



Mount Kenya University

TALKING POINTS

BY

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DURING

**MOUNT KENYA UNIVERSITY
11TH GRADUATION CEREMONY**

ON

9TH DECEMBER, 2016

AT

**MOUNT KENYA UNIVERSITY, HAPPY VALLEY
GROUNDS**

1.0 Salutation

Chief Guest, Leaders, Your Excellences, All Protocols Observed.

2.0 Opening Remarks

Thank you for the warm welcome! Congratulations to the class of 2016! Being here to celebrate with you today is honestly one of the high points of my life.

It gives me great pleasure also to welcome you to the Mount Kenya University 11th Graduation Ceremony. I have had the privilege of presiding over all the last ten (10) 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. The number of certificates, diplomas, and degrees continues to increase including six PhD candidates today. Congratulations!!

Institutions act as centers for innovation and economic development. And for PhD candidates we wish, you create more research with an impact, research for a better world.

As we celebrate we have many speeches, and I promise mine will be short.

“Change requires more than righteous anger. It requires a program and it requires organizing. Passion is vital, but you have got to have a strategy.”

As graduating class of 2016 remember that “Small and steady steps can be quite big and spectacular. They move you to a bigger place.”

I request you as you go out: use your power of imagination along with your powers of analysis to scale the heights of education. Live and speak with integrity, honesty, passion and love for humanity and entire society.

3.0 Partnerships

Ladies and Gentlemen, our home-grown “Africa’s Agenda 2063” and the 2016 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) emphasize the necessity of partnerships for development.

In today’s global village, partnerships are key to socio-economic development among both developing and developed countries. Mount Kenya University has embraced partnerships within its academic, research and community-based activities. Just a few of our achievements are:

- An enhanced reputation locally & internationally.
- Benchmarking with some of the best universities in the world which has facilitated our use of state-of-the-art practices in teaching, research, & service.
- Recognition as one of the top universities nationally and regionally.

- Networking for effective teaching, research, and community service.
- Pooling and sharing resources leading to synergy necessary for effective implementation of our mission.

At this juncture, I want to appreciate our partners for their continued support:

- The public sector - the Government of Kenya, its Ministries, Para-statal, and civil service:
- The private sector - Non-Governmental Organizations and Industry; and
- The international community.

We have 43 linkages with public sector, 45 linkages in private sector and 72 with institutions of higher learning and research institutes from around the world. Since the last graduation ceremony we have expanded our international partnerships in Asia, Namibia, & Poland.

We will host an international conference in justice, peace and security in May 2017, which we hope will promote a peaceful general election in August, 2017.

4.0 Community Service

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Mount Kenya University has worked with diverse partners, especially the county and national government, to serve our local and worldwide community.

Our current focus in improving medical infrastructure is especially crucial as our country negotiates a fair outcome of the doctors' strike. Together, we can provide affordable and accessible healthcare for all of us.

5.0 Conclusion

As I end my address, I again congratulate the class of 2016. I encourage all of you to be good ambassadors of Mount Kenya University in cooperation and collaboration. Remember that "by standing on the shoulders of others, you can see very far".

Thank you and God Bless You. May each of you have a Christmas and holiday season filled with love.