



KENYATTA UNIVERSITY

Speech

By

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**CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE WORLD TUBERCULOSIS DAY
COMMEMORATION EVENT**

THURSDAY, 24TH MARCH 2016

- ✚ Our Chief Guest, Dr. Thomas Mutie -Senior Assistant Director, Kenyatta National Hospital
- ✚ Members of University Management;
- ✚ Senators and Directors;
- ✚ Invited Guests;
- ✚ Staff;
- ✚ Student Leaders;
- ✚ Students;
- ✚ Ladies and Gentlemen.

Good Morning.

I want to take this opportunity to first welcome our Chief Guest, Dr. Thomas Mutie -Senior Assistant Director, Kenyatta National Hospital and other invited guests to this function. Chief Guest, Kenyatta University appreciates the partnership between us and Kenyatta National Hospital.

Ladies and gentlemen, this week was dedicated to marking World Tuberculosis Day (TB). We have gathered here today to conclude the activities we commenced on Monday. It is my hope that the week has been successful and that many of us have benefited.

World Tuberculosis Day is marked on March 24th every year. This annual event commemorates the date in 1882 when Dr Robert Koch announced his discovery of the tuberculosis causing bacteria. Since 1882, a lot of research has been undertaken to understand the bacteria and also come up with drugs to combat it. Today, Tuberculosis is treatable and curable. The day is therefore dedicated to creating awareness in the whole world on the need for early diagnosis and treatment.

Ladies and gentlemen, Tuberculosis is a global pandemic, killing someone approximately every 20 seconds and nearly 1.5 million people in 2014 alone making it the leading infectious cause of death. Most of these deaths occur in developing countries like Kenya. World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates that 2 billion people (one-third of the world's population) has latent TB, which means they have been infected by TB bacteria but are not (yet) ill with the disease and cannot transmit it. These people infected with TB bacteria have a 10% lifetime risk of falling ill with the TB disease. Nearly 9 million people in the world become sick with the TB disease each year.

Kenya has been ranked 13 out of 22 on the list of high burden Tuberculosis (TB) countries in the world and as the fifth-highest burdened in Africa. Kenyatta University and its environs therefore has a substantial TB burden. It is with this in mind that Kenyatta University and Kenyatta National Hospital teamed up to hold this event. This year`s World TB Day has the theme **“UNITE TO END TB”**. The theme is in line with the recently adopted United Nations Sustainable Development Goals which state that ending the TB epidemic by 2030 is one of the health targets.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is my hope that this event will mark the start of a journey towards helping those from amongst ourselves who may be diagnosed with TB. I therefore want to thank Kenyatta National Hospital for this partnership. We look forward to partnering with you even in future events.

Ladies and gentlemen, with those few remarks it is now my pleasure to invite Our Chief Guest, Dr. Thomas Mutie -Senior Assistant Director, Kenyatta National Hospital to address the gathering.

Thank you.