



MURANG'A UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

SPEECH

BY

**PROF. JOACHIM OSUR
CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL**

4TH GRADUATION CEREMONY

FRIDAY, 18TH DECEMBER, 2020

- The Chancellor, Murang'a University of Technology,
Prof Justin Irina,
- The Representative of the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of
Education,
- Members of Council of Murang'a University of Technology,
- Vice Chancellor, Murang'a University of Technology -
Prof Dickson Nyariki,
- Members of Senate,
- Members of Management,
- Members of Staff,
- Parents and Guardians,
- Graduands,
- Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As the earlier speakers, allow me (also) to congratulate the graduating class of 2020 for a job well done. Today's occasion has been made possible because of the graduands' hard work and commitment to excellence. I want to also recognize our staff and appreciate their dedicated service to the University; their effort has enabled us to produce quality graduands.

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

I wish to take this early opportunity to thank the Government of Kenya, through the Ministry of Education, for re-appointing me and my colleagues to the University Council for a second term of three years. Indeed, this demonstrates the faith and confidence

the Government has in this Council. It is a great honour to serve the University in this capacity.

I acknowledge that the task ahead of us demands our unwavering commitment and total sacrifice. I, however, on behalf of the Council, assure the Government and all other stakeholders that we shall diligently deliver our mandate of making this University achieve its objectives as envisioned in its Strategic Plan.

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

Let me congratulate the University Management for showing great leadership during the COVID-19 crisis. The Management team has steered the University very well during this global health crisis by ensuring that contingency measures are put in place to enable university operations to run fairly smoothly despite the disruptions. The University implemented the Ministry of Health protocols

relevant to learning institutions and initiated e-learning and opened the institution for face-to-face learning when it was deemed appropriate. Apart from distributing masks to all the students, the University produced and distributed over 10,000 masks to the local community through the County Government as part of its corporate social responsibility. This action supported Government efforts in containing the spread of the COVID-19 virus in the community.

The University also took advantage of existing technology to deliver lectures and administer examinations remotely. To this end, I wish to appreciate all University staff for their flexibility and adaptability to technology and change.

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

As a Council, we are proud that Murang'a University of Technology has steadily been increasing its visibility, as demonstrated by the periodic world university rankings. The most recent webometric results have ranked the University at position 10 among 128 universities and colleges in Kenya. I therefore thank our staff and students for this remarkable achievement, and encourage them to even do better in the coming years.

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

There has been concern about public universities' non-remittance of statutory deductions as required by law. My Council is pleased to report that Murang'a University of Technology has continued to honour all its statutory deductions. It has also been able to sustain staff salaries, even under the COVID-19 crisis, without having to resort to salary cuts, as witnessed in other institutions. To this

end, I congratulate the University Management for their prudent management of funds under very strenuous financial conditions. Our staff should therefore remain focused on their work knowing that the funds channelled to this University are well managed, for the good of the University. I further thank my Council Members for their oversight role in ensuring accountability and good governance of the University.

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

Universities world over are facing many challenges, particularly inadequate resources for teaching, research and development. Universities must, therefore, find diverse revenue streams in order to meet the challenges of sustainability. As part of the effort to increase this University's revenue, we have established the Murang'a University of Technology Endowment Fund. The

creation of the Endowment Fund is also in response to a rallying call by His Excellency the President of Kenya, who has urged Universities to establish endowment funds to hasten the pace of their growth. Over the long term, an endowment fund can provide a financial cushion to support the institution through changing times. But most importantly, an endowment fund can help students from disadvantaged backgrounds to attain quality education. To ensure maximum success, I would like to extend my invitation to the Murang'a Council of Eminent Persons, political leaders, leaders in other capacities, our alumni, and all well-wishers to join us in this endeavour.

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

The University Management has initiated development projects that have transformed the face of this University over a very short

period of time. In the past one year, the University embarked on the construction of a Science Complex. Once completed, the Science Complex will give a huge boost to science-based programmes because it will house the much-needed modern science laboratories. The University Management has also revived the construction of two hostels with funding from the Government. The two hostels will provide additional bed spaces, especially for first years and students with special needs, as well as enhance the University's capacity to conform to the Ministry of Health guidelines regarding social distancing and other protocols.

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

One of our major obstacles in this University has been the encroachment on the University land. As a Council, we are satisfied with the progress made by the Management to secure

the University land. With assistance from the Ministry of Lands and Physical Planning, the beacons have been re-established to show the demarcation of University land. In this regard, I appeal to the National Government and the County Government of Murang'a to assist us to quickly reclaim the parcels of land belonging to the University, occupied by individuals. This will enable us to complete the construction of the perimeter wall and permanently secure the University land. It will also help us to enhance the security of our students and staff, as well as safeguard the University's resources and facilities.

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

The University has continued to work closely with the community around us. We acknowledge the critical role the community plays in the lives of our students and staff. For example, a majority of

our students reside off-campus. We therefore appreciate the investments that the community is making by building hostels which are patronised by our students. We are happy to note that the community is also benefiting by having a return on their investment. We are grateful for this symbiotic coexistence.

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

As I conclude, let me once again congratulate the graduands on their academic milestone. I urge all graduands to be good ambassadors of Murang'a University of Technology as they step out of the University. I wish you all the best in the pursuit of your dreams and career aspirations.

THANK YOU.