KENYATTA UNIVERSITY

REMARKS

By

PROF. OLIVE M. MUGENDA, PhD; MBA, EBS, CBS
VICE-CHANCELLOR

38th Graduation Ceremony

Friday 17th July, 2015
Cabinet Secretary,
Ministry of Education -
Prof. Jacob Kaimenyi;
Our Chancellor - Dr.
Benson Wairegi;
Chairman of Council –
Prof. Ratemo Michieka;
Your Excellencies the
Ambassadors and High
Commissioners;
Council Members;
Members of the University Senate;
Chancellors’ of Sister Universities;
Vice-Chancellors’ of sister Universities;
Staff and Students of Kenyatta University;
Parents and Guardians;
Graduands;
Distinguished guests;
Ladies and Gentlemen.

Good Morning.

It gives me pleasure to welcome you all to this joyous occasion of the 38th Graduation Ceremony of Kenyatta University. I wish to welcome the Minister for Education, Science and Technology – Prof. Jacob
Kaimenyi to this graduation ceremony at Kenyatta University. Sir, it is an honour to us for you to find time to celebrate with us this graduation. On behalf of the entire Kenyatta University community and on my own behalf we are all delighted that you joined us today in celebrating the conferment of
various awards to the graduands.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, allow me to acknowledge many other distinguished guests among us today, who have taken time from their busy schedules to celebrate this occasion with us. (List of Distinguished guests).
May I also take this opportunity to recognize and warmly welcome parents, guardians, relatives, children, friends and colleagues who have come here today, to witness the achievement of our graduands.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, I wish to congratulate this year’s
graduands who have worked hard, persevered and sacrificed a lot to merit the awards being conferred on them today.

Without doubt, today marks the culmination of your tireless and disciplined efforts in pursuing a higher mission in the society. As a
University, we are proud and overjoyed by your hard work, commitment and dedication that has made it possible for all of us to congregate here to mark this great achievement in your lives.

We also take pride in the efforts made by our industrious professors,
lecturers, internal and external examiners as well as the non-teaching staff. Indeed having all these students, young and mature, graduate today confirms that this hard work was not in vain. I would like to appreciate all those who have played part in making the graduands to accomplish this remarkable
milestone in their lives. These include the University Council, parents and guardians, members of staff, friends and partners of Kenyatta University. It is because of your support and willingness to be involved in our mission to provide quality education and training as well as serve the community.
that has enabled us to present these graduands for the conferment and award of various degrees, diplomas and certificates.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, as we usher in the second half of this calendar year, I am glad to note that the University has recorded significant
growth and advancement in all aspects of its mandate. These include improving and expanding the academic programmes, enhancing the institutional capacity through infrastructural development to continue offering quality research and training, strengthening the administrative capability and
adopting innovative ways to reinforce transformation of the University. These strategies have been important in addressing current and future national, regional and global developmental issues and problems. May I draw your attention, Mr. Chancellor Sir,
to some of the achievements we have realized so far.

Achievements

First, in January this year, the University joined the league of a few world class universities with the intra-campus shuttle bus services. This initiative aims to facilitate the movement of
students from one point to another within our vast campus. Students are now able to save a lot of time moving from one venue to another.

Second, in March this year, the University officially opened the ultra-modern School of Law Building in a
colorful ceremony that was presided over by Prof. Githu Muigai, the Attorney General of the Republic of Kenya. The complex which has a wide array of facilities and resources will undoubtedly provide quality learning, training and a good research environment for students and faculty in the School of law.
Third, the School of Creative Arts, Film and Media Studies and the Department of Communication and Media Studies were officially launched in April, this year in a ceremony held at Ruiru Campus. The launch of the School and Department is a key development in the future of journalism education in
this country and the region. This is particularly so since the University currently has an operational radio station while the KUTV is expected to be launched in August this year. The two media outlets within the University will ensure students in the new School of Creative Arts, Film and Media Studies have a
direct engagement to nurture their skills.

