


**SPEECH**


**BY**

**PROF. OLIVE M. MUGENDA, Ph.D, MBA, EBS,  
CBS  
*VICE-CHANCELLOR***

**Military Matriculation Ceremony  
Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2015**

 **The Chief of the Defence  
Forces of Kenya - General  
Samson Mwathethe,**

 **Assistant Chief of the  
Defence Forces  
(Personnel and Logistics),  
Major General S. Nandwa**

 **The Commandant, Kenya  
Military Academy -  
Brigadier Albert  
Kendagor;**

**+ Senior Military Officers**

**Present,**

**+ Members of Senate;**

**+ Members of Staff;**

**+ Matriculants;**

**+ Ladies and Gentlemen.**

**Good Morning.**

**On behalf of the Chancellor,**

**Chairman and members of the**

**University Council, Senate**

**and the entire University community, I wish to take this opportunity to welcome you to the matriculation ceremony of the fifth intake of cadets undertaking the Bachelor of Science in Military Studies. As a University, we are delighted to host the Kenya Defence Forces today knowing that**

**this may be one of the very few occasions when you physically visit the University.**

**Sir, may I take this opportunity to congratulate you for being appointed the Chief of the Defence Forces of the Republic of Kenya. I also wish to appreciate the work done by the retired CDF,**

**General (retired) (Dr.) Julius Waweru Karangi. Kenyatta University is very proud to be associated with the training of the Kenya Defence Forces personnel.**

**Sir, the B.Sc Military Studies programme which the cadets are undertaking at the Kenya Military Academy underwent**

**a full cycle of implementation in 2014 after a period of four (4) years. The University alongside personnel from the Military reviewed it and considerably improved it.**

**Sir, the group that we are matriculating today will undergo their training based on this revised curriculum. I**

**assure you that Kenyatta University will continue to do all that is required towards the implementation of the revised curriculum and will be receptive of any feedback from your personnel regarding its operationalization.**



**Sir, the University and the Ministry of Defence recently undertook a review of the contract, after the first contract that was signed in 2010. We are indeed happy that under the new contract, we will offer specialized training to the KDF for next five (5) years. This gives us the confidence that indeed**

**the hard work that the University has dedicated to the programme has been appreciated and to even continue working harder. Sir, we note that the revised contract not only covers the B.Sc (Military Studies) programme. Other new areas included in the programme are: the Master of Science in**

**Strategic Studies where serving officers will be trained every year for the next five years. This master's programme will essentially be offered through a friendly and flexible digital mode of study to ensure minimal interruption in the work schedules of serving officers.**

**The new contract has also provided for serving officers to be admitted to pursue specialized PhD programmes at Kenyatta University in line with the changing demands of the defence sector. Another landmark item included in the newly signed contract is that of capacity development for service**

**personnel deployed to support and facilitate professional training of cadets at the Kenya Military Academy. This training in particular will further enhance their pedagogical skills and further raise the level of training at KMA to global standards. The new contract also makes**

**provision for joint research ventures to be conducted by the University and the Ministry of Defence over the five years contractual period. This again is a notable milestone as such research can unravel a number of the challenges affecting national security and recommend**

**empirical-based solutions to address them.**

**Sir, the obligation of the University under the new contract is enormous but I wish to assure you that the University is prepared and ready to fulfill this broadened mandate and to continually monitor and evaluate our**

**progress in order to stay on course.**

**Sir, I am informed that the Ministry of Defence recently carried out a benchmarking tour of countries where programmes similar to the B.Sc (Military Studies) are offered. I am informed that a few officers from Kenya**



**Military Academy visited  
India, Nepal and Malaysia.  
This together with  
observations made by  
external examiners for the  
programme who visit the  
University and the Kenya  
Military Academy every year  
will go a long way in  
improving the quality of  
military training in our**

**country. We at the University are persuaded that the model of combining professional military training with that of academic training best suits the needs of our military sector and has therefore achieved the purpose for which it was intended- that of developing a well-informed, well-rounded and disciplined**

**military officer who is able to fit in the military world of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Our emphasis as a University is quality education and training for a professional career within the military.**

**Sir, turning now to the matriculates, I am indeed happy to see the fifth intake**

**of 150 cadets. Matriculation ceremonies are undertaken in all universities around the world and signify the entry of freshmen into a new system. At Kenyatta University, academic tradition requires that all new students undergo this oathing ceremony. It is through matriculation that students get to understand**

