



**SPEECH BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR- PROF. P.N. KIONI**  
**DURING THE ORIENTATION WEEK FOR FIRST YEAR**  
**STUDENTS 2014/2015 ACADEMIC YEAR ON**  
**FRIDAY, 5<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2014 AT 2:30 PM**

**Deputy Vice Chancellors**

**Deans & Directors**

**Staff & Students**

**Ladies & Gentlemen**

**Good afternoon!**

**Welcome to Dedan Kimathi University of Technology  
(DeKUT)**

**Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen. I am delighted to join the rest of the DeKUT family in welcoming you to Dedan Kimathi University of Technology. We are proud to have you here, and this afternoon we**

**officially receive you as DeKUT students. I know how proud you are of your achievements and how hopeful you are for your future, and how many concerns-large and small -you may be harboring at this moment. Did I make the right choice? Or could I perhaps be the admissions mistake? Each and every one of you is here because you deserve to be and because you can bring something new and exciting to this diverse learning community.**

**I am aware that this has been a hectic week for you as you have been registering, and familiarizing yourselves with various facilities and amenities available to you at your respective Schools and Institutes. I therefore want to take this opportunity to congratulate you for your excellent performance in the KCSE examinations that enabled you to join this great University. Today, you are the over 1,000 new students who start on this academic journey, it may look like a long journey but I assure you that it will end soon, and perhaps you can look forward to successfully completing the course.**

## **The DeKUT Family**

**Today you are becoming members of the DeKUT family. A family bound by fundamental core values that we pledge to uphold. These values are:**

- Innovation**
- Scholarship**
- Diversity**
- Reliability**
- Teamwork**
- Nature and heritage**

**This is a place where hard work is rewarded, where freedom and responsibility is expected, and, where all people are respected.**

**All activities and the people who study and work here are guided by the principles of Christian teaching though the Chaplaincy department . However there is no discrimination on the basis of religion or cultural beliefs; there is great respect for the religious and cultural beliefs of others. This respect must be observed at all times and in all places in the University. In DeKUT, respect for others and caring for the well being of others whether they are fellow students or members of staff or visitors to the University is a way of life.**

All of our students and staff are expected to contribute towards making DeKUT a true family in which we all love and care for one another. In DeKUT we strive to live for each other.

## **DeKUT's Corporate Culture**

The foundation of DeKUT's corporate culture is explained as follows:

### **1. Colours:**

- a) GOLD represents technology which is the key focus of the University.**
- b) RED represents the struggle by Kenyans to liberate themselves from social economic and political challenges through quality education.**
- c) GREEN represents our environment and natural heritage.**

### **1. Features of the Logo:**

- a) Open Arms represents the University's commitment to openness, transparency and team work.**
- b) The Dedan Kimathi University of Technology name inscribed in the green ribbon displays our reverence for the institution, values, students and other stakeholders.**

## **The Academic Curriculum**

**The University's mission is to provide academically stimulating, culturally diverse and quality learning environment that engenders research, innovation and technology development towards producing relevant human resources and leaders to contribute to attainment of national development goals. We believe that quality education of our students must include a good amount of holistic education, specifically philosophy and ethics. For this reason, every degree programme you may be enrolled in includes a strong foundation in these subjects.**

**By studying philosophy, for example, you will learn to reason more critically, rigorously and discern more readily what constitutes a logically consistent argument and what does not. And you will study texts that wrestle directly with deepest questions of how you should live.**

**DeKUT offers unique opportunities for self enrichment**

**You are going to love it here and we will do our best to provide you with opportunities to learn and thrive in your study years ahead. These years will be a time of opportunity unlike any other. Here you are surrounded by astonishing resources: fascinating fellow students, a learned and caring teaching staff, a supportive and personalized mentoring programme through the Dean of Students Office, an exceptionally fine library, a magnificent student centre, good sports facilities, a vibrant student body, and student clubs and societies covering very diverse interests- Robotics, Media, Touch Crew, the choir, Salsa Group, Catholic Action, Christian Union, Muslim Association and SDA group among them. You will have complete freedom to explore, learn about new subjects, meet new people, and pursue new passions. I want to encourage you to make the most of this rare and unique opportunity.**

