



MURANGA UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

SPEECH

BY

PROF. JUSTIN IRINA

CHANCELLOR

4TH GRADUATION CEREMONY

MURANG'A UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

FRIDAY, 18TH DECEMBER, 2020

- **The Representative of the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education,**
- **The Chairman of Murang'a University of Technology Council, Prof. Joachim Osur,**
- **Members of the University Council,**
- **Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dickson Nyariki,**
- **Members of the University Management Board,**
- **Deans presenting students for graduation,**
- **University staff, students, parents and guardians watching virtually**
- **Graduands present and those watching virtually,**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to welcome you to our 4th graduation ceremony; the first one to be held virtually. Today is a momentous occasion for Murang'a University of Technology as we celebrate the culmination of years of hard work by our graduands. I join the speakers before me in congratulating the graduands who are set to receive their various qualifications.

I also take this opportunity to congratulate the University Council members for their re-appointment into office. This shows the confidence the Ministry of Education has in you, arising from your stewardship and prudent management of the University's resources.

I acknowledge the oversight and leadership role of the University Council Chairman, Prof. Joachim Osur, and his team, who, through prudent allocation and utilization of resources, have steered the University to achieving substantial infrastructural and academic developments.

I also acknowledge the efforts made by the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dickson Nyariki, the Management Board, the Senate, and the academic and administrative staff in ensuring that the Vision and Mission of the University are kept in focus.

Further, I wish to thank the Government of the Republic of Kenya for the tremendous support it has accorded Murang'a University of Technology since its inception in 2016.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As I mark my fourth year as the Chancellor of this University, I take great pride in what it has grown to become. Through concerted efforts by all stakeholders, our University has grown into a distinguished centre respected for its research and academic excellence.

As a matter of fact, outstanding institutions must impact positively on the development of the community, the nation and the world in general. This can be achieved through a commitment to fulfilling their mandates. I therefore note with satisfaction that this

University has remained focused on fulfilling its mandate. Towards this endeavour, I am well aware that the University is undertaking key infrastructural projects which will create a conducive environment necessary for effective training, research and innovation.

In observance of the University motto '*innovation for prosperity*', I am confident that the University is imparting the necessary skills to our young men and women who will play an important role in the development of this nation.

It is worth noting that the graduates will be confronted with tough choices as they enter into the job market. It is true that they will face the challenge of high unemployment situation. However, I believe that with your outstanding achievements in your academics and in acquiring useful skills, you stand a good chance of securing employment in the public or private sector or of being creators of employment yourselves.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

With the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the academic calendar for most, if not all, universities was considerably disrupted. Universities globally had to change their focus and venture into new and innovative teaching and learning modes. I am informed that our University switched to virtual teaching and learning, and that online examinations were conducted successfully. At present, virtual learning is the new normal; I therefore congratulate the University Management, staff and students for embracing these new ways of carrying out the main business of the university with zeal.

The introduction of virtual teaching and learning is a major milestone for the University. Going virtual will, in the long run, result in the creation of networks of people and research collaborations beyond our borders. I am aware that the University will require huge human and financial resources to strengthen its digital component. I, therefore, appeal to the Government to continue supporting the University financially so that it can achieve its academic and developmental goals. I further urge the Government to continue strengthening the young universities, like

ours, because such universities offer an essential platform for spurring socio-economic developments in the regions, which, in total, would lead to the development of the country in general.

I wish to express our gratitude to the National Government, Murang'a County Government and other stakeholders for their support. Indeed, through this support, the face of the University is rapidly changing for the better.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Research is a critical pillar both at the institutional and national development levels. I take note that Murang'a University of Technology, though a young institution, has been able to put up research laboratories and equip them with modern scientific equipment. I therefore take pride in this as it would enable the University to contribute to research that has the potential to respond to the national and international needs. I urge the University Management to continue encouraging and supporting the academic staff to play an increasing role in research. Furthermore, the faculty have to make a deliberate effort to attract

more research grants from diverse sources. This will enhance the ability of the University to respond to emerging societal needs and to enhance her service to humanity.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish to acknowledge the support the County Government of Murang'a continues to extend to the University. This support will enable the University to open up new campuses and to enter into new collaborations pacts. With such strong support from our partners, the University is bound to increase access to education for the public. These collaborative initiatives will enable the University to make progress towards achieving the commitments made in its 2019-2023 Strategic Plan. This in turn will enable the University to contribute towards the achievement of the 'Big 4 Agenda', 'Africa Agenda 2063' and the Global Sustainable Development Goals.

Turning to the Graduands,

I once again congratulate you for realising your individual academic dreams. Today's graduation marks the end of one journey and the beginning of another. New beginnings in life are full of promise and surprises. I urge those of you who wish to pursue further studies either in this University or elsewhere to do so. I know that whatever choice you make, you will continue to play an important role both as a graduate and an alumnus of this University.

I wish to draw your attention to three areas that are critical. Firstly, you are the brand ambassadors of Murang'a University of Technology. I encourage you to represent the University well wherever you will be. You can easily achieve this by upholding good moral values and a high sense of integrity. Secondly, I challenge you to become agents of change, aiming for excellence and distinction. I implore you to practice these principles throughout your lives. Thirdly, the University has given you skills to use to test ideas and to challenge the status quo. As you go out there, continue to test these ideas and to pursue the truth. Go out into the world as refined graduates, equipped with new knowledge

and skills, willing to share and contribute to the improvement of your respective communities.

Above all, be grateful to God, your families, your guardians, your lecturers, and to all those who have sacrificed to get you to where you are today.

I wish you the very best in your future endeavours.

Thank you, and May God bless you.