

**SPEECH BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR, DEDAN KIMATHI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY,  
PROFESSOR P. NDIRANGU KIONI, DURING THE FIRST GRADUATION CEREMONY ON 17<sup>TH</sup>  
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**
- **Chairman and Members of Dedan Kimathi University of Technology Council**
- **Vice Chancellors of 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**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

**All Protocols observed**

Mr. Chancellor Sir, it is my great pleasure and honour to welcome, on behalf of the staff and students of Dedan Kimathi University of Technology, His Excellency, the Immediate Former President of the Republic of Kenya, Hon. Mwai Kibaki, and our Cabinet Secretary for Education, Hon. Prof. Jacob Kaimenyi, to Dedan Kimathi University of Technology on this auspicious occasion of the 1<sup>st</sup> graduation ceremony. I would also like to welcome all the distinguished guests, parents and guardians of our graduands.

As University management we are pleased by the major strides which have been made here in the last five years when some of the students graduating today were admitted into degree programmes. From just over 500 students then, the student population now stands at 5000 with the current admission levels being 1300 per year. The University now has 19 undergraduate, 6 Master level, and 3 PhD programmes. These programmes are mainly in

technological areas in keeping with the educational mandate of the University. The university also runs diploma and certificate programmes. The students in the diploma and certificate programmes make up 15% of the student population; hence, the University has stuck to its mandate to also train middle level technical cadres.

### **What the University is trying to be:**

As a University of Technology, and as emphasized on the award of the charter, DEKUT has positioned itself to contribute to national developmental needs in the technological transformation of the country, as espoused in Vision 2030. Thus, the University in evolving its uniqueness, now as a fully-fledged University, seeks to contribute, through education, research, and technology transfer, to the technological needs of the Vision 2030. It lays great emphasis on producing individuals who are innovative, entrepreneurial, and can provide leadership in addressing development challenges.

To this end, the University works closely with the industry, professional and statutory bodies, national institutions, and government agencies, and Universities abroad so that the education and research programmes are relevant to the national needs and at the same time are benchmarked internationally.

DeKUT has collaborations with key institutions in the coffee sector which have enabled her to develop unique certificate, diploma, and research programmes. Graduates from these

programmes, numbering over 100 so far, have been well received by the industry. Consequently, this work is now being extended to include postgraduate training and research.

Working closely with key players in the geothermal energy sector, Geothermal Development Corporation (GDC) and KENGEN, and Ministry of Energy, the University has developed and launched a Masters degree and a Postgraduate Diploma in Geothermal Energy Technology. The programmes will be offered, in partnership with universities abroad. This will contribute to the training of the required high level human resource required in the sector.

This approach, of working closely with the target industry and leveraging international expertise to assure quality through international benchmarking of programmes, has been applied to most of our programmes. The University has been working closely with the National Museums of Kenya, Kenya Forest Research Institute, and the Kenya Wildlife Service on tourism programmes; with KIRDI and Numerical Machining Complex on production engineering programmes, with the Ministry of health, on health science programmes, and number of organizations for the business studies.

In this regard also, and in our quest to expose our staff and students to the best techniques and practices in the world, we have close partnerships, particularly on postgraduate education and research, with leading foreign Universities: These include University of Leuven, Belgium, for Geothermal Energy and Industrial Engineering, University of Gifu, Japan, for a range of engineering and ICT programmes, and Technical University of Applied

Sciences, Germany for Mechanical Engineering and Coffee Technology, William Paterson University of New Jersey, for Business Studies, and the College of The Rockies, Canada, on nursing programme.

DeKUT now has a large pool of qualified and committed academic staff and non-teaching staff overseeing the implementation of the academic programmes. With the resources provided to us by government and tuitions fees from students, the University has invested heavily in modern educational facilities, including an extensive ICT infrastructure.

In this regard, I also recognize the private sector contribution through the provision of hostels and other support facilities allowing the University to channel her limited resources to development of core educational facilities. The management has enjoyed visionary guidance from the present and past Council, enabling the University to attain excellent performance indicators in a many crucial areas of her operation.

Finally, to the graduands, congratulations for your fruitful work at this University. We wish you success in your future endeavors and look forward to you flying the name of the institution high as you live to the values of this institution and put to use what you acquired during your stay here.

**Thank you and May God Bless You**