



**MURANG'A UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY**

**SPEECH**

**BY**

**PROF. JUSTIN IRINA**

**CHANCELLOR**

**DURING THE 10<sup>TH</sup> GRADUATION CEREMONY  
OF MURANG'A UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY**

**FRIDAY, 28<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2026**

## PROTOCOL

- The Principle Secretary, State Department for Higher Education, Dr. Beatrice Inyangala
- The Chairman of the Murang'a University of Technology Council, Dr. Abel Atiti;
- Chairpersons of University Councils present;
- Members of the Murang'a University of Technology Council;
- The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dickson Nyariki;
- Vice-Chancellors of other universities present;
- Members of the University Management Board;
- Members of Senate;
- Members of the faculty and staff;
- Student leadership,
- Parents and guardians;
- Graduands;
- Distinguished guests;
- Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is with great honour and profound pleasure that I welcome you to the 10<sup>th</sup> Graduation Ceremony of Murang'a University of Technology. Graduation is one of the most significant moments in the life of a university. It is a combination of achievement, gratitude, hope and renewed responsibility.

Today, we celebrate the successful completion of studies by the Class of 2026, through dedicated efforts, endurance and discipline. I offer my warmest congratulations to the graduands. This achievement is yours, but it is also shared by your families, lecturers, mentors, friends and communities that supported you throughout your academic journey. You have demonstrated resilience, courage and determination. Today, you deservedly enjoy the reward of that commitment.

I take this opportunity to recognize the presence of the Principal Secretary, State Department for Higher Education, Dr. Beatrice Inyangala. We are greatly honoured by her presence and sincerely appreciate her for gracing this important occasion.

To the parents and guardians, we owe you a special debt of gratitude. Your encouragement, sacrifice and steadfast belief in these graduands have made this day possible. We celebrate with you and thank you for entrusting Murang'a University of Technology with the education and development of your sons and daughters.

I further extend my sincere appreciation to the University Council, led by the Chairman, Dr. Abel Atiti, for its visionary leadership, prudent stewardship and commitment to the growth and development of this institution.

I commend the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dickson Nyariki, the University Management Board, Senate, faculty and staff for their dedication to the University's Vision and Mission. Through your collective efforts, Murang'a University of Technology continues to provide an environment in which teaching, research, innovation and service can thrive.

Of note in the last financial year is the near-completion of the new tuition block with about a 600-seat auditorium, a 350-seat lecture theatre and 17 classrooms. I am equally impressed by the near-completion of the swimming pool and the good progress of the construction of the sports complex and pavilions.

I wish to thank the Government for its continued support to the University and for recognizing higher education as a vital driver of national development and transformation.

## **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Higher education in Kenya is undergoing rapid transformation. Technology is reshaping how we teach, learn, conduct research and engage with society. The future of higher education will increasingly depend on strong digital infrastructure, reliable internet connectivity and the capacity of staff and students to use emerging technologies effectively and responsibly. I therefore appeal to the Government and our development partners to continue supporting the University's digital transformation so that our students may remain competitive in a rapidly changing world.

Research and innovation remain central to national progress. I commend the University for strengthening its laboratories and supporting faculty-led research across disciplines. At a time when societies face complex challenges—including climate change, public health concerns and food insecurity—universities must generate evidence-based knowledge and practical solutions that improve lives.

I encourage our academic staff and researchers to pursue competitive grants, strengthen interdisciplinary collaboration and undertake community-responsive research; because the true value of research is realized when knowledge moves beyond publications and contributes to better policies, stronger institutions, productive communities and sustainable livelihoods.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I acknowledge with gratitude the continued support of the County Government of Murang'a. Through the transfer of land at Mariira, the County Government has expanded the University's capacity to develop and implement its agricultural and environmental programmes. This partnership has enabled the University to begin infrastructural development at Mariira and has created an important foundation for the growth of agricultural education, research and innovation.

The next priority is to translate this opportunity into a fully functional teaching, research and innovation campus. I therefore respectfully appeal to the National Government and our development partners to provide the financial resources required to develop appropriate facilities for the agriculture programmes at Mariira. Such investment will expand access to quality education and strengthen the University's contribution to food security, climate resilience and sustainable development.

I am also pleased to note that the School of Engineering and Technology has developed an electric solar-powered vehicle dubbed **MUT 001**. This remarkable innovation demonstrates the University's commitment to sustainable technology through the promotion of clean energy, reduction of carbon emissions and advancement of environmentally responsible e-mobility solutions. This achievement is complemented by a number of other innovations developed across the University, for which our staff and students received awards during the last Academic Year. I am happy to learn that out of these efforts, the University has been granted three patents.

These developments will support the implementation of the University's Strategic Plan 2023–2027 and strengthen its contribution to the Kenya Vision 2030, and the Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA).

**To the Class of 2026,** today marks both an end and a beginning. You are closing an important chapter, but you are also opening a new one. Your graduation is not merely recognition of academic success; it is a call to apply your knowledge, serve society, solve problems and lead with integrity.

As you begin the next stage of your lives, I leave you with three messages:

**First, protect the reputation attached to your degree.** You are ambassadors of Murang'a University of Technology. Let your conduct reflect the values, discipline and quality of this institution. Your certificate may open doors, but your character, competence and consistency will determine how far you go.

**Second, be creators of solutions and agents of positive change.** Do not wait for perfect conditions before you try to make a difference. Use your knowledge to improve workplaces, build enterprises, strengthen communities and respond to the needs around you.

**Third, remain committed to lifelong learning.** The world will continue to change, and some of the knowledge and skills you need tomorrow may not yet exist today. Stay curious, remain adaptable, and seek new knowledge.

As we release you into the world, we do so with confidence in your ability to make a meaningful contribution to your families, communities, and the nation.

Once again, I congratulate every graduand, and wish you success and fulfilment in your future endeavours.

**Thank you.**