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**SPEECH BY PROF. ENG. DOUGLAS SHITANDA, VICE-CHANCELLOR, SOUTH EASTERN KENYA UNIVERSITY, ON THE OCCASION OF THE 10<sup>TH</sup> GRADUATION CEREMONY HELD ON 26<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2023**

Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education (MoE), Hon. Ezekiel Machogu;  
Principal Secretary, State Department for Higher Education and Research,  
Dr. Beatrice Inyangala;  
Chancellor, South Eastern Kenya University;  
Chancellors of Sister Universities;  
Members of the Council, South Eastern Kenya University;  
Members of Council of Sister Universities;  
Vice Chancellors of Sister Universities;  
Deputy Vice Chancellors;  
Members of Senate;  
Members of Staff;  
Parents, guardians and sponsors;  
Graduands and Continuing Students;  
Ladies and Gentlemen.

I greet you all. Good Morning,

I am truly delighted to extend a warm and heartfelt welcome to each one of you as we gather here today for our prestigious tenth graduation ceremony. Your presence here today is deeply appreciated, and I thank you sincerely for joining us on this auspicious occasion.

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On behalf of the Management, Senate and the community, I extend a warm and hearty welcome to you all as we come together to celebrate the culmination of our graduands' years of unwavering dedication, marked by significant sacrifices and a resolute commitment to excellence.

It is with immense pleasure and pride that I introduce to you a distinguished group of 1190 students who have not only met but exceeded all the rigorous requirements set by our University, earning various degrees, diplomas and Certificates from South Eastern Kenya University. Among this exceptional cohort, we have 2 Doctoral, 29 Masters, 1156 Bachelor's degree and 3 Diploma recipients.

I extend my most sincere congratulations to today's graduands for this remarkable achievement. The entire South Eastern Kenya University community takes profound pride in your success, a true reflection of your relentless dedication and unwavering pursuit of excellence.

At this moment, I would like to extend a special tribute to our dedicated lecturers, staff members, parents, guardians, and sponsors who have played pivotal roles in achieving this remarkable milestone. We are deeply thankful to the government through the Ministry of Education Cabinet Secretary, Hon. Ezekiel Machogu and Principal Secretary Dr. Beatrice Inyangala for providing us with the vital resources that have been instrumental in our pursuit of excellence.

I also want to recognize our first Vice-Chancellor, we fondly remember Prof. Geoffrey Muluvi, who completed his tenure mid this year. We extend our heartfelt gratitude for his invaluable contributions in guiding this esteemed institution to its current state.

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Furthermore, we take immense pride in our accomplishments related to expanding our physical infrastructure and enhancing our academic offerings. This year, South Eastern Kenya University received accreditation from the Technical and Vocational Education Training Authority, enabling us to offer diploma and certificate-level TVET courses at our Mtito-Andei and Migwani Centres.

In addition, we are excited to graduate our first cohort of Bachelor of Science (Nursing) students. These 11 students were the first government-sponsored students admitted four years ago to study the course immediately after we received approval to offer it.

As we continue on this trajectory of expansion and growth, I want to assure all our partners and stakeholders that the University remains resolute in maintaining the highest standards of quality across all aspects of our service. We have implemented the necessary measures to ensure strict adherence to our established quality standards.

The continued success of our University is a testament to the unwavering support from our University Council, led by the able Chairperson and the Ministry of Education, led by the Cabinet Secretary. Their support and provision of resources have been instrumental in facilitating our growth.

I must also acknowledge our dedicated staff, who consistently go the extra mile to ensure seamless service delivery, and our exceptional students, who have demonstrated discipline, resilience, and understanding even in the face of challenges.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

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It is now my great pleasure to invite the Chair of the University Council, to address the Congregation.

Prof. Eng. Douglas Shitanda, PhD

**Vice-Chancellor**