



MURANGA UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

SPEECH

BY

**PROF. JOACHIM OSUR
CHANCELLOR**

**DURING THE 7TH GRADUATION CEREMONY
OF MURANG'A UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
ON FRIDAY, 29TH SEPTEMBER, 2023**



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- **The Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education, Hon. Ezekiel Machogu,**
- **Members of the University Council,**
- **Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dickson Nyariki,**
- **Vice Chancellors from other Universities,**
- **Members of the University Management Board,**
- **University staff,**
- **Students, parents and guardians,**
- **Graduands,**



Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am happy to welcome you to our 7th graduation ceremony, the first one to be held physically after the Covid-19 pandemic.

A graduation is a historic occasion where we celebrate the culmination of several years of hard work by our graduands. I wish to congratulate you for a job well done and wish you all the best as you receive your awards.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank the University Council members for their commitment and stewardship, ensuring prudent management and utilization of the University's resources which has led to the realization of substantial infrastructural and academic developments. I also acknowledge the efforts of the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dickson Nyariki, the Management Board, the Senate, and staff in ensuring that the University remains true to its mandate.

Further, I wish to thank the Government for the tremendous support it has accorded this University since its inception in 2016. As the Ag. Chancellor as well as the Chairman of Council, I take pride in the tremendous growth we have witnessed in our quest to become a leading University in technological innovation, research, training and community engagement.



Ladies and Gentlemen,

In cognisance of its motto '*innovation for prosperity*', the University is imparting the necessary skills to our young men and women to enable them play an important role in the development of this nation. I, therefore, believe that, at Murang'a University of Technology, the graduands have been equipped with outstanding skills and stand a good chance of securing employment or becoming creators of employment themselves.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Universities globally have shifted focus and have ventured into new and innovative teaching and learning modes. In order to remain competitive, the University has to continuously retool on and keep abreast of the latest technologies. I am confident that the adoption of blended learning has resulted in creating new networks of people and research collaborations. I congratulate the University for embracing the new ways of conducting business. I am, however, aware that the University requires additional resources in order to strengthen its digital component. I, therefore, appeal to the Government to continue supporting the University financially to strengthen its digital capacity for the achievement of its academic and developmental goals.

Ladies and Gentlemen,



Research is a critical component of institutional and national development. I take note that the University has equipped its research laboratories with modern scientific equipment. I take pride in this as it would enable the University to contribute to research that has the potential to respond to the national, regional and international needs. I urge the government to consider increasing research funding to universities. Strengthening research will in turn strengthen the ability of universities to respond to emerging societal needs and provide solutions that spur national development.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish to acknowledge the important collaboration and partnership that the university has had with the County Government of Murang'a. The leadership of the County has been supportive and has created an environment for us to work together in realizing economic development for our people. The university is grateful for the donation of 50 acres of land at Mariira by the county government where the University has set up the School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences. We promise that the school will endeavour to offer solutions to farmers in the county and the whole country on the key areas of agriculture and environment. We also realize that these two issues are central to the agenda of the national government and will offer solutions for improving food



security and protecting our environment. As a university we are forever grateful for the support by the county that has made these initiatives possible. We urge the County Government to speed up the process of completing the transfer of the allocated land in order to enable the University start the necessary constructions that will provide the required facilities to support learning and research at the Mariira Campus.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As this marks the last graduation ceremony I am participating in as the Chairman of the University Council (at present taking the role of Acting Chancellor), I wish to most sincerely thank the Government of Kenya for the appointment. I also want to express my profound gratitude to the members of the Council for their unwavering support of my Chairmanship and their valuable contribution to the growth of this institution since my appointment six years ago. I have always considered myself simply the “first among equals.” I have enjoyed working with you all through. Looking back, I am greatly proud of what we have achieved together. Amidst a very difficult economic time, we continue to stand out as an outlier in the sector; continuing to do capital development, paying our statutory deductions; paying our staff on time and maintaining a steady growth and rating among universities worldwide. I am satisfied that we all made our best



contributions during my tenure of office and as I step down at the end of November this year, I do so with pride and with my head high.

I further register my satisfaction towards the Management for embracing the Council's oversight role and enthusiastically and keenly implementing all the policies, programmes and processes approved by the Council. This has enabled the rapid growth witnessed in the University.

Finally, I would like to thank the Government, through the Ministry of Education, for its continued investment in this University. Together, we have worked to create more opportunities for quality education.

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 promises 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.

Thank you





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