

**SPEECH**

**BY**

**THE CABINET SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION**

**DR. FRED MATIANGI**

**AT MURANGA UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY**

**DURING THE UNIVERSITY'S FIRST GRADUATION  
CEREMONY**

**HELD ON 28<sup>TH</sup> July, 2017**

The Chancellor, Murang'a University of Technology, Prof.  
Justin Irina,

Chancellors of other Universities present,

The Governor, Murang'a County, Mwangi wa Iria,

The Chairman, Commission for University Education,  
Prof. Nyaigoti Chacha

The Chairman of Council, Murang'a University of  
Technology, Prof. Mohamud Jama,

Council members present,

Ag. Vice Chancellor Muranga University of Technology,  
Prof. Dickson Nyariki,

Vice Chancellors of other Universities present,

All Leaders from Murang'a present,

Other members of staff,

Parents, guardians and sponsors,

Graduands and Students,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

Today is a great day for the graduands, their parents and guardians as they celebrate during this first graduation ceremony of Murang'a University of Technology. I join you in the celebrations. It is indeed the pride of my Ministry to have one of the seven new universities graduate her first cohort of students.

Graduation is a significant milestone in every student's life and is also a moment to stop and reflect; to look back at what one has achieved and chart the way forward in the respective professional careers.

The fact that you are graduating today should be a testimony that you have successfully gone through the rigours and you have received quality education that has culminated in your being conferred degrees or awarded diplomas and certificates. For these reasons, I congratulate you, your parents and guardians for the sacrifices and efforts that have enabled you attain this success.

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

Let me take this opportunity to thank His Excellency the President, Hon. Uhuru Kenyatta, for appointing you the 1<sup>st</sup> Chancellor of this University and congratulate you on this appointment. I am confident that you have the necessary experience and abilities to take this University forward. At this point, I also wish to thank our President for his support for the education sector and specifically for higher education that has experienced tremendous expansion during his tenure.

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

As you are aware, in the days past, our examination system and by extension the education system were under serious credibility threats. Cheating in exams and other malpractices had taken root and slowly becoming the norm. My Ministry put mechanisms in place to rout out this backward practice, and there has been great success. This malpractice had also crept into our Universities. In this regard, I call upon the managers of our Universities to put in place stringent measures to ensure that the success achieved so far in primary and secondary examination administration is sustained, so



that our certificates and degrees can be respected and honoured.

This requires that Universities strengthen Quality Assurance mechanisms to monitor and evaluate all our activities to ensure quality is maintained all through.

In this regard, I call upon Universities and other institutions of learning to strengthen their quality assurance systems in order to adhere to set standards and adopt best international practices.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

My Ministry will support and strengthen the Commission for University Education (CUE), which is the accreditation and quality assurance body, to effectively and efficiently deliver on its mandate conferred by the Universities Act. It will thus be expected that each one of us remains vigilant to ensure that quality standards are maintained in our institutions of higher learning as they continue to provide the much needed human capital required by our economy.

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

In the last few years, there has been considerable expansion of access to university education. In 2008, the total number of students admitted in Public Universities was 16,134. By the year 2016, this number had gone up to 80,000, representing an increase of about 400%. This number is expected to grow particularly in the next few years as the National Government continues to inject more resources into this important sector.

Whereas, there has been considerable expansion in infrastructural development in order to improve teaching and learning facilities, I am aware that more resources are still required to match the expansion in university enrollment. To this end, my Ministry will endeavour to increase funding levels in Public Universities. On their part, the Universities must pursue innovative ways of mobilizing extra resources to support themselves and at the same time deliver quality education.

Universities will thus need to be more creative in exploring avenues of supplementing government effort. We, for example, encourage managers of our universities to

engage in income generating activities as long as these activities do not lead to loss of focus on their main mandate.

Ladies and Gentleman,

Providing accommodation to students has proved to be an expensive undertaking bearing in mind that Universities are also required to provide critical facilities for learning. One practical way of achieving this is entering into arrangements that enable some form of Public-Private Partnerships to thrive.

I am informed and I am therefore pleased to note that Murang'a University of Technology has partnered with local entrepreneurs to provide student accommodation facilities. This kind of arrangement will enable the University to utilize its available resources in providing core education facilities.

The advantage of taking this route is two-pronged: the University would spare funds for priority projects while the local community gets a sense of ownership which translates into a useful symbiotic relationship. I therefore encourage the University to continue bringing on board other partners in this venture.

Finally, Mr. Chancellor Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I, once again, wish the graduands success in their future endeavours.

Thank You and God Bless You All.