

**SPEECH OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL,
DEDAN KIMATHI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY,
DR. DULACHA BARAKO, DURING THE SECOND
GRADUATION CEREMONY ON 25TH APRIL, 2014**

- Chancellor Dedan Kimathi University of Technology,
Prof. Shellemiah Keya
- Cabinet Secretary for Education, Professor Jacob
Kaimenyi

- **Principal Secretary for Education Dr Belio Kipsang**
- **Principal Secretary for Science & Technology, Prof. Coleta Suda**
- **Members of the University Council**
- **Chairman, Higher Education Loans Board and former chairman of Kimathi University College of Technology, Mr. David Wachira**
- **Vice Chancellor Dedan Kimathi University of Technology, Prof. P. N. Kioni**

- **Vice Chancellors of other Universities present**
- **Deputy Vice Chancellors**
- **Deans of Schools, Directors of Institutes, Chairpersons of Department**
- **Registrars**
- **Staff and Students**
- **Parents and guardians**
- **Granduands**
- **Distinguished Guests**

- Ladies and Gentlemen

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

It is my great pleasure, on behalf of the Dedan Kimathi University of Technology Council to welcome you all to this University and to our 2nd Graduation ceremony. It has taken sacrifices of both time and resources to make today's

function successful and I thank all, whose concerted efforts have made this occasion a success.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate all the 2014 graduands for working hard throughout their time at the University and thus making this day become a memorable event for themselves and the University. The University fraternity has prepared you well by offering you a wholesome learning experience that has nurtured and sharpened your skills. The Council is confident that, as we

release you back to the Society, you have what it takes to fit and succeed in your different endeavours.

Mr. Chancellor sir,

The University has quickly fitted well in the new dispensation as a fully fledged university and in the last one year implemented the necessary policies in line with the requirements of the Universities Act 2012 and the Charter.

The Council has finalized making the Universities Statutes which are geared towards operationalizing the Charter and which now provides the University Management with a clear road map on implementing of policies.

The Council, with the support of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology has also successfully and competitively recruited the senior management of the University. We are confident that the officers appointed have the necessary skills and the right attitude to steer the

University in its vision of being a premier technological University. The Council is also continuously recruiting additional staff required as anchors of academic programmes guided by the Appointments and Promotion Criteria which has also been developed in the last one year.

The Council has also embarked on the revision of the University's Strategic Plan to bring it in line with the Universities Act, the Charter and incorporate the policy directives of the Ministry of Education, Science and

Technology. Once completed in the next two months, it will provide the goals and targets to be achieved in the next five years.

The Council and Management have also continued to perform well in the performance contracts signed with the Government. I am happy to report that in the contract period 2012/2013, the University managed “Very Good”, a score that was a marked improvement on the performance of the previous years. This performance, Mr. Chancellor is

buttressed by solid achievements on the ground. As council we are happy to note the entire exercise went on smoothly and also appreciate that there is room for improvement to achieve the ultimate score of “excellent”. On behalf of the Council, I commend the University management and staff for these achievements. I am confident that, with more commitment for excellence in all spheres of the University, we shall soon be rated “excellent”.

The Council has also continued to play its rightful role through holding regular meetings with the Management and setting out appropriate policies to ensure that the University resources are managed with efficiency, transparency and accountability and in compliance with the Law, to deliver high quality and satisfactory services to the students, staff, collaborating partners, and other customers.

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

The Council has endeavoured to provide financial resources for development of sound learning and research infrastructure (i.e. buildings, equipment library, ICT, recreational facilities), high calibre human resource-both academic and administrative-, and a sound financial base, including income generation capacity, as a foundation for development of a leading University of Technology. In this regard, we are just about to complete the construction of an Academic block which will house laboratories and

workshops, lecture rooms, a theatre, seminar rooms and staff offices for the School of Engineering. We have also embarked on Phase two of the Academic block which will provide more teaching space and we hope to complete this in the 2014/15 financial year

I note with thanks the support from our parent ministry through capitation grants for the development of infrastructure and recurrent expenses. I also note with appreciation, the Ministry's effort in providing teaching

equipment for engineering in collaboration with the African Development Bank. Through this effort, our University is set to receive teaching equipment worth Kes 320 million and a significant number of scholarships for post-graduate training. I note that only our University has so far qualified, among other public universities, to offer this advanced training in engineering.

I want to assure the Cabinet Secretary that all these efforts are highly appreciated and the equipment, once received in

the coming months will be put to good use immediately. I also wish to thank the University staff who prepared the winning proposals that attracted funding of this significant amount

Mr. Chancellor Sir, allow me to point out that our University is running extremely expensive programmes in engineering and technology which require a large staff compliment to support the academic delivery, expensive equipment, laboratories and workshops, teaching materials and

consumables. The costs incurred in training a student in engineering is much higher than that of programmes in humanities and social sciences. We hope that the establishment of the Universities Fund, as envisaged in the Universities Act 2012, will be expedited, and once in place, the Board of Trustees of the Fund, will develop a robust financing mechanism for universities, including adoption of unit cost as the basis of program funding. This way, the DeKUT will receive adequate funds needed to continue

offering quality education to the students and offer national leadership in technology as its mandate.

The student population in the University has continued to grow over the years as well as the number of programmes on offer. The University requires additional funding to put up critical facilities for the increasing student population and programme offering. We need to expand the library, construct workshops and laboratories, build more lecture space and develop more social amenities for students' co-

curricular activities. We have continued to engage with the Ministry on this matter and we have hope that this will be looked at favourably in this coming financial year. We will also continue improving our capacity to generate resources internally and engage with development partners

Lastly, I wish to note with thanks the vital linkages that the University has forged with the local stakeholders and hostel providers. Through these linkages, Mr. Chancellor Sir, our students reside in modern hostels owned by members of the

local community and this has enabled the University concentrate on building teaching infrastructure as opposed to building hostels for students. We encourage more investors to put up more facilities and grow in tandem with the growth of our student population.

The County Government has also collaborated with the University in a number of areas including infrastructural development of security lighting and road network within the University, and for this, the Council is very grateful. We

look forward to more cooperation in other areas of mutual interest like coffee technology and spatial planning of the larger DeKUT area.

To our graduands, I congratulate you very heartily and wish you all the very best in your future undertakings. As you go out there, be good ambassadors of Dedan Kimathi University of Technology nationally, regionally and internationally.

Thank you and God bless you.

