SPEECH BY

PROF. DICKSON M. NYARIKI,

AG. VICE CHANCELLOR,

MURANG'A UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY,

DURING THE FIRST GRADUATION CEREMONY HELD ON FRIDAY, 28TH JULY 2017

AT MURANG'A UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

- The Cabinet Secretary for Education, Dr. Fred Matiang'i

- The Chancellor, Murang'a University of Technology,

- Chancellors of other Universities present,

- The Governor, Murang'a County, Hon. Mwangi wa Iria and other County and National Leaders present,

- The Chairman of Council, Murang'a University of Technology,

- Chairmen of Council of other Universities present,

- Vice Chancellors present,

- Invited Guests,

- Parents and Guardians,

- Graduands,

- Ladies and Gentlemen,

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

Introduction

I am extremely delighted today to welcome all our guests to Murang'a University of Technology. Today is a great day for us. It is a great day because we are witnessing and celebrating the graduation of our first cohort of graduands. This is a demonstration that we have finally come of age. I congratulate the graduands for work well done.

As you may be aware, Murang'a University of Technology (MUT) is a successor to Murang'a University College (MRUC), which was established via Murang'a University College Legal Order Notice No. 129 of September 2011 as a Constituent College of Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT). It admitted the first batch of its students in 2013.The University College attained full-fledged status in October, 2016. We wish to express our appreciation for the mentorship received from JKUAT.

Student Numbers VS Physical Facilities & Resources

As a young institution, MUT has managed to grow steadily in terms of student numbers and facilities. The growth has not been spontaneous but rather as envisaged in the University's Revised Strategic Plan for the period 2013-2018. The University now has a student population of 3,294, a population that is likely to approach 4,000 by September this year when we admit both Government and self-sponsored students. These students are distributed across 56 degree programmes that have been

developed and accredited over a period of time. The programmes are offered in 8 Schools, namely;

1) School of Business and Economics
2) School of Computing and Information Technology
3) School of Hospitality and Tourism Management
4) School of Engineering
5) School of Pure and Applied Sciences
6) School of Education
7) School of Agriculture, and

8) School of Health Sciences

Through prudent management of scarce resources, the University has been able to put up and commission modern lecture theatres, hostels and related infrastructure to support teaching and learning. Our academic facilities and resources have been inspected by the Commission for University Education (CUE) and also by other regulatory bodies; and we are satisfied that we have taken steps not only to meet the minimum requirements but also to exceed them.

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

Universities of repute keep on realigning their programmes to suit the job market. With the award of Charter last year,our University will endeavour to develop more market-driven programmes that will make our graduates competitive both on the local and international job markets. In line with the Kenya Vision 2030, our major thrust will be in developing and promoting programmes in the areas of Science, Technology and

Mathematics (STEM), which are key priority areas in the socio-economic development of our country.

MUT recognizes Information and Communication Technology (ICT) as akey driver for its development. ICT has been mainstreamed into our operations, with a focus on the enhancement of ICT capacity as a platform for the University's growth. The current ICT infrastructure comprises Fibre Link Backbone in the University, Local and Wide Area Network; and an Electronic mail service. Other components to be integrated

later include building of a data centre, upgrade of our current internet bandwidth,and installation of Internet Protocol Telephony (IPT) and Closed Circuit TV (CCTV) for security purposes. In line with our Strategic Plan, we have implemented a Strategic Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Suite that comprises the following sub-systems:

1) Student Management
2) E-Learning Platform
3) Library Management

4) Finance, Accounting and Budgeting

5) Payroll Management

6) Human Resource Management, and

7) Procurement, Transport and Logistics

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

We are all aware that there is a shortage of qualified personnel within the country. But even with this shortage, I am happy to report that the University has been able to use its limited

resources to attract qualified and competent staffto take up the available positions in priority areas, and whomeet the demands of both the existing and proposed academic programmes.We plan to continue improving on our systems and structures so that we can attract the best resource persons as we work to become a premier University. This will continue to be rationalized consistent with the student-lecturer ratio guidelines provided by the Commission for University Education. We shall therefore ensure that there is adequate motivation and

protection of the intellectual capital which is crucial to any university in the world. In line with the best management practices, we shall ensure that there is appropriate and adequate training for all employees. We shall also embrace diversity by continuously striving to get it right with respect to attracting staffand students, as much as possible, from all regions and ethnic groups, and from both genders and other considerations, as espoused in our Constitution.

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

Research, Partnerships and Collaborations

A university of credible academic and intellectual standing must reach out to other organizations to collaborate with in the interest of creating synergy, with the resultant mutual benefits. This approach has been pursued vigorously by this University in order to enhance research, knowledge and resource sharing. The existing partnerships will be enhanced so as to increase the

sharing of resources for future academic and research activities of the University.

This University has also taken Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) seriously and both staff and students are making an impact, even if in a small way, in changing the lives of the socially disadvantaged members of the society in the University environs.

Corporate Governance

As you are aware, corporate organizations around the world are now embracing and promoting good corporate governance for better corporate results.I wish to report that the Management of this University with the full support of the Council is steering the institution in a manner based on transparency, accountability and responsible leadership so that the University can achieve its mandate of providing teaching, research and community service.

Mr Chancellor Sir,

I conclude by, once again, congratulating the graduands on their success; I wish them well in their future endeavours. I also express our gratitude to all our guests who found time out of their busy schedules to come and celebrate with us.

Thank you and God bless.