

KENYATTA UNIVERSITY

Speech by

PROF. RATEMO MICHIEKA, EBS, FKNAS

CHAIRMAN OF KENYATTA UNIVERSITY COUNCIL

On the Occasion of

THE 41ST GRADUATION CEREMONY

Held on

FRIDAY 16th DECEMBER 2016

- ✚ Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology – Dr. Fred Matiang’i
- ✚ Principal Secretary, State Department for University Education, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology – Prof. Collette A. Suda;
- ✚ Members of Kenyatta University Council;
- ✚ The Ag. Vice-Chancellor, Kenyatta University – Prof. Paul Wainaina;
- ✚ Your Excellences the Ambassadors and High Commissioners present;
- ✚ Chancellors of other Universities;
- ✚ Chairmen of Council of other Universities present;
- ✚ Vice-Chancellors present;
- ✚ Members of University Senate;
- ✚ Staff and Students of Kenyatta University;
- ✚ Parents and Guardians;
- ✚ Esteemed Graduands;
- ✚ Distinguished Guests;
- ✚ Ladies and Gentlemen;

Good Morning,

It is with much delight that I take this opportunity to welcome you to Kenyatta University for the 41st graduation ceremony. On behalf of the University Council, and on my own behalf, I would like to congratulate everyone who is graduating today for achieving this milestone in their academic life. In the same breath, let me also congratulate the University Management, members of staff and the entire University community on this occasion.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, I wish to note the phenomenal growth achieved by this University in terms of academic programmes and infrastructural facilities. This is due to the amicable relationship between the University Council, the Management, Senate and students. This cooperation has sustained a consultative working relationship on important University matters.

Believing that quality teaching must be supported by adequate infrastructure, the Council has supported the University Management in its endeavour to put up more lecture halls, laboratories, offices, hostels and other related facilities. A flagship facility is the Kenyatta University Teaching, Research and Referral Hospital, which, when complete, will be one of the best in the region.

I sincerely thank the University leadership for its commitment in transforming the University into a world class institution.

Ladies and gentlemen, It is my belief that an institution is as good as the values it propagates. It is gratifying to note that there is an entrenched culture of hard work, dedication, integrity and co-operation among the University leadership, both teaching and non-teaching staff, and the students. This has made it possible for the University to attain its strategic goals. It is not surprising therefore that Kenyatta University is always found compliant by external ISO auditors. No doubt, this is the product of each of us playing our part as we should. In appreciation, the University recently signed CBAs with the three unions (UASU, KUSU and KUDHEIHA) to improve staff welfare.

Lastly, I wish to congratulate the graduating class of December 2016. We are here today celebrating the climax of your success because you applied yourselves fully to the pursuit of higher education. I commend you, your Professors and Lecturers as well as your parents and guardians for the effort you have put in making this day a reality. The University did its part in creating a conducive environment for pursuing your education and developing your talents through avenues such as the Culture Week, sports and games. You may not know it but you are the envy of many students elsewhere. The experiences and exposure you have had in this institution will definitely serve you for life.

When you go out into the world, exploit your cultural diversity as an asset for poverty eradication and sustainable development. You have

been equipped to do this. Allow me to single out the training you have

received on leadership. The world, and Kenya in particular, is in need of the leadership skills we have bequeathed you. Many young people today believe that leadership position avails the opportunity to amass wealth in the shortest time possible through whatever means necessary. Let your driving motivation be the desire to serve humanity. Only then will you find peace, fulfillment and joy in your work. I therefore urge you to impact society positively wherever you will find yourself after this. This is the surest way to success.

As you leave, remember that charity begins at home. To make your *alma mater* an even greater institution, consider joining the Alumni Association through which you can make your contribution to the University's development. Love your University and live with happiness.

Once again, let me heartily congratulate you for your achievements and wish you all the very best in your future endeavours.

Finally, I wish you all happiness during this period of festivity.

Thank You.