

Mount Kenya



University

ADDRESS

BY

**PROF. STANLEY W. WAUDO, Ph.D
VICE-CHANCELLOR**

DURING

**10TH GRADUATION CEREMONY
OF MOUNT KENYA UNIVERSITY**

ON

FRIDAY, 15TH JULY, 2016

AT

MKU HAPPY VALLEY GROUNDS, THIKA

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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. 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,

- 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.

WELCOME REMARKS

I warmly welcome you all to the 10th congregation of Mount Kenya University Graduation Ceremony. May I take this opportunity to sincerely thank all of you for accepting our invitation to participate in this auspicious occasion as we celebrate the culmination of hard work by the graduands. We are deeply honoured by your presence.

OPENING REMARKS

Our Chief Guest, Guest Speaker, Madam Chancellor, Ladies and gentlemen;

Today, we celebrate the academic achievements of nine thousand, six hundred and ninety nine graduands (9,699).

The graduands have fulfilled all academic programmes requirements for conferment of degrees and, award of diplomas and certificates as follows:

- Three hundred and fifty two (352) Masters Degrees
- One hundred and eighteen (118) Postgraduate Diplomas.
- Six thousand and thirty one (6,031) Bachelors Degrees
- Two thousand, five hundred and twenty one (2,521) Diplomas and
- Six hundred and seventy seven (677) Certificates.

1. RELEVANCE OF ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES

Ladies and gentlemen;

The Mount Kenya University fraternity recognizes that the challenge for any university worldwide is to produce high level manpower that is able to address the needs of the society.

Therefore, Mount Kenya University endeavours to contribute to the production of manpower with relevant competencies and skills by offering quality education and training.

Ladies and gentlemen, we recognize areas such as governance and security as areas that have emerging challenges. To this end, Mount Kenya University has expanded its academic programmes to include Governance, Ethics, Criminology, Security Management, Law Enforcement, Justice Administration, Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution. Allow me to mention that among the Graduands in this congregation, three hundred and twelve (312) of them have fulfilled requirements for award of academic certificates / diplomas and conferment of degrees in Peace and Security related areas. We are confident that the graduands will contribute immensely to addressing emerging challenges related to peace and security.

Ladies and gentlemen, we also introduced Bachelor of Science in Computer Electronics Systems and Bachelor of Science in Health Education programmes as a response to the emerging needs of the labour market.

3. POSITIONING

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At this juncture, allow me to mention that Mount Kenya University has been positioned among the best universities nationally and regionally. This is as a result of:

- i) Provision of adequate academic resources that support quality training,
- ii) Sustaining of effective quality assurance oversight systems,
- iii) Establishment of administrative units that promote pooling and sharing of academic resources,

- iv) Applying best practices in day to day operations of the University,
- v) Complying with national and international training requirements and
- vi) Forging partnerships that promote creation of synergy.

3. RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Our Chief Guest, Madam Chancellor, Ladies and gentlemen;

The hallmark of any University is to generate and disseminate knowledge. In this regard, Mount Kenya University takes a strong position in regard to promotion of research and innovation.

The University has adequate infrastructure and, both internal and external funding for research and innovation.

I am delighted to report that:

- i) In 2015 / 2016 academic year, the University solicited and received external grants of one hundred and forty million (Kshs. 140M) shillings.
- ii) Internally, we have the Vice-Chancellor's Research and Innovation Grant which is currently supporting thirty five researchers carrying out various projects and,
- iii) The Mount Kenya University Innovators Platform has continued to bring together innovators from various disciplines for peer-mentorship.

As a result of having adequate support for research and innovation, academic staff and postgraduate students have published a significant number of research papers in international refereed journals during the 2015 / 2016 academic year.

5. CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is increasingly becoming evident that talents are being exploited not just for entertainment but as a form of earning a livelihood. Mount Kenya University promotes nurturing of talents particularly in sports and drama. For example, the MKU athletics team that participated in the 8th African University Games in Johannesburg, South Africa won one gold and five bronze medals.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Allow me to recognize the following winners of the medals:

- i) Mr. Mathew Rapando who won a gold medal in a hundred and ten metre hurdles and a bronze medal in hammer.
- ii) Mr. Mr. Silvesters Nakeel who won silver medal in Javelin.

- iii) Mr. Charles Wanjiru Wamwea who won a bronze medal in two hundred (200) meters and another one in a hundred meters (100).
- iv) The MKU team won a bronze medal in 4 X 100 metres relay.

CONCLUSION

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish to assure you that Mount Kenya University will continue to:

- i) Offer market driven programmes.
- ii) Support research, innovation and entrepreneurship.
- iii) Enhance University-industry collaborations and
- iv) Nurture students talents.

As I conclude my address, allow me to take this opportunity to congratulate the graduands for their successful completion of their studies. The knowledge and skills acquired by the graduands will definitely enable them to be successful in their daily endeavours.

GOD BLESS US ALL.

Thank you.