



MURANG'A UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

SPEECH

BY

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VICE CHANCELLOR

10TH GRADUATION CEREMONY

MURANG'A UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

FRIDAY, 28TH AUGUST, 2026

- The Chancellor, Prof. Justin Irina,
- The Principal Secretary, State Department for Higher Education, Dr Beatrice Muganda Inyangala, representing the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education,
- ~~The Governor, Murang'a County, Dr Irungu Kang'ata,~~
- County Commissioner, Murang'a County, Mr Hassan Bule,
- Chairman of Council, Murang'a University of Technology, Dr. Abel Atiti, and his Members of Council,
- Chairmen of Council of sister Universities present,
- Vice Chancellors of sister Universities present,
- The CEOs of parastatals (SAGAs) or their representatives present,
- Political Leaders 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 begin by warmly welcoming you all to Murang'a University of Technology's 10th Graduation Ceremony. To the Class of 2026, as you prepare to be conferred with your degrees and awarded your diplomas, this is indeed a moment to celebrate. The early mornings in the library, long nights of assignments, examinations, and countless hours devoted to research have brought you to this day. You have earned the right to call yourselves graduates of this University. Congratulations!

I wish to express my gratitude to our Principal Secretary for Higher Education, Dr. Beatrice Inyanagala, representing the Cabinet Secretary for Education, for honouring our invitation to serve as our Chief Guest despite her demanding schedules. I also welcome and thank my fellow Vice-Chancellors and their representatives, CEOs of parastatals and other organisations, political leaders, County officials, and all our distinguished guests for joining us today.

To the University Council, led by the Chairman, Dr. Abel Atiti, thank you for your steadfast stewardship. To the Senate and University Management, I thank you for your continued efforts towards academic excellence.

To the parents, guardians and sponsors, this is as much your day as it is that of the graduands. Your sacrifices and support have made this achievement possible.

Mr Chancellor Sir,

Graduation ceremonies are special moments in the life of a University. They offer an opportunity to reflect on our work, celebrate our achievements and renew our commitment to the young people we serve. The true measure of a university is not the grandeur of its buildings or the length of its history, but the quality and character of the graduates it sends into society.

Every graduation crossing this stage today represents the hope and achievement of a family, a community and a nation that continues to believe in education as a pathway out of poverty, ignorance and disease.

It is therefore befitting of this occasion for the University to account for its journey and achievements to Council, Government, our

development partners, our host community, and, most importantly, to you, our graduating class.

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

When the University was granted its Charter, nearly ten years ago, it began with just over 1,000 students and a handful of academic programmes. Today, our student population is approaching 17,000—a more than ten-fold increase and a clear reflection of the confidence placed in the quality and relevance of our education by Kenyan families and students beyond our borders.

This growth has been driven by deliberate efforts to diversify our academic programmes, respond to labour market needs, and expand access to university education.

This progress is reflected in today's graduation, with over 1,700 graduands receiving degrees across undergraduate and

postgraduate programmes. In addition, over 200 MUT-TVET graduands will be recognized for successfully completing their programmes in accordance with TVET-CDACC requirements.

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

No modern university can hope to remain relevant and competitive without deliberate and sustained investment in Information and Communication Technology. It is for this reason that we have expanded campus-wide internet connectivity through the deployment of a high-speed fibre-optic backbone. The University has also upgraded its Enterprise Resource Planning systems to web-based systems, comprising 25 integrated modules, enabling the digitisation of core administrative functions. These reforms have reduced bureaucratic bottlenecks, improved turnaround times, and enhanced transparency and accountability in the management of student records.

In our teaching and learning spaces, we are progressively equipping lecture theatres and laboratories with modern audio-visual and computing equipment, to support multimedia-rich content and practical, hands-on instruction, particularly in our science, engineering and technology-based programmes.

As we look to the future, this University remains committed to continuous investment in ICT infrastructure, recognising that the digital transformation of higher education is not a one-off project but an ongoing journey that must keep pace with rapidly evolving technology, including artificial intelligence and other frontier technologies already reshaping the global higher education landscape.

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

A university that does not generate new knowledge or translate that knowledge into practical solutions for the benefit of society has failed in one of its most fundamental mandates. It is for this reason that this University has, over the years, placed considerable emphasis on strengthening its research, innovation and commercialisation agenda.

