



**SPEECH BY THE UNIVERSITY CHANCELLOR, PROF. SHELLEMIAH O. KEYA ON THE OCCASION OF THE 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADUATION CEREMONY AT DEDAN KIMATHI UNIVERSITY, GRADUATION SQUARE**

**The Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education Science and Technology (MoEST), Dr. Fred Matiang'i**

**Chairman of Council, Prof. Dulacha Barako,**

**Council members,**

**Vice Chancellor, Dedan Kimathi University of Technology, Prof. P. N. Kioni**

**Vice Chancellors of other Universities present,**

**Deputy Vice Chancellors,**

**Deans and Directors,**

**Registrars,**

**Teaching and non-teaching staff,**

**Parents and guardians,**

**Graduands and Students,**

**Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Good morning?

As we gather here this 16<sup>th</sup> day of December 2016 to mark our fifth graduation ceremony, the entire Dedan Kimathi University is filled with joy as we confidently usher in competent human resource to the world. This is in alignment with our University mission, “To provide academically stimulating, culturally diverse and quality learning environment that fosters research, innovation and technology development towards producing relevant technical and managerial human resource and leaders to contribute to attainment of national development goals.”

You graduands are therefore well equipped to face the challenges of the world by applying your intellectual capacity in solving the day to day problems and making the world a better place.

**As I salute you graduands,**

It is important to appreciate the effort made individually and collectively towards the realization of this day, especially your success and the growth of the institution this far.

We are grateful to the government of Kenya, the University council, the senate and management, the academic and administrative staff, students, alumni, the

local community, the collaborators and partners and all stakeholders for the support extended to us. Much appreciation goes to the parents and guardians who have worked tirelessly to support the students throughout their studies.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Over the four years since the award of charter, we have graduated **four thousand, one hundred and forty eight (4,148)** graduates in different programmes. After this graduation today, this figure will rise to 4496. The student population has grown from **five thousand, four hundred and forty three (5, 443)** in 2013/2014 to **six thousand, nine hundred and forty four (6, 944)** in 2016.

Several postgraduate and undergraduate programmes have been introduced this year as follows:

- PhD Mechanical Engineering,
- Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering,
- Master of Science in Security and Forensic Management,
- Master of Science in Leather Technology,
- Bachelor of Education in Technology (Civil Engineering, Electrical and Electronic Engineering and Mechanical Engineering),
- Bachelor of Technology in Building Construction,

Diploma and Certificate in Electrical and Electronics Engineering.

- This is in effort to offer more technical programmes towards training and capacity building for national development.

### **Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

As a University of Technology, we have continued to embrace the culture of innovation, research and development. Students have applied the education provided in the academic programmes to develop innovations. In this regard I note with satisfaction

that the DeHUB, the University's innovation hub, continues to spawn ever more innovations from the students and that some of them have been successfully nurtured into commercially viable enterprises. I encourage the University management and academic staff to strengthen and entrench even more this culture of innovation and enterprise in teaching, identification of research problems, in the conduct of research and the associated results dissemination.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Through the Institute of Food Bioresources Technology, the University has been able to produce (i) its own coffee, already available in the market place (ii) DeKUT yoghurt

and (iii) just recently we introduced coffee flavored yoghurt. Why can't give applause to the University?

Further, through forums such as the DeKUT 2<sup>nd</sup> Conference on Science, Technology, Innovation and Entrepreneurship held between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of November this year, DeKUT looks to meet the need to entrench a research and publishing culture in the Institution. This is in line with the ultimate goal of our philosophy," To mould Dedan Kimathi University of Technology into an institution known for world class research, academic excellence, an exceptional staff and students, and one that harbors the highest level of innovation, creativity, scholarship and enterprises."

**Ladies and Gentlemen let me return to collaboration and partnerships,**

DeKUT works closely with the industry, professional and statutory bodies, national institutions, government agencies, and Universities abroad. This is tailored so that the education and research programmes are relevant to the national needs and at the same time are benchmarked internationally. Allow me to acknowledged certain collaborations among them:

- Key institutions in the coffee sector which have enabled this university to develop unique certificate, diploma, and research programmes,

- In the geothermal energy sector, partnerships have been forged with Geothermal Development Corporation (GDC), KENGEN, and Ministry of Energy - Kenya.
- Through these linkages the University has developed and launched a Masters degree and a Postgraduate Diploma in Geothermal Energy Technology,
- On tourism and conservation partnership is thriving with the National Museums of Kenya, Kenya Forest Research Institute, and the Kenya Wildlife Service
- With regard to postgraduate education and research, DeKUT has close partnerships with leading foreign Universities: These include University of Leuven, Belgium, for Geothermal Energy and Industrial Engineering, University of Gifu, Japan, for a range of engineering and ICT programmes, and Technical University of Applied Sciences, Germany for Mechanical Engineering and Coffee Technology, William Paterson University of New Jersey, for Business Studies, and the College of The Rockies, Canada, on nursing programme.

DeKUT has continued leveraging on these partnerships so as to ensure that she lives up to her vision. In the year 2016, steps towards more of the collaborations have been made:

- I. A major stakeholder in the TVET upskilling of trainers program

- II. Launch of a joint South Initiative project funded by Flemish Inter University Council, Belgium (VLIR). The project titled "Capacity enhancement for teaching, research and extension for management of critical medical devices at public hospitals in Kenya"
- III. Taking steps towards wind energy technology and establishment of the Green Institute
- IV. Introducing SIEMENS certification through a partnership agreement signed between Siemens and DeKUT. This will enhance Mechatronic Engineering training.
- V. The recently signed Memorandum of Understanding between Dedan Kimathi University of Technology and National Police Service
- VI. An MoU with the University of Siegen covering a range of collaboration areas.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Here at Dedan Kimathi University, we are keen on holistic education as well as embracing a culture of teamwork and nurturing diversity as strength. With this, the University students and staff have engaged in various activities towards building cohesion and integration as well as demonstrating love for one another.

Driven by the concern for the gifted but needy students, an endowment fund was born out of this where funds are

mobilized to help the needy students in raising school fees. The fund is replenished through activities such as “Climb to Educate” and “Charity Golf Tournament” which have been made annual events by the University. Individuals and institutions can also contribute to the fund through direct monetary contributions, participating in University events, bursaries and prizes, scholarships and fellowships, sponsorship of events and grants to the University under specified programmes.

Since this is an on - going effort I **wish to announce as Chancellor that my very small personal contribution to this fund of Kes 100,000.00 should reach the University before the end of 2016.**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

As I assume my seat, I take this opportunity to once again congratulate our graduands. The world is waiting for you, what will you offer to the hungry, the poor, the unemployed citizens of the world?

**Thank you, KWAHERI,**

**May I wish you a merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year 2017 and**

**Finally may God bless you all!**

