

# **KENYATTA UNIVERSITY**

**Speech by**

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**SECRETARY STATE DEPARTMENT FOR UNIVERSITY**  
**EDUCATION & RESEARCH MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**

**On the Occasion of**

**THE 44<sup>TH</sup> GRADUATION CEREMONY**

**Held on**

**FRIDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> AUGUST, 2018**

- ✚ Chairman of Kenyatta University Council – Prof. Shem Migot-Adholla;
- ✚ Members of Kenyatta University Council;
- ✚ Our Guest Speaker, Dr. Florence M. Wambugu, Founding Director and Chief Executive Officer of Africa Harvest Biotech Foundation International;
- ✚ Vice-Chancellor of Kenyatta University – Prof. Paul K. Wainaina;
- ✚ Your Excellences the Ambassadors and High Commissioners present;
- ✚ Other Vice-Chancellors present;
- ✚ Deputy Vice Chancellors;
- ✚ Members of the University Senate;
- ✚ Members of Parliament;
- ✚ Distinguished guests;

- ✚ Staff and students;
- ✚ All our Graduands;
- ✚ Ladies and Gentlemen;

### **Good Morning!**

It is my great pleasure to join you on this important occasion of the 44<sup>th</sup> Graduation Ceremony of Kenyatta University. I take this opportunity to congratulate all those graduating today, their parents, guardians and all who have played a role to make this day possible. I congratulate the Kenyatta University Council and Management for safeguarding and continuing to build the reputation of this Institution. As Government, this event is an important milestone along the path towards self-sufficiency in skilled manpower to support Kenya's development agenda and further secure our place in the wider world. I am confident that you will make

important contributions to our prospects and collective endeavors as a nation and on the global arena.

**Ladies and gentlemen,** the government of Kenya is well aware of the global trends and changes taking place in the education sector. As a Ministry we are firmly committed to ensuring that Kenya's education remains competitive and perfectly aligned to our national development goals and global commitments. The Ministry of Education is working closely with various government agencies to ensure that Universities acquire and sustain effective capacity to be bastions of knowledge generation, research and service to the community. In particular, the government is keen to revitalize research to support achievement of the Government's **Big Four Agenda**. Towards this end, significant resources have been made available through the National Research Fund to support researchers

and institutions. It is my hope that all Universities, including KU, are effectively mainstreaming the “Big Four” into their Research Agenda. I further urge Institutions, led by the Commission for University Education to embrace measures to enhance quality assurance and standards to take action to ensure all academic programs align to the requirements of the Kenya National Qualifications Framework.

To the Graduands, we are here today to affirm your successful training, and the skills you have acquired. It is my great hope that your sacrifices and efforts over the years will bear fruit as you open a new chapter of your lives. May you now go forth in great courage and determination to succeed. Remember that all life is a chance, and the person who goes farthest is the one who is willing to do and to dare. What you can do, or dream you can, begin it right away.

As you go out to start new chapters in your lives, the government will remain supportive of your endeavors. Be keen to identify and proactively utilize the many opportunities put at your disposal including tendering for services and supply to various government agencies. Remember, nothing is more expensive than a missed opportunity and opportunities multiply as they are seized. Keep in mind that good fortune often happens when opportunity meets with preparation. For some, the journey ahead might not start easily. Remember, to climb a steep hill requires a slow pace at first. And if opportunity does not knock, build a door.

As you join the ranks of nation building in various capacities, I should take this opportunity to remind you of the need to conduct yourself with integrity, which is the foundation upon which all other values are built, and is currently under great threat in our Country. In all your endeavors remember so much depends on your reputation. Wherever your career life takes you, I urge each one of you not only to follow the rules, but to also establish and firmly follow your own sacred principles.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,** as I conclude, I would like to once again thank everyone that has contributed to making this day possible, and wish all the Graduands a life of many wonderful experiences and great fulfilment.

**Thank you.**