**the University's core values, rules and regulations and agree to abide by them. The University has assigned the very best course lecturers and instructors to you. I therefore encourage you to forge a lasting relationship with your lecturers and instructors, who will serve as good role models. To be the**

**best in military service does not come easily. You need to initiate a personal strategy that works for you and that is tailored after military pursuits. If you have not yet conceived a personal strategic plan, you need to develop one immediately. Personal strategic planning is based on the premise that life**

**will not go according to plan  
if you do not have a plan.**

**As you embark on your  
academic training, remember  
that your success in the three  
pillars of training embraced  
by the military i.e. *character  
formation, professional  
training and academic  
development* will depend on**

**your commitment, hard work, determination and discipline. I therefore encourage you to remain focused during your life as a student of Kenyatta University and as cadets at the Kenya Military Academy. The Matriculation Oath you have taken today formally gives you studentship status of this great University.**



**Doing so also comes with a number of responsibilities, the most important being your obligation to contribute to the realization of the University's Mission and Vision. In addition, it enjoins you to a larger congregation that is part of this University.**

**The programme you will go through at KMA is designed to develop in you traits of leadership and command and to enable you to evaluate situations and act rationally guided by the best interests of the citizens of this country. As a military officer, you will be expected to weigh your actions and conduct carefully**

**as any reckless act can translate to an escalation of conflict. Remember that as a country, we train officers and soldiers in readiness for dealing with any form of external aggression. This is not because we are spoiling for war, but because the best deterrent of war is the**

**possession of excellent war skills and machinery.**

**I therefore encourage you to be good students both at Kenyatta University and at the Kenya Military Academy.**

**A good student must portray several qualities including but not limited to: Self – discipline; Respect for others**

**and for property;  
Perseverance; Patriotism;  
Compassion; Integrity;  
Responsibility;  
Trustworthiness; Fairness;  
Honesty and Hard work.**

**Finally, Kenyatta University  
wishes to congratulate the  
Kenya Defence Forces for the  
critical role they are playing**

**in ensuring our Country's peace, security and stability. This being a major responsibility, we continue to pray and wish our defence forces to succeed in this. We take cognizance that some of the officers who graduated in the first and second groups are already serving as officers of the Kenya Defence**

**Forces in different formations within and without. And we are indeed proud of our soldiers.**

**As I conclude, let me take this opportunity to wish the cadets a successful and rewarding academic life at both the Kenya Military**

**Academy and Kenyatta  
University.**

**It is now my pleasure to  
introduce the Chief of  
Defence Forces Gen. Samson  
Mwathethe:**




## **Profile of General Samson**

### **Mwathethe**

**+ General Mwathethe is the Chief of Defence Forces following his promotion and appointment on 17 April, 2015**

**+ He has held various command appointments including Vice Chief of the Defence Forces,**

**Commander Kenya Navy,  
Deputy Commander  
Kenya Navy, Kenya Navy  
logistics Commander,  
Base Commander  
Mtongwe and Fleet  
Commander**

 **His other appointments  
included Chief of Systems  
and Procurement,  
Department of Defence,**

**Command of individual  
Kenya Navy Ships, SOII  
Operations at Navy  
Headquarters, 86  
Squadron Commander,  
and SOI Co-ordination at  
the Department of  
Defence**

**+ His other professional and  
military training include  
International Sub-**


**Lieutenants Course (UK),  
International Principal  
Warfare (IPWO) Course  
(UK), Missiles Course  
(ITALY) and the Royal  
Naval Staff College,  
Greenwich, (UK) in 1989.  
He also attended the  
Defence Resource  
Management Course in  
Monterey, USA in 1998,**

**and the National Defence  
College in Nairobi, Kenya  
in 2000.**

**+ General Mwathethe  
served with the United  
Nations as a Military  
Observer in Kuwait/Iraq  
and Yugoslavia in 1991/92**

**+ His decorations include  
Distinguished Conduct  
Order (DCO), Moran of the**

**Burning Spear (MBS),  
among others**

 **General Samson  
Mwathethe was born in  
Malindi and educated at  
Shimo La Tewa and  
Sacred Heart High  
Schools Mombasa, before  
joining the Kenya Navy in  
April 1978. He was  
commissioned in 1980 as**

**a Seaman Officer after  
attending Britannia Royal  
Naval College, Dartmouth  
✚ He is married and they  
have three children**

**May I now invite Gen.  
Mwathethe to make his  
remarks.**

**Thank you.**

