



Speech

By

MR. BENSON WAIREGI, EBS
Chancellor

39th Graduation Ceremony
Friday 18th December, 2015

- + Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology – Dr. Fred Matiangi;**
- + Chairman of Council, Kenyatta University – Prof. Ratemo Michieka;**
- + Vice – Chancellor, Kenyatta University – Prof. Olive Mugenda;**
- + Your Excellencies the Ambassadors and High Commissioners;**
- + Council Members;**
- + Chancellors’ of Sister Universities;**
- + Vice - Chancellors of Sister Universities;**
- + Members of the University Senate**
- + Staff and Students of Kenyatta University**
- + Parents and Guardians;**
- + Graduands;**
- + Distinguished Guests;**
- + Ladies and gentlemen.**

Good Morning.

It is with great pleasure that I preside over this 39th graduation ceremony of Kenyatta University. I wish to join the Vice-Chancellor and the Chairman of Council in thanking the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology – Dr. Fred Matiangi

for accepting to honour us today. We are happy that you have graced this graduation ceremony.

Congratulations to the graduating class of 2015. We appreciate that this ceremony serves as the culmination of years of study, hard work, and dedication. Importantly, it is an opportunity for the entire university, family and friends to celebrate your success. We all share in your pride at reaching this milestone. We gather here today to honor your hard work and celebrate your achievement in earning a degree from Kenyatta University.

Our Chief Guest, young graduates like the ones graduating today symbolize the future of this country and the world. As a University, we are happy to be graduating young and innovative leaders who have been equipped with relevant skills. Kenya needs innovative and informed minds as represented by those who are graduating.

Our Chief Guest, as witnessed from the different types of degrees and diplomas being conferred today, I am happy to note that Kenyatta University is fulfilling its mission 'to provide quality education and training through knowledge generation, research, innovation, creativity and community service. Institutions of higher learning must of necessity keep on realigning themselves with the needs of the society and adjusting their programs as need be.

It is by virtue of your training, your qualifications and your entrepreneurial skills that you are graduating today fully equipped to cope with the demands of the economic challenges facing Kenya today and to even offer solutions in the work world. Gone are the days when a degree automatically secured you a job in an organization. Beyond graduation, you need to put to practice your learnt knowledge and skills to create employment not only for yourself but also for others.

Our Chief Guest, as we celebrate this 39th graduation ceremony, I would like to single out the University's transformation in the last ten years under the leadership of the Vice-Chancellor – Prof. Olive Mugenda. Under her leadership, the Vice-Chancellor has built an enviable and outstanding university reputation that is acknowledged not just locally but even internationally. Propelled by a 10 year Strategic Plan, the University has developed magnificent infrastructure to support many relevant academic programmes and research training, she has made the University entrepreneurial, widened access and equity as well as spurred innovation.

As the Chancellor, I fully appreciate the selfless and visionary leadership that Prof. Olive Mugenda has given to this institution, the country and humanity for the last 10 years. As I thank her for discharging her leadership with excellence, I am aware that the strong governance structures that she has instituted working with

the Council, will ensure a smooth transition so that the University's growth will be sustained into the future.

Through your transformational leadership Madam Vice-Chancellor, Kenyatta University has not only trained top professionals for the contemporary workplace but it has also implemented innovative programmes that have put the institution on the global map as a top institution of higher learning.

To our graduands, not only are you earning a degree today, but you have done more than grow intellectually while at Kenyatta University. You have also matured emotionally and socially. Your newly acquired education will serve you well throughout your life. Emerging economies like Kenya are banking on the training of top professionals to achieve fiscal growth. This has a spiral effect to other spheres of the society such as governance, cultural advancement and tolerance. It is with this in mind that today's graduands should be eager to make an impact in the society and improve the welfare of mankind.

In conclusion, once again, I congratulate the graduands on their hard work and achievements leading to this graduation ceremony. Finally, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and success in your future endeavours.

Thank you.