

KENYATTA UNIVERSITY

Speech by

PROF. SHEM E. MIGOT-ADHOLLA
CHAIRMAN, KENYATTA UNIVERSITY
COUNCIL

On the Occasion of

THE 44TH GRADUATION CEREMONY

Held on

FRIDAY 3RD AUGUST 2018

- ✚ The Chief Administrative Secretary and Principal Secretary, State Department for University Education and Research, Ministry of Education - Prof. Collette A. Suda;
- ✚ Members of Kenyatta University Council;
- ✚ Our Guest Speaker, Dr. Florence M. Wambugu, Founding Director and Chief Executive Officer of Africa Harvest Biotech Foundation International;
- ✚ The Vice-Chancellor of Kenyatta University – Prof. Paul K. Wainaina;
- ✚ Your Excellences the Ambassadors and High Commissioners present;
- ✚ Chancellors of other Universities;
- ✚ Vice-Chancellors present;
- ✚ Members of University Senate;

✚ Staff and Students of Kenyatta University;

✚ Parents and Guardians;

✚ All our Dear Graduands;

✚ Distinguished Guests;

✚ Ladies and Gentlemen;

Good Morning!

On behalf of the University Council and on my own behalf, I take great pleasure in warmly welcoming all of you to Kenyatta University on the occasion of the 44th Graduation Ceremony.

Ladies and gentlemen, the University has been able to effectively deliver on its mandate because of the support it has received from the Government and other stakeholders. We owe this day to the entrenched culture of hard work and co-operation among the staff, both teaching

and non-teaching, the students and all other stakeholders and partners who have walked hand in hand with us. I thank you all for the part you have played.

Ladies and Gentlemen, allow me to note that the success of this Institution would not have been possible without the cordial relationship between the Chancellor, the University Council, the Management Board and the Senate. This has facilitated close consultation on important University matters, thus enabling the University to forge forward with its core mandate of teaching and learning, research and extension. I therefore wish to thank the Vice-Chancellor and all other organs of the University for their commitment in working for the realization of our Mission and Vision as envisaged in the 2016-2026 Strategic and Vision Plan.

Ladies and gentlemen, University education in Kenya is going through challenging times, largely as a result of a reduced pool of self-sponsored students, on whom most of our Universities have relied to raise funds for growth and development. At Kenyatta University, we have taken firm measures to ensure we travel on the growth trajectory we have set out in the 2016-2026 Strategic and Vision Plan. The measures include:

- ❖ Closure of Arusha and Kigali Campuses, and critically evaluating the sustainability of some of our satellite campuses,
- ❖ Rationalization of income generating activities,
- ❖ Strengthening improvement and introduction of new diploma and postgraduate study programmes to attract more students,

- ❖ Refocusing our research mandate to increase competence, output, quality, dissemination and uptake,
- ❖ Restructuring of administrative units by merging related ones to curb duplication and wastage, and improve efficiency in service delivery, and
- ❖ Revitalizing the Digital and Open Learning mode of study to become a major pillar of our future growth and development.

I call upon the entire University fraternity and stakeholders to give the support required for these measures to achieve their objectives.

Finally, let me heartily congratulate the graduating class of August 2018. Today marks the climax of your long and arduous academic journey. I commend the effort that you in particular, your professors and lecturers as well

as your parents and guardians put in to make this a reality. However, I am sure the conducive learning environment you found yourself in must have made the journey easier. Without a doubt, the exposure you have had in this Institution will serve you in very good stead. Thus, I urge you to strive to have a positive impact wherever you will find yourself after this.

I am particularly glad to note that part of the training this Institution has given you is in leadership. You are therefore aware that effective leaders give direction; effective leaders help us to visualize where we need to go as Institutions, organizations or as a society, and how we can get there; effective leaders encourage and inspire us to believe that our dreams and ambitions are legitimate.

As we send you out there, Kenyatta University believes that you have what it takes to be that kind of leader. To begin with, and given that charity begins at home, consider joining the Alumni Association in a bid to make significant contributions to your Alma Mater.

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

Thank you.