



MURANG'A UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

**SPEECH BY
DR. ABEL BARASA ATITI, Ph.D.
CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL**

**8TH GRADUATION CEREMONY
MURANG'A UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY**

FRIDAY 23RD AUGUST, 2024

- **The Chancellor, Murang'a University of Technology, Prof. Justin Irina,**
- **The Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education, Hon. Julius Ogamba,**
- **The Governor, Murang'a County, Hon. Irungu Kang'ata,**
- **Members of Council of Murang'a University of Technology,**
- **Vice Chancellor, Murang'a University of Technology, Prof. Dickson Nyariki,**
- **Vice Chancellors from other universities present,**
- **Members of Senate,**
- **Members of Management,**
- **Members of Staff,**

- **Parents and Guardians,**
- **Graduands,**
- **Students,**
- **Distinguished Guests,**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I welcome you all to the 8th Graduation Ceremony of Murang'a University of Technology, which is my first to participate in since I was appointed Chairman of this University Council.

Let me take this opportunity to thank our new Cabinet Secretary, (Hon.) Julius Ogamba, for finding

time out of his busy schedule to grace our graduation ceremony, as the Chief Guest. On behalf of the University Council, we feel honoured to have you in our midst.

Allow me to congratulate the Class of 2024 for your dedication, hard work and discipline which have resulted in a timely completion of your studies. The hours you have put in your studies and the resources invested for your education have finally paid off. We release you today into the world as well-educated young men and women, prepared and moulded to face any challenges the world will throw

at you. In the words of Mark Twain, *it is now time for you to sail away from the safe harbour, catch the trade winds in your sails, explore, dream and discover.*

The education you have acquired is not solely meant for your self-advancement. It was also intended to equip you with knowledge and skills to enable you improve life in the communities you will live. Always aim to change the society for the better. Strive and commit to be the best you can in your chosen field.

I wish to recognize and appreciate, the parents, guardians and stakeholders for their dedication and efforts that have enabled you to get this far.

I further thank the University Management Board together with the academic and administrative members of staff for their diligence and for effective and efficient management of the affairs of the University, and for guiding you through to the completion of your studies.

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

I would like to thank the Government of Kenya for bestowing on me the honour to serve this esteemed University as its Chairman of Council. I accept the appointment with humility and pledge my commitment to play my role together with my fellow Council members in steering this institution to greater heights of accomplishment. Allow me also to thank the members of the previous University Council led by Prof. Joachim Osur for the solid foundation they have laid for the University and for the many milestones they achieved. Our gratitude

goes to you also Sir for being our able Chancellor for a combined period of six years now. We cherish your guidance and counsel.

As a Council, we fully understand our mandate with regard to mobilizing resources and human capital with a view to realizing the vision of a leading University excelling in Technological Innovation, Research, Training and Outreach. We remain indebted to the Government for availing funds to put up key facilities that have completely changed the face of this institution since its elevation to university status in 2016. Through Government grants and

prudent resource management, we have managed to initiate and also complete a number of facilities during the last financial year, including:

- A hostel, which our Cabinet Secretary has opened today, with a capacity of 350 beds;
- A perimeter wall along the entire University and sports field;
- Commencement of the construction of a tuition block with a 600-seat auditorium;
- Drilling of a borehole and installation of a solar pumping system; and

- Cabro-paving of internal roads and footpaths, to mention but a few.

Plans are also underway to improve the sports field with a pavilion, through a request we have made, and we look forward to receiving financial support from the Ministry for that purpose.

All these developments are in line with the 2023-2024 University Strategic Plan, whose implementation aims at addressing the long-term development of the University. The focus of implementing the Plan is to contribute to the core pillars of the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation

Agenda (BETA) and the Kenya Vision 2030 through research, innovation and technology.

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

I wish to thank the Government, through the Ministry of Education, for providing support towards the growth of the University, and for financing our students through the University Fund, Higher Education Loans Board, CDF and other agencies that support higher education.

As I conclude, I wish all-the-best to the graduands. The University has set you on the path to self-actualization and service to humanity, which is a life-long endeavour. I encourage you to embrace the journey with determination.

Thank you and May God bless you all.

DR. ABEL ATITI

CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL