

THE SPEECH OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR DURING THE 2ND GRADUATION CEREMONY OF SOUTH EASTERN KENYA UNIVERSITY HELD AT THE UNIVERSITY'S GRADUATION SQUARE, ON FRIDAY 10TH APRIL 2015

The Chancellor of South Eastern Kenya University (Dr. Titus Naikuni)

The representative of the Cabinet Secretary - Ministry of Education, Science and Technology – Fenny Mwakisha, who is also the Director of Higher Education

The Chancellors of other Universities present

The Chairman of the University Council (Prof. Louis Mumera)

The Vice Chancellors of other Universities present

His Excellency the Governor of Kitui County (Dr. Julius Malombe)

The Senator, Kitui County, Hon. David Musila

The Area Member of Parliament, Hon. Nyamai

Other Members of Parliament present

The Secretary/CEO - Commission for University Education

Members of the University Council

Other Distinguished guests

Good Morning.

Mr Chancellor Sir,

It is a great privilege and honour to welcome you and all our invited guests to South Eastern Kenya University on the occasion of the second graduation ceremony. This is indeed a great occasion to the University and to the graduating students.

I wish to congratulate the Chancellor, Dr. Titus Naikuni for having been conferred with an honorary degree of South Eastern Kenya University.

I also wish to take this opportunity to congratulate the graduating class for having successfully completed their studies at this University.

Your discipline, hard work and commitment to your studies have made it possible for you to witness this momentous occasion-an occasion that you will remember in your life.

I also take this opportunity to congratulate your parents, guardians and sponsors for their dedication and commitment that has made it possible for you to complete your studies in this university.

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

The University community is honoured to present 415 graduands for the award and conferment of various diplomas and degrees of South Eastern Kenya University. 31 will be conferred with masters degree, 380 will be conferred with bachelors degree and 3 will be awarded diploma.

Mr Chancellor Sir,

As you are aware, the South Eastern Kenya University was awarded the ISO 9001:2008 Certificate on 4th December 2014 by the Kenya Bureau of Standards after putting in place mechanisms and procedures for enhancing the delivery of quality service to our clients. The University has also in the last one year been admitted as a full member of the African Network of Scientific and Technological Institutions (ANSTI) under UNESCO, the Inter-Universities Council for East Africa, Association of Africa Universities and the Association of Commonwealth Universities.

Our University through the Ministry of Education Science and Technology secured support for supply and commissioning of engineering equipment worth over Kes.350 million through financial support of the African Development Bank. The contracted suppliers have indicated to the University that the equipment would be delivered this month. The University is in the final stages of recruiting the necessary staff to teach in the School of Engineering and Technology and thereafter will engage the relevant regulatory Board for approval.

The University in response to the market demands is also in the process of establishing a School of Health Sciences with initial programmes being Public Health and Nursing. To this end, the University has started recruiting staff to

teach in the School. We are now awaiting the signing of an MOU with the County Government of Kitui to use facilities at Kitui level 5 hospital. I therefore urge the Kitui County Government to expedite the approval of the MOU, so that we can secure the necessary approval from the regulatory bodies.

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

The University has experienced a tremendous growth in student's population in the last five (5) years. The student population has grown from about 100 in 2010 to the current population of about 6,000 students. We expect that the student's population will increase to 7,000 in September this year and to 10,000 by the year 2017.

The University has continued to attract quality members of staff. Currently, the University has about 429 members of staff. We have 146 academic members of staff with 63 having PhDs. About 30 will also be completing their PhD studies within the end of this year or early next year.

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

The University has continued to play an important role in research and provision of service to the local community. Our members of academic staff have been able to obtain funding from various donor organisations to undertake research in various fields. I am also glad to note that the outputs of these research studies have been published in peer-reviewed international journals. I wish to take this opportunity to thank our academic members of staff for their continued dedication to the university and in particular, their commitment to providing quality education to our students.

To our graduating students, I would like to advice you that in today's world, lifelong learning will be mandatory to all of you. Learning does not come to an end with a graduation. If you want to continue being relevant and competent in fields that you have been trained on, you must attach special importance to continuous learning and application of knowledge. You must strive to be innovative in whatever you have been trained on. You must continue to seek for and apply new knowledge

I would also like to urge our graduands to appreciate the support that they have received from their parents, guardians, sponsors and friends. Without them, you

would most probably not have made it. Therefore, do not forget to remember them.

As you go out to join the world of work, be good citizens, uphold high moral standards and saturate the environment in which you will live and work with the spirit of service, spirit of enterprise, and integrity. In your professional life, settle for nothing less than excellence. Seek for truth in everything you do.

The values you learnt in South Eastern Kenya University – of hard work, of serving others with honesty and diligence, with humility and integrity, should enable you to notice a world beyond yourself. Put these values into practice by serving the less fortunate members of society.

Once again, I thank you all for finding time to come and celebrate with us in this auspicious occasion.

Thank you and God Bless

It is now my pleasure to invite the Chairman of the University Council, Prof. Louis Mumera to address the congregation.

Prof. Geoffrey Muluvi, Ph.D
VICE CHANCELLOR
SOUTH EASTERN KENYA UNIVERSITY