



KENYATTA UNIVERSITY

Speech by

PROF. PAUL K. WAINAINA

AG. VICE-CHANCELLOR, KENYATTA UNIVERSITY

On the Occasion of

THE 41ST GRADUATION CEREMONY

Held on

FRIDAY 16TH DECEMBER, 2016

- ✚ Chancellor, Kenyatta University - Dr. Benson I. Wairegi
- ✚ 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;
- ✚ Chairman of Kenyatta University Council – Prof Ratemo Michieka;
- ✚ Members of Council present;
- ✚ Your Excellences the Ambassadors and High Commissioners present;
- ✚ Chancellors of other Universities;
- ✚ Vice-Chancellors from within and outside Kenya
- ✚ Members of University Senate;
- ✚ Staff and Students of Kenyatta University;
- ✚ Parents and Guardians;
- ✚ Our esteemed Graduands;
- ✚ Distinguished Guests with us;
- ✚ Ladies and Gentlemen;

Good Morning,

On behalf of the entire University fraternity, and on my own behalf, let me first take this opportunity to heartily congratulate all graduands assembled here today. Your graduation today is the culmination of hard work, great determination and perseverance. A few may have wavered on the way and fallen out, but we thank God that the majority have made it this far.

Apart from the academic accomplishments we are celebrating today, there are of course other useful skills you have learnt while at Kenyatta University; for example withstanding the pressure of CATS and examinations, having to quickly walk from one lecture room to another in between classes and examinations, withstanding the pangs of hunger in many a day of congested academic activities, and of course hunting for the best deal on a meal to sustain you amidst the hustle and bustle of the energy sapping curricular and co-curricular pursuits in and off campus. You surmounted all these obstacles and they have made you stronger, not weaker.






Mr. Chancellor Sir, Today represents an important hallmark in our academic calendar. It marks the achievement of our key goal as a university to provide quality education, training, research and innovation for service to humanity. On this occasion of 41st graduation ceremony, I wish to acknowledge the efforts of the Chancellor, the University Council, under the able leadership of the Chairman, Prof. Ratemo Michieka, the Senate, the management, faculty and non-faculty members, our unions, and the entire student fraternity under KUSA for their solid contributions geared towards propelling the university in realizing her mission. I also wish to recognize the vital role and important support University has received from our sponsors and the numerous institutions and corporate

Mr. Chancellor Sir, It is not in doubt that the stature of Kenyatta University locally and internationally has continued to grow, as evidenced by various recent achievements and recognitions, Sir. In mid-2016 for example, we were ranked number one among all public

and private universities in teaching, performance and provision of facilities for sports and games. In September, our Post Modern Library emerged first in the Academic Libraries Category during the 2016 Maktaba Awards, which recognize excellence in the provision of library and information services in the country. And during the Institute of Certified Public Secretaries of Kenya **Champions of Governance Awards Gala Night** held at the Hotel Inter-Continental, Nairobi on 4th November, the University scooped the first prize in the education sector, which was a recognition of sound governance at the university, in accordance with tenets of **The Code of Governance for State Corporations (Mwongozo)**.

To cap it all, Kenyatta University has been selected to be the games village during the July 2017 under 18 IAAF Athletics championships which will be held at the Kasarani International Stadium. During the ten-day sports extravaganza, the university will play host to over two thousand athletes from more than one hundred and sixty countries.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen, as we celebrate the 41st Graduation Ceremony of Kenyatta University, I am very pleased to report that we shall be awarding a total of **Five Thousand Six Hundred and Eleven (5611)** graduands who have satisfied both internal and external examiners and the University Senate with various degrees, diplomas and certificates of Kenyatta University. They are distributed as follows:-

-  56 Doctorates
-  502 Masters Degrees
-  3248 Bachelors Degrees
-  83 Postgraduate Diplomas
-  1097 Diplomas

✚ 625 Certificates

Among those graduating today are:-

- ❖ The 4th intake of Kenya Military Cadets (who are now officers), **One Hundred and Forty Two (142)** are being conferred with the **Bachelor of Science in Military and Security Studies**.
- ❖ The pioneer cohort of over **One Thousand Three Hundred Kenya Prisons Service officers**, who are being awarded as follows:-
 - Fifty Five (55) - Postgraduate Diploma in Security and Correctional Science.
 - Seven Hundred and Seven (707) - Diploma in Security and Correctional Science.
 - Five Hundred and Sixty Five – Certificate in Security and Correctional Science.

Mr. Chancellor, Sir, these are among the 14 programmes that the University is offering in partnership with our national security agencies. We shall continue to strengthen and diversify our collaboration in order to empower the servicemen and women with the requisite knowledge and skills.

We at Kenyatta University have done and will continue to do our very best to ensure that we graduate students holding high quality qualifications that are easily absorbed by the ever changing global market. We will settle for nothing but the best. To demonstrate our zeal on this, the last ISO Surveillance Audit by SGS Kenya Limited recorded an unprecedented **100%** compliance rate. As a measure of our commitment to maintain and continually improve quality of

services and products, we are currently putting in the requisite systems and processes to migrate to a higher ISO quality standard next year.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, as we continue to maintain and improve our standards and footing as a university, let me stress once more that the core business of any respectable university is education, training, research and innovation. To uphold this, the university has put a number of strategies in place;

One, we have introduced a financial token for research papers authored by our members of faculty and published in reputable journals.

Two, we have, as a matter of policy, decided to finance, not one, but any two of the three costs of attending a conference which are – registration, air ticket or per-diem.

Three, we have increased the amount of research grants awarded to junior faculty on staff development programmes by 42%.

Four, we have restructured the Research, Innovation and Outreach Division by creating two Directorates, one for Research Support, and the other for Research Dissemination and Uptake.

The University Management has also been very keen to take into positive consideration issues of staff welfare. This is because research has shown that a happy and satisfied workforce quite often meets their deadlines and increases their output. In this regard, the university has successfully concluded the 2013/2017 local Collective Bargain Agreements with three Unions in line with

Salaries and Remuneration Commission guidelines. This and other initiatives to improve staff welfare will not only enhance labour and industrial relations at the University, but it will also free members of staff from ancillary income generating activities that usually distract them from dedicating their time and energy to the core business for which they were employed.

As I conclude, allow me to express my **gratitude** to our students under the leadership of the 13th KUSA Congress. They conducted very democratic and peaceful elections that other institutions can learn from. Unlike what we have repeatedly witnessed in other universities, our student elections did not precipitate violence. This ensured that teaching and learning continued uninterrupted and the students got value for their time and money.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, Allow me now to offer some words of advice to the graduands; education is life, a life-long enterprise. This graduation is but just one milestone, albeit an important one, in that journey. Continue renewing yourselves so that your place in this world is at the **main arena and not the periphery**. We at the university have ensured that you have what it takes not just to have a firm foothold in your chosen career, but also to have the requisite dynamism, creativity and entrepreneurial spirit to adapt to rapidly changing environments to remain useful and relevant.

Let your arguments, ideals, convictions and practices always depict you as an enlightened, honest and balanced participant in the positive events around you. Do not allow yourself to be reduced to a mere spectator in life, do not engage in demeaning undertakings

Above all, be true to the tenets of the Kenya National and KU Anthems that were so beautifully highlighted at the beginning of this auspicious occasion, particularly the verse which exhorts us to ***dwell in unity, peace and liberty*** and ***in common bond united to build this our nation together.***

Finally, I take this opportunity to wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a prosperous 2017.

Thank you and May God bless you all, our University, and our great motherland, Kenya