

**SPEECH BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF COUNCIL,  
PROF. JOACHIM OSUR,  
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, Hon. Mwangiwa Iria,
- Senator, Murang'a County, Hon. Irungu Kang'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,
- The Chancellor, Prof. Justin Irina,
- Chancellors of other universities present,
- Members of University Council,

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

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

**Mr. Chancellor Sir,**

On behalf of the University Council, I am pleased to welcome everyone to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Graduation Ceremony of Murang'a University of Technology.

Allow me to take this opportunity to thank you, Chancellor Sir, for finding time to come and preside over this auspicious occasion. As a Council, we also convey our gratitude to the University Management and staff who have worked tirelessly to make sure that the graduands receive quality education.

Similarly, our appreciation goes to all the graduands for working hard to qualify for the award and

conferment of various academic certificates, diplomas and degrees. I further extend my appreciation to the parents and guardians for their enormous sacrifices that have enabled the graduands to successfully complete their four year studies at this University.

At this juncture, I wish to thank all our stakeholders, and particularly the Murang'a County Government, that have contributed immensely towards the success

of this occasion. I also thank our guests who have honoured our invitation to come and witness this important occasion. To you all, I say: KARIBU to Murang'a University of Technology.

**Mr. Chancellor Sir,**

I would like to express my deep gratitude to the President of the Republic of Kenya, H.E. Hon. Uhuru Kenyatta and his Government, through the Ministry of



Education, for appointing me to Chair the Council of Murang'a University of Technology for a term of 3 years. I promise that I will do my utmost best to try to make a difference in the institution. At this point, allow me to call upon the members of the University Council who were appointed with me to rise so that we can appreciate them.

I congratulate the Council members for their appointment. The new Council was appointed in August, 2017 and was inaugurated in September, 2017 at a ceremony held at the University. As a Council, we pledge our total commitment towards the realisation of the University Vision and Mission, whose focus is science and technology. We will remain fully committed to enhancing the University's standing as a

place where scholars focus on research, teaching and innovation, and on mentoring the youth to become useful citizens and tomorrow's leaders.

**Mr. Chancellor Sir,**

In the same breath, I wish to thank the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education, Amb. (Dr.) Amina Mohamed, for appointing Prof. Dickson Nyariki, as the pioneer Vice Chancellor of Murang'a University of

Technology. I have no doubt that the Ministry of Education made a very good decision. The new Vice Chancellor has a wealth of experience, both in the public and private sectors, which will be very valuable for the development of this institution. Towards this end, allow me to congratulate Prof.Nyariki on his appointment. I am sure that, with the support of the Management Board, Senate, staff and students, he will

propel this University to greater heights of development.

**Mr. Chancellor Sir,**

I wish to recognise the commendable work done by the previous Council of Murang'a University of Technology.

The Council steered the University towards attaining many successes since it was established and placed it on a steady growth trajectory. It is worth of note, for example, that the previous Council achieved extensive infrastructural development in the last five years, which matched the needs of the increased student and staff populations. We endeavour to work hard in order to achieve even more.



**Mr. Chancellor Sir,**

We honour **Hon. Dr. Charles WanyoikeRubia** today with an Honorary Doctorate Degree. We know he deserves this honour because it is in recognition of his pioneer and immense contribution towards mobilising resources for putting up the infrastructure for the original institution that eventually grew to become a University. We also pay homage to all those who



played a major role in the initial idea of establishing a college of technology, some of whom are seated here with us today.

Speaking of infrastructure, the University Council is aware that it is a priority of Government policy to increase access to University education. This demands expansion of teaching, learning, and accommodation facilities. In the past year, the Council has overseen

the expansion and improvement of tuition spaces, library facilities, ablution areas, water supply, hostels, and internal road networks. On behalf of the University Council, I wish to thank the Government for this funding. At the same time, I would like to assure the Kenya Government and all our stakeholders that the resources channeled to Murang'a University of Technology are prudently utilised. Currently, the

Council has prioritised the construction of a perimeter wall, a modern Science Complex, Engineering Complex, Business School Complex, and Student's Centre, among others. However, all these will require substantial funding. As the University continues to build capacity for alternative sources of financial resources, it is therefore my appeal to the Government

to enhance funding in order to actualise these priorities.

**Mr. Chancellor Sir,**

The University Council recognises that human resource is a key asset that any institution has. The University, therefore, takes cognisance of staff welfare in enhancing productivity and motivation. To this end, the University has reviewed the Statutes, Staff Scheme

of Service as well as over thirty policies with a view to ensuring timeliness, fairness, equity and professionalism in our staff recruitment, development, training, capacity building, upward mobility, academic integrity, research, innovation and student welfare matters.

In addition, the University has been operating under ISO:9001:2008 standard since the year 2013 but has

now transitioned to ISO:9001:2015 standard that we are celebrating today. This is indeed a great milestone in the history of this institution and confirms to our customers that we take quality service delivery seriously. On the same note, in spite of the scarce resources, the University has continued to perform well in her performance contract by consistently attaining a composite score of "Very Good" in the last

three years. Equally, the University's webometric ranking has been steadily improving. However, it is our hope that the criteria used to rank universities shall be consistent to allow the universities monitor and evaluate their performance in the subsequent years. It might also be helpful for the Government of Kenya through the Commission for University Education to

come up with a local tool to evaluate and rank the universities.



**Mr. Chancellor Sir,**

Further to this, as a Council, we continue to encourage the University Management to champion and maintain a conducive academic environment and to engage in meaningful research and development germane to a University of technology. Consequently, we are focused on nurturing innovative technologies that support national development goals, as envisioned by

the Big Four Agenda, Kenya Vision 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

**Mr. Chancellor Sir,**

The University is facing challenges in terms of land demarcation. As a Government policy to adequately secure public institutions, the University started the process of building a perimeter wall to secure its property, staff and students. However, this process

has been hampered because of encroachment on the University land. I therefore appeal to both the National and County Governments to assist the University repossess all its land.

**Mr. Chancellor Sir,**

In conclusion, I have no doubt in my mind that the students who are graduating today are well-prepared to make a real contribution to nation building. I wish

them all the success they need in their future undertakings.

THANK YOU ALL.

# **ORDER OF INVITATION FOR SPECIAL GUESTS BY CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL**

- County Commissioner, Murang'a County – Mr. John Elungata Obusuru who will in turn invite
- Kiharu MP, Hon. Ndindi Nyoro who will be requested to invite
- Women Representative, Murang'a County, Hon. Sabina Chege, who will in turn invite

- Senator, Murang'a County, Hon. Irungu Kang'ata who will in turn invite
- Governor, Murang'a County, His Excellency Hon. Mwangiwa Iria who will in turn invite
- Former Prime Minister Right Hon Raila Odinga
- Chairman of Council will invite the PS. State Department for University Education and

Research, Prof. Collette A. Suda to speak on behalf of the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education.

- Chairman of Council will invite the Murang'a University of Technology Chancellor – Prof. Justin Irina to address the congregation.

**“It is now my pleasure and honour to invite our Chancellor, Prof. Justin Irina, to address the Congregation”.**