**DEDAN KIMATHI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY**
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*Office of the Vice Chancellor*

**SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR, PROF. PETER. N MUCHIRI, ON FRIDAY, 5th SEPTEMBER 2025, DURING THE MATRICULATION CEREMONY OF FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS 2025/2026 ACADEMIC YEAR**

**Acknowledgements;**

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Administration and Finance, Prof. Esther Magiri;

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs and Research, Prof. Eddy Owaga;

The Registrar, Administration & Finance, Dr. Paul Mbote;

The Registrar Academic Affairs & Research, Ms. Elizabeth King'ori;

Deans and Directors;

Chairpersons of Departments;

Staff members;

Our dear First Year Students;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Good afternoon!

## 1. Welcome to DeKUT

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to Dedan Kimathi University of Technology. I would like to extend a warm welcome to our First Year Students and congratulate you for making it to the top University of Technology in this country, which is known for quality education, technology development, innovation, entrepreneurship, holistic student development and timely completion of studies.

We know it is because of your dreams, goals, aspiration and hard work that you are here today in this University. We are delighted to welcome you to DeKUT and look forward to supporting your academic journey.

## 2. Who Are We?

Dedan Kimathi University of Technology is named after Field Marshal Dedan Kimathi Wachiuri, who led the Mau Mau Movement to liberate our country from the hands of colonization.

DeKUT's philosophy is therefore founded on the belief that self actualization and solutions to global challenges are attainable through a spirit of dedication, self confidence, determination and best utilization of resources.

In the spirit of Dedan Kimathi Wachiuri, we believe that we can leverage technology to support the national Development Agenda and thus our motto stands: "Better Life Through Technology"
The Vision of DeKUT "To be a Premier University Excelling in Quality Education, Research and Technology Transfer for National Development"

## 3. Matriculation Ceremonies

Ladies and gentlemen;

Matriculation ceremonies are an essential tradition among Universities across the world. During this occasion, new students are formally admitted to the University. During this ceremony, as a new student, you solemnly declare, under oath, your loyalty to the University and abide by the rules and regulations. The pledge urges you to be of good behaviour and obedient to the authority of this University and to adhere to all practices of the Institution.

## 4. Rules and Regulations

Ladies and gentlemen;

Like any other University across the world, there are rules and regulations governing a student while studying at the University. As a public institution, the University is bound by the constitution of Kenya, the Universities Act of 2012, the University Charter and the University Statutes. These are all legally binding documents that we have to abide by. During the orientation period, you were informed of these rules and regulations, and each of you was given a copy. I encourage you to study all of them to be familiar with your rights, liberties and limitations while studying at the University.

DeKUT students and graduates are highly regarded in the industry due to their high values, discipline and work ethics. The character formation of our students is highly regarded in this University because we understand that character can keep you where a degree might not. One notable quality that is highly regarded by even our visitors is how neat and clean our students keep the university compound and facilities, including our washrooms.

I want to observe that you are now ambassadors of the University. We therefore implore you to embody its values and represent the University well in the community and beyond.

## 5. Innovative Ecosystem

Ladies and gentlemen;

This University offers a holistic education guided by our Vision and Mission. We strive to provide an academically stimulating, culturally diverse and quality learning environment that fosters research, innovation and technology development towards producing relevant human resources and leaders to contribute to attaining national development goals. Additionally, we have state-of-the-art laboratories and equipment, competent human resources, well-equipped library and e-learning infrastructure, international collaborations, and student exchange programs, which give international exposure to our students.

To complement this, we have built an ecosystem that fosters innovation and entrepreneurship.

### Science and Technology Park

First, we are developing a Science and Technology Park. It is an important platform that brings together professors, innovators, capital and business expertise to work together to support the development of innovations and the creation of new commercial enterprises to create employment and increase the wealth of the society, contributing to National Development. In DeKUT STP, we are proud to host the first semiconductor manufacturing company in East Africa, STL, with DeKUT providing critical human resources for this frontier End Tech industry.

DeKUT Science and Technology Park is projected to create between 25,000 and 50,000 jobs when fully operational. DeKUT Science and Technology Park will nurture ideas into innovations and thriving enterprises.

To support the Science and Technology Park, the University has established 26 centres of excellence which include DeHUB and the Incubation and Startup Centre, which nurtures ideas amongst innovation and entrepreneurship amongst students. Further, the Start up and Incubation Centre provides a platform for students, graduates, and alumni to grow their innovations into business startups.

I encourage you to initiate interest in engaging with any of the 29 centers of excellence as I will name them below.

