Military Matriculation Ceremony
Wednesday, 10th June, 2015
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 21st 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.