

**SPEECH BY GENERAL S J MWATHETHE MGH MBS DCO  
CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE FORCES OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
KENYA DURING MATRICULATION CEREMONY FOR KMA  
05 CADETS AT KENYATTA UNIVERSITY ON 10 JUNE 2015**

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THE VICE CHANCELLOR, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, KDF OFFICERS,  
MEMBERS OF STAFF OF THE KENYA MILITARY ACADEMY, LADIES AND  
GENTLEMEN.

IT IS MY GREAT HONOUR AND PRIVILEGE TO JOIN YOU HERE TODAY,  
ON THIS AUSPICIOUS OCCASION THAT MARKS THE FORMAL ADMISSION

OF 148 KMA 05 CADETS FOR THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (B.SC.) IN MILITARY SCIENCE DEGREE PROGRAMME OF KENYATTA UNIVERSITY.

THE KENYA DEFENCE FORCES MADE THE DECISION TO PARTNER WITH KENYATTA UNIVERSITY IN THIS PROGRAMME WAY BACK IN 2010. OUR DECISION WAS DUE TO AMONG OTHER FACTORS, THE CONFIDENCE AND TRUST WE HAVE IN THE UNIVERSITY. KENYATTA UNIVERSITY HAS OVER THE YEARS EXCELLED AS A CENTRE OF HIGHER LEARNING IN THIS COUNTRY WITH UNCOMPROMISING STANDARDS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

WE ARE ALSO PROUD OF THE FACT THAT THIS INSTITUTION, AS MANY OF US MAY RECALL, STARTED FROM A FORMER MILITARY FACILITY. IN

1965, THE THEN TEMPLAR BARRACKS WAS CONVERTED INTO A COLLEGE CALLED KENYATTA COLLEGE. KENYATTA COLLEGE LATER BECAME A CONSTITUENT COLLEGE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI BEFORE FINALLY BEING GRANTED FULL UNIVERSITY STATUS IN 1985.

UNDER THE DISTINGUISHED LEADERSHIP OF THE VICE CHANCELLOR PROF OLIVE MUGENDA AND THE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL, WE HAVE SEEN THIS INSTITUTION GROW TREMENDOUSLY. TODAY KENYATTA UNIVERSITY HAS CEMENTED ITS PLACE AS A CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN UNIVERSITY EDUCATION IN OUR COUNTRY. IT IS INDEED COMMENDABLE TO NOTE THAT THE UNIVERSITY HAS KEPT ALIVE ITS

CHERISHED IDEALS AND VALUES AND MAINTAINED HIGH STANDARDS OVER THE LAST 31 YEARS.

IN THIS REGARD, I WISH TO ONCE AGAIN CONGRATULATE THE VICE-CHANCELLOR AND THE STAFF FOR THE EXCELLENT WORK IN SPEARHEADING THIS INSTITUTION TO ATTAIN THESE HIGH STANDARDS AND INDEED, SET THE PACE FOR OTHER UNIVERSITIES IN FOSTERING A DIVERSIFIED TERTIARY EDUCATION PROGRAMME.

ALLOW ME TO RECOGNIZE THE VERY UNIQUE AND CORDIAL RELATIONSHIP THAT EXISTS BETWEEN THE UNIVERSITY AND KENYA DEFENCE FORCES. THE MILITARY-ACADEMIC INTEGRATED PROGRAMME THAT WE HAVE JOINTLY DEVELOPED FOR THE TRAINING AND

DEVELOPMENT OF OUR OFFICERS IS AMONG THE FIRST IN THE CONTINENT AND INDEED THE FIRST OF ITS KIND IN THE REGION.

WE HAVE ONLY RECENTLY SIGNED A NEW CONTRACT THAT WILL SEE OUR OUTSTANDING PARTNERSHIP CONTINUE FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS UNTIL THE YEAR 2020. I AM PLEASED TO NOTE THAT OUR NEW PARTNERSHIP HAS CATERED FOR OTHER PROGRAMMES AIMED AT CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT OF KENYA MILITARY ACADEMY STAFF AND THE ACADEMIC ADVANCEMENT OF MINISTRY OF DEFENCE PERSONNEL IN GENERAL. THESE PROGRAMMES INCLUDE THE NEW MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE IN STRATEGIC STUDIES AS WELL AS DOCTORATE DEGREE PROGRAMMES. OUR NEW PARTNERSHIP WILL ALSO ENABLE US

TO CARRY OUT JOINT RESEARCH FUNDED BY BOTH INSTITUTIONS ON A COST SHARING BASIS.

IT IS MY SINCERE BELIEF THAT THESE PROGRAMMES WILL ENHANCE OUR CAPACITY TO CONTINUE TO PLAY OUR PRIMARY ROLE WHICH IS TO DEFEND AND PROTECT THE SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA. OUR KMA PROGRAMME HAS OVER THE YEARS CONTINUED TO PRODUCE OFFICERS WITH A HIGH LEVEL OF INTELLECTUAL AND CRITICAL THINKING ABILITY WHICH IS REQUIRED TO EFFECTIVELY DEAL WITH CONTEMPORARY THREATS TO OUR NATION.

WE APPRECIATE THE FACT THAT WE MUST MOVE FORWARD IN TANDEM WITH OUR CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY IN SEEKING PROFESSIONAL AND INTELLECTUAL INNOVATION. OUR INTENTION IS TO CONTINUE TO PARTNER AND COLLABORATE WITH KENYATTA UNIVERSITY IN AREAS LIKE AEROSPACE ENGINEERING, GEOSPATIAL ANALYSIS AND ANY OTHER AREAS THAT WE MAY IDENTIFY IN THE FUTURE. I AM PLEASED TO LEARN THAT PLANS BY KENYATTA UNIVERSITY TO INTRODUCE A B.SC. DEGREE COURSE IN AEROSPACE ENGINEERING IN COLLABORATION WITH DEFENCE FORCES TECHNICAL COLLEGE ARE AT AN ADVANCED STAGE.

OUR VISION AS KENYA DEFENCE FORCES IS TO CREATE A PREMIER CREDIBLE AND MISSION CAPABLE FORCE DEEPLY ROOTED IN PROFESSIONALISM. I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH KENYATTA UNIVERSITY WILL ADD IMMENSE VALUE IN FOSTERING A KNOWLEDGE DRIVEN FORCE THAT ALL KENYANS SHALL ALL BE PROUD OF OUR PARTNERSHIP WILL ALSO ENHANCE CAPACITY TO CARRY OUT OPERATIONAL RESEARCH REQUIRED IN OUR EVER CHANGING AND DYNAMIC SECURITY ENVIRONMENT THAT DEMANDS FLEXIBILITY IN THE CONDUCT OF OPERATIONS AND INFORMED DECISION MAKING.

TO THE KMA 05 CADETS MATRICULATING TODAY, I URGE YOU ALL TO TAKE THIS GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO ACQUIRE AN EDUCATION THAT

WILL SUPPLEMENT THE PROFESSIONAL SKILLS AND CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT COMPONENTS THAT YOU WILL GET FROM THE ACADEMY. LET ME TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY ALSO TO COMMEND YOUR INSTRUCTORS FOR THEIR EFFORT, ENCOURAGEMENT AND GUIDANCE THAT HAS SEEN YOU REACH THIS STAGE IN YOUR JOURNEY TO BECOME A KDF OFFICER.

AS YOU EMBARK ON YOUR ACADEMIC PURSUIT, YOUR LEVEL OF COMMITMENT, DILIGENCE AND INDUSTRY IS EXPECTED TO BE OF THE HIGHEST STANDARDS. I AM SURE THAT BY NOW YOU ARE AWARE THAT THE UNIVERSITY, LIKE THE KDF AND INDEED ALL PREMIER INSTITUTIONS OF LEARNING, HAS RULES AND REGULATIONS. IT IS

EXPECTED THAT YOU WILL FULLY ABIDE BY THE REGULATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN SET BY THE UNIVERSITY.

AS I CONCLUDE, ALLOW ME TO THANK THE VICE CHANCELLOR AND THE STAFF OF KENYATTA UNIVERSITY FOR ACCORDING US A WARM RECEPTION AND HOSPITALITY.

FOR THE MATRICULATING CLASS OF KMA 05, I WISH YOU WELL, GREAT SUCCESS IN YOUR STUDIES AND ONCE AGAIN CONGRATULATE YOU ON THIS MEMORABLE OCCASION AS YOU OFFICIALLY JOIN THE STUDENT FRATERNITY OF KENYATTA UNIVERSITY.

THANK YOU AND MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL.