

Speech

By

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***Cabinet Secretary,
Ministry of Education, Science & Technology***

Kenyatta University's 38th Graduation Ceremony

Friday 17th July, 2015

- ✚ **Kenyatta University Chancellor - Dr. Benson Wairegi;**
- ✚ **Chairman of University Council - Prof. Ratemo Michieka;**
- ✚ **Kenyatta University Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Olive Mugenda;**
- ✚ **Your Excellencies the Ambassadors and High Commissioners;**
- ✚ **Members of Council;**
- ✚ **Chancellors of Sister Universities;**
- ✚ **Vice-Chancellors of Sister Universities;**
- ✚ **Members of Senate;**
- ✚ **Parents and Guardians;**
- ✚ **Graduands;**
- ✚ **Distinguished Guests;**
- ✚ **Ladies and Gentlemen;**

Good Morning.

It is my pleasure to be part of this memorable event as we celebrate the 38th graduation ceremony of Kenyatta University. This is indeed a great day to all of us, and particularly those of you graduating today. **First**, may I congratulate all the graduands who have qualified for the

conferment of degrees and award of various diplomas and certificates of Kenyatta University. You have demonstrated that hard work, determination, and focus can yield good academic results. By completing your programmes, you have made significant strides in your career path.

Secondly, I wish to join the Vice-Chancellor and those who have spoken before me to extend my deep appreciation to the lecturers and professors who have diligently molded this young people to be the way they are today. Certainly, were it not for their unrelenting efforts in implementing various curricula in their areas of training and expertise, this day would not have been realized. **Thirdly**, your parents, guardians and sponsors also deserve recognition for extending material and moral support at the various stages of your academic training.

Ladies and Gentlemen, you will agree with me that graduation events of this magnitude occur when the University Management is doing their work right. To this end, I wish to commend the management of Kenyatta University under the leadership of the Vice Chancellor Prof. Olive Mugenda, for steering this University to greatness in many ways. I note with delight the impressive learning environment that has been created. These new developments and expansions have seen the enrolment of students into this University rise steadily over the years. In addition, I am aware of the introduction of more market-driven programmes in various fields including, engineering, law, medicine, media and film studies. In this respect, I wish to encourage other universities to ensure that expansion of universities does not affect the quality of higher education. As a Ministry, we have been keen on investing in higher education to ensure that access matches quality.

With the world rapidly evolving into a highly competitive global space, it has now become more important than ever before to outshine the competition and establish oneself as a distinguished academic institution. With the product offerings being more or less the same in our universities, we have to distinguish ourselves from the rest through committed and dedicated service to our customers. It is a fact that customers willingly opt for a brand which offers quality products along with excellent customer service. To keep our university training on the upward trend, it is therefore important to go the extra mile, cultivate the right attitude, utilize resources effectively and put in additional effort to make our students and their sponsors not only feel important and valued but get value for their time and money.

As lecturers and other university employees, you must feel an internal need to comply with what we know will move our universities to the next level. Today's service calls for one to not only know what they are supposed to do, but be willing to do it without a supervisor standing over them. **Indeed, Ladies and Gentlemen**, there is a strong need for all stakeholders to put in a sustained and an outstanding contribution to University advancement in this country.

As you all know, our country has faced a number of security challenges in the recent past. Some of these challenges have been attributed to radicalization of the youth. To this end, I urge the universities to come up with and implement viable strategies to counter adoption of extreme religious, social and political ideals and aspirations that undermine our social fabric and expression of freedom of choice among our students. University administrations and indeed all institutions of learning need to work closely with our national security agencies to

come up programmes and measures that ensure security of the people and property in our institutions.

Finally, Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish to give a word of advice to the student community and those graduating here today. As the future of this great nation, you need to be patriotic to your country. Anything you think about and do should not just be for your good but also for the good of your country. As young people who have been brought up and schooled in diversity, I urge you to be at the forefront to uphold unity and reject tribalism. Preach peace and tranquility over violence and intolerance. As you go out to serve this great nation in your diverse fields, I also urge you to choose fairness and meritocracy. Uphold transparency and accountability in all engagements and resist any temptation to participate in corruption.

I am sure that during your time in this university, you have learnt the virtues of hard work and innovativeness. I advise you to live by these ideals and to avoid idleness and laziness. As a matter of fact, the society more than ever before expects you, as an educated person, to provide solutions to its many challenges and not to create more problems.

With those remarks, I wish you all good celebrations and a successful future.

Thank you.