



SOUTH EASTERN KENYA UNIVERSITY

SPEECH BY DR. REUBEN CHIRCHIR, CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL, SOUTH EASTERN KENYA UNIVERSITY DURING THE UNIVERSITY'S 5TH GRADUATION CEREMONY HELD ON TUESDAY, 27TH FEBRUARY 2018 AT THE GRADUATION SQUARE

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

Principal Secretary, State Department of University Education and Research, Prof. Japheth Micheni Ntiba,



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Hon. Stephen Kalonzo Musyoka, Former Vice-President,
Republic of Kenya,
Chairpersons of Council of other Universities present,

Members of the South Eastern Kenya University Council,
Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Geoffrey Muluvi,
Vice-Chancellors of other Universities present,
Members of the Management Board and Senate,
Members of faculty and staff
Parents and guardians
Distinguished Guests



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Distinguished graduands and students

Ladies and gentlemen

It is a pleasure for me and the University Council to welcome you to this 5th graduation ceremony of South Eastern Kenya University. At the very onset, I would like to congratulate all the graduands for achieving this milestone. Similarly, I would like to thank the University Management and staff who worked tirelessly to make sure that the graduands receive quality education and graduate in due time.



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Mr. Chancellor Sir, let me also appreciate the presence of the Principal Secretary, Prof Japheth Ntiba and all other guests who

have honoured our invitation to be part of this great occasion. On behalf of the Council, I must say *Karibuni*.



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Mr. Chancellor Sir, as you may recall, the third Council of this University, was gazette in 1st August 2017 and inaugurated on 5th September 2017 in your presence. Since then, the Council has worked closely with the Board of Management to fast-track the development agenda of the University.

Since this is the first time my Council is participating in the graduation ceremony in the official capacity, allow me to introduce them to the congregation (*introduction of Council members*).



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On behalf of my colleagues in the Council, I wish to sincerely thank the Cabinet-Secretary for Education, for appointing us to serve in the third Council of this University.

As we do this, we recognize the input of our predecessors in the 1st and 2nd Councils of this University lead by Prof. Raphael Munavu and Prof. Mumera respectively who worked tirelessly to lay a sound and firm foundation for this great institution.



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Mr. Chancellor Sir, the University is undertaking major development of new infrastructural facilities in Wote and Kitui campuses.

We are also constructing a new complex for the School of Humanities and Social Sciences here at the Main Campus. Another major activity is the upgrading of the road from Kwa



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Vonza to the University to bitumen standard. All these projects will be completed by the end of this year.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, the University is also one of the three universities selected by the Government to pioneer the construction of student hostel under the Public Private Partnership (PPP) programme.

Through this initiative, the University is set to benefit from a 5,400 bed capacity hostel which we trust will bring to an end the shortage of accommodation facilities at the Main Campus.



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Mr. Chancellor Sir, despite the growth, the University is facing a number of challenges. One of these is shortage of water, which is becoming a serious challenge in view of the rapidly increasing

student population. To address this problem, the University has proposed the construction of a dedicated dam and water pipeline complete with treatment works.



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This is a project under discussion and we are requesting both the National Government and County Government of Kitui to support this initiative.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, as I conclude, once again, I want to congratulate our graduating class and wishing them every success in their future undertakings. Graduands as you join the industry, you are requested to go and render good and diligent service to this country, be persons of good character and integrity, remember to give back to families and



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communities which have supported you. Always choose to be good citizens. Choose to be good ambassadors of this University by rendering the best of your knowledge and skills to society.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is now my pleasure to invite the Principal Secretary, State Department of University Education and Research, to address the Congregation.

Thank You.

Dr. Reuben Chirchir