



OFFICE OF THE CHAIRPERSON, COUNCIL

A SPEECH BY

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CHAIRPERSON,

MOUNT KENYA UNIVERSITY COUNCIL

DURING

**MOUNT KENYA UNIVERSITY 7TH GRADUATION
CEREMONY**

ON DECEMBER 11TH, 2014

Salutations

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome Remarks

On behalf of the Council, I wish to welcome all of you to this very special occasion of 7th Mount Kenya University Graduation Ceremony

Congratulate Chairman BOT

Madam Chancellor, Our Chief Guest, Ladies and Gentlemen;

Before I proceed, please let me take this early opportunity on behalf of Mount Kenya University Council, to congratulate Dr. Simon Gicharu upon his award of Honorary Degree(Doctor of

Science-*Honoris Causa*) by Gulu University, in recognition of his enormous contribution in the field of science education. Dr Gicharu is a man of passion and perseverance, inspiring ability and consistency and having reached this pinnacle of success is not a surprise. My heartfelt congratulations on an well-deserved award. You have indeed put in a tremendous amount of hard work and it is good to know that this has now been acknowledged even beyond the Kenyan borders.

Governance & Strategic Planning

Madam Chancellor, Our Chief Guest, Ladies and Gentlemen,

From the humble beginnings in 2008 Mount Kenya University has grown in leaps and bounds to become one of the largest universities in Kenya. During the previous plan period significant achievements were realized including the award of a university charter, setting up of 12 campuses and 4 Open and Distance Learning Centers, increased student enrolment from..... to, expansion of courses to cover medicine and law and offering cross-border access to MKU academic programs in

Rwanda and Somaliland. The university has set up Research, Enterprise and Innovation Development Centre to enhance research and innovation as the country seeks solutions to its problems.

Madam Chancellor;

The current Strategic Plan focuses on provision and expansion opportunities to access higher education, nationally and regionally while keeping quality of education at the forefront. The plan is anchored on five pillars of quality teaching and learning, research and innovation, infrastructural development, enhanced student welfare, community outreach and institutional capacity. The pillars are anchored on the foundation of quality human resource development and corporate governance.

After an appraisal of the plan the following areas are perceived to be the main focus: increasing the number of staff to optimum student :lecturer ratio, providing adequate infrastructure, introducing experiential learning as well as new teaching and learning methodologies. It is also of importance to enhance Research and innovation as well as increase incubation facilities.

Student welfare shall be invigorated to ensure holistic development of our graduates.

The University has developed a procurement and disposal policy to guide the process of procurement to facilitate accountability and transparency.

Academic Developments

Madam Chancellor, Our Chief Guest, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The year 2014 is very unique in the history of Mount Kenya University. This is because we have managed to hold two graduation ceremonies, one that was in July 2014 in which we had over 5,000 graduands and this December 2014 one, in which we are having over 6,000 graduands hence churning out over 11,000 graduates this year.

Our Academic Programmes are approved by regulatory bodies and geared towards societal needs. In this regard, the University constantly reviews its programmes and restructures its academic engagement.

New developments here include:

- Establishment of the Department of Nursing Education, Leadership Management and Research.
- Change of name of Bachelor of Science in Clinical Medicine to Bachelor of Science in Clinical Medicine and Community Health. This is in accordance with revised Scheme of Service for Clinical Officers (April 2010).

Staffing

Madam Chancellor, Our Chief Guest, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Human resource is the greatest asset in an institution. In acknowledging its importance, the University has developed a Human Resource Policy to guide recruitment, management of Human Resource and the use of best practices.

Appointments

Recently the Commission for University Education issued guidelines on the minimum appointment and promotion criteria

for Academic Staff. The University Council considered these guidelines and approved the University Designations and Minimum Requirements for Eligibility. This way, I am happy to let you know that all our Academic Staff meet and sometimes exceed the CUE requirements.

Infrastructural Development

Madam Chancellor,

The increase in student and staff population and diversity of our programmes necessitates the expansion of the University infrastructure. I wish to sincerely appreciate the support we continue to receive from the Board of Trustees. I also wish to thank the Board of Trustees for supporting the acquisition of Union Towers in Nairobi City, 6,100 square feet building that houses our study centre, the expansion of Mombasa Campus building and the current construction of Senate Plaza at Thika Main Campus, administrative and Tuition blocks in Kitale, Kakamega, New Science and Technology Complex in Lodwar among others.

Student Welfare

Madam Chancellor, Our Chief Guest, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Mount Kenya University being committed to having its students develop skills for learning, work and life; and realizing that skills have become increasingly important in the globalized world, continues to ensure that its students acquire knowledge and expertise, and develop generic skills necessary in work place. To this end, the University has developed a Guide to Employability Skills designed to help our students to develop necessary competencies. To achieve this, the guide focuses on job-searching, curriculum vitae/resume writing and employability skills.

Concluding Remarks to Graduands

Madam Chancellor,

I now turn to the graduands who are the of our in today's ceremony today. I congratulate all of you for working hard to satisfy the requirements for earning your degrees/diplomas. When you applied to join Mount Kenya University; and

eventually joined us; you made a wise decision because this is the place to be if you are looking for a holistic and empowering education.

As you go out into the world of work. I urge you to put to good use the skills, attitudes and training that you have acquired during your stay and time spent here in Mount Kenya University. There are numerous opportunities out there and that there are infinite possibilities of what you could do with your kind of training, talent, diligence, passion and character. I encourage you to be worthy ambassadors of Mount Kenya University. It is our collective responsibility to make Kenya a better nation, and with dedication, commitment and sincerity of purpose, we can make it to happen. The ball is now in your court. I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

May the Lord Jesus bless the work of your hands: whatever you find to do, do it with all your hearts. Have a merry Christmas and a victorious New Year, 2015.

Thank you and God Bless You