

Mount Kenya University

SPEECH

BY

**PROF. DAVID T. K. SEREM, PhD
CHAIRMAN, UNIVERSITY COUNCIL**

AT

**MOUNT KENYA UNIVERSITY
16TH GRADUATION CEREMONY**

ON

FRIDAY, 9TH AUGUST, 2019

AT

HAPPY VALLEY GROUNDS, THIKA

1.0 Salutations:

- Chief Guest, Prof. Raymond Macharia, Professor, University of London,
- Guest Speaker, Dr. Charles Mulli, Founder and CEO of Mully Children's Family,
- Prof. John Struthers, Chancellor, Mount Kenya University,
- Prof. Simon N. Gicharu, CBS, 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 the University Council,

- Prof. Stanley W. Waudu, Vice-Chancellor, Mount Kenya University
- Your Excellences, Ambassadors and High Commissioners present (Dr. Richard Masozera, High Commissioner of the Republic of Rwanda),
- Honorable National and County Government leaders present,
- Distinguished Guests,
- Members of Management Board and Senate,
- Staff,
- Graduands and Students,
- Ladies and Gentlemen.

Good Morning!

1.0 Opening Remarks

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of Mount Kenya University Council, I am pleased to welcome you to the Mount Kenya University 16th Graduation Ceremony. To the Chief Guest, Guest Speaker and all our distinguished guests, we appreciate you for honoring our invitation. I wish to convey my most sincere congratulations to the August 2019 graduands. Your hard work, focus and determination have culminated in successful completion of your studies. I note with appreciation the support accorded to you by parents and guardians, teaching and non-teaching staff.

2.0 University Council Approvals

Mr. Chancellor,

Mount Kenya University Council is committed to ensure compliance with the national and international training standards that are guided by policies and regulations. To this end, the University Council approved either the University Management Board or Senate recommended policies and guidelines as follows:

a) Internship Policy

In support of providing opportunities for graduates to access industrial experience, the University has established internship programme. Due to the need to establish a well-structured and coordinated internship programme, the University has developed

an Internship Policy. The objectives of the policy are to:

- i) Provide a framework and standards applicable to all interns.
- ii) Ensure effectiveness and efficiency in implementation and management of the internship programme in the University.
- iii) Provide a framework for monitoring, evaluating and reporting for improvement and sustainability of internship programmes.
- iv) Providing interns with the requisite practical training and experience.

b) Strategic Student Enrolment Management Policy

The Strategic Student Enrolment Management Policy has been developed to ensure the University remains competitive amidst globalization and competition in the 21st century, and changing socio-economic and political dynamics. The Policy shall provide a strategic approach to attraction, recruitment, admissions and retention of qualified students.

c) Sustainability of Academic Programmes Policy

The Sustainability of Academic Programmes Policy shall guide the development of creative, innovative and market-driven academic programmes that will be sustainable. The policy shall provide a framework and

standards for monitoring, evaluating the introduction, growth, improvement and sustainable management of academic programmes. This has come at the time when most universities in the region have been challenged to devise strategies to remain sustainable.

d) Transport Guidelines

Transport guidelines shall facilitate provision of transport in support of effective implementation of the university mission. The university will continue to ensure optimal utilization of University vehicles in support of curricular, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities.

e) Alumni Representative Nomination Guidelines

The guidelines have been developed to guide the process of nominating alumni representative to university functions like the one we have today.

f) Revised Students Handbook

Mr. Chancellor, the Council also approved the revised Student Handbook. The revision was necessitated by the need to capture students' non-academic disciplinary offences and penalties and to align with the reviewed general examination regulations.

g) Restructuring

Mr. Chancellor, in order to ensure continued improvement of service delivery to clients and stakeholders, and also to cater for emerging trends in higher education with the aim of enhancing efficiency in the operations, the University Council also approved the following:

- i) Restructuring of the Medical School.
- ii) Restructuring of the Directorate of Marketing and Branding.
- iii) Establishment of Kitale Open Distance and Electronic Learning Centre.

h) Performance Contracts

The University Council takes cognizance of the need for the University to embrace Performance Management in its service delivery. To this end, the University Council approved benchmarking with other institutions of higher learning, reviewing the Performance Contract (PC) tools, sensitization of staff and subsequent automation of the performance management process. I commend the University Management for implementing the process of performance management.

4.0 Conclusion

As I conclude, I wish to underpin the University's commitment to offering quality training. The University

will strive to ensure that the work environment supports efficient service-delivery.

Once again I congratulate the graduands on qualifying for conferment and award of various academic certificates.

I wish you all God's blessings in all your endeavors.

THANK YOU