

**SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE CABINET SECRETARY MINISTRY OF EDUCATION,
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, PROF. JACOB KAIMENYI, EBS, DURING THE 1ST
GRADUATION CEREMONY OF THE TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF KENYA ON
WEDNESDAY 18TH DECEMBER 2013**

The Chancellor

The Chairman of Council

The Vice Chancellor and other Vice Chancellors

Deputy Vice Chancellors

Governor, Nairobi County

Senator, Nairobi County

Secretary, Commission for University Education

Principals

Representatives of the Peoples' Republic of China

Distinguished guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the Ministry of Education, I bring to the fraternity of the Technical University of Kenya best wishes from the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, and join all of us here today in extending congratulations to the granduands. I am most delighted to be with you here to witness this important occasion in the life of the university.

We note that this is the first graduation at the University since it was chartered early this year, under the Universities Act 2013. The Universities Act 2012 brought with it a new look at the Governance and management of universities in this country. For the first time public universities are now established through the grant of Charter and all universities, whether public or private, have been brought under one law. The Ministry considers that through this it should be possible to bring into the university systems in this country new and modern ways of governance and management.

One of the important innovations in the Universities Act, 2012, is the establishment of different categories of universities. Among the new categories is the Technical University. The Technical University is envisaged as a new type of university in Kenya. The Act provides that a Technical University will be established as an institution of strategic importance to the country. As the Technical University of Kenya therefore, you should understand that you have been established as an institution of strategic importance to the development of this country.

We would like to reiterate that the Ministry is fully committed to Kenya's endeavour to be a middle income economy through the Vision 2030. However we are fully aware that the realisation of Vision 2030 will heavily depend on the type, quality, and quantity of manpower we have to drive the Vision. In this respect, the Ministry is looking to our institutions of higher learning to provide leadership in the development of such manpower.

The Technical University of Kenya has been established chiefly with the objective to provide leadership, alongside other technical universities, in the development of technical manpower that this country badly needs. As a Ministry we shall be looking to this institution to offer education and training that will produce personnel that can be relied upon to provide innovative ways of solving our many problems of development so as to be able to effectively contribute to the attainment of Vision 2030.

In this respect I am pleased to note that you have defined for yourselves a clear niche to produce in the first instance graduates well prepared in the technologies as to be able to tackle technical problems with the mind of producing practical results. This country badly needs persons with practical skills in virtually all areas of technological endeavour. It should not happen that for every major task of a technical nature this country must seek to import expertise. Clearly after 50 years of independence we should begin to rely more on our own technical expertise to tackle most of our problems.

I challenge the Technical University of Kenya, as the largest of our three technical universities, to provide the badly needed leadership in the production of technicians and technologists as well as professionals in the respective fields. In this respect I am pleased to note that even as the institution got elevated to a degree awarding institution in 2007, the institution has continued to offer the Diploma programmes for which the institution had built such a reputation in her days as the Kenya Polytechnic.

I should like to point out that at the Ministry we view the three Technical Universities, namely, The Technical University of Kenya, The Technical University of Mombasa, and Dedan Kimathi University of Technology, as both mainstream universities and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions. In this respect I would like to implore the Technical Universities to work closely with other TVET institutions, especially the national Polytechnics and the Technical Training Institutes. At the Ministry we are looking to strengthen TVET and in this we are heavily counting on the support of the Technical Universities. I also wish to urge the leadership of our TVET institutions to always engage, through consultations with the respective heads of the technical universities to develop synergy in the implementation of Social Pillar of Vision 2030.

While it is acknowledged that technical education is going to be a major driver in the technological progress of this country one must note with concern that most Technical Institutions have serious gender disparity in their studentship. We note with concern that in the student admissions for KCSE 2012 through the Joint Admissions Board, the Technical Universities had the worst gender parity ratios at 72% male and 28% female. We would like to implore the technical Universities to put in place deliberate strategies to bridge this wide gender gap. The universities should structure their programmes and admissions as to provide as near as possible equal opportunities to students of both gender.

To the Council, Management, and the entire fraternity of the Technical University of Kenya, I would like to assure you that the Ministry is committed to supporting in every way possible to enable the institution fulfil her mandate in the most effective way possible. I am aware that the institution has serious need in many areas including space, facilities and equipment. The Ministry shall continue to work closely with you to find most innovative ways of tackling these challenges. We however encourage you to continue looking for other ways to supplement Government support through income generation activities and support from both local and international agencies.

To the graduands, I wish to congratulate you on your achievement, and encourage you to seek out opportunities in the job market with confidence, knowing that you have been well equipped with unique skills from the first Technical University in Kenya. However go out there with an open mind, with an understanding that all big things start small. Those of you who can start their own enterprises should look at this option seriously so that you can provide employment for others.

Lastly, I would like to wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Thank you, and God Bless you!
