

- **Chancellor, Kenyatta University- Prof. Onesimus Mutungi;**
- **Ms. Fenny Mwakisha, Representing Minister for Higher Education, Science and Technology;**
- **Chancellors of other Universities Present;**
- **Chairman of Council - Mr. Benson Wairegi;**
- **Vice-Chancellors of other Universities present;**
- **Members of the Diplomatic Corps;**
- **Other distinguished Invited Guests;**
- **Members of Council, Kenyatta University;**
- **Members of Senate;**
- **Parents and Guardians;**
- **Staff and Students;**
- **Graduands;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen.**

Good morning.

On behalf of the entire Kenyatta University Community and on my own behalf, I am happy to welcome you all to this 32nd Graduation ceremony of the University. Allow me Mr. Chancellor Sir acknowledge the presence of Prof. Chacha

Nyaigoti Chacha - Vice-Chairman of Council and Mr. Richard Kemoli – a new Council member. -----

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-----, Thank you all for honouring our invitation.**

Mr. Chancellor Sir, allow me to congratulate the 2,014 graduands for working diligently to earn the awards being bestowed on them today. This celebration is a culmination of the graduands commitment, their parents and guardians support and lecturers' efforts. I would like to take this early opportunity to thank all those who have made it possible for the graduands to celebrate their graduation today. These include the University Council, our staff members, both teaching and non-teaching, my colleagues in administration, the parents and guardians and all friends of Kenyatta would like to take this opportunity to thank Citizen TV for broadcasting this graduation live free of charge. Citizen TV are our valued supporters.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, as we celebrate our academic achievements today, we note that we have accomplished many things that we need to thank God for as an institution. In the interest of time and given that some of the achievements are in the tribune and other publications, I will highlight just a few.

Recent Developments at Kenyatta University

First, early this year, Kenyatta University's ranking on the Webometrics improved considerably. The University's ranking globally went up from position 9,129 in 2009 to position 3,034 this year. This means that we improved our rank by surpassing 7,000 universities in the last 3 years. In Africa, the University's ranking improved from position 100 in 2009 to position 45 this year; meaning that we surpassed 55 universities in Africa in the last three years. It is evident that the University is improving and the transformation is being acknowledged not just locally but also internationally. We have put in place strategies to ensure that we improve once more in the coming years.

Secondly, Mr. Chancellor Sir, the University's student population has grown rapidly from 15,000 in 2006 to 45,000 this year. Consequently, I am happy to say that the Minister Prof. Margaret Kamar has approved that we seek an amendment in the Kenyatta University Act to start colleges. The proposed colleges by Senate are: College of Health Sciences, College of Humanities and the Arts, College of Science and Engineering, College of Economics and Agribusiness and College of Education and Life Long teaching. The current schools will fit in their five colleges for now. Mr. Chancellor Sir, the introduction of colleges will help the central administration to manage the university even more efficiently.

Thirdly, in March this year, the University received a book donation worth over KShs. 30 million from the Sabre Foundation, USA. The donation comprised 13,067 volumes with 358 titles. As a University we are truly grateful to Sabre Foundation who yet again made a major contribution

towards equipping the New Post-Modern Library and by extension the quality of teaching and learning in the University. On behalf of the University, I would like to sincerely appreciate the efforts of Dr. Martin Mwangi a Board Member, Sabre Foundation and also a Kenyatta University Alumni for spearheading this effort of equipping our new library (Dr. Mwangi to stand). Mr. Chancellor Sir, the total number of books contributed so far by Sabre Foundation is 72,000 Volumes worth Kshs. 455 million.

Fourthly, the Chandaria Business Innovation and Incubation Centre has continued to make progress in ensuring that entrepreneurship and innovation are accorded prominence. Recently, the University started a partnership with the Kenya National Commission for UNESCO and Leuphana University of Germany under the partnership, 200 students from all the Academic Schools will be trained in entrepreneurship between September and November this year. Mr. Chancellor Sir, we hope that in

December this year, the new Incubation Centre will be completed thus allowing 100 incubatees to benefit.

Fifth, Mr. Chancellor Sir, Kenyatta University recently became the first University in Kenya to be accredited under the newly introduced accreditation system by the Council for Legal Education. This accreditation is in recognition of the quality of teaching and learning that goes on in the University's School of Law. The Council for Legal Education was happy with the infrastructure and resources that are being availed. They were also happy with the newly introduced Legal Aid Clinic and a state-of-the-art Moot Court which has just been completed. The Legal Aid Clinic located in the City Campus will provide legal advice to members of the public on request. Mr. Chancellor Sir, we will be officially opening the Moot Court in two week's time and the Legal Aid Clinic in a month's time.

