



**SPEECH DELIVERED BY PROF NDIRANGU KIONI, VICE CHANCELLOR DEDAN
KIMATHI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, DURING THE 5TH GRADUATION HELD
ON 16TH DECEMBER, 2016 AT THE DeKUT GRADUATION GROUNDS**

Recognition of all the guests

Our distinguished guest,

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

The Chancellor Dedan Kimathi University of Technology, Prof. Shellemiah O. Keya

The Council Chairman, Prof. Dulacha Galgalo Barako

The Council members present,

Honorable guests,

All DVCs,

Graduands and parents and guardians,

Members of Staff and students,

Good morning?

It gives me great pleasure to warmly welcome you all to Dedan Kimathi University of Technology and to the University's 5th Graduation Ceremony. Today's graduation ceremony is special in nature as it is organized to accommodate students who completed their courses after our 4th graduation ceremony held in April this year. I would like to heartily congratulate all the graduands for their hard work, parents and guardians for the sacrifices made and the academic staff for spending their time in nurturing the graduands to complete their studies successfully and in time. Indeed this is a very special day when we are celebrating our achievement as a university. The graduation ceremony usually marks results of all our efforts. We are convinced that the graduands prove our progress towards realizing our vision as a University: To be the premier technological University excelling in quality education, research, and technology transfer for national development.

Special Graduation Ceremony

This fifth graduation ceremony is the second this year and is being specially held to cater for those students who completed their studies immediately after the fourth graduation ceremony in April. The two main groups are the Criminology and Security Management and the Electrical and Electronic Engineering degree students. Some of the Electrical and Electronic Engineering degree graduands will also be conferred with degrees in Telecommunication and Information Engineering. They will thus be able to register with the Engineers Board of Kenya and at the same time pursue their dream careers. Among the 348 graduands at this ceremony, is the first PhD in Computer Science graduand and also nine pioneer Bachelor of Business in Information Technology graduands. The other programmes which have graduands at this function are: B.Sc. Nursing, B.Sc. GIS, Diploma IT, Diploma Sustainable Tourism and Hospitality Management, Diploma Building Technology,

Diploma in Fashion Design and Interior decoration, Certificate in Coffee Technology and Quality Management and Certificate in Building Technology.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Security and Criminology Programme

DeKUT has continued to engage in both local and international partnership and collaborations to enhance her quality in teaching and research. In this regard, we are pleased that the University now has signed an MOU with National Police Service which means there is a framework for extensive collaboration between the NPS and the University. Under this framework, the University will expand the range of special courses on offer to the people in the security management sector. The framework also provides an opportunity for University staff to identify areas for research by students and opportunities for subsequent dissemination and application of the results. The recently introduced M.Sc. Programme in Security Management and Forensics studies will immensely benefit

from this arrangement. Furthermore, this partnership gives DeKUT an opportunity to progressively contribute to enhancement of national security through education, technology transfer, and linkages to other educational institutions abroad which are in this field. In this regard, I note that the University organized some specialized courses on Forensic studies and cyber-security which were conducted in Kenya by our partners from Korea Police Agency Academies.

The graduands should also note that the University has now launched M.Sc. Programme in Security Management and Forensics which will also benefit from our international partnerships, particularly from Korea.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

TVET

DeKUT has remained committed in responding to the demand for globalization and emerging technology, the University has continued focus in developing and training STEM programmes. Among these programmes are Engineering, Information Communication Technology, Business information Technology, Actuarial Science, Food Science and the ITPS. In September this year the University launched three Bachelor of Education in engineering for training of TVET trainers and Technicians. This was possible through AfDB scholarship which was granted to the University early this year. The capacity building for the TVET will create the required workforce to anchor the existing and the newly established TVET institutions. The TVET will play a key role towards the

realization of the Vision 2030 in developing technical skills and competencies necessary for demand driven economy.

The University recently signed an MoU with University of Siegen which will create a new platform for student and staff exchange.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The University has continued to put a lot of emphasis on holistic education and within the year more students participated in the climb to educate season three where 94 students participated, the “Climb to Educate” is a DeKUT annual activity whose climax is usually to climb Mt Kenya.

Our university places a lot of emphasis on holistic education. We are confident that our graduates will be able to solve problems, think critically and show value-based leadership to contribute to the necessary positive transformation of society.

The university has continued to invest heavily to build on quality of its graduates through attracting and recruiting highly talented faculty members and support staff, investing on state of the art laboratories, partnership and collaboration and effective service delivery to our customer. This will place DeKUT at the top of the world as a leading Technology University.

In this regard we are proud of the University's DeKUTSO student leadership. Over the last three years they have conducted peaceful elections and managed smooth transitions from one team to the next. Indeed, they have nurtured a culture of solving issues affecting the students through dialogue, a

spirit of collaboration, and participating in coming up with solutions. The student leadership continues to make invaluable contribution to the management and development of the University.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Conference and Research

We have continued to excel in the research agenda through partnership with some of the world research Universities, within the year the university held its 2nd International conference that brought together international participants. It was attended by scholars from both local and international Universities. During the conference 84 Publications were made and in addition DeKUT faculty published more than 90 papers in peer referred journals within the year.

This is a great milestone by the university in realization of research agenda.

PC Highlights:

The University has continued to record outstanding performance in the targets set in performance contract signed between the University and the Ministry of Education Science and Technology (MoEST). The University webometric rating has steadily improved and we are aiming to be at the top 100 in Africa.

Internationalization has been one of the University key agenda and the University has continued to realize it through establishment of international collaborations and partnership among them University of Siegen, Korean University, University of Leuven, and TUAS. The number of students on international exchange programme has continued to grow, within the year the University exchanged students with some of the leading

universities in German, Taiwan, COTR and Japan. Some of this University include National Tsing Hua, Taiwan, College of the Rockies, Canada, Technical University of Applied Sciences, wildau, Technical University of Munich, Technische Universitat Berlin, Technical University Hamburg, Harburg, Germany, University of Stuttgart, Gifu University

To our graduands,

Congratulations on the certificates and diplomas that you have been awarded and the degrees that have been conferred. The future is what we make of it; much is expected of you; make us proud by your contributions. I hope you will wish to continue to support your University in many different ways and I shall look forward to meeting you at events organized by our alumni association. However, today it is also very important to remember those who have supported you through

University so before I close I would like you to join me in a round of applause for your parents, relatives, sponsors and friends, all of whom have made your achievements possible.

Thank you all and I wish you a merry Xmas and Happy New year