

**SPEECH BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL ON THE  
13TH GRADUATION CEREMONY ON FRIDAY 14 DECEMBER 2018 AT  
MMUST GRADUATION GROUNDS**

- The Chief Guest,
- The Chancellor MMUST, Dr. Peter Wanyaga Muthoka,
- The Chancellors of our partner Universities'present
- The Governor of the Great County of Kakamega and your entire team,
- Chairmen and Council Members of our Partner University Councils present,
- The Acting Vice Chancellor-MMUST,
- Vice Chancellors and Deputy Vice Chancellors of our sister Universities present
- The MMUST Deputy Vice Chancellors and Members of Academic staff
- The great and industrious staff members of MMUST
- Graduands and Parents
- Distinguished Guests,
- Ladies and Gentlemen,

## **Good morning!**

It is a great joy and indeed a high honor to welcome you today to our 13<sup>th</sup> graduation ceremony. This momentous occasion marks a significant milestone in our annual calendar, and we celebrate it with deep sense of gratitude to our God almighty by whose grace we are able to see this day.

On behalf of the University Council, the staff and the students of this great University, allow me to express our deep appreciation to all of you gathering here today. To our Chief Guest, thank you very much for honoring us with your presence.

## **Mr. Chancellor Sir, Our Chief Guest, Ladies and Gentlemen**

Today we gladly present to this great country a skilled resource of three thousand five hundred and thirty (3, 530) graduands ready to take their place as the future workforce of our great country. This year's graduation theme: **Driving the Big Four Agenda through Training Research and Innovation** aligns well with our commitment in developing talents for a greater better Kenya, and indeed, a global service to humanity. As a learning and research institution, we acknowledge that we stand at the strongest vantage position in strengthening our country's policies and service delivery for the realization of universal healthcare, manufacturing, affordable housing and food security as enshrined in our BIG FOUR AGENDA. This can be achieved if we all join hands in improving quality of our human capital and innovations. On this front, we would like to extend a warm welcome to our development partners to complement our efforts in this endeavor.

I wish to confirm that the students who are graduating today have gone through appropriate mentorship and they are moving out with 21st century skills to invest productively in Kenya and beyond to make good returns both for self, the community and the Country.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

Today, we celebrate an exemplary man who will always be fondly remembered in the history of Kenya. Bro. Francis Atwoli has been at the forefront in the fight for social justice for the Kenyan worker. Through the Central Organization of Trade Unions in Kenya, Bro Atwoli has championed for a decent and sustainable work environment. As we confer to him the Honorary Degree (Honoris Causa), we are glad to be associated with him. Congratulations on being elected to the Credentials Committee of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC).

**To our Special Graduands of 2018**

You will agree with me that you made a wise decision to join MMUST, the University of Choice. I commend you for surviving the rigor of our academic discipline, satisfying the Senate of this University and having finally earned your qualifications. I imagine that the journey could not have been smooth all the way as there were challenges. In every learning step, you had great learning experiences and opportunities for personal growth. By God's grace and through your relentless efforts, you have made it. You are a testimony to the truth of the saying that hard work pays. May the blessings of our good Lord follow you as you go out there to face the world and may you enjoy the fruits of your labour.

Our world is one that is full of all sorts of challenges but also one that has immense opportunities too. With the right kind of knowledge and skills which you have acquired at MMUST, I have no doubt in my mind that you will have a very successful future.

You are going out at a very promising time. You must be part of the equation and take your rightful place in contributing to our national aspirations in working towards the realization of the BIG Four Agenda. Move out with a different mindset and exploit your innovative skills and knowledge to become great innovators, entrepreneurs, being job creators and not job seekers.

**Dear Graduands,** we need you to move out in confidence. Use acquired skills in carving out your own identity and in planning for your career. If you remain creative, determined, passionate and resolute, it is only a matter of time before you get ahead of many others who graduated before you. The result will be rewarding and your commendable abilities and returns will be handsome. Importantly, you must move out of this institution with healthy optimism which is the greatest predictor of every individual's success in life.

