



MURANGA UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
SPEECH
BY
PROF. JUSTIN IRINA
CHANCELLOR
8TH GRADUATION CEREMONY
MURANG'A UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
FRIDAY, 23RD AUGUST, 2024

- **The Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education, Julius Ogamba,**
- **The Principal Secretary, State Department for Higher Education and Research, Ministry of Education, Dr. Beatrice Inyangala,**
- **His Excellency the Governor Murang'a County Dr. Irungu Kang'ata,**
- **County Commissioner, Murang'a County, Mr Joshua Nkanatha**
- **All political leaders present,**
- **The Chairman of Murang'a University of Technology Council, Dr. Abel Atiti,**
- **Chairmen of Council from other Universities,**
- **Members of the Murang'a University Council,**
- **Members of University Councils from other Universities,**
- **Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dickson Nyariki,**
- **Vice Chancellors from other Universities,**

- **Members of the University Management Board,**
- **The Deans presenting students for graduation,**
- **University staff,**
- **Students, parents and guardians,**
- **Graduands,**
- **Distinguished guests,**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen.**

Today, we gather to celebrate a remarkable milestone at Murang'a University of Technology, which is the graduation of the Class of 2024. This occasion marks the culmination of years of dedication and hard work by our students. With immense pride and joy, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to each of the graduands for reaching this significant moment in your lives.

I wish to take this early opportunity to express my utmost gratitude to the Government of His Excellency, Dr. William Ruto, for appointing me to serve in the second term as the Chancellor of this great University. I thank you, Your Excellence, for your confidence in me.

I take this moment to congratulate the Council Chairman, Dr. Abel Atiti, and his newly-appointed members on being appointed to serve in this University Council. I welcome them, together with the rest of the members they have joined, and urge them to diligently continue playing their important role of oversight.

My appreciation also goes to the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dickson Nyariki, the Management Board, the Senate, and

all the academic and administrative staff. Your leadership, prudent management of the University's resources, and teamwork have been instrumental in achieving the ambitious infrastructural and academic developments we are witnessing. Needless to say, the focused leadership of the Council and Management has been crucial in aligning the University's efforts with its Vision and Mission and has contributed to the achievement of the milestones that mark the current progress. Towards this endeavour, I am well aware that the University is undertaking key infrastructural projects, such as the construction and equipping of modern lecture theatres and halls, labs, and internal roads, among others. These developments create a

conducive environment necessary for effective training, research and innovation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As I mark my first year since being re-appointed to my second term as the Chancellor of this University, I take great pride in the strides the University has made. Through concerted efforts by all stakeholders, our University has grown into a distinguished centre respected for its research and academic excellence.

As a matter of fact, outstanding institutions must impact positively on the development of the community, the nation and the world in general. This can only be achieved through a commitment to fulfilling their mandates. I,

therefore, note with satisfaction that this University has remained focused on fulfilling its mandate.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish to express my gratitude to the Government of Kenya for its unwavering support since the University's inception in 2016. This support has been instrumental in our growth and success.

The County Government of Murang'a too deserves particular thanks for its invaluable partnership. In addition to the donation of 50 acres of land at Mariira a few years back for the establishment of the School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, I am aware that plans are underway for the County Government to donate more

land, part of the land formerly owned by Del Monte Company, in order to establish the School of Medicine. These collaborations align well with our 2023-2027 Strategic Plan and support the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In today's rapidly evolving educational landscape, universities face the challenge of integrating Artificial Intelligence (AI). AI offers unprecedented opportunities for personalized learning, streamlined administrative processes, and enhanced research capabilities. However, it also presents challenges such as ensuring equitable access, addressing ethical concerns, and preserving the

human element in education. To harness AI's potential while fostering innovation, universities must balance technological advancements with a commitment to human-centered pedagogy, critical thinking, and creative problem-solving.

I must add that research and innovation are crucial in addressing the challenges facing mankind. Innovations improve our lives and provide alternatives that make life easier and better. Research and innovation are core mandates of Murang'a University of Technology. Since my appointment as Chancellor, we have made significant strides in this area. Our internal grants have supported young researchers, and many of our academic staff have

successfully participated in external research grant calls and partnerships.

I am, therefore, delighted to take note of the remarkable efforts of our academic staff for securing the Seeding Labs equipment award, with a value of 60 million Kenya shillings. This grant has equipped our molecular laboratory which will enhance our scientific research and educational programmes, enabling significant advancements in the field of science. I have also been keenly following the progress of the Analytical and Imaging Lab funded by the National Research Fund (NRF) at a cost of close to about 50 million Kenya shillings. The Lab is about to be accredited and will be available to both the local farming community and the scientific fraternity. The learning

experiences to be presented by these laboratories will expose our students to the use of equipment that meet international standards.

To the Graduands,

Your journey through Murang'a University of Technology has been marked by dedication and resilience. You have overcome challenges, seized opportunities, and grown academically. As you step into the next chapter of your lives, remember that your education extends beyond knowledge acquisition. It is about cultivating ethical principles, integrity, and the courage to make a meaningful impact. You are now equipped to shape the future and to contribute positively to the world.

A graduation should not be an end but a new beginning; a chance to apply the lessons learned, to innovate, to lead, and to accomplish. The values and skills you have acquired and developed should serve as a foundation for your future endeavors. As you move forward, I encourage you to carry yourselves with a spirit of curiosity, perseverance, and a belief in your ability to make a difference. The world awaits your talents, insights, and passion. We are confident you will continue to make us proud and have a lasting impact. Mine is to wish you utmost success in all you intend to do in the future.

To the families and friends who have supported our graduands, your sacrifice and compassion have played a pivotal role in their success. We therefore celebrate this

achievement with you and extend our deepest gratitude for your steadfast support.

To the faculty and staff, your dedication to nurture our students' intellect and character has been fundamental to their accomplishments. Thank you for your unwavering commitment to excellence in education.

Congratulations, once more, the Class of 2024. May your future be filled with success, fulfillment, and joy.

Thank you, and may God bless you.

**PROF. JUSTIN IRINA
CHANCELLOR**