



SOUTH EASTERN KENYA UNIVERSITY

SPEECH BY PROF. GEOFFREY MULUVI, PHD, VICE-CHANCELLOR, SOUTH EASTERN KENYA UNIVERSITY, ON THE OCCASION OF THE UNIVERSITY'S 3RD GRADUATION CEREMONY HELD ON THURSDAY, 31ST MARCH 2016 AT THE GRADUATION SQUARE

Our Chancellor, Dr. Titus Naikuni,

Dr. Fred Matiang'i, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education Science and Technology

Prof. Colleta Suda, Principal Secretary, State Department of Science and Technology,

Hon. Dr. Julius Malombe, the Governor, Kitui County,

The Senator Kitui County, Hon. David Musila

Area Member of Parliament,

Other legislators present,

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.

Our Chancellor, Sir,

I take this opportunity to welcome you and all our distinguished guests to celebrate with us on this occasion that marks yet another milestone in the development of South Eastern Kenya University. Today's graduation is a culmination of a long journey characterised by devotion and sacrifices on the part of the students, staff, parents, guardians, family members, sponsors among others.

Today, SEKU is proud to release into the job market and the world of academia and research a total of 823 graduates in various disciplines and levels. I wish to assure all our stakeholders and the industry in particular that these graduands have undergone thorough training and skills development, as it is our aim to produce all-round graduates with knowledge and proficiency to fit in today's demanding and fast changing job market.

Out of the 823 graduands, one (1) will be receiving a doctorate degree in Agricultural Economics. This is historical as it will be the first PhD of South Eastern Kenya University.

Forty eight (48) will receive various masters degrees, 746 will be conferred with various bachelors degrees while 48 will be awarded Diplomas.

About 43% (355) of today's graduands are in the area of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) while the rest (57%, 468) are in the area of Business, Humanities and social Sciences.

Mr Chancellor, the University is trying her level best to achieve gender parity in academic programmes. About 40% of today's graduands are female while 60% are males. We have also managed to achieve high completion rate of 95%.

Out of the 807 undergraduate students that were admitted in 2012, 765 are graduating today.

A year ago, SEKU attained the ISO 9001:2008, a quality management system, which ensures conformity to the highest globally recognised service standards. We shall remain steadfast in our adherence to quality in all areas, particularly in the design and delivery of academic programmes.

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

I am happy to report that the University has recorded an impressive growth in the academic areas both in size and scope. The number of students has continued to rise with each intake as we seek to expand learning opportunities for deserving students. This year, SEKU will admit about 2,500 students bringing the total population to about 10,000 students. This number has increased commensurate with the academic programme that we have developed to meet customer needs.

The University is currently developing new programmes, while at the same time reviewing the existing ones in order to respond effectively to the market needs.

Mr Chancellor, the University has already received equipment through our Ministry from ADB to set up the School of Engineering.

We are currently recruiting the requisite staff and very soon we shall be launching our new school of Engineering. Also plans to launch our law degree Programme are at an advanced stage.

Mr. Chancellor, Sir, distinguished guest, ladies and gentlemen,

Research, innovation and technology transfer remain our key functions in our quest to identify and address the numerous challenges in our society.

As a science and technology-focused institution, we are currently undertaking numerous innovative research aimed at providing practical and sustainable solutions to problems in our immediate society. For this we have partnered with a number of like-minded institutions including local and international universities and research institutions in the areas of agriculture, water, geology and mining; technology, engineering, health, and meteorology, to mention only a few.

Mr Chancellor, the University has been able to attract qualified staff despite its location in an hardship area. We currently have about 150 academic members of staff, half (75) have PhD degree and the rest masters degrees.

Ladies and gentlemen,

This rapid development that has seen SEKU grow in all sphere from student and staff number to infrastructure has been accomplished through the concerted effort of all our stakeholders, who have made significant contributions in various forms.

I wish, therefore, to thank all these stakeholders led by the Chancellor, the University Council, the Senate, the Management Board, the staff and students, all of whom have come together to nurture SEKU into what it is today.

I single out for special mention, the National and the County Governments which in different ways have given us tremendous support. Special thanks go to our Ministry of Education Science and Technology, led by the Minister, Dr. Matiang'i.

Finally, I take this opportunity to wish the graduands well in their future undertakings.

I am confident that they are leaving here fully prepared and ready to make their contributions towards the development of our beloved county. Dear graduands, as you move out today, we shall look up to you to uphold the good name of South Eastern Kenya University as a world-class University committed to transforming lives.

Our chancellor sir, Distinguished Guest, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is now my pleasure and honour to invite the Chairman of Council, Prof. Louis Mumera to address the Congregation.

Prof. Geoffrey Muluvi, PhD
Vice-Chancellor