

Mount Kenya



University

ADDRESS

BY

Madam Jane Nyutu

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

AT THE

GRADUATE ENTERPRISE ACADEMY

COMMISSIONING CEREMONY

ON

27TH APRIL, 2017

1.0 Salutation

- ❖ The Chief Guest, Dr. David Thuku, Chief Executive Officer, Family Bank.
- ❖ The Board of Directors Representative, Mr. John Ruigu,
- ❖ The Chairman, University Council, Prof. David K. Serem
- ❖ The Vice Chairman, University Council, Dr. Vincent Gaitho,
- ❖ Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Stanley Waudu
- ❖ Members of Mount Kenya University Senate,
- ❖ All Invited Distinguished Guests,
- ❖ The Graduate Enterprise Academy Trainers,
- ❖ The Graduate Enterprise Academy Cohort II Apprentices being commissioned today,
- ❖ Student representatives
- ❖ Ladies and Gentlemen,

2.0 Opening Remarks

FIRST OF ALL ALLOW ME TO START BY PASSING GREETINGS AND THE APOLOGY FROM PROF. SIMON GICHARU WHO COULD NOT BE WITH US TODAY AS HE IS ENGAGED IN OTHER COMMITMENTS.

It gives me a lot of pleasure to stand here today in the company of each one of you to witness the commissioning of the 2nd Cohort of the Graduate Enterprise Academy, popularly known as “GEA” in short.

Ladies and gentlemen, this comes as a proof of the effort made by Mount Kenya University in empowering graduates to be job and wealth creators and thus transform these individuals to be active participants in the national Socio - Economic transformation.

The beneficiaries of GEA are therefore meant to be active participants in contributing towards the achievement of the Kenya Vision 2030 through job and wealth creation.

The establishment of GEA IN 2013 and its continuous support by the BOD ever since is a real testimony of the BOD's support and Mount Kenya University's overall desire to see graduates not only succeed in their studies but also become good entrepreneurs who can improve both their well-being and quality of life of their families.

Additionally, I am personally happy to note the character, capacity and potential of the apprentices who are being commissioned today. Indeed, GEA is a perfect reflection of MKU's effort in responding to Kenya Vision 2030's clarion call upon Kenyans to be active participants in employment and wealth creation as a part of our Corporate Social Responsibility and a 3rd Core Mandate in addition to teaching and research. This is what we aspire to achieve through GEA and I am happy to note that, this has been very well achieved since 2013 through the 2 cohorts that have gone through the GEA program so far.

As a commitment, the BOD set aside KSH 40 million since 2013 to ensure that GEA runs smoothly and wherever possible, we can partner with various organizations to train and provide various kinds of support to our upcoming entrepreneurs. We thank Family Bank, Stima Sacco, BIDCO, Makerere University Business School (Uganda) and all those who have joined us.

According to the Principles of entrepreneurship, most economists today agree that enterprise development as witnessed at GEA is a necessary ingredient for stimulating economic growth and employment opportunities in all societies. In the developing world, successful small businesses are the primary engines of job creation, income growth, and poverty reduction.

There is no one definitive profile of an entrepreneur. Successful entrepreneurs come in various ages, income levels, gender, and race. They differ in education and experience. However, research indicates that most successful entrepreneurs share certain personal attributes, including: creativity, dedication, determination, flexibility, leadership, passion, and self-confidence among other vital attributes.

Additionally, enterprise development is vital for developed and developing economies. Businesses create jobs, generate social welfare, decentralize economic power, give people a strong positive capacity to control their own destiny and the destiny of many other persons and produce special goods and services.

At this juncture, I wish to thank all the participants who are involved in this great initiative. I wish to particularly single out the Family Bank and other organizations who have come on board to walk with us in this very dignified journey of empowering the Kenyan graduates through job creation. I assure our partnering organizations who have already joined us and others who are about to join us as partners that, their contribution is well appreciated and we shall do all that is possible to ensure the GEA apprentices benefit fully from your contributions.

Finally to apprentices being commissioned today and others to join in future, as well as those who went through GEA in the past.

I wish to challenge you all to take the GEA lessons very seriously to ensure you all end up with great businesses that will be a future pride for all of us to acknowledge. At the end of two or three years from today, I am sure we shall come back here to honor those who will have performed exemplary well and we shall show case them for emulation. Thus I challenge you to take the initiative most seriously. I believe you all have the capacity to become successful entrepreneurs who shall contribute positively to your own destiny and the plight of many other Kenyans.

As a reminder, allow me to quote the MKU BOD Chairman Prof Simon Gicharu who repeatedly says that, he wants to hold each one of you by your hands so that you can be the best you wish to be in business.

I therefore stand here in front of you today to confirm the same commitment.

To the GEA Coaches, thanks so much for a job well done.

To the GEA management, we as BOD promise our continuous support into the future.

Thank you and God bless you all.