

Valedictorian speech.

Loise wanjiru Nderitu

Morgan Otieno Ongoro

The Chancellor, the principal secretary (Representative), chairman of Council, Vice Chancellor, parents and guardians, my fellow graduands, all protocols observed.

It's an honor beyond our honor to be given this historic occasion to deliver the valedictorian speech during this second graduation ceremony.

We are not the spotlight of the day, every graduate here deserves great recognition and praise for the work they have done. We have finally completed the great chapter we started 4 or 5 years ago. Today we embark on another chapter of our lives. Today we are in a situation of a paradigm shift, as we are torn between the excitement of our future and the joy of our memories. Should we stop and look back on some of the best years of our lives or do we focus on the next chapter of our lives? For now let us do as Mother Teresa said; let us be happy in this moment.

It seems like yesterday we were lugging our bags and T-squares into the hostels. It seems like yesterday we had orientation, that very interesting trip to the farm, and the pleasure of having ice-breakers together.

Some of us joined Dedan Kimathi University of Technology in 2009, and since then we have grown not only academically, but also spiritually, in wisdom and character. In DKUT we have learned to define life in our own terms and not to let external circumstances define us. We have learnt that the choices we make daily determine our future outcome. The late world Icon and Nobel Laureate Nelson Mandela said that, Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world. With what we have gained from DKUT we can immensely impact not only Kenya and Africa but the entire world. We have had a remarkable journey here at DKUT and am sure I speak for all us when I say that DKUT will be etched in our hearts forever.

Inside and outside the classes, DKUT exposed us to greatness and moral values. It is to us now to recall and reflect on those lessons, to recall the examples of our lecturers, administrators, all DKUT supporting staff, and the surrounding community. They have all been crucial to our life here, they made us when to use books and when to apply skill. For the support and dedication they served us with we say thank you.

To my fellow graduands, the past few years have made us more than friends, we are family. We spent countless hours studying for exams together, encouraging each other when times got tough and making memories. We should always band back together once in a while, to celebrate the bond that we have created here. Let us commit to defending the image of this great university. We as the graduands and future alumni must influence others be mentors, and give back to this great centre of excellence by coming back. Let us market DKUT in a big way and with great pomp.

Congratulations to us all, we deserve this, we worked for it and the Almighty saw us through. Let us remember that we are the future accountants, actuaries, coffee cuppers, engineers, environmentalists, fashion designers, nurses, scientists, technologists, we are the future of this great nation, let us believe we can accomplish anything, let us choose to prosper and succeed. In the words of Charles Dickens, the pain of parting is nothing to the joy of meeting again, and I believe that no matter where life take us we will meet again. Let us be guided by our motto which says; Better Life through Technology. Long live Dedan Kimathi University of Technology, long live the graduands and May God bless us all.