



THE TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF KENYA

SPEECH BY CHAIRMAN OF UNIVERSITY COUNCIL, PROF GODFREY NGURU DURING THE 3RD GRADUATION CEREMONY OF THE TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF KENYA HELD ON 18TH DECEMBER, 2015.

**The Chancellor, Dr Manu Chandaria;
The Cabinet Secretary for Education Science and Technology,
Dr Fred Matiang'i;
The Vice-Chancellor, Prof Francis Aduol;
Members of the Council of the Technical University of Kenya;
Chairpersons of councils of other universities
Vice-Chancellor from other universities present;
The Graduands;
Parents, Guardians and sponsors of the graduands;
Distinguished Guests;
Ladies and Gentlemen:**

It gives great pleasure to welcome you all to this Third Graduation ceremony of the Technical University of Kenya. This is even more so since this is my first ceremony since I was appointed chairman of the council only last month.

I find it appropriate therefore to take this opportunity to thank the Ministry of Education for giving me a chance to serve my country in this capacity. I am humbled to know that I am succeeding one very eminent Scholar and leader, the late colleague, Prof. George Eshiwani. It will be a challenge to fit in his shoes but by God's grace I shall.

I wish to congratulate the graduands here assembled for this conspicuous occasion in their lives. We recognize your efforts, your hard work and sacrifice. We celebrate your exemplary achievements today as you receive your degrees, and diplomas from this esteemed institution. You have remained focused and true to your ambitious as illustrated by your arrival at this stage in the academic ladder and this is your day to celebrate. As they say "the tussle is worth the hussle".

The knowledge and skills you have acquired have prepared you to meet the challenges of life outside this institution. Indeed this knowledge should prepare you to serve our country diligently and responsible as good citizens.

From you, Kenya expects no less than superlative results. As the pillars of this achievement, we expect you to be the ambassadors of the university. We expect to market the university, and help rebrand it as the “*University of Choice*” for technical education in Kenya and internationally.

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

The establishment of the Technical University of Kenya affirms the Government’s desire and commitment to the development of technical education at university level in this country. Education, as we all know, is one of the most critical pillars of attainment of Vision 2030 – the blueprint of Kenya’s development.

As a university, we must not relent in making exemplary contribution to this ambitious and attainable programme for national development. The investment in a modern laboratories and workshops at the university should leverage the institution's engineering programmes. This is one of our flagship faculties, as a technical university.

The heavy investment we have made in workshops and laboratories have made it possible for TU-K students and lecturers to blend theory with practice. The blend is essential for the development of skilled, creative and innovative labour. This is a critical foundation for industrialization and national economic growth.

The Council is committed to ideals and national values, such as equity and justice. Men and women are treated equally and with dignity to allow the development for all of their full potential for the growth and development of this university. Our goal is to produce market ready graduates for our country.

As an institution, TU-K has embraced affirmative action for women and persons with special needs. People from marginalized.

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

The TU-K council is complying fully with the provision of the state corporations Act and the new code of conduct for governance “Mwongozo”. We believe that the guidelines will help the university improve its corporate governance and hence improve the quality of services to students and staff.

Mr. Cabinet Secretary Sir, the University faces acute challenges of space following a rapid increase in students' numbers. This institution was initially designed for just about 2500 students. Today we have some 14000 students of which 8000 are Government sponsored degree students while the rest are classified as privately sponsored. We continue to appeal to the Ministry of Education to assist us acquire more land to facilitate the physical expansion of this institution. We also continue to making requests to the Government to raise our levels of capitation. We believe this will ease the challenges and help the institution to fulfil its mandate as a technical university.

To our students who are remaining, I would like to urge you to maintain a high level of discipline. You will agree with me that a peaceful environment is an absolute necessity for any organization to thrive. This university needs such an environment in order to pursue its mandate as an academic institution. I appeal to you to use your time well so that when your time to leave this university comes, you can look back say with confidence that you used your time wisely.

**To our committed parents, guardians and sponsors,
We appreciate your contribution to the growth and development of these students. This is your day to celebrate as well because these graduands would not be what they are without your dedicated and at entire sacrificial support.**

Finally to the graduands, you have come this far because of your dedication. Go out to the world and make a difference. Go out to the world knowing that you are not the first nor are you the last to go through this process. The world into which you are stepping is competitive and tough. As a university, we believe that you have the best skills and tools to take on, head on. With discipline, hard work and fear of God, you can build strong careers as you build this nation. We wish you well.

God bless you and Merry Christmas.