**You will also find many wonderful mentors in our staff members. DeKUT academic staff members are leaders in their fields of study, as well as excellent teachers and mentors. Mentors are guides. They lead us along the journey of our lives. We trust them because they have been there before. As you begin this important journey, I hope that you will seek out these dedicated educators who can help you to**

lay the foundation for academic success and good decision making. They are a most valuable resource.

Of all the messages I could impart to you on this occasion, I *urge* you to stretch your intellectual horizons and to push yourselves beyond your comfort zones. There are many opportunities to do this on and off campus: sports, clubs, community service projects, research opportunities, student enterprises, and more. This breadth of opportunity is one of the hallmarks of a DeKUT education and one that I hope you will take full advantage of.

You have come to a place extraordinarily rich in opportunities. But DeKUT's many offerings will do you no good unless you are personally engaged. Each of you must seek out and seize those opportunities.

My suggestion to stretch yourselves applies to the friends you choose as well. If the friends you make here are exclusively those who come from backgrounds just like your own and went to high schools just like your own, you will have forfeited half of the value of a Dedan Kimathi University education. You come from a wide range of ethnic, religious, socio-economic and cultural backgrounds. Seek out friends with different histories and different interests; you will find that you learn most from the people least like you.

## **Responsibilities**

**We have confidence that your journey toward self discovery, your progress toward finding your passion, will yield more than self-gratification and personal advancement. We believe that because you are intelligent and reflective members of a community of scholars, you will come to recognize that with abundant opportunities for self enrichment that Dedan Kimathi University of Technology provides, there also come responsibilities.**

**And what are these responsibilities? They begin with responsibility for the wellbeing of the University. We will expect you to uphold the good name and reputation of the University at all times and in all places. You have to show a good example while you are inside the University and when you are outside the university.**

**In order to benefit fully from the education this University offers, you have to see yourself as a major participant in the whole process of learning. You have to study hard: attendance at class and cooperation with your lecturers in their efforts to expose you to new knowledge in your areas of study is imperative. Be explorers – use the library and**

available e-learning resources, participate actively in the learning activities in the Schools and Institutes. You have to be very sincere and honest in your dealing with your academic work, lecturers, fellow students, mentors, administrative staff and even visitors to the University.

We expect you to be exemplary achievers and trend setters in whatever endeavors you undertake during your studies here. In Dedan Kimathi University of Technology we set our own standards and improve them on a continuous basis. We expect you to participate actively in club activities and professional associations like ACCA which will provide you with opportunities to acquire leadership and the personal skills, which you cannot get in a formal lesson.

## **The Student Body and engagement**

The Student Body represents the student community and acts as the main forum through which the students participate in making DeKUT a leading university. I encourage you to participate fully in the programmes of the Student Body in order to make it a point of reference for other student organizations in Kenya and globally.

## **Your parents have a role to play**

**I would like to stress how important it is for the University to work closely with your parents or guardians. You and your parents can help us in our effort to continually improve the education we provide so that it is always relevant and responsive to the job market and to the needs of the wider society. Therefore I urge you to introduce your parents to us, encourage them to visit the University, to attend meetings and seminars organized for them by the University, and to meet your mentors, and other officers of the University.**

## **Final remarks**

**It is now my honor and privilege, on behalf of the DeKUT and lecturers, staff, and continuing students, to officially recognize you as members of the Dedan Kimathi University of Technology family. I wish you a very fruitful and fulfilling journey of intellectual discovery and innovation accompanied with true growth in culture, by which I mean refined moral and intellectual faculties and refined social and personal conduct.**

**Thank you**

*Better Life Through Technology*