

PROF. JAMA A. MUHAMUD, Ph.D

CHAIRMAN, UNIVERSITY COUNCIL

Salutation

- Chancellor, Murang'a University of Technology,
- Members of the Murang'a University Council
- Honorable National and County Government leaders present,
- Prof. Dickson Nyariki, Ag. Vice-Chancellor,

- Your Excellences, Ambassadors and High Commissioners present,
- Eminent Religious Leaders
- Local Government Leaders
- Members of University Management Board and Senate,
- Members of the Staff,

- Graduands and Students,
- Distinguished Guests, Ladies and gentlemen.

Opening Remarks

On behalf of the University Council, it gives me great pleasure to warmly welcome you all to Murang'a University of Technology on this inaugural Graduation Ceremony. I take this early opportunity to congratulate

all the graduands for qualifying for award of various academic certificates / diplomas and conferment of degrees.

I would like to also recognize parents and guardians for their enormous contribution towards the success we are celebrating today. Indeed I appreciate that a lot of effort has been made by various parties towards nurturing

and sharpening the skills of our graduands so that they are ready for absorption in the job market. Towards this end, I thank all of you who have been part of this process.

Mr. Chancellor sir, ladies and gentlemen,

Allow me to note that this institution started as a middle level college in 1975 which was elevated to the status of

a constituent college of the JKUAT in September, 2011. The first batch of students were admitted in January 2013. On 7th October 2016, 3 years later H. E. Hon. Uhuru Kenyatta the President of the Republic of Kenya and Commander in Chief of the Defense Forces granted our University a Charter. I therefore thank all those institutional builders who have taken part in this long

but fruitful journey. special thanks to our Government in this regard.

Infrastructural Development

The University Council is cognizant of the fact that it is a priority Government policy to increase access to University education which calls for expansion of teaching, learning, accommodation facilities as well as

improvement of safety and environmental standards for our students and staff. In the past three years the Council has overseen the expansion and improvement of tuition spaces, library, ablution areas, water supply, hostels, internal road systems as well as mentoring three Technical and Vocational Institutes with government funding of about 972, 000, 000 million Kenyan Shillings. On behalf of the University Council and management, I

wish to express my gratitude for this level of funding but also appeal for more funding from government, development partners and well-wishers.

In the next phase of infrastructure development, the Council has prioritized construction of a modern science complex, engineering school complex, Business school complex, student's center among others. I am therefore confident that Murang'a University of Technology will

continue to position itself strategically in developing relevant skilled manpower which will have a catalytic effect in social and economic transformation as we endeavor to achieve the Kenya Vision 2030. This being in line with our vision: *The ultimate University in technological innovation, training, and research for socio-economic development.*

University Statutes, Staff Scheme of Service and Policies

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We, as a university Council recognize that human resource is the greatest asset any institution can have. The University recognizes that staff welfare is key in enhancing productivity and motivation. To this end the recently approved statutes, staff scheme of service as

well as over 30 policies and schedules will go a long way in ensuring timeliness, fairness, equity and professionalism in our staff recruitment, development, training, capacity building, upward mobility, academic integrity, research, innovation and student welfare matters. Further, as a Council we have approved the signing of the various recognition agreements with teaching and none-teaching staff unions and are

committed to respecting collective agreements entered between these legally recognized unions and the University.

Focus on Technological Training and Research

Mr. Chancellor Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As a University of Technology, we continue to create and maintain an environment of academic excellence

and to engage in life-changing research and development. We are consequently focused on nurturing innovation so as to nurture relevant technologies for economic development and societal transformation.

I note with satisfaction that curriculum reviews are in top gear so as to align MUT training with the need for a functioning Science, Technology and Innovation (STI)

ecosystem which is a crucial driver in improved national competitiveness as envisioned in the Kenya Vision 2030, Sustainable millennium development goals as well as the post 2015 UN development agenda.

Further, I urge our esteemed researchers to endeavor to undertake innovation-targeted research, we are fully aware that scientific knowledge is more essential for wealth creation of nations in the present times than

either capital or land. As prof. Freeman J. Dyson has said,

“Technology continues to grow to liberate mankind from the constraints of the past”.

Today’s technology-based industries depend on new findings from scientific research.

I further wish to thank Murang'a County Government led by H.E Hon. Mwangi Wa Iria, the Governor and his entire government for supporting the university in sponsoring many of the programs one being this graduation ceremony among other immense support we continue to receive. I too recognize the entire leaders of Murang'a County starting from the Senator, County Speaker, MPs, MCAs and other Government officials.

UNIVERSITY LAND

As MUT we have land registered under the University since 1974 as per the records at the lands office and the Catographic Maps from the Survey of Kenya Offices.

When the University received a directive from the Government to secure the University due to insecurity in the country, the University engaged services of the

District Surveyor in Murang'a County to demarcate and identify the beacons for purposes of constructing the fence. Further, it has come to the University's knowledge that there are encroachments on the University land.

Our humble request to the Government is to assist the University to reposses the land encroached on for purposes of fencing the University land

In conclusion,

I wish to finally applaud the leadership, staff and students of Murang'a University of Technology for standing unique and committed in pursuing our mission and vision. To the graduands, together with your families, friends and relatives find peace and happiness in all your endeavors.

Thank you.

God Bless You