

Mount Kenya University

SPEECH BY

**PROF. DAVID T. K. SEREM, Ph.D
CHAIRMAN, UNIVERSITY COUNCIL**

AT

**MOUNT KENYA UNIVERSITY
14TH GRADUATION CEREMONY**

ON

FRIDAY, 3RD AUGUST, 2018

AT

HAPPY VALLEY GROUNDS, THIKA

1.0 Salutations:

- Guest Speaker, Prof. Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe, Vice-Chancellor, Makerere University
- Prof. John Stuthers, Chancellor, Mount Kenya University,
- Prof. Simon N. Gicharu, CBS, Founder of Mount Kenya University (MKU) and Chairman, Board of Directors,
- Madam Jane Nyutu, Co-Founder of MKU
- Members of the University Board of Directors,
- Members of the University Council,
- Prof. Stanley W. Waudu, Vice-Chancellor,
- Members of Management Board and Senate,
- Members of the Staff,
- Graduands and Students,
- Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

2.0 Opening Remarks

I am delighted, on behalf of Mount Kenya University Council to welcome you to the 14th Graduation Ceremony of Mount Kenya University. Allow me to thank the Guest Speaker, Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe, Vice-Chancellor, Makerere University and all our distinguished guests for honouring our invitation. I also recognize and appreciate academic and non-academic staff, and other stakeholders who have supported and provided a conducive learning environment that has culminated in the academic achievements we are celebrating today.

Mr. Chancellor, allow me to appreciate the University Board of Directors, the University Council, Management Board, Senate, staff, all our partners, parents, guardians,

sponsors, alumni and students for their continued support that continues to enhance the University's competitiveness in a highly competitive education sector. I also appreciate the University Council's unwavering support to the University operations as a catalyst that will position the University as a global centre of excellence.

Mr. Chancellor, I laud the graduands for their commitment to achieving their academic aspirations. I take pride in joining previous speakers in congratulating the August, 2018 MKU Graduands. Congratulations!

Staff Welfare

Mr. Chancellor, the Council recognizes that staff welfare, a key pillar in the University 2015-2019 Strategic Plan, is

critical to sustaining a motivated workforce that can sustain effective and efficient University operations. Therefore, the University Council is committed to continuous improvement of staff welfare by ensuring that facilities, services and benefits are steadily enhanced. The University Council is also committed to ensuring that the University staff enjoy statutory staff welfare schemes such as work injury benefits and provident fund.

Customer Service Delivery

Ladies and Gentlemen, MKU is committed to continuously offering timely service to ensure an awesome customer experience. Attending to customer needs is a priority at Mount Kenya University. We recognize that effective customer care service delivery is a

pre-requisite for developing and sustaining competitiveness and therefore place our customer on pedestal. To this end, the University Customer Care Training Manual which is in place is designed to enhance capacity of staff in service delivery to our esteemed customers.

University New and Amended Policies and Guidelines

New Policies and Guidelines

Mr. Chancellor, taking cognizance of the importance of policies, regulations and guidelines in guiding communication, the process of decision making and institutional operations, the University Council has approved the following:

i) Undergraduate Research Project Guidelines

The undergraduate research projects guidelines sets out the criteria to be used in determining undergraduate students who qualify to undertake projects as part of their course, the procedure to be used in selecting a topic, the process of administering and examining the project.

ii) Student Academic Progression Guidelines

The academic progression guidelines will provide a framework that shall guide the University approach to supporting students in maintaining satisfactory academic progression from one level of learning to a higher level.

iii) Information Communication Technology (ICT) Disaster Recovery Policy

The Information Communication Technology (ICT) Disaster Recovery Policy shall ensure that ICT services when interrupted are quickly reestablished. It will guide the process of recovery from any disaster affecting ICT infrastructure and services at the University.

iv) Framework for Development and Evaluation of Performance Contracts and Work Plans

The Framework for Development and Evaluation of Performance Contracts shall be derived from the University Strategic Objectives Implementation Matrix and the Job Descriptions and shall guide the performance evaluation process in the University.

University Amended Policies and Guidelines

Mr. Chancellor, due to emerging trends, the Management of higher education, the University Council approved Senate and Management Board proposed amendments to the following:

i) Guidelines on Moderation of Examination Draft Papers and Results

The amended guidelines on moderation of examination results and drafts are designed to ensure fairness, accuracy and consistency in setting, marking and the provision of results which are an accurate reflection of performance.

ii) University Examination Invigilation Guidelines

Mr. Chancellor, the integrity of the University Examination processes depends, in part, on the process of invigilation. The amended guidelines shall provide a framework on ensuring examination security and integrity.

iii) Credit Transfer Policy

The amended Credit Transfer Policy is in compliance with the requirements articulated in the *Universities Standards and Guidelines, 2014 (PROG/STD/10)*.

iv) Academic Advisory Services Policy

The objectives of the amended Academic Advisory Services Policy are:

- a) To provide information on career planning and choices.
- b) To promote student academic performance and progression.
- c) To promote a highly interactive and personalized learning environment.
- d) To promote mentorship.
- e) To foster professional relationships.
- f) To respond to student academic concerns.

v) Finance Service Charter

The amended Finance Service Charter has been

designed to reflect the automated service delivery in the University.

Conclusion

Mr. Chancellor, I wish to make closing remarks to Graduands.

Graduands, once again, I congratulate you on your academic accomplishments we have witnessed today. My humble prayer is that, may all those that interact with you hereafter, affirm to the fact that, you were properly trained here at Mount Kenya University. As our Alumni, I urge you to be our good ambassadors as you strive to be the best you can as you pursue your dreams and career aspirations. Demonstrate hard work and integrity always as they are the key measures of success.

I WISH YOU ALL GOD'S BLESSINGS

THANK YOU