



SOUTH EASTERN KENYA UNIVERSITY

SPEECH BY PROF. GEOFFREY M. MULUVI, VICE-CHANCELLOR, SOUTH EASTERN KENYA UNIVERSITY, ON THE OCCASION OF THE 4TH GRADUATION CEREMONY HELD ON 30TH MARCH 2017 AT THE GRADUATION SQUARE

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

The Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education, Dr. Fred Matiang'i

Chancellors from Other Universities present

Principal Secretary, State Department for University Education, Prof. Collette Sudah

Chairman of the Council of South Eastern Kenya University, Prof. Louis Mumera

Members of the South Eastern Kenya University Council,

Vice Chancellors of other Universities present,

Deputy Vice-Chancellors,

Principals of University Colleges

Parents, guardians and sponsors,

Graduands and Students,

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

It is my honour to welcome you all to South Eastern Kenya University on this occasion of the fourth graduation ceremony. Today, we are witnessing another grand ceremony in which we shall be presenting a total of--- graduands for the conferment of degrees and award of diplomas of the University.

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

The graduands before you today have been properly trained, examined and certified. Through hard works and determination, they have made it to this historic occasion.

I, therefore, take this opportunity to congratulate them on their success. I wish also to thank the parents, guardians and sponsors for their dedication and commitment, which have made it possible for these graduands to complete their studies.

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

I would like to point out that the University has experienced a tremendous growth in both in size and scope in the last five years. The current student population stands at 7,765, which is a major growth given that five years ago, we had under 100 students.

May I point out, however, that despite this rapid growth, the University remains steadfast in its quest to provide quality education. The Senate has put in place stringent mechanisms to ensure that quality and relevance are the hallmark of all our programmes. The University has developed academic programmes that meet the needs and demands of the labour market. I am glad to report that we have complied with the Commission for University Education requirements with regard to the accreditation of our academic programmes.

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

In our graduation ceremony last year, I reported that the University had successfully launched the School of Health Sciences, which I and delighted to confirm has taken off well and is growing in leaps and bounds.

Today, I am equally delighted to report that we are set to realise the birth of yet another school. The University has received equipment for the School of Engineering through the generous support of the African Development Bank and the Ministry of Education. This support gives us a head start in our endeavour to produce high quality graduates in the fields of engineering and technology.

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

As we grow our programmes in tandem with the student population growth, we remain alive to the fact that this has to be done in tandem with improvement in staff capacity. We have therefore continued to hunt for quality staff in the various academic fields.

Apart from teaching, our lecturers have been active in research attracting funds from various organizations in the country and abroad. Allow me to mention but just a few of these research programmes. These include:

- i. The capacity – building project funded by the Government of Netherlands to the tune of 1million Euros.
- ii. Various projects funded by the National Council Commission for Science, Technology and Innovations at a tune of more than 20 million Kenya shillings.
- iii. Projects funded by the IFS, FAO, IDRC-Canada among other donors.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the development partners and donors that have continued to provide funds for enhancing teaching and research capacity in the University.

The University has recently launched a number of postgraduate programmes at Masters and PhD level and I would also like to appeal for scholarships to enable us admit more scholars to these programmes.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would also like to thank the Chancellor and the University Council for providing strategic direction to the university and for mobilizing resources for the development of this University. My gratitude also goes to the Ministry of Education for the support that we have continued to receive.

Finally, I, once again, take this opportunity to congratulate the graduands on successful completion of their studies. I wish them well in their future undertakings.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

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

Prof. Geoffrey M. Muluvi, PhD
Vice-Chancellor