1. DeKUT Natural Products Research Centre (NAPREC)
2. Center for Industrial Productivity and Engineering (CIPE)
3. DeKUT Startup Centre
4. DeKUT Incubation Hub (DeHUB)
5. Centre for Food Safety and Naturopathy (CeFoNa)
6. Center for Health Research and Innovation (CHeRi)
7. Centre of Spatial Information Science and Systems (CSISS)
8. Coffee Technology Centre
9. Centre for African Renaissance Studies (CARS)
10. Centre for Development of Electronic Devices (CDED)
11. Software Development Centre
12. Centre for Volcanology
13. Centre for Data Science and Artificial Intelligence
14. Data Research, Artificial Intelligence and Cyber Security
15. Dedan Kimathi Centre for Energy Studies (DeCES)
16. Siemens Centre
17. DeKUT-KFC Film Hub
18. Centre for Robotics and Bio-medical Engineering
19. Water Resources Management Centre
20. Centre for Intelligence Transport and Signage

21. Nano Materials and Nano-Science Research Centre
22. Centre for Excellence in Teaching and E-learning in Higher Education
23. Centre in Competence Based curriculum Education and Training
24. Centre for Polymer and Mold Design
25. Centre for Mechanical Engineering Design
26. Centre for Economic Policy and Technology Development Studies
27. Centre for Geotechnical Engineering (CGE)
28. Centre for Integrated Circuits Development
29. Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship Management (CIEM)

**Film, Animation and Gaming Hub**

Ladies and gentlemen;

I would like to highlight the DeKUT Film and Gaming Hub. DeKUT partnered with the Kenya Film Commission (KFC) to start a Film, Gaming and Animation Center, which aims to empower the youths with the necessary skills to develop films, games, and animation through available ICT technology. The Hub is operational and open to students interested in becoming animators or filmmakers.

6. **The Directorate of Student Welfare and departments that support student welfare**

Ladies and gentlemen;

**Directorate of Students Welfare (DSW)**

The DSW is responsible for providing numerous services to address the welfare of the ever-growing student population at the University. The division directly handles Guidance and Counseling, Games and Sports, Matters of Students Congress-DeKUTSO, Clubs and Societies, Work Study Placement, Internal Accommodation, External Accommodation, University Bursary Scheme, Entertainment and Recreation,

Students' Special Needs, Recognition Awards, Residential Sector Wardens, Orientation Process. DeKUT has 24 types of sports which you can participate in. Further, the University has over 80 registered clubs, which provides you with an opportunity to maximize your potential.

**Financial Aid Office (DeFAO)**

The Financial Aid Office (DeFAO) aims to enable students admitted to the University to complete their studies regardless of economic background by advising and connecting them to scholarships and other financial aid forms.

**Directorate of Gender, Disability and Equity Affairs**

The Directorate of Gender, Disability, and Equity Affairs supports students with disabilities to receive appropriate services to facilitate their learning and also addresses gender-related issues.

**The Office of Career Services**

The University has established **the Office of Career Services**, which is geared towards preparing students for the world of work by helping them explore and develop their careers through Industry linkages and mentorship programs.

**Faith Groups**

The University has four recognized faith groups namely; Christian Union, Catholic Action, Seventh Day Adventist and Muslim. We urge you to join the University based faith groups, which are well managed to take care of your spiritual nourishment with recognized patrons drawn from the University staff members.

7. **Conclusion**

Ladies and gentlemen;

The journey you have started this week in this University will completely change your life and transform you as a person. You have given us a chance to transform you into a scholar, academician, thinker, problem solver, researcher, innovator, entrepreneur, a leader and a professional in your discipline.

As I conclude kindly allow me to share two important life lessons;

I. Loving what you do

The secret to career success is not necessarily in doing what you loved, but loving what you do! The two may look similar but are very different. Many times you may not necessarily get what you liked. But, liking what you get is what will make you successful. What you love, you nurture, you cultivate and it grows. Love your degree program and you will excel in it.

II. Setting priorities right

Life in the University is colorful and fascinating with lots of activities; both co-curricular and extra-curricular activities. We hope you will find your place in what you can be part of. Keep your goals in perspective and set your priorities right.

Let us draw some wisdom from the 34th President of the United States of America, Dwight Eisenhower(1953-1961), a five star General who led during the 2nd World War under President Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

President Dwight Eisenhower said, I quote "**I have two kinds of problems/issues; the urgent and the important. The urgent are not important and the important are not urgent**".

Let me refer you to the Eisenhower Matrix, which some of you may be aware of, but is now very practical and important in your University life!

- For important and urgent issues, prioritize and do them.
- For important but not urgent issues, schedule them.
- For urgent but not important issues, delegate.
- Lastly, for not important and not urgent issues, delete them from your program.

The key point is to prioritize on the important issues. Issues which impact on your long term career goals and your personal development! "**Always major on the majors and minor on the minors**"

Diligently use your time in the University to develop skills and competencies required for the global world of work. Learn another language like German and French which are offered in the Institute of Tourism and Hospitality Management; build skill and competence in new softwares and applications.

There are huge opportunities opening up in both local and global markets and we need to be ready for the world through knowledge, skills and competencies.

Our dear students;

With these remarks, I encourage each of you to leverage on the opportunities provided by DeKUT to your advantage. I take this opportunity to welcome you to the University fraternity, and I wish you every success in your studies and a great stay at the University.

As your Vice Chancellor let me speak a word of blessing drawn from the book of Numbers 6:24-26 as you start your journey in the University.

**Numbers 6:24-26;** ***May the Lord Bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give your peace. May you prosper and be great in the land.***

**Karibuni DeKUT!**