

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

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

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

The Principal Secretary- State Department of Education

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

The Secretary for the Commission for University Education

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

The Vice Chancellor-South Eastern Kenya University (Prof. Geoffrey Muluvi)

Members of the University Council

Members of Parliament present

Distinguished Guests, fellow graduands, students

Ladies and gentlemen

Good morning

I would like to welcome all of you to this solemn and joyous occasion.

It has been a long journey of four years, but here we are, ready to graduate. We worked hard to get to this point, but we did not do it by ourselves. We greatly are greatly indebted to the following:

Our lecturers thank you for unselfishly sharing your time and knowledge with us. Yes, we know it was your job to do it, but what you did for us went beyond the call of duty. You took the time to explain assignment. You put in the effort to make

lessons interesting so we would not tune out. You demanded excellence from us whether or not we wanted to give it. You set the bar high and challenged us to live up to it.

Our parents, thank you for supporting us in ways not possible to count. You encouraged us; made sure we were fed and clothed. You paid our fees and listened to our complaints. You tried to give us enough space to learn how to work things out for ourselves. These are just a few of the thousands of ways you have supported us in our journey.

To our sport and club coaches, thank you for making school more than just class work. Through sports, we learnt resilience and determination. We learnt the importance of discipline and good sportsmanship. Through other extra-curriculum activities, we learnt how to work closely as a team to achieve a common goal, and we had a lot of fun doing it.

To our Chancellor, University Council and Management, Vice Chancellor, the whole Senate and all management officials, thank you for ensuring smooth running of the activities of the university.

To the graduating class, we stand here today on the precipice of the future. It is not a distant reality anymore. It begins here. It begins today.

We are leaving SEKU having completed a level of education that will serve as the platform to launch ourselves into our future. Some of us will enroll for higher learning, others will go straight into the world of work, but each of us will travel our own path.

No matter where we go or what we do, there are challenges ahead of us. What I am asking from all of us is to face these challenges straight on with our heads held high and our hearts wide open. It is not enough to simply try to get by in life. That does not move the world forward. We must strive to excel in everything we do; strive for excellence in every task, large or small.

Although it may not be easy to see, every accomplishment you achieve is added to the world's accomplishments. Your individual successes benefit society as a whole because when you succeed, you lighten the burden of your fellow man. When you succeed, you are in a position to give rather than to receive.

Well, we may not have the power to inspire the entire world to strive for success, but we have the power to achieve it for ourselves. My challenge to each of one you is to do all that we can do to reach our full potential. If each of the graduands in this graduating class is able to do that, just imagine the net effect that it would have. The future is truly in our hands, so let us make the most of it.

As you can see, behind each graduate there must have been at least a dozen people providing support in at least a dozen ways. The best way that the graduating class can show our gratitude is to make the most of the opportunity we have been given, and go forward into the world with the intention of making it a better place for the generations that follow us. We will pay that debt of gratitude forward.

My thanks and best wishes

GOD BLESS YOU. GOD BLESS SEKU