

**Mount Kenya**



**University**

**REMARKS**

**BY**

*Prof. Stanley W. Waudu*

**VICE-CHANCELLOR**

**DURING THE**

**SENATE BOARDROOM HAND-OVER CEREMONY**

**ON**

**24<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2017**

## **Salutation**

- MKU Founder and Chairman of the Board of Directors, Prof. Simon Nyutu Gicharu,
- MKU Co-Founder, Madam Jane Nyutu,
- Chairman of the University Council, Prof. David K. Serem,
- Vice-Chairman of the University Council, Dr. Vincent Gaitho,
- Members of the University Senate,
- Invited members of Mount Kenya University staff,
- Student Leaders,

**Good Afternoon.**

We all assemble here in this special gathering to mark and celebrate a milestone achievement at Mount Kenya University, an achievement that is best described by the English proverb "*Rome was not built in a day*".

Rome, the capital city of Italy was initially a conglomeration of a few huts. It took the Roman Emperor Augustus and others more than 40 years to build a magnificent city that is famous for its amazing infrastructure. All the infrastructure of Rome is the effort and commitment of various people to convert an idea/dream into a reality.

Ladies and gentlemen, the proverb “Rome was not built in a day” implies that behind any success, there are unlimited efforts and commitment. This proverb connects very well with Mount Kenya University. It has taken lots of effort and commitment to make Mount Kenya University what it is. At this juncture, let us reflect on the journey of establishing Mount Kenya University.

Prof. Simon N. Gicharu mounted the idea about establishment of the University in 1996. He established a computer outreach centre which was housed in rented premises. The centre was constituted into Thika Institute of Technology in 2002. In 2008, Thika Institute of Technology was constituted into Mount Kenya University.

Today, Mount Kenya University has amazing infrastructure, for example, the Alumni Plaza.

Ladies and gentlemen, nobody knows better than Prof. Gicharu and his wife that it takes patience and determination of a crow to succeed. A bird such as the crow has patience when building a nest. It brings dry sticks and twigs from the trees using its beak, puts them at joint of two branches and rearranges them and does not give up until a nest is formed. The patience of a crow is what we need in order to achieve our goals.

Ladies and Gentlemen, allow me to reflect on the origin of the word "*Senate*". The word "*Senate*" comes from the Latin word "*senatus*" which means "council of elders,"

(<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/senate>).

Therefore, members of the University Senate are elders of the University in charge of all academic matters.

Finally, on behalf of members of Senate, I thank the Chairman, Board of Directors and members of the Board of Directors for ensuring that the University has the necessary infrastructure for supporting quality training.

**THANK YOU**