

Speech by the Cabinet Secretary for Education, Science and Technology, Prof Jacob Kaimenyi, EBS, delivered during the Second Graduation Ceremony of the Technical University of Kenya held on December 18, 2014 at the Graduation Square of the Technical University of Kenya

The Chancellor, Dr Manu Chandaria, The Chairman of Council, Prof George Eshiwani, The Vice-Chancellor, Prof Francis Aduol, Members of the Council of the Technical University of Kenya, The Senate, The Graduands, Students, Staff of the Technical University of Kenya, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Today is a great day for The Technical University of Kenya as it marks one of the most prominent days in its life as a university. On my own behalf and that of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, I wish to extend warm congratulations to the graduands and the Technical University of Kenya fraternity in general.

The Technical University of Kenya occupies a strategic place in the realization of Vision 2030; the blueprint for the development of this country. Our realization of Vision 2030 will heavily depend on the calibre, quantity and quality of human

capital that our universities and other institutions for manpower development in this country can deliver. The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology is looking up to our universities to provide the leadership in this respect. Technology is the key ingredient of development of any nation. After more than 50 years of Independence, we should begin to rely on our own home-bred technical expertise to address most of our development challenges.

It is my challenge to you as one of our technical universities to provide leadership in the education and training of high quality engineers and technologists as well as in other related professional areas.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

For the country to reap maximum benefits from the institution, the Government expects both the Council and Management to be steadfast in their focus on the mandate and vision of this university. Please avoid the temptation to veer off and get into the path of mounting the many courses already being offered in our non-technical universities. Be faithful to your mandate and provide effective leadership for the realization of the vision.

I know The Technical University of Kenya has many challenges, including space, facilities and equipment. The Ministry will continue to work closely with you to find the most appropriate way of addressing these challenges. We never the less encourage you to continue looking for alternative ways of financing your activities to supplement the Government support. In this respect we you to develop income generating ventures, even as you seek local and international support to bridge the financing gap.

In the recent past, there has been a controversy after the Engineers Board of Kenya (EBK) raised questions over non-recognition of engineering courses being offered by local universities. My Ministry has taken note of the controversy and is closely working with EBK, the Commission for Higher Education, and the universities to find an amicable solution to this challenge.

It is our desire to ensure high standards of education and training are maintained in the country. We continue to urge the professional regulatory bodies to closely work with our institutions of learning so as not to be seen to be frustrating our own Kenyans pursuing studies in various professional disciplines.

Finally, once more, to our graduands go out there and seek opportunities with confidence, knowing well that the Technical University of Kenya has prepared you for the challenges of real life. I know it will not be easy but I encourage you to employ the life skills you are equipped with to your advantage.

May God grant you the wisdom to grow into dependable citizens of our great country!

And to you all, I say have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Thank you and may God bless you all!