

Mount Kenya  **University**

SPEECH

BY

Prof. Stanley W. Waudu, Ph.D

VICE-CHANCELLOR

AT

**MOUNT KENYA UNIVERSITY 15TH GRADUATION
CEREMONY THEMED “*PROMOTION OF
INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP FOR
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT*”**

ON

FRIDAY, 7th DECEMBER, 2018

AT

**MOUNT KENYA UNIVERSITY 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,
- Prof. David K. Serem, Chairman, University Council,
- Members of Mount Kenya University Council,
- Chairman and Members of Makerere University Business
School Council,
- Honorable National and County Government leaders
present,
- 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 Welcome Remarks

I am delighted to welcome you all to the 15th Mount Kenya University Graduation Ceremony. On behalf of the University fraternity, I express heartfelt appreciation to our distinguished guests for accepting our invitation to participate in this memorable occasion. I also congratulate all the graduands for qualifying for conferment of various degrees and award of various diplomas and certificates.

3.0 Opening Remarks

Mr. Chancellor, today we celebrate the academic achievements of four thousand, five hundred and forty (4,540) graduands. The graduands have fulfilled all academic programme requirements for conferment of various degrees and award of diplomas and certificates as follows:

- i. Four (4) Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Degrees
- ii. Two hundred and fifty four (254) Masters Degrees

- iii. Eighty (80) Postgraduate Diplomas
- iv. Three thousand, four hundred and thirty nine (3,439) Bachelors' Degrees
- v. Six hundred and sixty six (666) Diplomas and
- vi. Ninety seven (97) Certificates.

Academic Programmes

Ladies and Gentlemen,

A university is a place where the door for innovation and continual improvement never shuts. In this regard, this year (2018), guided by the principle on continual improvement, three (3) Masters, one (1) postgraduate diploma, ten (10) Undergraduate and four (4) Diploma programmes were reviewed to align them with socio-economic development needs as is envisaged in the “Big Four Agenda” and the Kenya Vision 2030. The programmes are:

1. Master of Education
2. Master of Education in Early Childhood Studies
3. Master of Education in Special Needs Education
4. Postgraduate Diploma in Education
5. Bachelor of Education in Arts
6. Bachelor of Education in Early Childhood Education
7. Bachelor of Education in Primary Education
8. Bachelor of Education in Science
9. Bachelor of Education in Special Needs Education
(Primary Option)
10. Bachelor of Education in Special Needs Education
(Secondary Option)
11. Bachelor of Science in Clinical Medicine and
Community Health
12. Bachelor of Science in Environmental Health
13. Bachelor of Science in Health Records and Information
Management
14. Bachelor of Science in Hospitality Management
15. Diploma in Clinical Medicine and Surgery
16. Diploma in Early Childhood Education
17. Diploma in Environmental Health and
18. Diploma in Special Needs Education

Mr. Chancellor, guest speaker, ladies and gentlemen, in response to the need to diversify academic programmes and to develop postgraduate training capacity in the School of Engineering, Energy and the Built Environment, the University is in the process of seeking approval to mount Senate approved *Master of Science in Energy and Power Engineering* programme.

Ladies and Gentlemen, 2018 has been a rewarding year. On 22nd November, 2018, the University received a letter of approval from the Council of Legal Education to offer Diploma in Law. The approval is a great milestone and testimony to the quality and relevance of the University programmes.

Mr. Chancellor, we will endeavor to continue working with regulatory and professional bodies to ensure that our programmes are of the highest quality and are responsive to

socio-economic development needs of Kenya, the region and the society.

Students and Alumni Services

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The University will strive through the Directorate of Career and Alumni Services to impart soft skills to its students that will make them competitive in the market place. The University also accords its students opportunity to develop talent through participation in co-curriculum activities such as games, sports, music and drama among others.

Mr. Chancellor, MKU students actively participate in the national, regional and international competitions. I am delighted to report that the MKU music teams excelled in the August, 2018 National Kenya Music Festivals. MKU emerged the overall best University out of 28 universities.

Research and Innovation

Ladies and Gentlemen,

One of the goals of higher education is to produce human resource that is capable for searching for truths through research. To achieve this goal, the University continues to invest in developing a robust research culture. I am delighted to report that the investment is bearing fruits. For example, there is an increase in publications in peer reviewed journals, and participation in research dissemination forums, which accords the University greater presence and visibility, leading to improved local and global ranking.

Mr. Chancellor, as regards research resource mobilization, the University continues to win local and international grants, with corresponding increase in local and international collaborative research.

We also have continued to become an attractive collaborative research university due to our policy of efficient utilization of research funds, as well as timely disbursement and accounting of donor funds. This year, the University was rated among the top ten Universities in resource mobilization for research nationally.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, Mount Kenya University recognizes the need to provide young career researchers the necessary support in the form of structured mentorship. In this regard, the University has an active Post-doctoral research programme that supports post-doctoral fellows. Currently, the University has 4 post-doctoral researchers based at the Directorate of Research and Innovation.

Mr. Chancellor, in recognition of importance life-long learning, the MKU Centre for Professional Development will mount programmes that will support talent, competencies and skills development.

Quality Assurance

Ladies and Gentlemen,

University training must meet national and international training standards in order to produce talented, competent and skilled graduates. At this juncture, I am delighted to note that quality audits of the Mount Kenya University training systems find the systems compliant with the set standards. Mr. Chancellor, I am glad to report that the University successfully transited from ISO 9001:2008 Quality Management System to ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System and it is harnessing the benefits of the Quality Management System.

Conclusion

As I conclude,

To the graduands, I once again congratulate you for qualifying for the conferment of various degrees and award of various diplomas and certificates.

As you leave Mount Kenya University, remember that you are beacons of hope for your communities and the country. I leave you with the famous quote of the great Socrates:

“I cannot teach anybody anything. I can only make them think.”

We are confident we have trained you how to think, never to run away from challenges, but to solve them. Go and do something! Do not seek opportunities, create opportunities! Create jobs and serve your communities! Impact and change lives! Serve your country with integrity! Fear and Trust God.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, 2019!!

GOD BLESS YOU ALL