



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 4TH GRADUATION CEREMONY AT THE GRADUATION SQUARE

Our Special Guest, Dr. Fred Matiang'i, Minister for Education

My Colleagues, the Chancellors of other Universities present,

Prof. Collette, Suda, Principal Secretary, State Department of University Education,

Prof. Louis Mumera, Chairman, South Eastern Kenya University

Members of the South Eastern Kenya University Council,

Prof. Geoffrey Muluvi, Vice-Chancellor, South Eastern Kenya University,

Vice-Chancellors of other Universities,

Members of the South Eastern Kenya University Senate

Parents

Staff and students

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and gentlemen

I congratulate our graduands on their momentous achievement which we are gathered here to today to celebrate.

Dear graduands,

I am confident that your stay here has transformed you into thinkers and actors with a mission to positively transform lives in Kenya and beyond. I urge you to strive to create an inclusive society where the well-being of all is the focus of everybody.

I am proud to be part of South Eastern Kenya University in her pursuit of world class university standards, I recognise that the best way to achieve this goals is to benchmark and share experiences with peers and giants in education and research fields.

I, therefore, urge the University's academic community to venture out and engage in collaborative and interdisciplinary research projects that harness science and technology to improve the livelihood of the disadvantage majority.

I note with satisfaction that the University has over 80 active research collaborations and linkages with local and international organisations. These must translate into tangible benefit to society, starting with our immediate community.

As a University in a rural setting with serious resource scarcity, the focus in your collaborative arrangements should be to alleviate the human suffering resulting from drought, hunger and poor health. To realise this, your research undertakings should have a human face, where water, health, food security and environmental conservation are at the core.

I urge you to also forge strong links with industry, who are the consumers of your product, the graduates. It is through close working relations that the University will know the value of its products. Use the industry linkages to get the vital feedback on how your graduates are performing as you also engage their employers on their needs.

At the same time, you need to strengthen the alumni association to serve as the link between you and the outside world.

As you forge these links, I urge you not to forget the one most important partner, the community. I am glad to note that so far the University has maintained close and cordial relations with the local community both directly and through administrative organs such as the County Governments of Kitui, Machakos and Makueni, as well as local arms of the National Government.

I wish to commend the Council, the Senate and the Management of the University for their diligent service, which has resulted in several milestones in our endeavour to deliver on our mandate as a university and make our contribution towards the attainment of the Vision 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals.

My gratitude also goes to the staff who have served this University with devotion to bring it to the level where it is today. I urge them to redouble your effort as we work together to move this institution to the next level of its development.

I would like to thank all our external stakeholders, key among them the Ministry of Education, The National Treasury, County Government of Kitui, and other local and international partners, who have supported us in various development programmes.

Thank you and may God bless you all

Dr. Titus Naikuni
Chancellor