



A SPEECH BY

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MOUNT KENYA UNIVERSITY

**DURING MOUNT KENYA UNIVERSITY 7TH GRADUATION
CEREMONY**

ON DECEMBER 11TH, 2014

SALUTATIONS

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

It pleases me to find it a great honour to be with you today in an occasion that will remain memorable in our minds, as I confer various degrees and award diplomas and certificates at this congregation of the 7th Graduation Ceremony of Mount Kenya University.

Congratulate Chairman Board of Trustees

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Dr. Simon Gicharu, the Mount Kenya University founder upon his award of an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science (Honoris Causa) by Gulu University, an award, he received on Saturday October 25th

2014 in Gulu, Uganda, in recognition of his contribution in field of science education in the East African region. Dr. Simon Gicharu, you are an inspiration and a cause of confidence to our community and nation as a whole. In history you have entered as a role model. We shall use your example to realize our vision and learn that with vigor of hard work, patience, forgiveness and follow-through, we can achieve our desires.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

This 7th Graduation Ceremony is a special and momentous occasion in the life of our University, the life of the Graduands, the families that are directly involved, and in the life of our country, as a whole. It depicts the growth of our university and its commitment towards nation building. Indeed, Mount Kenya University churns out thousands of very able graduates who are always proud to serve their country beyond the borders. I am proud of Mount Kenya University.

MKU and National Development

At Mount Kenya University we are proud contributors to the realization of Kenya Vision 2030:

Through Public-Private partnership, Mount Kenya University has entered into collaboration with various health institutions in Kenya. This helps to provide a committed approach to working closely together to reach a common goal, **BETTER HEALTHCARE FOR ALL**. This is in line with our policy on the commitment to provision of quality teaching, research and consultancy.

Mount Kenya University has signed several MOUs with various County Assemblies to provide training that renews skills in political engagement. This way, Mount Kenya University contributes to the best practices in our national governance.

Mount Kenya University has signed several MOUs with various business and manufacturing groups and industries. Through these initiatives, Mount Kenya University contributes to our

country's economic wellbeing. This testifies to the effect that our programmes are not only market-driven but also need based.

Mount Kenya University, my university, your university, our university.

Mount Kenya University and Globalization

Mount Kenya University is now a global phenomenon. Mount Kenya University in Africa, Mount Kenya University in Europe, Mount Kenya University in Asia, Mount Kenya University in the United States of America. Mount Kenya University in the world. This is achieved through collaborations with key universities in the world and knowledge sharing and application.

Anybody across the world can tune in to MKU Royal FM Radio and learn of many things that happen across the world. The research, publications and conferences done by our staff increase access to knowledge. I always feel proud when either myself or my colleagues find publications by our staff and students.

Mount Kenya University's collaborations with the University of Cincinnati continue to bear fruits. In March this year, Prof. Russell McMahon from the College of Education Criminal Justice and Human Services, University of Cincinnati joined Mount Kenya University to serve as a visiting faculty. The collaboration between these two universities is here to stay. I wish to mention other collaborations with Xavier University School of Business and Copenhagen University Business School. These collaborations will open new opportunities in expanding the boundaries of knowledge.

To the graduands,

From this moment on, you will be confronting new horizons and challenges. Some of you may stay closer to home, some may move slightly further away and yet others may find themselves in a totally different continent. Wherever you may find yourselves and whatever challenge you may have chosen to follow and explore, you have to hold true to what shaped your

yesterdays; acknowledge and appreciate what you are today and dare to be all that you can be tomorrow.

You need to dare to dream to be all that you can be tomorrow. It has been said, "The person who goes furthest is generally the one who is willing to do and dare!" This is the challenge that lies before us. Dare to be all that you can be.

Dare to chase your chosen career -

Dare to excel -

Dare to go the extra mile -

Dare to show compassion -

Dare to make your mark in the world -

Dare to have empathy -

Dare to be the best you can be... and then DO it.

As it has been said by other before, today's achievements may fade or even be forgotten. The applause may become a distant memory and our degrees of accomplishment may gather dust on a shelf or in a drawer. But, you will always be remembered for caring enough, for helping someone, for making someone feel special and for being the kind of person that others enjoy

spending time with. As you make a relatively smooth transition into life beyond school, I am sure that the fine education that you have received from Mount Kenya University will stand you in good stead - time and again. My thanks must also extend to your parents and guardians. They have remained committed to your education, but more importantly, they have remained committed to us at Mount Kenya University community.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Either way, today, we need to acknowledge where we are. We may find that our school days were well spent. We may regret some of the opportunities that we allowed to slip by. Acknowledge them, accept them and then prepare to move on...to tomorrow.

I congratulate the graduands, their spouses, parents, friends and relatives and also the staff of Mount Kenya University for their hardwork and determination.

In conclusion, I want to congratulate the graduands, their spouses, parents, friends and relatives and also the staff of

Mount Kenya University for their hardwork and determination. I say many thanks and fondest best wishes go with you all. Have a merry Christmas and a happy prosperous new year.

Thank You