



**MURANG'A UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY**

**SPEECH**

**BY**

**PROF. DICKSON M. NYARIKI**

**VICE CHANCELLOR**

**6<sup>th</sup> GRADUATION CEREMONY**

**MURANG'A UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY**

**TUESDAY, 29<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2022**

- The (Ag.) Chancellor, Prof. Joachim Osur,
- The Principal Secretary, Amb. Simon Nabukwesi, representing the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education,
- The Governor, Murang'a County, His Excellency Dr. Irungu Kang'ata,
- Area Member of the National Assembly, Hon. Ndindi Nyoro,
- County Commissioner, Ngumo Karuku
- Council Members, Muranga University of Technology,
- Vice Chancellors of other universities present,
- Members of the University Management Board
- Members of the Senate,
- University Staff,
- Members of the Student Council,
- Graduands,
- Distinguished Guests,

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**Good Morning,**

I wish to cordially welcome you all to today's congregation. We are assembled here to witness the sixth cohort of Murang'a University of Technology (MUT) graduands being conferred Degrees and awarded Diplomas and Certificates. The ceremony, like last year's, is being streamed live via our University YouTube, Facebook and Instagram accounts. It is also being broadcast live via KTN.

I take this opportunity to congratulate the graduands on their tremendous achievement. I want to assure them that we did the utmost to ensure that they are well-prepared to meet the challenges that may be encountered in the world of work.

As a University, we express our gratitude to the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education, Hon. Ezekiel Machogu, who was

supposed to be here but could not make it; but has sent his representative, the Principal Secretary, Amb. Simon Nabukwesi. Thank you Amb. for finding time to grace our Graduation Ceremony. I also thank the Governor, His Excellency Dr. Irungu Kang'ata; the Area Member of the National Assembly, Hon. Ndindi Nyoro; the Commissioner, Ngumo Karuku; and all other political leaders of this County for their attendance.

Allow me to also thank the Council for its oversight role, and the University staff and students for supporting the process that has brought us to this day's event. My thanks go to the parents and guardians too for the enormous sacrifices they have made and the heavy burden they have carried to ensure that the graduands complete this particular phase of their education.

**Mr. Chancellor Sir,**

Today, a total of 870 graduands will be presented in various disciplines for the conferment of degrees and award of diplomas and certificates. We have had remarkable progress compared to last year's graduation in the postgraduate programmes. This success is the result of sheer hard work and effort on the part of

our graduands as well as the dedication of our lecturers and other members of staff.

We remain alive to the reality that the making of any great University is dependent on its commitment to scholarly excellence. Our University has endeavoured to achieve its vision of being a leading University in Technological Innovation, Research and Training by ensuring that academic programmes are tailored towards producing well-trained graduates with hands-on skills and competencies. This is a tradition that has been established by the University Senate and fully supported by the successive University Councils.

**Mr. Chancellor Sir,**

Since the award of the Charter about six years ago, our University has continued to grow steadily in respect of student enrolment. The total number of students at the University now stands at close to 9,000. This number is expected to grow to more than 10,000 in a year or two. The University has recently been allocated 50 acres of land at Mariira farm in Kigumo Constituency by the County Government of Murang'a. The farm is an extension of the University and is being used by agriculture students for

training. Once we have the requisite facilities established, we would like to move the whole School of Agriculture to operate from there. We will soon be requesting the Commission for University Education, therefore, to approve the campus as part of the University.

**Mr. Chancellor Sir,**

The University Senate has remained vigilant in order to ensure that our programmes meet and or exceed the set minimum standards. We have strictly adhered to the Commission for University Education standards as well as advice given by professional bodies such as the Nursing Council of Kenya, Engineers Board of Kenya, Kenya Medical Laboratory, Technician and Technologist Board, Public Health Officers and Technicians Council of Kenya and Kenya Technologist Registration Board. I am glad to report that our nursing programme which was launched early this year is now fully on course and is one of the programmes that are fully subscribed.

Our University is focused on being a centre of excellence in research, innovation and technology. We intend to develop more research-enriched curricula, international collaborations, industry

engagement and opportunities that would nurture and develop future leaders in the University niche area of technology.

Since being elevated to a full-fledged University just six years ago, we have continued to focus on market-driven and community-relevant academic programmes and research undertakings, with the aim of ensuring that we remain responsive to the needs of society. Our lecturers have also continued to write grant winning proposals both at the local and international levels. Currently, the University is hosting a number of research and development projects which are making a remarkable contribution to the livelihoods of the local community and the rest of the country.