We have witnessed increased research output from our academic staff and postgraduate students, who continue to publish in reputable peer-reviewed journals, make presentations at scholarly conferences and secure competitive research grants nationally and internationally. This has enhanced the University's visibility and academic standing. Recently, the University was ranked 11th in Kenya by Webometrics and 13th by UniRank, consistently outperforming universities of its age and size. This achievement

reflects our commitment to academic excellence, research visibility, innovation and digital transformation.

On innovation, our students and staff have developed practical, homegrown solutions in agricultural technology, renewable energy, information technology and appropriate technologies for rural and peri-urban communities. I am pleased to report that KIPi has recently granted the University one patent and two utility models, a significant milestone in translating research and innovation into protected intellectual property with commercialisation potential.

Notable student innovations include MaternaGuard—an intelligent biomedical wearable device for early detection of postpartum haemorrhage; TINNISYNC—a wearable solution for monitoring and managing somatic tinnitus; SheriaKE AI—an artificial intelligence platform improving access to legal information and services; and Linda Shamba Robotics—which applies intelligent

technologies to precision agriculture. These innovations have earned national recognition through competitions and exhibitions.

The University has also developed the MUT 001 Electric Vehicle, powered primarily by electricity and supplemented by solar energy, which was showcased at the National STRI4SOCIETY Innovation Exhibition at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre (KICC) in Nairobi, demonstrating the University's commitment to research, innovation and sustainable technology.

To strengthen links between researchers and the industry, the University hosted the 3rd Biennial International Conference in November, 2025 under the theme, "Leveraging Technological Advancement and Innovation for Sustainable Development." The conference provided a platform for interdisciplinary collaboration, research dissemination and new partnerships. The University also hosted the CHAKITA (Chama cha Kiswahili cha Taifa) International

Conference, strengthening our regional and international academic networks.

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

The University has continued to strengthen strategic partnerships locally and internationally, creating opportunities for students, faculty and researchers while enhancing its global engagement.

Notable is the partnership with the University of Rijeka under the Erasmus+ Programme, which facilitated mobility for four students and two faculty members from the University, while also hosting two faculty members from Rijeka. These exchanges have supported joint research, academic collaboration, professional development and cross-cultural learning. The partnership with Utah State University in the United States, has similarly promoted knowledge exchange and capacity building in crisis

communication, peacebuilding, public relations, social and digital media, and global engagement.

The University also hosted four international students from Austria, Yemen, Poland and Sweden through IAESTE, enriching learning and cultural exchange. Further, the Inter-University Council for East Africa scholarship programmes continue to attract postgraduate students from across the East African Community, strengthening regional academic collaboration.

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

To support national food security and agricultural transformation, the University is establishing a satellite campus at Mariira, approximately 40 km from the Main Campus, focusing on agriculture, natural resources, training, research and outreach.

To meet the growing demand for professionals in construction, infrastructure and urban development, the University is developing programmes in the built environment, including Bachelor of Architecture, Bachelor of Urban and Regional Planning, Bachelor of Construction Management, and Bachelor of Quantity Surveying. These programmes will strengthen the University's academic portfolio and support the national and regional development.

Further, the University's Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) programme is under consideration by the Council of Legal Education for accreditation. Once accredited, it will expand access to quality legal education and support the University's response to national development priorities and societal needs.

Back to our graduands,

As I draw towards the conclusion of my remarks, permit me a few words directed specifically to you, for whom this occasion is meant.

You leave this University at a time of tremendous opportunity, but also rapid technological change, an evolving labour market and complex development challenges. The knowledge you have acquired in the lecture halls and laboratories provides a strong foundation, but what will distinguish you in the years ahead is your ability to apply that knowledge with wisdom, integrity, creativity and resilience.

I urge you to carry the values of this University with you wherever life takes you. Whether you enter employment, entrepreneurship, postgraduate studies or public service, remember that you carry the name and reputation of this University with you.

To those proceeding to postgraduate studies, including those joining our Master's and Doctorate programmes, I welcome you to the next stage of your academic journey. To those entering employment or entrepreneurship, I wish you every success and encourage you to remain connected to the University through our alumni network, as you continue to contribute to the growing community of MUT graduates making their mark in Kenya and beyond.

In closing, I once again thank our Chief Guest, Council, partners, sponsoring Government ministries and agencies, teaching and administrative staff, and all individuals and institutions that have supported the University's growth and transformation.

To the parents, guardians and sponsors gathered here today, thank you for entrusting us with your children and for the sacrifices you have made to see them reach this important milestone.

God bless.

[Before I call the next speaker, I would like to recognize our esteemed guests who found time to join us today]

[I now call upon the Chairman of