

Mount Kenya



University

ADDRESS

BY

PROF. GRACE N. NJOROGE, Ph.D
CHAIRMAN, UNIVERSITY COUNCIL

DURING

**MOUNT KENYA UNIVERSITY (MKU)
10TH GRADUATION CEREMONY**

ON

MKU CONSULTATIVE MANAGEMENT APPROACH

15TH JULY, 2016

AT

MOUNT KENYA UNIVERSITY, HAPPY VALLEY GROUNDS

Salutation

- Chief Guest, Mrs. Sicily Kariuki, CBS, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Public Service, Youth And Gender Affairs,
- Guest Professor John J Struthers, University of West of Scotland,
- Prof. Victoria Wulsin, Chancellor, Mount Kenya University,
- Dr. Simon N. Gicharu, the Founder of Mount Kenya University (MKU) and Chairman, Board of Directors,
- Madam Jane Nyutu, Co-Founder of Mount Kenya University,
- Members of the University Board of Directors,
- Prof. Stanley W. Waudu, Mount Kenya University,

- Honorable Cabinet Secretaries present,
- Honorable Principal Secretaries present,
- Honorable Members of Parliament present,
- Your Excellences, Ambassadors and High Commissioners present,
- Honorable National and County Government leaders present,

- Members of Management Board and Senate,
- Members of the Staff,
- Our Guests and Partners from International University of Management in Namibia and from Makerere University Business School in Uganda,
- Graduands and Students,
- Distinguished Guests, Ladies and gentlemen.

Opening Remarks

On behalf of the University Council, it gives me great pleasure to warmly welcome you all to Mount Kenya University and more specifically to this 10th Graduation Ceremony. I would like to heartily congratulate all the graduands for qualifying for award of various academic certificates / diplomas and conferment of degrees. I also want to recognize the support by parents and guardians of the graduands with appreciation.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The Vice-Chancellor's remarks have captured the Mount Kenya University success story, threats to Kenya Universities, Mount Kenya University challenges and competitive advantages necessary for developing and sustaining success in a competitive environment.

Our chief guest, Ladies and gentlemen, MKU Council has continued to undertake its role as mandated by the Universities' Act 2012 in ensuring employment of adequate, quality staffs at all levels, approval of university policies and statues as well as overseeing the budgeting process.

The achievement include approval of:

1. Forty one (41) University policies
2. Fifteen (15) Schools
3. Twelve (12) Campuses
4. Six (6) Open and Distance Learning Centres among others.
5. Amended University Management Board.
6. Amended Committees of University Senate.
7. A policy on remuneration of adjunct and visiting academic staff.
8. Establishment of College of Health Sciences.

The success of Mount Kenya University is a result of effective implementation of a governance model that embraces a Consultative leadership Approach, which entails decision making which involves all the relevant organs on the University.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As we develop a consultative approach we recognize that irrespective of our ranks we need to listen even to those below us because no one knows all about everything. It is the collective opinions from each committee that contributes to better informed decisions. Actually ability to listen and consider the views of others is a sign of humility, which is a virtue.

Certainly, collective ownership of decisions will promote effective implementation of decisions.

But more importantly, Collective ownership of decisions will minimize blame game when a target is missed during implementation, but celebrate success together.

Ladies and gentlemen,

To this end, the Council has now 5 committees and has approved 8 new committees the University management:

1. The Vice-Chancellor's Committee.
2. The University Finance Committee.
3. The Special General Purpose Committee.
4. The Student Welfare, Marketing and Alumni Management Committee.
5. The Academic and Research Affairs Management Committee.
6. The Administration and Planning Management Committee.
7. The Human Resource Committee.

Further, the University Council has approved Twenty seven (27) boards/committees of Senate for efficient management of academic affairs.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Council has consistently ensured achievement of objectives of University education; advancement of knowledge, promotion of learning among our students, promotion of highest standards in teaching and research, dissemination of research outcomes among others.

Consequently the Council has supported accreditation of various academic programs and campuses, forging of collaborations, students co-curricular activities, research activities and participation in local and international conferences, research publications in peer reviewed journals as well as building capacity for our researchers through trainings in proposal writing.

It is commendable that the MKU researchers have in the recent past written proposals that have been funded to the tune of over 100M.

Further, Council has supported the establishment of College of Health Sciences in response to the need for:

- a) Integrating various health sciences disciplines,
- b) Standardizing curricula,
- c) Benchmarking,
- d) Conducting multidisciplinary and collaborative research and,
- e) Maximizing sharing of academic resources.

Mount Kenya University Charter, 2011:

Ladies and gentlemen,

In order to align the Mount Kenya University Charter, 2011 with the provisions set out in the Universities Act, 2012 and the Commission for University Education, Universities Standards and Guidelines, 2014 the university has amended the Charter.

The amendments appeared in Kenya Gazette Supplement No. 37, Legal Notice No. 49. The University Council is indebted to Dr. Simon N. Gicharu for providing leadership during the process of amending the University Charter.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Those of you who attended the last graduation ceremony may remember that I mentioned that the rapid growth and expansion of the Mount Kenya University was initially guided by the University 2008 - 2018 Strategic Plan. I also mentioned that our achievement-based-approach to development made it possible for us to achieve most of the performance targets in the strategic plan by 2014.

Currently the growth and expansion of the University are being guided by the University 2015 - 2019 Strategic Plan, which was launched in the previous graduation ceremony.

The University Council is also indebted to the University Management Board, Senate and Staff for effective implementation of the Strategic Plan.

Conclusion

Ladies and gentlemen,

For every story of success, there are challenges and constraints. The Mount Kenya University Management is aware that mitigation of emerging challenges and constraints that may not be unique to Mount Kenya University is necessary.

To this end, we are committed to implementing the Quality Assurance Policy that states:

“Mount Kenya University is committed to provision of quality teaching, research and consultancy, and community service to meet the requirements of each customer. In pursuit of this commitment, the University shall comply with all applicable requirements and continually improve the effectiveness of the Quality Management System based on ISO 9001:2008 ...”

Once more I congratulate the graduands for fulfilling all the academic programmes requirements for certification and award of various academic certificate. I wish the graduands success and prosperity.

Thank you.

God Bless You.