

Mount Kenya



University

ADDRESS

BY

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

DURING

**MOUNT KENYA UNIVERSITY (MKU)
11TH GRADUATION CEREMONY**

ON

9TH DECEMBER, 2016

AT

**MOUNT KENYA UNIVERSITY, HAPPY VALLEY
GROUNDS**

Salutation

- Guest Speaker Professor George Magoha, EBS, MBS, Chairman, Medical Practitioners and Dentists Board and Chairman, Kenya National Examinations Council (KNEC),
- Prof. Victoria Wulsin, Chancellor, Mount Kenya University,
- Prof. 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 Council,

- Members of the University Board of Directors,
- 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.

OPENING REMARKS

On behalf of the University Council, I take this early opportunity to warmly welcome you all to Mount Kenya University and more specifically to the 11th Graduation Ceremony. Allow me to heartily congratulate all the graduands for qualifying for award of various academic certificates / diplomas and conferment of various degrees. I also want to recognize with appreciation the support by parents, guardians and other stakeholders in the long journey that culminates with the achievements we celebrate today.

MANDATE OF THE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL

Ladies and gentlemen,

The Mount Kenya University Council has continued to ensure that the University is on track in achieving the objectives of University education as stipulated in the Universities Act, 2012.

It is the conviction of the Council that acquiring education is one of the most promising achievement for individuals to have more productive lives. Further, it is also one of the primary drivers of economic development. Consequently the University is seriously engaged in producing graduates with the relevant knowledge, skills and competences required for the achievement of Kenya's development blue print Vision 2030 as well as the education-related global sustainable Development Goals.

As a governing board of the University, the Council has focused on promotion of quality teaching, training and research especially in fostering science, technology and innovation. Our chief guest, ladies and gentlemen, we are fully supportive of innovation-led economic growth and Development.

Ladies and gentlemen, the Mount Kenya University Council in discharge of its oversight role has ensured adherence to the national values and principles of governance as stipulated in the Kenya Constitution 2010, particularly in:

- a) Mounting of Quality and relevant University academic programmes. The university Council has already approved the admission capacity policy with clear minimum entry requirements for each program well stipulated as guided by the Commission for University Education. These requirements apply to all our clients irrespective of status. The policy has further given direction in adherence to the set standards for teaching space allocation, library facilities, laboratory facilities as well as student/lecturer ratios.

- b) Promoting Equity and accessibility of the University services for all our clients.
- c) Having governance practices that are efficient, effective and transparent,
- d) Establishment of Synergetic partnerships among others.

University Vision

Ladies and Gentlemen, in line with the Mount Kenya University vision "to be a global centre of excellence in training, research and innovation in science and technology", the University is currently training:

- i) Five hundred and sixty four (564) students in programmes offered in the School of Engineering, Energy and Built Environment.

- ii) Six hundred and twenty seven (627) students in programmes offered in the School of Pure and Applied Sciences.
- iii) Three hundred and five (305) students in programmes offered in the School of Computing and Informatics and
- iv) Seven thousand, three hundred and sixty eight (7,368) students in programmes offered in the College of Health Sciences.

Academic Integrity

Ladies and gentlemen, the council recognizes that to build a viable academic community, it is essential to put systems that support academic integrity, this is exemplified by the development and approval of policies that discourage engagement in plagiarism, unauthorized collaborations, cheating, altering marks, impersonation, Contracting other people to undertake thesis/assignments, and other unethical practices. This will go along way in ensuring honesty in teaching, assessments, research and the development of staff and students with enhanced character for nation building.

Automatic Audit

Ladies and gentlemen, it is important that the power of the University Management Information System (MIS) is recognized and appreciated.

The MIS has made automation of audit a reality. Automatic audit provides an electronic audit trail that makes it possible to trace details on changes in student academic records. This has made identifying dishonest staff and taking appropriate actions in regard to staff discipline and preserving academic integrity possible.

Character of the Mount Kenya University Graduate

Madam Chancellor, ladies and gentlemen, I would wish to comment on the character of the Mount Kenya University Graduate. The University produces well-trained graduates equipped with technological/scientific knowledge and abilities, endowed with ethical values founded on African traditions and principles. With these attributes, the University graduates are expected to act as role models in the society and be drivers of socio-economic activities.

Conclusion

But do remember as some anonymous writer wrote: *“Tomorrow there will be more to do, failure waits for all those who stay with some success made yesterday”*. I wish you a very enjoyable time as you celebrate the success acquired today, but for sure there is more to reach out for. Don't neglect any opportunity that will present itself, don't even neglect days of small beginnings. As John Mason has said *“successful people know that each victory buys an admission ticket to a more challenging opportunity”*. With God all things are possible! *Indeed the height of your accomplishments will equal the depth of your convictions!*

As Mount Kenya Alumni be our good ambassadors out there. Thank you and God bless you all. I wish you all a restful Christmas period, a blessed 2017 and a fulfilled future.