

SPEECH BY
PROF. JUSTIN IRINA
THE CHANCELLOR
MURANG'A UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

ON THE OCCASION OF HIS INSTALLATION
AND THE FIRST GRADUATION CEREMONY
HELD ON 28TH JULY, 2017
AT THE UNIVERSITY'S GRADUATION GROUNDS

The Cabinet Secretary for Education, Dr. Fred Matiang’i,

The Principal Secretary State Department for University
Education, Prof. Collette Suda,

The Governor, Murang’a County, His Excellency Mwangi wa
Iria,

The County Commissioner, Murang’a, Mr. Elung’ta,

Senator, Murang’a County, Kembi Getura,

All Members of Parliament and other leaders present,

Chancellors of other Universities present,

Council Chairman, Murang'a University of Technology, Prof.
Jamal Mohammed,

Council Chairmen of other Universities present,

Council members of Murang'a University present,

Ag. Vice Chancellor, Murang'a University of Technology,
Prof. Dickson Nyariki

Vice Chancellors of other Universities present,

Deputy Vice Chancellors,

All staff of this University,

Parents, guardians and sponsors,

Graduands and Students,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I feel greatly honoured to stand before you as the first
Chancellor of Murang'a University of Technology (MUT).

It is indeed a great privilege to be given the honour of leading this young and promising institution. With a great sense of humility and honour, I accept this appointment.

It is with deep respect that I thank His Excellency, the Honorable Uhuru Kenyatta, the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Defense Forces of the Republic of Kenya, through the Ministry of Education, for finding me worthy of the position of Chancellor.

It is impossible to adequately thank all those who have contributed in making today's ceremony a success. However,

I wish to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all the stakeholders in this institution. I specifically thank and appreciate the Chairman of the University Council and the Ag. Vice Chancellor for their warm welcome.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to also take this opportunity to thank the Kenya Government, through the Ministry of Education, for the support it has given our institution. We look forward to

continued support so as to fulfill our Mission, Vision and Mandate.

I am aware that it is indeed a great challenge for me as I take up my position of Chancellor of this University.

I would like to assure you all that I will faithfully discharge my duties as outlined in the Universities Act, 2012, and pledge that I will work with all stakeholders to ensure that the University grows to become a leading institution in science and technology in the region and globally. I will give advice to the Council which I may consider necessary for the

betterment of the University as need be. I, therefore, call upon the entire University community to dedicate themselves to building this University so that it may live up to its Vision and Mission in order to be the University of choice for prospective students and staff.

With the support of all concerned, I am confident we will make this University achieve a leadership role in providing transformative education, innovation, training and development related research.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today we are releasing to the labour market and to the society, a crop of graduands, who we know have been well-prepared and are therefore among the best in the country. These graduands have been imparted with knowledge, skills and attitudes which they will use to make significant impacts in their lives and other lives across the country and around the world, by delivering tangible socio-economic benefits wherever they choose to work and live.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Since this is an election year and elections are only a few days away, allow me to remind ourselves to remain vigilant and calm during this period. We should all have the interest of our great nation at heart. Let us all shun the politics of hatred and disunity. Let us support the leaders who preach peace, harmony and togetherness among communities and individuals, values that will ensure the stability of our nation.

To the Youth,

Do not let yourselves be used by politicians to promote their parochial agenda. Do not be influenced by cash and other incentives to cause violence during the elections. Let us all be agents of peace. We have a collective responsibility to protect our country and make it safe for all of us to continue to enjoy our lives.

To the Graduands,

This is your day. You have worked diligently to get to this day and your hard work has borne fruits. You have accomplished a major milestone in your lives: that of graduating successfully from a university. We celebrate your achievements and take pride in your success. Even as we congratulate you for your great achievement, I would like to remind you that the rights and privileges of education that you have earned bring a responsibility to you to make use of your knowledge to change your country for the better. You can do that by ensuring that the generations that come after you have

the same opportunity as you have had here at Murang'a University of Technology. Education is one of the greatest gifts that one generation should bequeath the next.

Remember also that it is the graduates who determine the value of a university; so I hope you will continue associating with your alma mater, taking pride in its achievements. As you go out to the world, make Murang'a University of Technology proud of you by your contributions to the transformation of society.

To one and all work hard with positive intent, because hard work is as good as prayer,

THANK YOU; GOD BLESS YOU