As you graduate today, remember always that **“you were created to succeed, designed to win, equipped to overcome, anointed to prosper and blessed to become a blessing”**. As our beloved President once said, “Being good is like being a good goal keeper. No matter how many goals you save, people will only remember only the goals you missed and were scored. Never be disappointed by what people will say about you, don't mind them. Remember out of dirty soil germinates a good seed and out of hot fire the food is cooked. Even a black colour is the most favourite colour to others. For your own information, some smart people do not touch

charcoal but they eat what has been cooked on charcoal. So some people may dislike you for who you are but for sure will need your help.” Never lose hope and continue doing good to people and seek God’s blessings always.

It is vital to remind you once again that we live in a world that constantly reminds us of the infiniteness of the things around us and even ourselves. No wonder the saying that “nothing lasts forever” except the almighty God. You started your studies and now you have joyfully completed and graduating. So prepare your future with zeal. We are often reminded that by failing to prepare is preparing to fail. Be watchful of opportunities out there and capture them to your advantage and your liking. Watchfulness is an attitude of preparedness and alertness lest you lose focus on your life goals.

As Albert Einstein said and be informed as much; that in social education studies and real life situations, everybody is a genius in his or her own ways. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live all its whole life believing that it is stupid”. Do what you like best and never pretend to be another person other than the capable real self in you. Choose your life pattern based on your individual capacities and your personal convictions and God will bless your endeavors.

### **To our dear parents, guardians and well-wishers**

We sincerely appreciate you for entrusting Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology to educate and nurture your very dear young boys

and girls who have now become great men and women of this Country. More importantly, we thank you for remaining true to your resolve by investing in educating our students. May God richly bless you all.

As Confucius wrote; “If your plan is for one (1) year, plant rice. If your plan is for ten (10) years, plant trees. If your plan is for hundred (100) years, educate children. You will all agree with me that all the parents and guardians of our graduands of today had the plans of educating the children. Once again thank you very much.

### **To our Great Staff of MMUST**

We applaud your relentless pursuit in nurturing these great graduands to become a workforce of our great County-Kenya and the world at large. You remain the most important human capital in our economy with a direct effect on education systems. We thank you for believing in the words of Edward Everett that “Education is a better safeguard of liberty than a standing army.” Keep up the good work you are doing at MMUST.

### **Ladies and gentlemen**

Allow me to express my sincere gratitude to the University Chancellor for his continued support and service to this University. Allow me also to sincerely acknowledge the good work of our University Council, University

Management Board headed by the Vice Chancellor, the Senate, Deans of Schools and Directors, Campus Coordinators, the administrative staff, the academic staff and our students for another successful academic year. We also acknowledge our MMUST staff unions as important stakeholders for their understanding and support of academic programmes this year.

### **Our Chief Guest**

We are marking yet another special moment in the history of MMUST. The Council committed itself sometime back to reposition this University into a competitive dynamic global academic and research leader. I affirm today that we are on course. We are expanding our services beyond Kakamega and to deliver clientele centered service to all our students and development partners.

We have continued to expand our physical and human resources capacities by investing in construction of a state of the art lecturer halls and administrative block and recruiting skilled workers.

We continue to expand our academic schools and the School of Medicine which opened its doors to the first group of students is one such example. We wish to thank most sincerely the Ministry of Education and the Treasury through you for the continued financial and material support to this University. We humbly request for more support to our MMUST School of Medicine which is a big achievement for the greater western region of Kenya and in support of one of the Big Four Agenda of realizing Universal Health care for all citizens.

Chief Guest, in setting up the MMUST School of Medicine, we have received enormous support from the Governor of Kakamega County Hon

Oparanya and his entire County Government. We wish to sincerely thank the Governor and the County Government of Kakamega for the continued support and partnership in the establishment and facilitation of this great venture of a School of Medicine in Western Kenya region. We jointly aim to a future Mega referral hospital for the greater western region of Kenya and neighboring Counties.

We have also continued to increase space, resources and ICT infrastructure in the University in line with regulators recommendations and we plan to do more. In order to enable our learning youth to adopt technological changes, I wish to confirm that Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology is also recognized and registered as a Technical, Vocational education and Training (TIVET) Centre to offer tailored market driven technical courses.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen**

Once again, on behalf of the Council, I want to congratulate our dear Graduands who are the reason we are all gathered here today for this prestigious occasion. You have done us proud and, therefore, we celebrate you for your efforts, dedication and sacrifices. You have contributed enormously to your own personal achievements and the University as well.

Thank you and God bless you all.

I wish you and your families' Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2019 full of God's blessings

**Dr. Jeremy M. Bundi**

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