

Mount Kenya



University

SPEECH BY

**PROF. DAVID SEREM, Ph.D
CHAIRMAN, UNIVERSITY COUNCIL**

AT

**MOUNT KENYA UNIVERSITY
13TH GRADUATION CEREMONY**

ON

FRIDAY, 15TH DECEMBER 2017

AT

HAPPY VALLEY GROUNDS, THIKA

1.0 Salutations:

- The representative of the Guest Speaker, Dorota Stefanek, Vice - President ,Vincent Pol University,
- Prof. Victoria Wulsin, Chancellor, Mount Kenya University,
- Prof. Simon N. Gicharu, Founder and Chairman, Board of Directors, Mount Kenya University.
- Madam Jane Nyutu, Co-Founder of Mount Kenya University,
- Members of the University Board of Directors,
- Your Excellences, Ambassadors and High Commissioners present,
- Honorable National and County Government leaders present,
- Prof. Stanley W. Waudu, Vice-Chancellor,

- Chancellors/ Vice-chancellors of other universities present.
- Members of the University Council present.
- Members of University Management Board and Senate,
- Members of Staff,
- Parents/ Guardians / sponsors
- Graduands , Students and Alumni,
- Distinguished Guests,
- Ladies and gentlemen.

2.0 Opening Remarks

I take this opportunity on behalf of Mount Kenya University Council to welcome all of you as we celebrate the 13th graduation ceremony of Mount Kenya University. This graduation ceremony will significantly create a pool of Human Resources both nationally and globally. To the representative of the Guest Speaker, Dorota Stefanek, and the Delagation from Vincent Pol University, and other distinguished guests, I thank you for honoring our invitation.

On the onset, I wish to congratulate the graduands of 2017 for their commitment and hardwork, which has led to what we are witnessing today. The society out there is waiting for you but we are not worried because MKU has

prepared you well to overcome any challenges out there, Congratulations. I also recognize and appreciate efforts by academic and non-academic staff and other stakeholders who have supported and provided a conducive learning environment that has culminated in the achievements we are celebrating today.

Madam Chancellor, allow me to appreciate MKU Board of Directors led by Prof. Simon Gicharu and Madam Jane Nyutu, the Founder and Co-founder of MKU, for their continued support and providing visionary leadership. Continuous improvement of the university has made MKU to remain a premier institution globally. I also extend my sincere appreciation to the University Management Board, Senate, staff, all our partners, parents,

guardians, sponsors, alumni and students for their unwavering support and confidence in the university. The support by all stakeholders has made MKU a preferred destination for both Government and self-sponsored students. I also thank the Government of Kenya for extending sponsorship of students in private universities, which has increased access to higher education.

Staff Welfare

Madam Chancellor, as part of good Corporate Governance, MKU has adapted the recommendations of the Commission for University Education. MKU has undertaken staff restructuring and rationalization that aim at right sizing workforce and enhancing efficiency,

effectiveness and cost-effectiveness. The Council assures the university community that it will continue with competitive recruitment of skilled human resource in line with the approved Human Resource Policy. The council will continue to place high priority in allocating resources to promote staff welfare; a key pillar of excellence in the University's 2015-2019 Strategic Plan.

MKU has continuously developed and modernized teaching and research facilities. I thank the Board of Directors for the completion of the magnificent 13- storey Alumni Plaza that has created spacious staff offices and other facilities. This has greatly improved service provision to our customers.

Customer Service Delivery

Ladies and Gentlemen, MKU is committed to continuously offer timely service delivery to our customers beyond their expectations. The University has made a strategic decision to introduce performance measurement and staff members have signed Performance Contracts and work plans that will entail monitoring and evaluation of the performance targets. This will greatly improve service delivery to all our stakeholders.

Compliance to Standards

Madam Chancellor, as you may be aware, Commission for University Education (CUE) conducted quality audit in 70 Kenyan Universities and Colleges in January and

February 2017. The CUE audit was a systematic examination of quality in the following areas:

- i. Curricula accreditation
- ii. Student enrolment
- iii. Student progression
- iv. Quality and integrity of examinations
- v. Certification process
- vi. Appointment and promotion of staff
- vii. Academic research
- viii. Library

Madam Chancellor, the CUE audit established that MKU complies with the:

- The Universities Act No. 42 of 2012.
- The Universities Regulations 2014.

- The Universities Standards and Guidelines, 2014.
- The Universities (Amendment) Act, 2016.

This was indeed not a mean achievement and I congratulate the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Stanley Waudu and academic and non-academic staff for the sterling leadership that has led to this tremendous achievement.

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

Ladies and Gentlemen, development of capital and infrastructural projects, harnessing the human resource to create an enabling environment for attainment of University's functions of teaching and research, requires financial resources. I wish to challenge the University community to diversify streams of income sources, to

supplement tuition fees, through other income generating enterprises. The Council will ensure that the projected developments will be completed as planned as long as there will be prudent financial management. The university will continue with its brand promise to remain the most affordable university in the country while offering high quality education.

New Policies

Madam Chancellor, in recognition of the critical role policies play in guiding the process of decision-making and institutional operations, the University Council recently approved the following policies:

1. Library Collection Policy

2. Open, Distance and Electronic Learning(ODEL) Policy
3. Alcohol and Other Drugs Abuse Policy
4. Risk Management Policy
5. University Security Policy
6. Finance Policy
7. Sabbatical Leave Policy
8. Staff Transfer Guidelines and Procedures

Conclusion

Graduands, as I finish, I wish to congratulate you once again. My humble prayer is that, may all those that interact with you hereafter affirm to the fact that you were educated at this great University. As our Alumni, be our good ambassadors as you strive to be the best you can as you pursue your dreams and career aspirations. You

should uphold hard work and integrity always as they are the key measures of success.

I wish you all God's Blessings.

Merry Christmas and Prosperous 2018.

Thank you.