

**SPEECH BY**  
**PROF. DICKSON M. NYARIKI,**  
**VICE CHANCELLOR,**  
**MURANG'A UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY,**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> GRADUATION CEREMONY**  
**MURANG'A UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY**  
**FRIDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2018**

- **The Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education, Amb. Dr. Amina Mohamed,**
- **Principal Secretaries present,**
- **The Governor, Murang'a County, H.E Hon. Mwangi wa Iria,**
- **Senator, Murang'a County, Hon. Irungu Kang'ata,**
- **The Women Representative, Murang'a County, Hon. Sabina Chege,**

- The area Member of Parliament, Hon. Ndindi Nyoro,
- The Chancellor, Murang'a University of Technology, Prof. Justin Irina,
- Chairperson of Murang'a University of Technology Council, Prof. Joachim Osur,
- Chancellors of Sister Universities present,
- Chairpersons of Councils of other Universities,
- Vice-Chancellors,
- Principals of University Colleges,

- Members of University Councils,
- Members of Universities Management Boards and Senates,
- Murang'a University of Technology Staff,
- Members of the Students Council,
- Our Graduands, families and friends,
- Students,
- Invited guests,
- Ladies and Gentlemen,

**Good Morning,**

I cordially welcome you all to today's congregation. We are assembled here to witness the second cohort of Murang'a University of Technology (MUT) graduands being conferred Degrees and awarded Diplomas and Certificates. I take this opportunity to congratulate them on this tremendous achievement. The graduands should

be confident that they are well-prepared to meet the challenges that may confront them. I also wish to acknowledge the efforts made and the heavy burden carried by the parents, guardians and sponsors to make it possible for the graduands to complete their studies.

**Mr. Chancellor Sir,**

This Graduation is special to us not only because we are coming of age as a University but also because we are honouring one of the greatest sons of this county and country who have made major contributions to our country in general and to this institution in particular. On behalf of the University Senate and Management, I salute Dr Charles Wanyoike Rubia, together with all the men and women of Murang'a County, who worked with

him and made sacrifices to enable the establishment of Murang'a College of Technology. The current status of this University owes a lot to them since it is an offshoot of the original College of Technology.

Today is also an important day for us as a University because it is an occasion to mark our transition from the old 9001-2008 ISO Standard to the new 9001-2015 Standard. This is not a mean achievement. It is a



demonstration that we deliver quality services to our customers; and we endeavour to continue doing so into the future. I wish, therefore, to thank the Council for supporting the process and to congratulate all the University staff and students for the important role they played in order for us to realise this transition. I would like to single out, for special appreciation, the Director in charge of ISO Certification and Performance

Contracting, Mr. James Miano, for his gallant efforts in ensuring that the processes of transition were smooth and successful. I further wish to thank KEBS for approving the certification.

**Mr. Chancellor Sir,**

The University celebrates my installation as her pioneer Vice Chancellor. I accept this honour with great humility

and gratitude. I would like, therefore, to thank the Government, through the Ministry of Education, for the appointment, and the immediate former Council of the University for showing confidence in me and recommending my appointment. Further, I wish to recognise our academic and administrative staff and students who played various roles to enable my confirmation as the Vice Chancellor.



**Mr. Chancellor Sir,**

Since the award of Charter about two years ago, our University has continued to grow steadily in respect of student enrolment and infrastructural development. The University is a budding institution that intends to develop into a Centre of Excellence in Technological Innovation. Student numbers now stand at around 3,200 and are expected to grow to 4,000 or more in September

this year. Among these, we are conscientiously working to increase enrolment in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) programmes, with particular emphasis on technology. Accredited degree programmes, with students placed by KUCCPS, now stand at 35 from the initial 13 in 2016. Our Senate has also approved an additional 40 or so programmes which we intend to systematically mount as we grow our

capacity and as we seek the accreditation by the Commission for University Education (CUE). Our Faculty has expanded with respect to the proportion of PhD holders, both through new recruitments and acquisition of PhDs by our internal staff. Our academic staff to administrative staff ratio is about 1:2.7 and growing.

**Mr. Chancellor Sir,**

As we focus on the main mandate of the University, it is not lost on us that we must support the President's Big Four Agenda. With the guidance of our Council, the University has, therefore, reoriented her Performance Contracting targets to make a contribution to that Agenda. The University Management, with the blessing of the Council, is already in discussion with the County



Government of Murang'a and private developers to find ways to contribute to: 1) affordable health, by using Murang'a Level 5 Hospital for training and provision of health services to the community; 2) food security, by acquiring more land for training in agriculture and for working with the surrounding community to introduce best practices; and 3) affordable housing, by assisting

staff acquire houses in a nearby location through negotiated and friendly mortgages.

**Mr. Chancellor Sir,**

I would like to thank the Government, through the Ministry of Education, for providing the necessary resources to support the growth of the University. We hope that the support will be sustained and even

enhanced so that we can continue improving service delivery to all our customers. I also express my utmost appreciation to the University Council for providing strategic guidance to the University Management, which has led to the current developments to be realised. We commit ourselves to continue making concerted efforts to maintain the momentum in order to achieve the desired goals.

Finally, I express my deep appreciation to the Country Government of Murang'a, led by H.E. Governor Mwangiwa Iria, for materially supporting this graduation, just like they did the last graduation. We don't take this support for granted.

To our graduands, we celebrate you for your toil which you complemented with the work of your lecturers and professors in order to bear the fruits of success we are

witnessing today. We wish you the best in your future endeavours.

**Thank you and God bless.**