



SOUTH EASTERN KENYA UNIVERSITY

SPEECH BY DR. TITUS NAIKUNI, D.SC (Hon), DHL (Hon), CHANCELLOR, SOUTH EASTERN KENYA UNIVERSITY COUNCIL, ON THE OCCASION OF THE UNIVERSITY'S 3RD GRADUATION CEREMONY HELD ON THURSDAY, 31ST MARCH 2016 AT THE GRADUATION SQUARE

My Colleagues, the Chancellors of other Universities present,
Prof. Louis Mumera, Chairman, South Eastern Kenya University
Council Chairmen of other Universities,
Members of the South Eastern Kenya University Council,
Vice-Chancellors of other Universities,
Members of the South Eastern Kenya University Senate
Parents
Staff and students
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and gentlemen.

Good morning.

I take this opportunity to convey a special message of congratulations to all our graduands on the successful completion of their studies. As you graduate today and embark on the next phase of the life-long journey in search of knowledge, I wish to implore you to dedicate your lives to serving. Your graduation today puts you in the right position to contribute to the country's growth and development.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I feel very proud to be associated with this young promising University as it embarks on this momentous journey towards becoming a world class university, reputed for its pursuit of excellence through market driven academic programmes and community-focused research undertakings.

I am gratified that already, the University is playing an active role in the production of skilled human capital, thus making significant contribution towards the realisation of the Kenya Vision 2030.

Our resolve to satisfy the growing demand for quality higher education remains unwavering. The Council and the Management of the University will continue to engage the local and national leadership in finding

ways of instituting measures aimed at making this University a world-class specialized institution for studies and research in matters of technology dryland agriculture, tropical diseases, water resources management, mining and other apparently neglected disciplines which are however key in transforming lives at grassroots levels.

I note with satisfaction the high level of love the community through its leadership in all spheres have shown towards the university. Out of this magnanimity, the community has donated sizeable parcels of land to the University, making it easy for us to execute our expansion plan. I have therefore advised the Council and Management to continue to explore ways of forging stronger links with the local community.

The presence of the University within the community is a major gain for the local people. Besides having education within their reach, the community is realizing direct benefit from the fast growing population of staff and students who need food, accommodation and other social amenities. It is therefore imperative that the community embrace and nurture the University as an asset for spurring socio-economic growth.

The milestones that the University has realised within the short time of its existence would not have come without the unwavering support from the Government through the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology. Through this support the University has initiated various infrastructural projects, which are currently at different stages of completion. The University has received equally good support from the county Government of Kitui. We therefore thank the county government through the governor Dr. Julius Malombe for this mutually beneficial partnership.

The long term development of this University will require heavy involvement of the private sector to supplement the support we are receiving from both levels of government. I therefore urge the Council and Management to scale up the public private partnership project in order to fast track the growth of the University.

Finally, I am happy to note that the University has made tremendous progress in mainstreaming ethics and good governance in its operations. This is what this county requires at the moment. Graduates who are well-grounded in ethics will play a key role in helping change the culture of this county to that of trustworthy and good leadership.

Thank you and may God bless you.