

Mount Kenya



University

SPEECH

BY

Prof. Victoria Wells Wulsin, Ph.D

CHANCELLOR

AT

MOUNT KENYA UNIVERSITY 9TH GRADUATION
CEREMONY

ON

FRIDAY, 11TH DECEMBER, 2015

AT

MKU HAPPY VALLEY GROUNDS, THIKA

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Salutation

- The Chief Guest, Hon. Eugene Wamalwa, Cabinet Secretary for Water and Irrigation,
- The Guest Speaker, Prof. David Anthony Maughan Brown, Emeritus Professor, York St. John University, England,
- Dr. Simon Gicharu, The Founder of Mount Kenya University (MKU) and Chairman, Board of Trustees,
- Members of the University Board of Trustees,
- Prof. Grace N. Njoroge, Chairman and Members of the University Council,
- Dr. Mohamed Farah Duale, State Minister, Ministry of Finance, Somaliland,
- Mr. Abdillahi Ibrahim Habane, State Minister, Ministry of Education and Higher Education, Somaliland,

- Mr. Suleiman Jama, Director General, Ministry of Health, Representative of Somaliland,
- Prof. Hussain Hassan Gulaid, Executive Director, National Commission for Higher Education,
- Mr. Abdullahi Ali Jama, Ministry of Education, Puntland,
- Your Excellences, Ambassadors and High Commissioners present,
- Honorable National and County Government leaders present,
- Prof. Stanley W. Waudu, Vice-Chancellor,
- Members of Management Board and Senate,
- Members of the Staff,
- Graduands and Students,
- Distinguished Guests, Ladies and gentlemen.

Ladies and gentlemen,

- Today we celebrate the successful fulfillment of university academic requirements for award of Diploma and certificates, and conferment of degrees to today's graduands.
- I say Congratulations to the graduands.

Ladies and gentlemen, my address it's on the title '**The Indispensable Role of Partnerships in National and Regional Development for Quality Enhancement**'

- As you are all aware, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which come to an end in 2015 emphasized on the need for international partnerships for development.

- We are all aware of the role played today by our development partners at a national and regional level. In order to enhance those partnerships, every university in the region in specific and in Africa in general, must make very deliberate moves to enhance partnerships for development.
- As we leap from MDGs to the Sustained Development Goals (SDGs), I appreciate and also congratulate Mount Kenya University(MKU) management for the outstanding efforts in enhancing partnerships for creating synergy for development of the University.

- I am aware that MKU has so far developed very strong linkages with University of Cincinnati, Xavier University and Northern Kentucky University of USA among other Universities.
- I am also aware of the central role that the Board of Trustees through the BOT Chair, Dr. S. Gicharu, has played within the last few years in enhancing strong partnerships between Mount Kenya University and a number of European Universities including University of Copenhagen, Denmark, Regent's University of London, UK, Bradford University, University of Bonn, Germany, as well as Makerere University Business School at the regional level.

- This is a vital and an indispensable quality addition through partnerships. As the saying goes, if you want to move fast, move alone, but if you want to go far, move in partnership. I am also aware of the strong ties that have been established between Mount Kenya University and the industry stakeholders. These include, among others, the BIDCO, various banks, hospitals, Law firms, and many others.
- Through such partnerships, I have witnessed great achievements at Mount Kenya University such as the successful submission of the African Centres of Excellence (ACE II) proposal to the World Bank in September this year,

the successful hosting of the just concluded iN4iN - International Conference on Advancement of Business Management Practices in Africa - (ICABUMPA) Conference, numerous Community Social Responsibilities such as the Thika Level 5 - Mount Kenya University partnerships and many others.

- I congratulate Mount Kenya University for increased quality of partnerships.
- I also wish to promise the University management that I will do all that is possible in forging more and more vibrant partnerships for MKU.

Thank you. I wish you a Merry Christmas and a prosperous 2016.