Sixth, Mr. Chancellor Sir, the University recently initiated an Intra-African student exchange programme which will enable participating students from Kenyatta University travel to partnering universities for at least one semester. Students from the partnering universities will also be able to undertake their studies at KU for a similar period. After paying all their fees in the home institution, participating students in the programme will proceed to the host university where accommodation will be reserved for them. Among many other benefits, the exchange programme will enable the students become global citizens who see things broadly by spending a semester in another academic and cultural environment. To start with, the programme will see the exchange of students between Kenyatta University and selected universities in East Africa. It is expected that the programme will roll out to other universities in the North, West and Southern regions of Africa soon.

On this note, Mr. Chancellor Sir, allow me to recognize the presence of the Vice-chancellor of Kyambogo University, Kampala, Uganda – Prof. Isaiah Ndiege and his team. Their presence here prior to the commencement of the student exchange programme is an indication of their commitment to the partnership we are developing. Prof. Ndiege was a Professor in this University and also a Dean before he was appointed the Vice-Chancellor at Kyambogo University in Uganda (Prof. Ndiege to stand).

Seventh, in the University, a number of infrastructural development projects are in progress. For example the construction work on the Teaching, Research and Referral Hospital construction has commenced well and it is on course. Apart from the hospital the other projects that are at different stages of completion are:

- ✚ The School of Economics**
- ✚ The School of Hospitality and Tourism**
- ✚ The Graduate School**

+ School of Law

+ The Administration Block

+ The University Campanile. The Campanile is a 50 meter bell tower whose construction has been approved by the Council, the Army and the Kenya Aviation Authority. It will not only announce the time to the University and surrounding communities every hour but will be a landmark structure that will give Kenyatta University identity and pride like it happens in the world class universities.

With these and other developments, the University is expanding and providing more opportunities of access to many Kenyans. Recently, the University was given a second Constituent College by the Government – Machakos University College. We want to thank the Minister for Higher Education, Science and Technology-Prof. Margaret Kamar for the appointment of a Council for the College and we assure you that we will work hard to ensure that the

college takes off quickly. The addition of this College and the University campuses which are located in different parts of the country will allow Kenyatta University to continue making its contribution towards achieving the targets of Kenya Vision 2030 through provision of quality higher education.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, even as we make progress, we have challenges that we are experiencing and we are requesting our Ministry to kindly assist us. First, we have been offered 100 acres of land across the road for future expansion of our sewage system at a cost of 250 million which we do not have. The second major challenge that the Ministry already is aware of the matter of lack of equipment for our School of Engineering workshops. We desperately need support to procure these expensive machines that are required to improve the quality of teaching of the Engineering programmes. As I end my remarks, I would like to say a few words to the granduands.

Some Words of Advice to Graduands

To the graduands, it has been our responsibility as a University to teach, supervise and mentor you during your period of study in this institution. We therefore expect you to make good use of the knowledge, skills and attitudes that we have imparted on you so that you may also guide, mentor and serve others in the society.

Although this is an important stage in your life as reflected by the degree or certificate you are graduating with today, I wish to urge you to take this as a platform towards further learning. Consider investing in further learning either now or in the near future so as to continue being up-to-date and useful in your respective career. Wherever you will be, strive to create an impact by being innovative in what you do. Other key attributes that you must cultivate for you to succeed and rise above others is hard work, integrity at work and setting targets for yourself that you

seek to achieve. Strive to make a difference in whatever you do. Be a change agent wherever you will be.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, allow me also to advice the students to always honour their parents and guardians. Sometimes when we stand on our own, we forget where we came from. Parents and guardians have always put their children needs before their own personal needs. The support they have given you from childhood to your graduation today is enormous and should be appreciated. My advice to you therefore is that you should love and provide support to your parents as they grow old.

As I conclude Mr. Chancellor Sir, I would like to sincerely appreciate the support we have continuously received from a number of sources. I would like to single out the Government of Kenya through the Ministry of Higher Education Science and Technology. The Minister herself

has been very supportive to the University and to me as the Vice-Chancellor. She recently graciously accepted to launch our Research Methods Book which was a great honour to my family and I. I would also like to thank the University Council, the University Senate and all staff and students for their role in ensuring that the University becomes a center of excellence. I also thank all members of staff, teaching and non-teaching and our students. We have worked together as a family and accomplished a lot for this great institution. Once again, I thank all our esteemed guests, parents, guardians staff and students for honoring our invitation and for coming to celebrate with us.

With those few remarks, it is now my pleasure to invite the Chairman of Council to make his remarks.

Thank You.