



MURANG'A UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

**SPEECH
BY**

**PROF. JOACHIM OSUR
CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL**

**5TH GRADUATION CEREMONY
MURANG'A UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY**

WEDNESDAY, 15TH DECEMBER, 2021

- **The Chancellor, Murang'a University of Technology, Prof Justin Irina**
- **The Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education, represented here by the Chief Administrative Secretary, Hassan Noor Hassan**
- **Members of Council of Murang'a University of Technology**
- **Vice Chancellor, Murang'a University of Technology, Prof Dickson Nyariki**
- **Vice Chancellors from other universities**
- **Members of the University Management**
- **Members of Senate**
- **Staff and students**
- **Parents and Guardians**

- **Graduands, Class of 2021**
- **Distinguished Guests**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen**

Good morning,

I am pleased to welcome you, on behalf of the Council, to Murang'a University of Technology's 5th Graduation Ceremony. Let me take this opportunity to thank our Chief Guest, the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education, represented here by the Chief Administrative Secretary, Hassan Noor Hassan, for finding time to grace our graduation ceremony. We feel honored to have you in our midst. I congratulate the 2021 MUT graduands for a job well done.

Further, I wish to recognize and appreciate our staff for the dedication that has seen us produce the fifth cohort of our graduands.

To all our partners and stakeholders, a big thank you for your support.

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

Allow me to appreciate the efforts Management has made to steer the University successfully during the year, in the face of the challenges posed by Covid-19. I am aware that the University has continuously closely followed the protocols recommended by the Ministry of Health, as it continued operating as normally as possible. The University has been implementing both face to face and blended learning in order to ensure that the students

complete their studies as scheduled; and congratulate the Management.

DEVELOPMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

During the last one year, the Management has shown great leadership in investing the limited development funds that were received from the exchequer. The Science Complex, whose construction began in 2018, was completed in October 2021. The facility has boosted the capacity for the delivery of science-based programmes with additional teaching and research laboratories, seminar rooms, and faculty offices. I am also happy to note that one of the two hostels being constructed is almost complete and

should be ready for occupation in January, 2022. The two hostels will provide on-campus accommodation for around 1,000 freshmen (and women).

I have noted with satisfaction that the implementation of the perimeter wall has progressed steadily towards completion. However, the remaining portions of the wall are contentious due to encroachment on the University land, and I urge the County and National Governments to assist in the repossession of the land in order for the University to complete the construction of the wall.

The University has also continued to successfully upgrade the old infrastructure that was inherited from the former Murang'a College of Technology. However, some of these facilities have asbestos roofing sheets which are hazardous. I am happy to report that the University Management has scheduled to remove and replace the

asbestos with galvanized roofing sheets during the Christmas break, thereby giving the buildings a new and improved look, and making the learning and working environment safer. Further to this, in a bid to equip the new science laboratories, the University has procured modern analytical and imaging laboratory equipment a grant from the National Research Fund. This will go a long way in ensuring that the University becomes a regional center of excellence in research and innovation as envisioned in our Vision and Mission.

PARTNERSHIP WITH THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

I wish to applaud the University Management for establishing a cordial working relationship with the Murang'a County Government. This relationship has led to collaborations in various

areas. Key amongst these collaborations is the utilization of the County Hospitals for delivery of the Health Science programmes and the establishment of the proposed Mariira Agricultural Campus on a 50-acre piece of land at Kenyatta Farmers Training Centre. These synergistic relationships are important as they ensure that both parties achieve their mandates. We are grateful to the County Government for the continued support of the University.

CBA/ INDUSTRIAL DISPUTE

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

A good working relationship between the University administration and staff ensures success in achieving the goals and targets that the University sets out to achieve. Towards this end, allow me to sincerely thank the Government for facilitating

the implementation of the Collective Bargaining Agreements (CBA), which our University signed alongside other public universities with the trade unions (UASU, KUSU and KUDHEIHA) for the period 2013-2017. However, it turns out that our University (and as reported, a number of other universities as well) received insufficient funds to fully implement the CBA. Unfortunately too, our University does not have adequate capacity to generate internal resources to plug the gap between what the Government provided and what is needed to successfully implement the CBA. As we are aware, this has caused a bit of disquiet among the staff. We all know that Government resources are limited and there are many competing needs and wants, but it is my hope that the Government will find a way to financially support the University in order to ensure a harmonious industrial relationship prevails. Having said that, I wish to convey my sincere appreciation to the staff for their

patience as the University looks for finances to successfully finalise the CBA payments. I encourage the staff to continue maintaining the existing tranquility to ensure the University runs smoothly.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

Due to the rapidly changing global trends in higher education, the University is in the process of reviewing its strategic plan to align it well to Vision 2030 and the Big 4 Agenda. Particularly because of the COVID-19 disease, which doesn't seem like it will be wiped out soon, as part of our oversight, we have advised the University to review its Academic programmes in order to factor in the aspect of blended teaching. This will ensure smooth running of

these programmes, but continue maintaining effective and quality training.

PERFORMANCE CONTRACTING

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

In line with Government policy, the Council has ensured that the University cascade performance contracting to faculties, heads of departments and individual staff, setting out targets within the time frame. This has strengthened the monitoring of institutional performance in a timely and objective manner, and has led the University to always post good results. In fact, I wish to mention that the University has been continuously ranked as 'Good' in terms of its performance since it was chartered five years ago, and was placed 8th among State Corporations in the last Financial

Year, which for us is a good position, but can even perform better.

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

As I conclude, I once again congratulate you the graduands on your academic accomplishments. As our Alumni, I urge you to be our good ambassadors as you strive to be the best you can in the pursuit of your dreams.

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is now my pleasure to welcome the representative of the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education, Hassan Noor Hassan, to address the congregation.

Thank you.

PROF. JOACHIM OSUR
CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL

