



MASINDE MULIRO UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

SPEECH

BY

PROF. JOSEPH BOSIRE

AG. VICE CHANCELLOR

MASINDE MULIRO UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

13TH GRADUATION CEREMONY

14TH DECEMBER 2018

GRADUATION SQUARE

- The Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education, Amb. Dr. Amina Mohamed,
- Principal Secretaries present,
- The Governor, Kakamega County, H.E Hon. Wycliffe Oparanya
- Senator, Kakamega County, Hon. Cleophas Malala,
- The Women Representative, Kakamega County, Hon. Elsie Muhanda,
- The area Member of Parliament, Hon. Titus Khamala,
- The Chancellor, Dr. Peter Wanyaga Muthoka,
- Chairperson of Council, Dr. Jeremy Bundi,
- Chancellors of Sister Universities present,
- Chairpersons of Councils of other Universities,
- Vice-Chancellors,
- Principals of University Colleges,
- Members of University Councils,
- Members of Universities Management Boards and Senates,
- University Staff,
- Members of the Students Council,
- Our Graduands, families and friends,
- Students,
- Invited guests,
- Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning to you all

It is my great pleasure to extend a cordial welcome to the entire congregation assembled here today to witness the 13th Graduation Ceremony of Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology (MMUST). I wish to thank the Cabinet Secretary for appointing me as the Acting Vice Chancellor of this great University for the next three months. Thank you for having faith in my ability as a leader. I commit myself to doing my very best while at this University. The community, and, indeed, the entire University is grateful for this appointment without which the 13th Graduation would have been uncertain and this could have affected the graduands who are here today.

We are also gathered here to confer a Honorary Degree (Honoris Causa) to Mr. Francis Atwoli; the Secretary General of the Central Organization of Trade Unions (COTU). We recognize him for promoting, safeguarding and improving the welfare of all workers through social dialogue and effective representation. We congratulate him on his recent election to the Credentials Committee of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC).

World Class Student-Centered University

Mr. Chancellor Sir, Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology is in constant strive to ensure that its services are of a higher quality. The vision and philosophy was and is still to create a “World Class Student-Centered University”. In essence, it is to place the student at the center of everything done at the University. Over the course of years, this has,

indeed, grown to become our identity with MMUST becoming a preferred destination for prospective students. Our record towards achieving this speaks for itself. To mention a few, in sports, MMUST is now the East Africa champions for soccer (women) and scrabble, the rugby team are national champions and proceeding to the national league in 2018/2019, handball (ladies) are champions in the Kenya Universities Sports Association (KUSA) women games and soccer men are national university champions. We are also the most prolific University in drama and music. We have been able to achieve all this through the Talent Scholarship programme which was established to promote and nurture talent in games, sports and creative arts. We are now a leadership University in this area.

Research and Collaboration

Mr. Chancellor Sir, we have continued to excel and strengthen the research, innovation and development agenda in line with the Presidential Big Four Agenda. In our contribution to the Big Four Agenda, we have submitted various funding proposals to the National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI). These proposals are cross cutting and address key areas Kenya is working on to make it a middle income economy. In addition, we have forged international linkages and collaborations with other world class universities in order to bring on board a wide range of experience and solutions to problems facing the society. This year, the University hosted the First Pan African International Research Congress on Knowledge Generation and Dissemination and the World Conference on Transformative Education. These two events brought together like minded national and international scholars which placed

MMUST on the world map as one of the universities in Kenya keen on bringing change to the world. Within the University premises, we have continued to train and sharpen our scholars on grant proposal writing in research, projects and pedagogical skills. In addition, Mr. Chancellor Sir, we have collaborated with various universities in Africa for student and staff exchanges.

Community Engagement

Let me mention, in a special way, the Kakamega County Government, through the leadership of His Excellency the Governor, Hon. Wycliffe Ambetsa Oparanya for their immense contribution towards the growth of this University. Thank you for being a valuable and worthy partner. I thank the County Government, most sincerely, for being at the forefront in the establishment of the School of Medicine. Today, we stand proud of the achievement of being accredited by the Kenya Medical Practitioners and Dentists Board to offer courses in the field of medicine. Already, the University has in its stable ten students, some supported by the County Government, pursuing a course in Medicine. We look forward to having the Kakamega County Referral Hospital, currently under construction, to become a teaching and referral Hospital for the University. We are also grateful to the County Government for creating a conducive, peaceful and enabling environment for all students to study and staff to live in.

Resource Mobilization

I fully understand our mandate with regard to mobilizing resources and

human capital with a view to realizing the vision of being the premier University in Science, Technology and Innovation. However, I also do appreciate the fact that running a University of science and technology like this one provides great challenges due to the high costs of mounting and running science and engineering based programmes. We need more resources and we, therefore, appeal to the Ministry of Education to fully implement the proposal of unit-costing measures by releasing more money to train our scientists and engineers plus other specializations which support governments/country's high level manpower requirements.

Quality

The making of any great University is anchored, in great part, on its commitment to scholarly excellence. Enhancement of quality in academic programmes has remained a central pillar of the University focus. In order to enhance the quality of instruction, the University has ensured that teaching staff receive training in pedagogical skills. Similarly, the University endeavors to subject its programmes to external peer review. This will make MMUST programmes be accorded the status of highly competitive degree courses locally and regionally. The ultimate goal of the University is not only to accredit all its programmes with the Commission for University Education (CUE) but also under the Inter- University Council of East Africa and, indeed, the Association of African Universities quality assurance framework.

Graduation Statistics

Mr. Chancellor Sir, today marks the successful completion of an academic cycle by our thirteenth group of students who were admitted in September, 2014. We have a total of three thousand five hundred and thirty (3, 530) students graduating with various Certificates, Diplomas and Degrees. This is 68% above the 12th Graduation Ceremony statistics. This variation has been necessitated by the fact that, today, we are also graduating students from Kaimosi University and Turkana University College. The number of graduands is a reflection of the University's Strategic Plan in expanding access to university education. I wish to assure you, Sir, that these graduands have been subjected to quality assurance mechanisms to ensure their acceptability by the job market.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, allow me to now address the graduating students. I congratulate you on the certificates, diplomas and degrees that you have been conferred with today. You have heard it said that the future is what we make of it. Much is expected of you; make us proud by contributing positively to the society. I implore you to make a choice of making your society the best it can be. The skills bestowed upon you are your greatest tool towards making the society you live in a better place for you and the next generation to come.

God Bless You. God Bless Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology. God Bless Kenya.

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