



KENYA POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
SPEECH BY
Arch. ZEBEDAYO BUKANIA, CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL
DURING THE GRADUATION CEREMONY
ON FRIDAY 18TH NOVEMBER, 2011

- The Chancellor, Dr. Joseph Wanjui, CBS;
- The Minister for Higher Education Science and Technology (Hon. Prof. Margaret Kamar);

- The Permanent Secretary Ministry of Higher Education Science and Technology (Prof. Crispus Kiamba);
- The Vice-Chancellor (Prof. George Magoha);
- Members of Council, Kenya Polytechnic University College;
- Members of Council, University of Nairobi;
- The Principal, Kenya Polytechnic University College (Prof. Francis Aduol);
- Staff;
- Graduands;
- Students;

- Distinguished Guests;
- Ladies and Gentlemen:

I have great pleasure to join you on this auspicious occasion to celebrate the success of our graduands of 2010/2011. This is the demonstration and culmination of team-work among lecturers, students and staff of the Kenya Polytechnic University College. I also wish to commend the leadership of the College Management in spearheading the efforts of all the stakeholders to realise the achievements that we are celebrating today. My Council and University College Principal are happy to have been facilitators in this process.

The Council has continued to guide the University College in line with the 2010-2015 Strategic Plan so as to achieve the goals and targets as set out and I wish to congratulate the College for successful completion of the tasks which I will now briefly **discuss**.

When I took over as the Chairman, early this year, I found the College had embarked on the path of refurbishing and renovating the facilities to bring them up-to standards commensurate with its new status as a University College. This process has continued in earnest.

Through the collaboration with our parent Ministry, the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology, we have received support from the Government of the People's Republic of China. This support is to improve the laboratory and teaching equipment in the Departments of Mechanical and Mechatronic Engineering and Electrical and Electronic Engineering.

Through this project, we will install modern teaching facilities in these Departments at a cost of over KShs. 500 million.

In anticipation the College will soon be elevated to a full University. The Council has authorised the management to proceed on with the revision of the College Master Plan so as to align it with the aspirations of the institution as a university of technology. The revised Master Plan will enable the College to put its parcels of land to optimal use. The development of these parcels would go a long way in addressing the space needs of the College.

In this regard, I wish to appeal to the Government to continue supporting us through capitation for capital development.

Mr. Chancellor, Sir; Ladies and Gentlemen!

As you will be aware, the elevation of the institution to University College status required the establishment of a corresponding management and governance structure. It also required the recruitment of the requisite staff to support the functions in line with the new mandate. I am happy to report that in the recent past, the Council has appointed some of the best minds in this region to join the teaching fraternity of this college.

The college has recently recruited some sixty-nine lecturers, forty-five of whom are holders of PhDs from reputable universities. Among the newly recruited lecturers are also some twenty-four professors, who besides their roles in academic leadership are also members of senior management at the institution.

Mr. Chancellor, Sir!

My Council has continued to be diligent participate in its participation in the Government Performance Contracting Process. In this regard, I wish to inform you that our ranking in the last Performance Contracting cycle was a tremendous improvement from the previous year; we are looking forward to a further improved performance this year.

Further, the College is in the final stages of being ISO certified. These processes will enhance our capacity to deliver quality services to our customers and stakeholders.

As has been demonstrated, the College has put in place the necessary infrastructure to operate as a university with full status. The staff, the management, and my Council are fully prepared and ready for this new challenge. I am confident that the institution has matured and merits the status of a university. I am therefore seeking your support together with that of the Vice-Chancellor, in our efforts at attaining the status of a fully fledged university of technology.

Mr. Chancellor Sir; The Hon. Minister!

I wish register our sincere appreciation to the Government through the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology for the continued and invaluable support that we have consistently received over the years. In light of my foregoing comments, I wish to appeal for increase in this support to enable us meet our targets and discharge our mandate. I also wish to extend our gratitude to the University of Nairobi, through the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha, for their role in mentoring the College to become a fully fledged university of technology. I would like to report that the college has continued to enjoy good relations with the University of Nairobi as her mentor.

Finally,

Ladies and Gentlemen, while at the Kenya Polytechnic University College, please feel most welcome! We are delighted to have your company on this very important occasion. To the graduands, we have equipped you with the necessary skills and knowledge to enable you to tackle the many challenges of society; I wish you well!

THANK YOU