

**THE SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF
SOUTH EASTERN KENYA UNIVERSITY, PROF. LOUIS MUMERA,
DURING THE 2ND GRADUATION CEREMONY HELD ON 10TH APRIL
2015 AT SEKU MAIN CAMPUS, KITUI**

The Cabinet Secretary-Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (Prof. Jacob Kaimenyi)

Principal Secretary-State Department of Science and Technology Prof. Collete Suda

The Chancellor of South Eastern Kenya University- Dr. Titus Naikuni

The Chancellors from other Universities present

The Governor of Kitui County (Dr. Julius Malombe)

Members of Parliament present

The Vice Chancellor of South Eastern Kenya University (Prof. G. Muluvi)

The Vice Chancellors of other Universities present

The Chairpersons of Councils of other Universities

Members of the University Council

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Morning.

On behalf of the University Council, allow me to welcome you all to the South Eastern Kenya University and in particular to this 2nd Graduation Ceremony. For the graduands, accept my sincere congratulations on this day when, after years of hard work, you are finally graduating.

Your parents, guardians, relatives, friends and indeed all of us join you in sharing your joy on this momentous occasion. They also join you to bear witness to the fruit of your hard work and sweat of your brow, justifying many sacrifices that you have

made over the years. You are an important showcase of our own success as a university.

Congratulations to all the graduands.

I also wish to congratulate the Chancellor Dr. Titus Naikuni for having been conferred an honorary degree of South Eastern Kenya University. This is a befitting recognition after having served this country with distinction in various capacities, for many years. This is also historical since you are the first person to have been conferred such a degree.

Congratulations Mr. Chancellor.

Mr. Chancellor Sir

The South Eastern Kenya University has experienced rapid development in the recent years. However, despite rapid expansion of facilities, the University has continued to face a number of challenges in the delivery of its services. Among the most pressing challenge has been the condition of the murram road linking the university with the main Kitui-Machakos road at Kwa-Vonza. The poor condition of the road has been a liability, not only to the university, but also to our staff who uses their personal vehicles to come to the University. I would like to once again appeal to the national government to prioritise the upgrading of the road to bitumen standard. This will change the image of the university, increase accessibility to the university and also open opportunities to investors.

Mr. Chancellor Sir

The University Council also wishes to recognise and appreciate the support we have continued to receive from the County Government of Kitui. The County Government of Kitui has helped to improve the road to KwaVonza and have also put street lights up to the main gate. We urge the University Management and the Kitui County Government to continue to work together and explore common areas of mutual interest for the benefit of the people of this region and the country as a whole. We are also grateful to the County Government of Makueni for the confirmed support and collaboration as we develop our two campuses located at MtitoAndei and Wote Towns. There are also plans to eventually develop our 5,000 acres at Emali.

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

Our second major challenge has been water. The university has continued to experience the challenge of availing adequate amount of water for various purposes. We hope that once the expanded water supply line is completed, the problem of water shortage in the university will be history. We urge the County Government to work closely with Tanathi Water Services Board and the National Government to assist us by ensuring that the new water line is completed and commissioned to pave way for faster growth of the university.

I wish to acknowledge, on behalf of the university management, the support that we have continued to receive from the National Government through the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology. We hope that the Government will continue to support the university in its quest of becoming a world class institution of higher learning. The limited financial base of the University has often constrained the planned rapid expansion of physical infrastructure in the university. In this respect, I wish to appeal to the National Government for more support so that we can fully implement the University's Strategic Plan (2010-2020).

Ladies and Gentlemen

I would like to note that the Council of the South Eastern Kenya University is committed to providing strategic guidance, oversight, and policy direction to attract and retain the best staff in this young university. The council is also dedicated to refining structures and systems in the university – systems that are vital in enabling the university realize its strategic objectives as spelled out in the university strategic plan and also maintain high standards of delivery of services to clients and students.

In order to recognize and reward merit in academic excellence, the University Council has authorized the University Management to engage for staff development the best student in each of the 8 schools and one (1) institute with effect from 1st July, 2015.

Finally, on behalf of the University Council, I would once again like to congratulate the graduands for having completed their studies in this University successfully. I wish you all the best in your future endeavours.

Thank you.

It is now my pleasure to invite the representative of the Cabinet Secretary MoEST to address the congregation.

PROF. LOUIS MUMERA, Ph.D
CHAIRMAN
SOUTH EASTERN KENYA UNIVERSITY COUNCIL