

**KENYATTA UNIVERSITY**

**Remarks by**

**PROF. PAUL K. WAINAINA,**

**VICE-CHANCELLOR**

**During the**

**2019 MULTICHOICE TALENT FACTORY  
GRADUATION**


**Held at**

**NAIROBI FILM CENTRE, UCHUMI HOUSE,  
NAIROBI**

**On**

**THURSDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2019**

- + The Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Information and Communications - Hon. Joe Mucheru;**
- + CEO, Kenya Film Classification Board – Dr. Ezekiel Mutua;**
- + CEO, Kenya Film Commission - Mr. Timothy Owase;**
- + Regional Director, Multichoice Northern Region – Mr. Maharage Chande;**
- + The Director, Multichoice Talent Factory East Africa Academy - Njoki Muhoho;**
- + Members of University Management present;**

 **The Dean, School of Creative and Performing Arts, Film and Media Studies – Prof. John Mugubi;**

 **Staff and Students**

 **All Graduands**

**Good morning!**

I wish to first extend my congratulations to the first cohort of the MTF class of 2019 and their families! We are all indeed very proud of you and celebrate your achievement. I also wish to express my gratitude to Multichoice Africa Limited for the Talent Factory initiative with Kenyatta University as a key partner. The alliance has worked to engage the sensibilities of the 20 students graduating today with topnotch skills in

filmmaking while crafting and underlining distinctive approaches to the teaching and appreciation of film production.

At Kenyatta University, we are committed to promoting greater collaborations in education and skills development. Individuals and organizations that have developed strong connections with others are more likely to achieve their objectives. Our enthusiasm for the Multichoice Talent Factory programme underscores our belief that education fuels the innovation and entrepreneurship needed to address the common challenges of our times, and is the bridge to building stronger people-to-people relationships between different regions and countries.

To all Graduands, your graduation today marks an important milestone in your endeavours to chart your destiny. It is the culmination of your hard work and determination to make necessary sacrifices for your own success and that of your families and nations.

You all come from different countries within the East African region and the programme has exposed you to diversities of cultures, habits, languages, attitudes and patterns of behaviour. You have been privileged to be trained by experts in the film making field. You are now a strong team of multinational talent, and I dare say, transnational individuals, whose ability to cope with and celebrate diversity should be second to none.

I urge you to utilize the skills imparted on you to tell the authentic African story. For too long, our continent's story has been swamped by western idolizations and stereotypes about Africa; the continent filled with conflict, diseases, war, famine, genocide and anything negative.

Tell the stories about African heroes from Ibn Battuta, Shaka Zulu, Jomo Kenyatta and Dedan Kimathi. Tell the stories about the Kenyan Mau Mau movement that inspired Nelson Mandela and the ANC to take up arms and fight Apartheid. Amplify the stories of our great athletes from Abebe Bikila to Kipchoge Keino who ruled the

athletic scene like giants in yester years; the champions that paved way for a new generation of world beaters.

The content for inspiring African stories is out there: farmers who are battling changing climate to feed their nations, emerging engineers building infrastructure for a new continent, and the small businesses that have embraced technology like M-Pesa and are changing the face of commerce across Africa. By telling our authentic stories you will inspire a new generation to work harder, be smarter and be competitive.

I encourage you all to maximize your strengths and the opportunities you will get to be the best that you can be.

The face of Education is evolving. The 21<sup>st</sup> century is not about what you know but what you can do with the knowledge you possess. I am pleased to note that the programme you underwent is mostly practical at this time when Kenya, as a country is shifting to an education system that centers on real-world **skills and competency** development.

Great opportunities exist for competitive programs that will guide the future development of the Film industry in the East African region. We need to harness skills in areas such as animation development, production and distribution of Local films,



video games for recreation and learning, and widening the scope of participation in film exhibitions and festivals.

This collaboration between KU and Multichoice Africa Limited on this program has been a win-win for all parties. I humbly request Multichoice to work with us in another area. We are the only Public University with a 24 hour television station, KUTV. It is a bastion for emerging young story tellers within KU. But while KUTV is a free-to-air station, it does not feature in the DSTV line up. I humbly request that you review this situation to give exposure to our young students' content in their continent.

As the pioneer class in this programme, you will be expected to take the lead in truly creating a dynamic film industry in the region. We look forward to great film directors, film producers and screen writers coming out of this cohort, and hope that you will inspire great leadership and passion to serve our continent with dedication and pride of its place in the global community.

In conclusion, I thank you all for being here and once again congratulate the graduands for their pioneering achievement.

**Thank you and God bless you all!**