Mr. Chancellor, the School of Architecture is also on course and we are going through the necessary process to ensure we start in September this year.
Fourth, the Intra-Africa Exchange Programme we have been passionate about is on course, and 21 Kenyatta University students have been to universities in Nigeria, Uganda and Ghana. We have also received these universities thus making our University global.
Fifth, earlier this year, Kenyatta University was confirmed as the inaugural host of the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) regional hub for East Africa. This initiative aims at supporting young African leaders to spur their growth and prosperity, strengthen democratic governance, as
well as enhance peace and security across Africa. The opportunity to host this hub was contested by twenty five (25) institutions across the East African region. Being selected competitively to host this prestigious hub is a testimony to the University's regional competitiveness.
Sixth, last month, the University officially opened the new gate A and the dual carriageway. The two have stunning landscaping as envisaged in the University Master Plan that was developed in 2014. As you have seen, the new gate, the dual carriageway and the eco-friendly surroundings
have created a magnificent look befitting the status of this great University. This new and expanded gate and road are designed to ease traffic flow to and from the University to cater for the increased population of students, staff and visitors. I thank the DLR group of Architects who partnered
with us in creating a new University Master Plan which also envisaged the new expanded entrance to the University. Mr. Chancellor, other key projects which will be completed in the next 2 months and ready for use in September this year are the 40 apartments for support staff and the extension of the
Health Unit which will be completed this September.

Seventh, the Uni-City project has been progressing well with the shopping mall already complete. This complex has elicited the interest of diverse business firms who want to pitch their enterprises at the mall. We
intend to officially open this facility in September this year. Other projects that are ongoing are:

The Centre for Alumni Programmes – which will be complete in another one month.

Centre for International Programmes – which will be complete in 3 months.
The Recreation Centre – which we have started putting up.

Engineering Workshops – which will be complete and ready for use on 1st of September this year

600 bed student hostels

Hostels in Mombasa Campus – which are almost ready for
occupation in September this year.

In addition, we have made good progress in the Kenyatta University’s Teaching, Research and Referral Hospital project and the first phase is scheduled to start operations soon. The construction of the Children
Hospital has started and we hope to complete it next year.

Notably, we have since had major collaborations one of them being the Gatundu level 5 Hospital where the Government through the Governor of Kiambu County has accepted it to be an
annex of the Kenyatta University Teaching, Research and Referral Hospital. This initiative aligns to our objective of community service and outreach. We have also signed an MOU with the University of California at San Francisco and University of Cincinnati in the US.
Words of advice to Graduands

Class of July 2015, you stand proud in front of our distinguished guests, your professors, parents, guardians and children to receive the rewards of your tireless efforts for which you have successfully worked. We, have taken the long journey in your academic
work with you every step of the way, and now gladly send you out into the wide world to build our great Nation – Kenya.

We send you to the world to be the engineers of change, to provide the much needed skills and innovativeness that should address the specific
needs of our people at every level of our development. We request you to initiate and innovate the much needed technology – relevant and simple enough to serve specific needs of our communities. What you earn today be it a certificate, diploma or degree is good enough: but
entrepreneurship, integrity, hard work and innovativeness are also great pillars of success. Remember, Kenyatta University always welcomes you for higher degrees, complementary courses and enhancements courses. Research has shown that there is a relationship between higher
education and social economic development of nations. And always remember that having gone through your studies at Kenyatta University, you can make it anywhere else in life. You have a strong foundation to build on. Continue building a strong KU Brand wherever you go by working hard,
upholding key values and exploring your full potential in whatever you do.

Thanking stakeholders

I wish to recognize and appreciate the tremendous support that the University has received from parents, guardians, sponsors, development partners and
other stakeholders. It is as a result of your continued support that we celebrate our students’ achievements today. I wish to thank our Chancellor – Dr. Benson Wairegi for his counsel, support and availability when I need his input and advice amidst challenges; the University Council members
under the chairmanship of – Prof. Ratemo Michieka for his support and guidance on various issues, the University Council which is very supportive in all aspects of University governance and operations; the University Senate, Management Board, teaching and non-teaching staff and the entire student
fraternity for their support and determination to implement the University vision and mission. On behalf of my colleagues, I thank you whole heartedly. Thank you and God bless.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, before us are graduands who have been dully examined by their
professors and external examiners. They have qualified for various certificates, diplomas, and degrees.

On behalf of the University Senate therefore, I am pleased to present to you a total of 4,071 candidates for the award of certificates,
diplomas, and degrees of Kenyatta University. These include 59 PhDs; 550 Masters; 15 Postgraduate 344 Diplomas; 3,059 Bachelors; and 44 Certificates.

It is now my pleasure to invite the Chairman of Council – Prof. Ratemo
Michieka to address the congregation.

Thank You.