



**SPEECH BY PROF. GEOFFREY M. MULUVI, VICE-CHANCELLOR,  
SOUTH EASTERN KENYA UNIVERSITY, ON THE OCCASION OF THE  
5<sup>TH</sup> GRADUATION CEREMONY HELD ON TUESDAY, 27<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY  
2018 AT THE GRADUATION SQUARE**

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The Chancellor of South Eastern Kenya University, Dr. Titus Naikuni,  
Principal Secretary, State Department for University Education, Prof. Ntiba  
Micheni

Hon. Stephen Kalonzo Musyoka, former Vice President of the republic of Kenya,  
The Governor, Kitui County Hon Charity Kaluki Ngilu,  
Chancellors from other Universities present,



Chairman of the Council of South Eastern Kenya University, Dr. Reuben Chirchir

Honourable Members of Parliament,  
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,



Good morning.

I am delighted to welcome you to this auspicious occasion of our fifth graduation ceremony.

Kindly Mr Chancellor, allow me before I make my remarks to acknowledge a few of our distinguished guests who found time to honour our invitation.

Today, a total of 1069 graduands will be presented to serve the world in various disciplines. Out of these we have one (1) person graduating with a PhD degree, 29 are masters graduands, 1034 are Bachelors while 5 will be awarded Diplomas.



Mr. Chancellor Sir,

The success we are witnessing today is a result of hard work and effort on the part of our graduands as well as selfless dedication in the part of our lecturers and other staff members. Allow me, therefore, to congratulate all of them. I also convey our gratitude to their parents, guardians and sponsors, without whose support this achievement would not have been realised.

Our Dear Graduands,



Today, the Chancellor will give you the power to apply with authority, the knowledge, skills and competencies you have acquired.

We have adequately prepared you not to be specialists in pointing out problems; but specialists in offering solutions. You should therefore counter contemporary challenges using modern approaches and harness the limitless opportunities to solve problems affecting the society.

Mr. Chancellor,

The making of any great University is anchored in great part on its commitment to scholarly excellence. South Eastern Kenya University has continued to endeavour to achieve its vision of being a globally competitive *centre of excellence in*



*teaching, research, innovation and service* by ensuring that academic programmes are tailored to produce a well-trained graduate with hands-on skills.

Mr Chancellor,

Tomorrow the University will be celebrating five years since it was awarded a charter to operate as a fully pledged public University. We celebrate our five years of existence with pride considering that in January this year, our University was ranked No. 8 in Kenya and position 94 in Africa and position 724 globally. Last year our lecturers won about 63 million of competitive grants from the National Research Fund alone. You have also witnessed this morning the University being awarded a certificate by the Kenya Bureau of Standards to transit from



ISO9001:2008 to ISO9001:2015. Our sports teams have continued to post excellent results both in the inter-university games and outside the University circles.

Further, the School of Health Sciences successfully underwent inspection by the Nursing Council of Kenya and has been certified to start offering Bachelor of Science in Nursing. The School of Engineering has now been fully equipped, academic staff are being recruited and we are currently developing academic programmes for the School. In addition, preparations for the school of law programme are currently on top gear. I therefore wish to convey our sincere appreciation to our staff and students for these and many other achievements.



In conclusion, I thank the Chancellor and the University Council for providing strategic direction to the Senate and Management. My gratitude also goes to our Ministry of Education for the support that we have continued to receive.

We also appreciate the excellent working relationship and support the University has been receiving from the County Government of Kitui lead by our able Governor who is here with us today.

I would also like to announce on behalf of Dr. James Kisia, Director for East Africa Humanitarian Leadership Academy, (formerly Deputy Secretary General Kenya Red Cross) that with effect from September this year, he will be offering a scholarship worth Kshs.100,000 every year in honour of his late mother Mrs. Joyce



Kisia to be divided equally (KES.50,000 each) to 2 female 1<sup>st</sup> year students from underserved areas and with poor family support.

Mr. Chancellor,

It is a great honour to the University Community that the entire senior political leadership of Kitui County is here with us today and we sincerely thank them. I appeal to the Kitui County political leadership to work together with the University Council work to address the challenges we face with the University land. I will be very happy to facilitate that conversation.



Finally, I thank all of you for honouring our invitation and for making this day a success.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is now my pleasure to invite the Chairman of the University Council, Dr. Reuben Chirchir to address the Congregation.

***Prof. Geoffrey M. Muluvi, PhD***

***Vice-Chancellor***