



THE TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF KENYA

**SPEECH BY THE CHANCELLOR DR MANU CHANDARIA,
OBE, EBS, DELIVERED DURING THE 3RD GRADUATION
CEREMONY HELD ON DECEMBER 18, 2015**

SALUTATIONS

The Cabinet Secretary for Education, Dr Fred Matiang'i
Chairman of University Council, Prof Godfrey Nguru
The Vice-Chancellor, Prof Francis Aduol,
Members of the Council, The Technical University of Kenya,
Vice-Chancellors from other universities present
Staff of the Technical University of Kenya,
Distinguished Guests,
The Graduands,

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Today is that time of the year, as a university community, we come together to celebrate the end of an academic journey for thousands of our young men and women.

I congratulate the graduands for the good work they have done. We are here to celebrate their many years of hard work. They have come this far because they were resilient and had to sacrifice other interests and chose to climb the academic ladder. Their climb, this far, has been possible because the Senate and the university community worked equally hard to see them through their studies.

The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology as well as the University Council were also part of this process. They, too, deserve commendation for making it possible for these young people to realize their ambitions. Education is the anchor of their future as they strive to become responsible citizens.

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my honest belief that we are contributing to the realization of Vision 2030 - the blueprint of Kenya's development in the next 15 years. As a key champion of Vision 2030, I believe it is a critical vehicle in social, economic and technological development. The Technical University of Kenya trains personnel to work in the industrial and technological sectors of our economy.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The growth and stability of TU-K will depend on the efforts the staff are making towards excellence. More can be achieved if members of the university community work with a shared dream, ambition, and goal. I have no doubt that the University Council, the Senate, the staff and the students are equal to the challenge.

To the Graduands, you have traveled a long, and perhaps, a rough road. I know

you know life is not fair, but you must learn to live with it. The real world is not a joyride. It won't be for you. It has never been for anyone. But if you have a positive attitude, there will be people willing to give you a helping hand. By their support you will grow, but by the strength of your own character, you will succeed.

Challenges are the true test of character. It is my hope you will be equal to the occasion because The Technical University of Kenya has prepared you for life outside its intellectual comfort.

I am sure most of you have read Charles Darwin's theory of *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection*. Darwin believed that species survived through a process called "natural selection," where species that successfully adapted to meet the changing requirements of their natural habitat thrived, while those that failed to evolve and reproduce died off.

So, to paraphrase Charles Darwin, only the fittest and smartest among you will survive the harsh environment that is the labour market. No job will come on a silver platter. You must be ready to fold your sleeves and dirty your hands to achieve anything in life. Employers hire the best job applicants. The best applicants are those with special skills required for a particular job. For you to be marketable, strive to gain that extra skill that others do not have. You must be ready to volunteer to learn practical work-place skills you did not learn during your undergraduate studies.

Graduands, you should count yourself lucky to have gone through this institution. You are walking out mature, and perhaps wiser. I wish you the best of luck in all your future endeavours.

Merry Christmas and a Prosperous 2016.

Thank You!