

**SPEECHBY**  
**PROF. JUSTIN IRINA**  
**THE CHANCELLOR**  
**MURANG'A UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY**  
**DURING THE 2<sup>ND</sup> GRADUATION CEREMONY**  
**OF**  
**MURANG'A UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY**  
**ON 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.  
MwangiwaIria,
- Senator, Murang'a County, Hon. IrunguKang'ata,
- The Women Representative, Murang'a County,  
Hon. Sabina Chege,

- The area Member of Parliament, Hon. NdindiNyoro and other members of parliament present,
- Representatives from the Commission for University Education,
- Chancellors of other universities,
- The Chairperson of Murang'a University of Technology Council, Prof. Joachim Osur,
- Members of the University Council,

- Chairpersons and Members of other University Councils,
- Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dickson Nyariki,
- Vice Chancellors of other Universities present,
- The Honorary degree awardee, Hon Dr. Charles Wanyoike Rubia,
- Members of the University Management Board,
- Members of the University Senate,

- University Staff,
- Graduands,
- Students,
- Parents and guardians,
- Ladies and gentlemen,

**GOOD MORNING.**

It is my pleasure to welcome you to this Graduation Ceremony, the second since the inception of Murang'a University of Technology. A Graduation Ceremony is an important occasion at any university as it marks the main highlight of the academic calendar. I wish to thank all of you for joining us today and making it all the more meaningful for our graduands.

I wish to express my gratitude to the President of the Republic of Kenya, His Excellency, Hon. Uhuru Kenyatta for appointing a vibrant Council. Further, I thank the Ministry of Education for appointing Prof. Dickson Nyariki as the substantive Vice Chancellor. I take this opportunity to formally congratulate him on his appointment as the pioneer Vice Chancellor of this University. I am confident that he has the required

capacity to steer this University to higher levels of success.

Let me also take this opportunity to thank the Kenya Government for the key role it plays in funding the University. It is through this financial resources that the University has been able to attract and retain a reasonable number of staff and build infrastructure to support teaching, learning and research. However,



these resources are not adequate. In this regard, I appeal to the Government, as a major stakeholder, to consider enhancing this funding to the University. Through improved funding, the University will be able to expand its infrastructure, and enhance research and training in technology. As already mentioned by the Council Chairman, I also appeal to the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education, to assist the

University reclaim its land, which has been encroached on by private developers.

I have noted with satisfaction that through our collective efforts, Murang'a University is steadily growing into a leading Institution in Higher Learning focused on technological courses and relevant research. I therefore encourage the Council, Management and Staff to continue working with all

stakeholders to realise further advancements in these areas. As the Chancellor, I am proud of the many opportunities this University offers to its students in helping them build their knowledge base so as to become skilled, competent and dependable people. This is precisely why the University exists; for the mutual benefit of the institution, the students and, indeed, the entire society. I believe that this

University will continue to produce graduates who are ready to serve our country with honesty, integrity and patriotism, some of which traits are lacking in a lot of people these days.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

Today, we are privileged to honour a patriot and a pioneer resource mobiliser for Murang'a University of

Technology. I am therefore delighted and honoured to preside over this ceremony that will remain memorable in the history of this institution. We confer upon Hon. Dr. Charles Wanyoike Rubia the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Humane Letters (L.H.D.) of Murang'a University of Technology; the first highest such honour to be awarded by the University. We recognise and appreciate the role Dr. Rubia played not

only in Murang'a County but also in Kenya as a whole. Together with his team, he championed the dream of initiating the development of Murang'a College of Technology which evolved to the current University. Among many other remarkable accomplishments, Dr. Rubia was one of the most outstanding personalities who played a critical role in opening up the democratic space that the country

currently enjoys. Even as we honour him today, I wish to ask each one of us, and especially the youth, to emulate him; let us use his demonstration of courage and bravery as a source of inspiration to pursue what we believe is right and just for the betterment of humanity. As much as possible, let us follow the good example and bold deeds depicted by Dr. Rubia and always have a quest for social justice which would

help us shape an open, inclusive, participatory and tolerant Kenya that is full of opportunity for all.

**Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,**

As you are aware, graduation is of great symbolic and sentimental significance in the life of this great institution. It depicts the growth of our University and its contribution towards nation building. Hence, for



this institution to shape its future as “a leading University in technological innovation, training and research for socio-economic development,” the Management must continue engaging with local partners, including the County Government, private sector, business operatives and other organisations. It is through such partnerships that the University will create and nurture robust linkages for growth. Besides

this, the Council, Management and Senate should be keen to initiate and strengthen global partnerships. These partnerships are essential to the University if the desired rapid development towards academic and research excellence is to be realised.

I would like to emphasise that a University goes beyond the grandeur of the gowns that our graduands are wearing today. It is incumbent upon all of us to

inculcate an ethos in our students that they have a responsibility to give back to society. They must understand that in benefitting personally from this University's education, they need to think of how they can most usefully contribute to the transformation of society beyond their family responsibilities and career aspirations.

## **Dear Graduands,**

Today is the culmination of your four years of hard work at Murang'a University of Technology. We are releasing you to the world which has many challenges. Do not be afraid of the challenges. Face them with vigour and determination. As you transit into life beyond the University, I am confident that the education you have received in this University has

given you the skills and instilled in you the values and attitudes that will help you face these challenges and accomplish a lot for yourselves and the entire country.

Once again, I congratulate you all. Congratulations also to the parents and guardians for the great role you have played in the lives of your sons and daughters.

Finally, I wish to thank the distinguished guests, friends and relatives who found time to be with us here today to make this event colourful and memorable.

THANK YOU.