATION

Forward Speech to Prof. Chacha who we have Mandated to be Chief Guest

25/4/18

SPEECH DELIVERED BY AMB. (DR.) AMINA MOHAMED, EGH, CAV THE CABINET SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION DURING THE DEDAN KIMATHI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY 7TH GRADUATION CEREMONY HELD ON 27TH APRIL, 2018

- Ag. Chancellor, Dedan Kimathi University of Technology
- Chairman of the Council, Dr. Jane Nyakang'o, and other Council Members
- Vice Chancellor, Dedan Kimathi University of Technology, Prof. P.N. Kioni
- Vice Chancellors from other universities present
- Deputy Vice Chancellors,
- Deans and Directors
- Registrars
- Teaching and Non-teaching members of staff
- Parents and Guardians
- Graduands and Students
- Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is with great pleasure that I join this congregation, the University Council, management, parents, staff and student fraternity, the well-wishers and more specifically the graduands during this 7th Graduation Ceremony of Dedan Kimathi in University of Technology.

I would like to begin my speech by congratulating all the graduands for successfully completing their studies in their respective programmes. I know that to achieve this success, you had to work very hard and with a lot of zeal to achieve your academic dream. Further, I want to commend you for your commitment and discipline throughout your years of study.

The education, knowledge and training offered in your respective Schools and Institutes will enable you to be highly productive citizens as you engage yourselves in nation building. Other citizens will be counting on you to make a difference in the society. This graduation is your climax of an academic venture that you embarked on a while ago. It is therefore natural to begin pondering on what next: either to proceed to the next level of academics or to join other Kenyans in the world of work. Whichever course you take, you should succeed as this University has prepared you well. Our business today is to express our confidence in you and to congratulate you.

The President recently announced his Big Four Plan aimed at creating jobs, enabling people to meet basic needs, and to enhance the comfort and well being of Kenyans. This agenda presents vast opportunities for your career in your development. The Big Four covers Universal Health Coverage; Enhancing Manufacturing, Affordable Housing; and Food and Nutrition Security.

We in the education sector have to put more emphasis on STEM education: More graduates at both technical and degree levels are required in Science, Technology Engineering and Mathematics. It is only by increasing the student population in these areas that we can generate the manpower and fill in the technical jobs that will be generated by the Big Four and the other sectors as required also in Kenya's Vision 2030.

In this regard, I observe with appreciation the high concentration in STEM of programmes offered by DeKUT and the large number of graduates in this area. I urge DeKUT to retain your focus on STEM. My Ministry will continue to provide you with the necessary support.

The University will also benefit from the establishment here of a teaching and referral cancer hospital. You shall therefore have a special role in supporting provision of universal healthcare.

Further, we shall soon lay the foundation stone for the Science and Technology Park to be located in this University. This will be an excellent opportunity for employment of graduates, internship for students, and for establishment of startup companies. The challenge now is for DeKUT and other Universities and research institutions collaborating in the STP to generate the knowledge and innovations to drive the STP.

My Ministry is continually engaged in reforming the education sector so as to realize quality and relevant education, gender equity in access to education and attainment of the constitutional minimum for both women in men in enrolment across programmes and also in employment and management of education institutions. The universities are critical partners in the implementation of these reforms. They should adhere to the Universities Standards and Guidelines; they should ensure that their programmes are accredited by the Commission for University Education (CUE); they should also strengthen their own internal mechanisms to ensure that they provide quality education. The universities should also engage in the ongoing development of competency based curriculum. This requires cooperation among the various organs of the University, from the Chancellor, Council, Management Board, Senate and Student organization as well as the wider body of students and staff.

DeKUT has done remarkably well since its award of Charter in December 2012. I am informed that you successfully presented

yourself for a second CUE institutional audit. I am also pleased that you have, through the years, managed to run your programmes on schedule and that your students are graduating after only four or five years of uninterrupted learning.

I am also informed that during the last admissions under KUCCPS you filled 92.3% of the places you had declared and that this was the highest among all public universities.

Congratulations!

May God bless the Graduands, this University and the people of Kenya.

Thank you.