

Mount Kenya



University

SPEECH

BY

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

DURING

**11TH GRADUATION CEREMONY OF
MOUNT KENYA UNIVERSITY**

ON

FRIDAY, 9TH DECEMBER, 2016

AT

MKU HAPPY VALLEY GROUNDS, THIKA

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, CBS, 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 University of West of Scotland,
- Graduands and Students,
- Distinguished Guests, Ladies and gentlemen.

WELCOME REMARKS

I warmly welcome you all to the 11th 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 Guest Speaker, Madam Chancellor, Ladies and Gentlemen;

Today, we celebrate the academic achievements of seven thousand, two hundred and forty nine (7,249) graduands.

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

- Six (6) Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) Degrees,
- Four hundred and one (401) Masters Degrees,
- Eighty nine (89) Postgraduate Diplomas,
- Four thousand, five hundred and five (4,505) Bachelors Degrees,
- One thousand, eight hundred and fifty seven (1,857) Diplomas and
- Three hundred and ninety one (391) Certificates.

1. Institutional Quality Education and Training

Ladies and gentlemen;

In recognition of the requirements that a university must offer programmes that are commensurate with institutional accreditation status, we ensure that the university academic programmes on offer are in compliance with the set out national and international Standards and Guidelines. The diversification of the academic programmes is guided by the Kenyan Vision 2030 and the University 2015 - 2019 Strategic Plan. The University Strategic Plan outlines plans for ensuring sustainability and continuous improvement during the implementation of the programmes. To ensure quality of the programmes, the University has internal quality assurance mechanisms and works closely with regulatory bodies including the Commission for University Education.

2. Academic Programmes

Ladies and gentlemen, to ensure that Mount Kenya University academic programmes facilitate a balanced learning process, the design of the programmes takes into account the required standards. This ensures that the programmes are broad-based and provide a broad knowledge base.

Recently, Senate approved: seven (7) degree programmes, six (6) Bachelors Degree Programmes, one (1) postgraduate degree programme and four (4) certificate programmes listed below:

1. Master of Science in Chemistry
2. Master of Science in Community Health and Development
3. Master of Science in Food Hygiene and Safety
4. Master of Science in Health Education and Promotion

5. Master of Science in Health Systems Management
6. Master of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics
7. Master of Science in Renewable Energy and Electronic Engineering
8. Postgraduate Diploma in Journalism
9. Bachelor of Science in Community Health and Development
10. Bachelor of Science in Computer Electronic Systems
11. Bachelor of Science in Health Education and Promotion
12. Bachelor of Science in Health Systems Management
13. Bachelor of Science in Nursing (Mental Health and Psychiatry)
14. Bachelor of Science in Oral Health

15. Certificate in Food and Beverage Service
16. Certificate in Food Production
17. Certificate in Hospitality Operations
18. Certificate in Travel and Tourism Operations

3. Character Transformation

Ladies and gentlemen, in a competitive environment such as the one universities operate in, defining strategic objectives and ensuring performance that is geared towards achieving strategic objectives is critical for sustainability and continuous improvement in both core and non-core areas. Today, universities are taking on additional roles. For example, Universities are expected to serve as centres for character building.

Ladies and gentlemen, for one to be in a university and graduate without having a positive change of character can be described as an unfortunate outcome. Mount Kenya University ensures that its students do not experience such unfortunate outcomes. The University ensures that its students, besides developing academic competencies, also undergo character development. To achieve this, the University has in place mechanisms of enhancing character development. Some of the mechanisms are mentoring, counseling and guidance. Mentoring, counseling and guidance are applied to address issues related to moral values such as responsibility, trustworthiness, respect, caring, fairness and good citizenship with the aim of instilling ethical values. Ladies and Gentlemen, a strong value system can transform a nation and make it a place of equal opportunity.

4. Measuring Success of a University

Ladies and gentlemen, liberalization of higher education allows universities to develop specific strengths and competitive advantages where they are best able to succeed. Ranking of universities is a measure of success. University ranking criteria include quality of infrastructure, staff, students, research, innovation, student support and community service.

Ladies and gentlemen, Mount Kenya University is committed to continuous development of its strengths and competitive advantages, and focusing on positioning itself among the top Universities. So far, there are signs that the University is moving towards positioning itself in the league category.

For example, the findings of the recent quality audit of the University by the Commission for University Education (CUE) that placed Mount Kenya University quality management systems above the Commission for University Education quality compliance threshold indicate that the University is a quality driven institution of higher learning.

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.

- iv) Nurture students' talents and
- v) Produce graduates with relevant competencies and skills, and character.

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 enable them to be successful in their daily endeavours.

I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

GOD BLESS US ALL.

Thank you.