**Mr. Chancellor Sir,**

This University's technological orientation is strategically important to its mission since technology such as information technology (IT) has now an indispensable presence and is a fundamental enabler of world-class educational practices, research, innovation, and the operations of a globally-integrated university community. The University has therefore endeavoured to provide fundamental ICT infrastructure that underpins day-to-

day life across the University. Over the last one year, significant investments have been made to upgrade the campus-wide network infrastructure to meet the ongoing user needs. The University Management prioritized the upgrading of the server infrastructure and the campus Local Area Network (LAN) and Wireless network, including installation of Wi-Fi access points in various strategic locations across the University. Along with the enhanced WIFI access points, the University has progressively increased Internet bandwidth subscription to meet the demands of the users, mainly the students. This has also enabled the University to start the process of implementing an Information Security Management System (ISMS) to protect the confidentiality, integrity and availability of its information and information assets. Once the University obtains the certification for ISMS, integration with the existing Quality Management System based on ISO 9001: 2015 standard shall commence.

The University has taken advantage of a campus-wide network to provide enhanced access to library services. The library subscribes to electronic resources that can be accessed off-campus. The library is fully-automated with an established library management system that accommodates an online catalogue (OPAC). There is also a functional Institutional Digital Repository



that collects and maintains all the intellectual work produced by staff and students. MUT Students, Faculty, and Staff are eligible to access e-books and journals on-campus or off-campus. Remote access to library services and electronic resources, which is available twenty-four hours a day, could potentially save users time and the institution money.

**Mr. Chancellor Sir,**

The University has fully equipped the laboratories in our Science Complex for research and innovation activities. Once we obtain the required registration, the laboratories will be open for use by the public and the industry for soil analysis, water analysis, mineralogy, agricultural chemical analysis, food analysis, and material science, among other areas. In April this year, the University engaged the Beeline Research Organization to provide information to staff on available research grant calls. This has enabled our staff develop proposals and participate in various calls. Currently, more than twenty (20) proposals have been sent out to various organizations for funding considerations.

Further, the University has procured an Infrastructure to host an online Murang'a University of Technology Journal of Innovation,

Technology and Sustainability. I wish to report that a number of papers presented during our international conference on technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development held in 2021 are under review and the successful ones will be published in the journal.

**Mr. Chancellor Sir,**

A university of credible academic and intellectual standing must reach out to other organizations to collaborate with them, in the interest of creating synergy, with the resultant mutual benefits. This approach has been pursued vigorously by this University in order to enhance research, knowledge and resource sharing. During the 2021/2022 academic year, the University enhanced its network with a number of organisations. Chief among them is a collaboration with the Kenya Institute of Planners (KIP) to develop a master plan for the University. This is in honour of the late Peter Kibinda who was a Council member and senior KIP member. The late Kibinda had desired to work on this project pro bono. We are immensely grateful to KIP for this recognition of our late Council member.

A second key collaboration is with the International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT). The collaboration will enhance research on climate-smart and resilient food systems, funding and investments for the transformation of food systems, and conservation of agro-biodiversity in Kenya. The project also aims to build capacity for students and the Faculty.

A third key collaboration is with the Murang'a Water and Sewerage Company (MUWASCO). The University and MUWASCO will collaborate in the production of biogas from the sewer (human waste). The project includes monitoring the water supply system and water quality in Murang'a County. In addition, capacity building for both staff and students will be conducted.

**Mr. Chancellor Sir,**

I wish to conclude by sincerely thanking the University Council once more for guiding and providing strategic direction to the Management. My gratitude also goes to our Ministry of Education for the support that we have continued to receive.

We further appreciate the excellent working relationship and support the University has been receiving from the County

Government of Murang'a, currently under the new Governor, His Excellency Dr. Irungu Kang'ata.

Finally, to our graduands, we celebrate your success which you have achieved through your moil and toil over the period you have spent with us, and with the help of your lecturers and other staff.

Go out there with confidence that the skills you possess in your area of discipline are as good as those acquired in other reputable institutions. As you go out there, we would like to let you know that we all feel greatly honoured and privileged to have been part of your journey.

**Thank you and God bless.**

**[I now wish to invite the political leaders present to take a brief moment to congratulate the graduands, before I invite the Chief Guest to make his remarks, and then finally invite the Chancellor to address the Congregation ]**