

**Mount Kenya**



**University**

**ADDRESS**

**BY**

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CHANCELLOR**

**DURING**

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

**ON**

**15<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2016**

**AT**

**MKU, HAPPY VALLEY GROUNDS**

## 1.0 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,
- 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. Grace N. Njoroge, Chairman and Members of the University Council,
- 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,
- Prof. Stanley W. Waudu, Vice-Chancellor,
- Members of Management Board and Senate,
- Members of the Staff,
- Graduands and Students,
- Distinguished Guests, Ladies and gentlemen.

## **2.0 Opening Remarks**

It gives me great pleasure to also welcome you to the Mount Kenya University 10<sup>th</sup> Graduation Ceremony. I have had the privilege of presiding over all the last nine (9) MKU graduation ceremonies. The experience gained has been enriching and fulfilling. For example, the number and diversity of graduands have been different every graduation ceremony. Initially the number of degree graduands was lower than that of certificate. I am happy to note that the number of degree graduands has increased. The ratio of degree to diploma / certificate 10<sup>th</sup> graduation ceremony graduands is about 3:1.

## **3.0 Partnerships**

Ladies and Gentlemen, as you may be aware, the home grown “Africa’s Agenda 2063” as well as the post 2016 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGS) emphasize greatly the use of partnerships for development.

In today's global village, partnerships are a key factor in socio-economic development both among developing and developed countries. Mount Kenya University has taken a big leap into embracing partnerships within its academic, research and community-based activities. As a fast growing university, the need for synergetic partnerships cannot be over emphasized.

MKU has achieved the following through Partnerships and linkages:

- Enhanced MKU's visibility both locally and internationally.
- Benchmarking with some of the best universities in the world which has facilitated use of best practices in teaching, research and service provision.
- Marketing of MKU programmes.

- Recognition as evidenced in being positioned among the top universities nationally and regionally.
- Networking for effective teaching, research of community service.
- Pooling and sharing of resources leading to creation of synergy necessary for effective implementation of the University mission.

At this juncture, I want to appreciate our partners for their continued support. Our partners are in the following categories:

- a) Public sector.
- b) Private Sector (Non-Governmental Organizations and Industry)
- c) International Linkages.

I am happy to note that currently we have 43 linkages with public sector, 45 linkages that are in private sector and 72 with institutions of higher learning and research institutes. Since the last graduation ceremony we have forged partnerships with the following:

- i) Regents University in United Kingdom to cooperate in the areas of language, culture, drama, film, media and business.
- ii) Makerere University Business School in Uganda to cooperate in internationalization of higher education in the region.
- iii) Vincent Pol University in Poland to facilitate staff and student exchange.
- iv) China University of Petroleum in China to develop academic cooperation on the basis of equality and reciprocity and.

- v) Clark University in the United States to cooperate in the area of Virtual Learning among others.

Bradford University in the United Kingdom and Mount Kenya University are in the process of forging partnership. Following the visit to Bradford University by Dr. Simon Gicharu, Chairman, Board of Directors, Prof. David Francis the Head of the Department of Peace and Security visited MKU recently. The possible areas of cooperation between the two institutions will be the area of peace, security and social enterprise.

It is also important to mention that MKU also has strong ICT Linkages with IBM Limited, Oracle Technology Systems, Kenya Limited, Safaricom Limited among others.



## 4.0 Community Service

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As regards, community service, the collaborative activities between MKU and Partners for Care, a United States, based Non-Governmental Organization have helped us to mitigate the ivory tower syndrome. We are able to provide services to communities in the following areas:

- Use of Water Back Pack in water transportation and storage, a replacement of Jerrycans. The water pack is safe and comfortable to carry. To date, this innovative technology has been rolled out to Kilifi Count, Embu County, Machakos County and Kiambu County. An Impact Assessment Study carried out by the Directorate of Research and Development have demonstrated excellent usage of the packs.
- Improving Medical Facility Infrastructure in Marsabit County.

- Conducting jigger eradication campaign in primary schools of Marsabit and Watamu areas by MKU students, OHIO State University Students and Partners for Care staff and,
- M-Health Programme geared towards health services delivery to all especially the less privileged. The programmed that was piloted in Marurui slums in expected to be rolled out in other counties.

## **5.0 Conclusion**

Ladies and gentlemen,

As I end my address, I join others in congratulating all the graduands. I encourage all the graduands to good ambassadors of Mount Kenya University to emulate the practice of cooperation and collaboration. Remember the adage that “standing on others shoulders you can see very far”.

Thank you.