

# Mount Kenya University

**SPEECH BY**

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

**AT**

**MOUNT KENYA UNIVERSITY  
15<sup>TH</sup> GRADUATION CEREMONY**

**ON**

**FRIDAY, 7<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2018**

**AT**

**HAPPY VALLEY GROUNDS, THIKA**

## **1.0 Salutations:**

- Guest Speaker, Prof. Chacha Nyaigotti-Chacha, Chairman, Commission for University Education
- Prof. John Struthers, Chancellor, Mount Kenya University,
- Prof. Simon N. Gicharu, Founder of Mount Kenya University (MKU) and Chairman, Board of Directors,
- Madam Jane Nyutu, Co-Founder of Mount Kenya University,
- Members of the University Board of Directors,
- Members of Mount Kenya University Council,
- Chairman and Members of Makerere University Business School Council,
- Honorable National and County Government leaders present,
- Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Stanley W. Waudu,
- Members of Management Board and Senate,
- Distinguished Guests,
- Alumni Representative,
- Members of the Staff,
- Parents and Guardians,
- Graduands and Students,
- Ladies and Gentlemen.

## 2.0 Opening Remarks

I am delighted, on behalf of Mount Kenya University Council to welcome you to celebrate and commemorate this momentous occasion of the Mount Kenya University 15th Graduation.

The Guest Speaker and all our distinguished guests, we appreciate you for honoring our invitation. Feel free because MKU is your home, away from your real home. On behalf of the MKU Council, I recognize with appreciation the presence of the Makerere University Business School (MUBS) members of Council (the Chairman, Engineer Isaac Mubarak Ngobya, Member, Dr. Michael Kansiime, and member / Deputy Principal Prof. Moses Muhwezi, , MUBS).

The three (3) were members of a fifteen (15) member delegation from MUBS who visited MKU on 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2018 for purposes of benchmarking.

### **Graduands**

I wish to convey my most sincere congratulations to the December 2018 graduands. Years of persistent hard work have culminated into this special day and as we celebrate your achievement, remember to make use of the excellent skills, knowledge and attitudes that you have acquired from this University, to serve humanity out there, either through formal employment or through entrepreneurial ventures. A skilled workforce is a pillar for driving the engine of socio-economic growth.

Graduands, MKU has given you adequate skill. Use the skills wisely and combine them with honesty, integrity and hardwork.

### **3.0 Council Approvals**

Mr. Chancellor, one of the oversight roles of the Mount Kenya University Council is to ensure adherence to the national and international training standards that are guided by policies and regulations. To this end, the Council approved the Senate recommended Academic Trips Policy, Procedure for handling students' complaints and grievances and various other reviewed policies.

Mr. Chancellor, the approved Academic Trips Policy will ensure proper management of academic trips for it has defined responsibilities for all concern parties.

The Procedure for handling students' grievances will serve as a vital reference material on how to deal with their complaints and grievances.

Mr. Chancellor, the Council also recommended amendments to the following Policies and a Manual:

- i) Open Distance and Electronic Learning Policy,
- ii) Open Distance and Electronic Learning Orientation Training Manual
- iii) Curriculum and / or Module Development and Review Policy.
- iv) Mount Kenya University Examination Regulations

The amendments to the above policies were designed to align the policies with the current governance structure in order to cater for the emerging trends in higher education.

Amendments to the University Examination Regulations Manual will strengthen the credibility of University examination and assessment processes.

Mr. Chancellor, in order to ensure continued improvement of service delivery to our clients and stakeholders, the University Council approved Senate recommended amendments to the University Service Charter for the following sections:

- i) Academic and Research Affairs Division.
- ii) Administration, Planning and Institutional Advancement Division.
- iii) Corporate Services.

The Council also approved amendments to Committees of Senate and University Core Values.

The Amendments to the Committees have eliminated overlaps in functions of Senate Committees and reduced the number of committees from 27 to 15. The amendments to the University Core Values were designed to ensure that core values are derived from the University vision, mission and relevant University policies. The new University values are:

- i) Innovation
- ii) Excellence
- iii) Integrity
- iv) professionalism

Mr. Chancellor, the University Council also approved the establishment of the Directorate of Career and Alumni Services Office.



The Objectives of the office among others are:

- a) To assist students and alumni in acquiring information, knowledge and competencies that enhance individual career development, academic success and employability.
- b) To develop relationships with employers for the purpose of exploring opportunities for attachments, internships and employment.

#### **4.0 Conclusion**

As I conclude, I wish to affirm that the Council is committed to supporting the University initiatives in pursuit for efficient service delivery to our students, alumni and other stakeholders.

The University will strive to be competitive in order to attract and retain qualified, dedicated and competent academic and non-academic staff.

**I wish you all God's blessings, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, 2019.**

**THANK YOU**