



TALKING POINTS FOR DR. DAVID THUKU – MD & CEO, FAMILY BANK LIMITED DURING THE GRADUATE ENTERPRISE ACADEMY COMMISSIONING CEREMONY AT MOUNT KENYA UNIVERSITY, THIKA CAMPUS ON 27TH APRIL 2017.

Prof. Simon Gicharu, the Founder and Chairman of the Board of Directors

Prof. David Serem, Chairman, Mt. Kenya University Council

Prof. Stanley Waudu, Vice Chancellor, Mt. Kenya University

Cohort 2 Graduates of the MT. Kenya University Enterprise Academy

Colleagues from Family Bank

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning all.

- I feel greatly honored and privileged to have been asked to be the Chief Guest at this great occasion where we will be commissioning the second cohort of apprentices who were admitted to this program a year ago.
- This is indeed a humbling occasion for me, considering the importance of this occasion and this program which addresses itself to the current needs of our labor market.
- May I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to Prof. Simon Gicharu, the Founder and the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Stanley Waudu for the invitation to this morning's event.
- The days when we educated our youth to go ye forth and venture primarily into white collar jobs is long gone. This great program produces graduates who go out to create employment.
- I have been closely associated with this great program as well as this great institution for years now. The founder, Prof Gicharu, has been a great friend of mine



for the last 30 years since we met in May 1987 as first year undergraduate students at Kenyatta University. We have remained true friends and have supported each other along this journey called life like true brothers. I also had the opportunity to mentor the first Cohort of the apprentices when they were admitted in 2014 and participate in their graduation like I am doing today with this second cohort.

- I'm greatly encouraged to note that the knowledge and skills they acquired is being put to some good use in the different business ventures they chose to pursue. I have great admiration for the emphasis the Academy places on job creation rather than being preoccupied with job seeking, as well as life-long learning and development, developing leadership skills. These are qualities that will positively impact our communities, our country and the world at large.
- I'm most impressed with the progress the academy has made in the past two years to churn out young people – from different and diverse backgrounds - who I hope will redefine the narrative of our society, our country and be vibrant positive influencers.
- Graduation is a time of celebration and triumph and marks the end of one phase and beginning of the next phase. It is a very proud moment for the graduates, parents and teachers who have all played their part in the end result.
- I'm certain that the graduands – just the like the ones who passed through this route before – have worked hard with focus, determination and discipline. The faculty members (and I have the highest respect for the teaching profession built over many years, considering I am a trained graduate teacher with a TSC number and a posting to Makueni County) have equally played their rightful role.
- Your lecturers have done their utmost to help you by instructing, encouraging and motivating you to perform at optimum and achieve the end result. Your parents have made many sacrifices in the last few years and provided you with the enabling environment at home, financial, and moral support, to help you through this phase.
- To the graduating apprentices—this is your day and I congratulate you on your achievement—well done. May I ask you all to applaud these graduands and just to wish them the very best in their future business ventures. Indeed, I say with confidence and without fear of contradiction that you are graduating from an institution that has prepared you exceptionally well.



- Seth Godin outlines in his book *Stop Stealing Dreams* and I quote: “You are entering a new chapter in your life in an exciting world, full of challenges, opportunities amplified by the Web and the connection revolution, human beings are no longer rewarded most for being compliant cogs. Instead, our chaotic world is open to the work of passionate individuals, intent on carving their own paths. That is the new job of school. Not to hand a map to those willing to follow it, but to inculcate leadership and restlessness into a new generation.”
- The Academy has prepared you not just on the academic front, but to play your part in helping communities improve their quality of life. This is a quality that you must build on.
- I urge all of you to acquire the right attitude; choose role models who are morally upright and individuals whose claim to fame is hardwork and genuine pursuit of success in the areas of business, governance and leadership. This country needs your positive input and hence you must at every stage of your life play your part in positively impacting humanity through your words and deeds.
- It is not enough to simply try and get by in life—that does not move the world forward—you must strive to excel in everything you do—excellence in every task, large or small. The decisions you make starting today will determine what you become.
- As I mentioned earlier, the journey is not over yet and you must be clear on the end result and how you wish to get there. You will face many challenges but this is what the “real world” is all about and the next phase in your life is a great training ground for your future success. I wish to take a few minutes to share with you my experiences when I was your age in an institution such as this.
- When I was a high school student, my dream was to become a mechanical engineer. As time went by, I found myself at Kenyatta University studying to become a Mathematics teacher. Throughout my 3 years in the university I was clear in my mind that I did not want to be a teacher after graduation; but I was not sure what I wanted to become. It was not after I finished university that I took myself to a meeting to deliberate on what I really wanted to do with my life. I made up my mind that I wanted to become a banker and grow a career in Banking and hopefully grow in the profession to rise to a CEO position in the industry. I thank God that by His



grace my dream came to pass exactly one year ago when I took over the CEO responsibility of the best Bank in Kenya – Family Bank.

- Why do I share my story with you this morning? I do so with the hope that you can pick something that may be of help to you as you venture out into the real world. If I were to summarize my advice to you this morning; I would do so in the following bullet points:
 - Vision – do have a vision that is compelling and bold. Draw your vision.
 - Values – have a set of personal values that drive you and have absolute fidelity to your personal values
 - Have a role model and a mentor who urge and nudge you on towards your vision
 - Be yourself – do not attempt to be anyone else but yourself
 - Anticipate challenges and take them in your stride. Avoid panic at all costs.
 - Make your work enjoyable and make it your business to enjoy yourself every single day of your life
- Finally, let me once more thank the Academy for the invitation. I hope that my piece of advice has been useful to the young people graduating today. Let me also take this opportunity to wish all those graduating today the very best in their future endeavors. To the faculty members, keep up the excellent work of shaping future leaders.

Thank you and may God bless you all.

Dr. David Thuku

Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer, Family Bank Limited