



**MURANGA UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY**

**SPEECH BY**

**PROF. JUSTIN IRINA  
THE CHANCELLOR**

**3<sup>RD</sup> GRADUATION CEREMONY OF  
MURANG'A UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY  
ON FRIDAY, 9<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2019**

- **The Chief Administrative Secretary/Principal Secretary for University Education and Research**
- **The Governor, Murang'a County, H.E. Hon. Mwangi wa Iria,**
- **Senator, Murang'a County, Hon. Irungu Kang'ata,**
- **Members of Parliament present,**
- **Chancellors of other Universities,**
- **The Chairman of Murang'a University of Technology Council, Prof. Joachim Osur,**
- **Members of the University Council,**
- **Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dickson Nyariki,**
- **Vice Chancellors of other Universities present,**

- **Members of the University Management Board,**
- **Members of the University Senate,**
- **University Staff,**
- **Graduands,**
- **Students,**
- **Parents and guardians,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I am pleased to welcome you to our 3<sup>rd</sup> graduation ceremony and launch of the Strategic Plan (2019-2023). Today is a momentous occasion for Murang'a University of Technology as we celebrate the culmination of years of hard work by our graduands. I join the speakers before me in congratulating the graduands who are set to receive various qualifications.

As I mark the 3<sup>rd</sup> year as the Chancellor of this University, I take great pride in what this young University has grown to be. Through our collective efforts, the University has grown into a impressive centre of excellence in community focused research and academic pursuits. I, therefore, take this opportunity to acknowledge the oversight and leadership role of the University Council Chairman, Prof. Joachim Osur,

and his team who, through prudent use of resources, have steered the University to achieve substantial infrastructural and academic growth. I also acknowledge the efforts made by the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dickson Nyariki, the Management Board, the Senate, and the academic and administrative staff in ensuring that the vision and mission of the University are kept in focus. Further, I wish to thank the Government of Kenya for the tremendous financial support it has provided this University since her inception in 2016.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Good institutions must make a positive impact on the development of the community, the nation and the world, through their operations and practices. They can achieve this through their commitment to fulfilling their mandates. I therefore note with satisfaction that this University has

remained focused on fulfilling her mandate. In this endeavour, the University is undertaking key infrastructural projects, including the construction of a science (research) complex and a perimeter wall, among other development projects, in order to create a safe and conducive environment for research and training to thrive.

As a University whose motto is *innovation for prosperity*, it is the place where a sizable number of our youths are nurtured/molded into responsible global citizens. At the back of these young minds is the kind of life awaiting them after campus. Unfortunately, their quest for good life comes against a backdrop of high unemployment among the youth, their academic achievements notwithstanding.

One of the major solutions to unemployment is entrepreneurship. With devolution now firmly taking root in our country, the scope for

entrepreneurship continues to widen. Today, e-commerce and e-business continue to register impressive growth. Entrepreneurship enables the youth to be self-motivated agents of social change as they experience being their own bosses. It is my hope, therefore, that the graduands before us today, having lived through this progressive motto, are moving out with the resolve to be job creators rather than job seekers.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Murang'a University of Technology has just launched her Strategic Plan for the period 2019-2023. This is indeed a major milestone for the University. This plan shall guide the development of the University for the next five years. The plan envisages creating extensive networks of people and establishing collaborations, within and beyond our borders. This shall be achieved through Linkages, Outreach and Partnership

which will support the University in her endeavor to become a Leading Institution in Technological Innovation, Training and Research.

In order to successfully implement the Strategic Plan, the University will require huge human and financial resources. I therefore appeal to the Government to continue supporting the University financially to meet its targets as contained in the Plan. However, I must stress our gratitude to the National Government, Murang'a County Government and other stakeholders for their support even as we intensify our efforts towards resource mobilization from other partners and stakeholders. We should take note that through this support the University has been able to put up some of the required infrastructure as well as meet most of her financial obligations, including remittance of statutory deductions.



**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

One of the main thrusts of any University is research, which is a critical pillar both at the institutional and national development levels. To this end, I note that the University has attracted substantial research funding from various organizations, including the National Research Fund (NRF). I urge the University Management to continue encouraging and supporting academic staff in an effort to attract more research grants from diverse sources so as to build and enhance the ability of the University to deliver its services to the community.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I am happy to note that the University has started collaborations with stakeholders such as the Murang'a County Government in the areas of

Health and Agriculture, which should contribute in one way or another to the pillars of the 'Big Four Agenda'. To this end, I am informed that MOUs towards the joint use of Muranga County Hospital and Mariira Farm are ready. I encourage such and more collaborations.

### **Turning to the Graduands,**

I once again congratulate you. You have done well and deserve to celebrate because today's graduation marks the end of one journey and the beginning of another journey. New beginnings in life are full of immense promise. I know that some of you may opt not pursue further studies, yet some of you may continue with studies in this University or move to other Universities. No matter what choice you make, remember the important role that you could play as a graduate and an alumnus of this University.

I would like to draw your attention to a few areas that may be useful to you. Firstly, you have the responsibility to become good representatives of the University and be role models in your respective counties, places of work or the countries you will find yourselves in. My advice to you is: live and uphold a sense of high integrity and moral values. Secondly, one of the most important things you learn at the University is promoting change while aiming for excellence and or, distinction. I would implore you to apply this principle throughout your lives. Thirdly, the University is a place to test ideas and to challenge orthodoxies. As you go out there, continue to pursue the truth and to test ideas. Go out into the world a much better person, ready with new knowledge and skills, willing to share and contribute to the improvement of your respective communities and our country.

Above all, be grateful to God, your families, your guardians, your lecturers, and to all those who have sacrificed to get you to where you are today. I wish you the very best in your future endeavors.

**Thank you, and May God bless you.**