

**THE TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF KENYA**  
**3<sup>RD</sup> GRADUATION CEREMONEY: FRIDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2015**  
**SPEECH BY PROF. DR.-ING. FRANCIS W. O. ADUOL, VICE-CHANCELLOR**

The Chancellor (Dr. Manu M. Chandaria)

The Cabinet Secretary for Education (Dr. Fred Matiangi);

The Principal Secretary State Department of University Education (Prof. Collette Suda);

The Council Chairman (Prof. Godfrey M. Nguru);

Members of Council;

Vice-Chancellors of other Universities here present;

Principals of constituent colleges here present;

Graduands;

Staff of the Technical University of Kenya;

Our Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I take this opportunity to welcome our Chancellor and Chief Guest Dr. Manu Chandaria together with all his guests to this third Graduation Ceremony of the Technical University of Kenya. Mr. Chancellor Sir, we feel very honoured that you were able to find time to be with us at this occasion this morning.

Mr. Chancellor Sir!

The Technical University of Kenya has decided to take a path that is not well known in the landscape of university education in the region. We have deliberately chosen to train and graduate a critical mass of technologists in engineering and other fields, to address the challenges of national development. The institution is seized of the fact that development requires the supply of requisite numbers of graduates in science, technology, and vocational disciplines with necessary skills to design and innovate

products and systems that would provide solutions to human needs. For this reason, the institution has adopted as the best training model, a three tier system comprising of technician, technologist, and the general professional.

Our plans for the Technical University of Kenya are well captured in our Charter and the strategic plan. While the strategic plan has been reviewed, the pillars of our vision remain largely unchanged. We have taken it upon ourselves to be a critical part of the Vision 2030 for the country. In this regard, we are committed to produce graduates who will actively participate in the technological transformation of our country. For rapid results, we believe that the institution should train a large population of students who have a solid practical approach to the solutions of our myriad challenges as a developing country. We target to produce graduates who can develop products that will compete effectively in the global market.

The university values and is committed to strategic engagements with its customers, partners and stakeholders. The service indicators in our Service Charter are particularly aligned to our dream of being a top rated university of technology. To our public customers, we have created avenues for you to communicate directly with us and help us improve our service provision.

Your communication with us is very important as through it we will better understand where we have not done well and make improvements. In partnership with you, the public, the University's aspiration of becoming a world class university of technology shall be realised.

Mr. Chancellor Sir!

In any institution there will always be challenges. Our challenges at the Technical University of Kenya are numerous but not insurmountable. Our recruitment drive has been relatively successful in a market that is characterized by acute shortage of qualified and competent staff. We have been able to appoint among our staffing complement some of the most highly qualified academics in the region. However, we continue to face the challenge of inadequate space for teaching and learning as well as administration.

Many of our lecturers are compelled to work from relatively inadequate accommodation. Our classrooms are often overcrowded and in order to cope we are forced to extend lecture hours beyond the normal working hours. Our programmes are relatively popular with applicants, what has resulted in the admission of huge numbers of students. Besides the acute shortage of space, we have only a modicum of accommodation facilities for our students, and our students generally have to put up with considerable accommodation challenges.

In response to this huge challenge, I would like to report that the University Management Board is just finalizing on the preparation of a comprehensive Master Plan for the future development of the institution. In due course, together with the revised edition of the Strategic Plan, we hope to forward this Council for their consideration and approval; we hope that we can have both the Master Plan and the Strategic Plan launched in the first quarter of 2016.

Mr. Chancellor Sir!

The Technical University of Kenya has continued to receive great support from the Government of Kenya. In the current fiscal year the Government has accepted to

finance the completion of the construction of two tuition blocks. We have also been favoured by yet another government project through the African Development Bank that has resulted in the installation of modern equipment in some of our science and engineering laboratories.

As you will recall, the Government had earlier in 2011 assigned the Technical University, while still a university college, the mandate to establish a technical training institute in Mandera. This task was accomplished in time and to the satisfaction of the Government. I am happy to note that the Government once again considered bestowing similar responsibility to develop a technical training institute in Nairobi at Kasarani, whose construction is progressing well.

Mr Chancellor, Sir!

Among the graduands of today are twenty-four who are graduating with the degree of Bachelor of Engineering in Aeronautical Engineering. These twenty-four students have written some history in this country by being the first locally produced graduates in the field of aeronautical engineering in this country. The Technical University of Kenya is in fact the only university in the East African region, so far, with a programme in aeronautical engineering. Our University in fact has a long tradition in the training in the area of aircraft engineering. Already in 1970, our predecessor institution, the Kenya Polytechnic launched Diploma programmes in aircraft maintenance; this programme continues to today.

Our programme in aeronautical engineering has received considerable support and goodwill from a number of organizations in the aviation industry. In this respect I would like to mention that we have established strong links with Kenya Airways, Boeing Corporation, General Electric, the Royal Aeronautical Society of the United Kingdom,

and the University of Cranfield in the UK, among others. We are confident that these students have been adequately prepared to fit into the competitive industry of aviation. We are proud of them and wish them well!

To our Graduands!

Hearty Congratulations!

We worked together in molding you to be the best educated and trained in the respective fields you came here to study. You have acquired the knowledge and skills that should make you serve this nation and humanity in general, well. I trust you will be our good ambassadors in the real world out there. You are at the very beginning of your knowledge accumulation; there is still a lot of room for you to expand your knowledge. I look forward to receiving some of you back in our classrooms for more advanced learning. Those who have gone before you through this very noble ceremony have continued to carry the TU-K flag high; we expect no less from you! I wish you well as you go out into the world to face the real challenges of life! May God Bless You!

Mr Chancellor, Sir! Ladies and Gentlemen, Thank You!