



Mount Kenya

University

SPEECH

BY

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VICE-CHANCELLOR

AT

MOUNT KENYA UNIVERSITY 9<sup>TH</sup> GRADUATION  
CEREMONY

ON

FRIDAY, 11<sup>TH</sup> 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,
- Chancellor, Prof. Victoria Wulsin,
- 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,
- 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,
- Members of Management Board and Senate,
- Members of the Staff,
- Graduands and Students,
- Distinguished Guests,
- Ladies and gentlemen.

## **Ladies and gentlemen**

It gives me great pleasure to warmly welcome you all to Mount Kenya University and to the 9<sup>th</sup> Graduation ceremony of the University. Today's graduation ceremony would not have been possible without successful completion of studies. To this end, I congratulate all the graduands for fulfilling academic programmes requirements for certification. To parents, guardians and sponsors, I say, thank you for providing the support that facilitated the successful completion of studies by the graduands.

## **Ladies and gentlemen**

A total of **six thousand, one hundred and forty seven (6,147)** graduands will today be conferred with various degrees and awarded various diplomas and certificates in the following categories:

- + Ph.D Degrees - Five (5)**
- + Masters Degrees - Two hundred and fifty five (255)**
- + Postgraduate Diplomas - Seventy six (76)**
- + Bachelors Degrees - Three Thousand, five hundred and fifteen (3,515)**
- + Diplomas - One Thousand, seven hundred and forty five (1,745)**
- + Certificates - Five hundred and fifty one (551)**

Ladies and gentlemen, Mount Kenya University management is committed to offering relevant and high quality academic programmes. Regulatory bodies including the Commission for University Education (CUE) have documentary evidence on the relevance and quality of the university academic programmes.

Ladies and gentlemen, guided by the university strategic plan and programme market demands, the university senate recently approved the following new academic programmes:

1. Postgraduate Diploma in Counselling Psychology,
2. Master of Science in Biotechnology,
3. Master of Arts in Criminology and Security Studies,  
and
4. Master of Arts in Law Enforcement and Justice Administration.

To facilitate effective implementation of academic programmes, the University Council recently approved the establishment of the School of Public Health, School of Computing and Informatics and School of Hospitality, Travel and Tourism Management. Also, because of the need to create synergy through sharing of academic resources among schools that offer health science programmes, the establishment a College of Health Sciences at Mount Kenya University is a necessity.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

Research and innovation are one of the key pillars for the university strategic areas of excellence. We recognize that excellence in research and innovation requires resources and oversight support systems. To this end, the university has a research and innovation fund and policies and guidelines that govern the processes of research and innovation.

Besides the internal funding of research and innovation, there is external funding for the same. This year, 2015 research funding was outsourced from the following organizations:

- Department for International Development, DfID.
- Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and
- Templeton World Charity Foundation.

The University Management highly appreciates the support we have received from the various funding agencies. On behalf of the university fraternity, I take this opportunity to commend and appreciate the staff members, Dr. Jesse Gitaka and Dr. Francis Muregi and their co-researchers for outsourcing funds from the aforementioned funding agencies.



**Ladies and gentlemen,**

Universities exist in communities that have challenges. Addressing the challenges requires broad participation that brings together both the private and public sectors led by researchers from universities. Mount Kenya University is an active participant in addressing some of the challenges in communities through its Corporate Social Responsibility programmes. To improve service delivery, the university management continues to promote acquiring of relevant skills.

Ladies and gentlemen, in conclusion, I take this opportunity to thank the Chancellor, Chairman and members of the University Board of Trustees, Chairman and the members of University Council, partners, parents and guardians for their unequivocal support.

I also thank the university staff for their diligence and hard work, and the University Management for consistently supporting the development and growth of the university.

I also thank students for observing the rules and regulations governing their conduct and maintaining high level discipline that has ensured smooth running of the university.

Finally, to the graduands, I again congratulate you for completing your studies successfully. I wish you a success in your careers.

Merry Christmas to you all and a Happy New Year.

Thank you.

God bless you.