



SOUTH EASTERN KENYA UNIVERSITY

SPEECH BY DR. TITUS NAIKUNI, D.SC (HON), DHL (HON), CHANCELLOR, SOUTH EASTERN KENYA UNIVERSITY AT THE UNIVERSITY'S 5TH GRADUATION CEREMONY HELD ON TUESDAY, 27TH FEBRUARY 2018 AT THE GRADUATION SQUARE

Chancellor, South Eastern Kenya University, Dr. Titus Naikuni,
Prof. Japheth Micheni Ntiba, Principal Secretary, State Department of University
Education and Research,
Hon. Kalonzo Stephen Musyoka, Former Vice-President Republic of Kenya,
Dr. Reuben Chirchir, Chairman, South Eastern Kenya University Council,
Chairpersons of other Universities present,
Members of the South Eastern Kenya University Council,



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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,

Good morning,



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I join the speakers before me in congratulating the 2018 graduands who are set to receive their various qualifications today.

I urge them to give meaning to this success by dedicating their effort to serving the society, particularly the less fortunate in our midst.

Today, I wish to make a couple of observation as we celebrate this solemn occasion.



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First, I would like to stress that good institutions, through their operations and practices, must make a positive impact on the development of a nation. This it will achieve through its commitment to fulfilling its mandate.

I note with satisfaction that this institution has remained focused on serving its ever widening clientele base with the rural community as its focal point.

It is gratifying that the University has already transited from the 9001:2008 ISO certification to the superior ISO 9001:2015 quality management system. You must now match this achievement with adequate strategic forward planning and resource allocation to enhance your institutional capacity to drive SEKU's vision and mission.



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University is undertaking some key infrastructural projects, including the construction of two satellite campuses and one college, as well as the construction of the SEKU-Kwa Vonza road.

These key projects will enhance the University's capacity to offer its services as a globally competitive centre of excellence in teaching, research, innovation and service.

Second, the University has a very noble philosophy, namely: *transforming lives and improving the environment from arid to green through innovative teaching, research and community service*. As a University, this is the place where a sizable



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number of our youths are socialized into responsible global citizens. At the back of these young minds is the quality of life after campus. Unfortunately, this quest for quality life comes against a backdrop of high unemployment among our youth, their sterling academic achievements notwithstanding.

The major solution to unemployment is entrepreneurship. With devolution now firmly taking root in our country, the space and scope for entrepreneurship continues to widen. Today, e-commerce and e-business continue to register impressive growth among the youth. Entrepreneurship enables the youth to be self motivated agents of social change as they experience the joy of being their own



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bosses. It is my hope that the graduands before us today, having lived through this progressive philosophy, are moving out with the resolve to be job creators rather than job seekers.

As I conclude, I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate the new University Council, led by its Chairman, Dr. Reuben Chirchir, on its appointment last year. I also wish to thank the Cabinet Secretary for Education for re-appointing our Vice-Chancellor Prof. Muluvi for a final term of five years.



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Finally, as we celebrate our graduands' success today, I urge them to work to initiate collaborations and build networks for your own benefit and that of your *Alma Mata*.

Thank you and God bless us all.

***Dr. Titus Naikuni, D.Sc (Hon.), L.H.D. (Hon.),
Chancellor***