



Speech for the Chairman of the Council, Prof George Eshiwani, EBS, MBS during the Second Graduation Ceremony of the Technical University of Kenya at the Graduation Square of the Technical University of Kenya on 18th December, 2014.

**The Chancellor, Dr Manu Chandaria,
The Cabinet Secretary for Education Science and Technology,
Prof Jacob Kaimenyi,
The Vice-Chancellor, Prof Francis Aduol,
Members of the Council of the Technical University of Kenya,
Staff of the Technical University of Kenya,
Students,
The Graduands,
Parents and Guardians
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen:**

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Second Graduation Ceremony of The Technical University of Kenya. On my own behalf and that of the Council of The Technical University of Kenya, I wish to congratulate the Graduands here assembled for this auspicious occasion in their lives.

We recognize your efforts, your dedication, and your sacrifice. We celebrate your exemplary achievements today, as you receive your degrees and diplomas from this esteemed institution. You have remained focused and true to your ambition as illustrated by your arrival at this stage in the academic ladder.

The knowledge and skills you have acquired should prepare you to meet the challenges of life outside this institution. Indeed, this knowledge should prepare you to serve your country diligently and responsibly as good citizens.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, Mr. Cabinet Secretary Sir, I am proud to be the Chairman of the Council of The Technical University of Kenya. I have enjoyed working with members of my Council and the management of this institution.

Two years into the attainment of its charter, the Technical University of Kenya has made considerable progress. Within such a short time, the university has established a solid administrative structure that delivers good results. It has also recruited a staff base that will see the institution compete with the very best anywhere in the world.

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

The establishment of the Technical University of Kenya affirms the Government's desire and commitment to the development of technical education at higher levels. Education, as we all know, is one of the most critical pillars of the attainment of Vision 2030.

As a university we will not relent in making exemplary contribution to this ambitious but achievable programme of national development. The Government's investment in modern laboratory and workshops at the University should scale up the institution's technical and engineering programmes.

These investments have made it possible for the students and staff of the Technical University of Kenya to blend theory and practice. Such blend is essential for the development of skilled labour that is at once creative and innovative. This is a critical foundation for industrialization and national economic growth.

The Council of the Technical University of Kenya is committed to national ideals and values, such as equity and justice for all. Men and women are treated equally and with utmost dignity to allow the deployment of their full potential for the growth of the university.

We have embraced affirmative action for women, and persons with special needs. People from marginalized areas have had their fair chance in our hiring processes. We also actively encourage the enrollment of female students into engineering and other science courses.

In this regard, the Council has a budget to support female students who are needy. We encourage students who get such support to work even harder to attain their full potential.

We have also concluded negotiations of current Collective Bargaining Agreement with staff unions. However, the implementation of these CBAs awaits the approval of the Salaries and Remuneration Commission (SRC). I would like to appeal to staff to be patient and understanding as we continue to engage the SRC to hasten the process of approval of the CBA's for eventual implementation.

Mr. Cabinet Secretary Sir. The university faces acute challenges of space following a rapid increase in student numbers. This institution was initially designed for just about 2,500 students. Today we have some 13,000 students of which 7,000 are Government sponsored degree students while the rest are classified as privately sponsored students. We continue to appeal to the Ministry to assist us acquire more land to facilitate the physical expansion of the institution.

To our students, I wish to commend you for exemplary discipline in the last academic year and trust that this will continue as a tradition of this university. You will agree with me that a peaceful environment is an absolute necessity for any organization to thrive. This university needs such an environment in order to pursue its mandate as an academic institution. I urge you to continue to use your time diligently so that when your time to leave the university comes, you can look back and say with confidence that you used your time wisely.

To our committed parents and guardians, we appreciate your contribution to the development of these students; the graduands and continuing students would not be what they are without your dedicated support. We should develop this partnership for the well being of the Technical University of Kenya.

Finally to the graduands, you have come this far because of your dedication. Go out to the world knowing you are not the first nor are you the last to go through this process. The world into which you are stepping is competitive and tough; as a university we believe we have given you the best skills and tools to take it on. With discipline and hard work, you can build strong careers as you build the nation. As the pillars of this achievement, we expect you to be the loyal ambassadors of the university. We wish you well!

Thank you!