

LAIKIPIA



UNIVERSITY

SPEECH BY

THE CABINET SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

PROF. GEORGE A. O. MAGOHA, CBS

DURING THE 9TH GRADUATION CEREMONY

HELD ON

29TH JULY, 2022

Vision: A University for Valued Transformation of Society

Mission: To serve students and society through research, education, scholarship, training, innovation, outreach and consultancy



Laikipia University is ISO 9001:2015 and ISO/IEC 27001:2013 Certified

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- *Chancellor Sir*
- *Principal Secretary, State Department of University Education and Research*
- *Chairperson Laikipia University Council and Chairpersons of other Universities Present*
- *Members of Laikipia University Council and representatives of other University Councils Present*
- *Chief Guest, Hon. Justice Isaac Lenaola, LLB, MBA, MSC, MBS, CBS*
- *Vice Chancellor Laikipia University and Other Vice Chancellors Present*
- *Members of the University Management Board and Senate*
- *The Governor Laikipia County, Representatives of other County Governments present*
- *Graduands*
- *Laikipia University Staff and students*
- *Parents and Guardians*
- *Distinguished Guests*
- *Ladies and Gentlemen*

Good Morning

Ladies and Gentlemen

I am delighted to join the Laikipia University Council, University Management Board, staff, parents, guardians and the graduands on this 9th graduation ceremony of Laikipia University. I salute and congratulate all these hardworking and diligent young Kenyans graduating today. Indeed, this graduation is a culmination of joint partnerships of all the stakeholders. For your hard work and resilience, I congratulate you.

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Ladies and Gentlemen

Education just like any other sector in our country today has faced enormous challenges occasioned by the covid-19 pandemic. It has become important to rethink Education for innovation, work and sustainability.

I note with appreciation the efforts of Laikipia University in sustaining its role in the development of human capital and remaining relevant in the ever-changing educational landscape. The traditional methods of teaching have been put to test and today more than ever, universities need to embrace e-learning modules to mitigate the perennial interruptions to studies that bedevil institutions of higher learning. I am glad to note Laikipia University has embraced blended learning. This is the way to go.

As a ministry, we shall continue to provide the necessary support to universities in their move to embrace virtual learning and operational functions that have culminated in virtual graduations as evidenced by this graduation. The virtual platform is proving to be an efficient and effective alternative mode of operation that has also led to a reduction in graduation costs. I applaud the University for the uptake of this progressive decision to hold virtual graduation that is in compliance with our laws and regulations thus lending credence to the validity of degrees conferred and diplomas awarded today.

My ministry relies on universities to train competent graduates for the new Competency Based Curriculum which inter alia celebrates the creative potential of all our children and teaches them the skills of critical thinking and problem solving as well as critical social values. I, therefore, challenge the University to re-engineer and restructure programmes that are innovative, relevant and essential for the realisation of Kenya's development agenda, Vision 2030.

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As an institution, I also encourage you to strengthen measures to increase retention and completion rates, particularly for the most vulnerable students from humble households. The government is committed to equity in access to education for all Kenyan children. As a Ministry, we give you assurance of our continued support. The Ministry shall ensure timely disbursement of financial resources with the expectation of prudent and strategic utilization of the same to elevate the infrastructural, academic and support services in the universities. The University should explore alternative resource mobilization strategies to supplement its finances. I acknowledge the ongoing capital constructions in the University. I, therefore, call upon the University Council and University Management to accelerate the completion and occupation of these projects.

Ladies and Gentlemen

The country has in recent times faced challenges that have disrupted business continuity in all sectors of our economy. Learning institutions were the worst hit and this led to the loss of valuable learning time; disruption of academic calendars, loss of revenue and other emerging social challenges. I call upon the universities to conduct research on how to mitigate these challenges and adopt recovery mechanisms to ensure business continuity. Turn around strategies, therefore, need to be adopted to ensure teaching and research which are the core function of universities continues seamlessly. Innovative ideas to re-engineer service delivery need not be overstated.

Laikipia University needs to strengthen the linkages between education and industry. You must therefore create linkages with the potential job market to correlate the skills and knowledge set offered at the university with what is required at the labour market and indeed with the overall national agenda. At the same time, more relevant, innovative and technical programmes will accelerate recovery and economic growth.

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Ladies and Gentlemen

Finally, I wish to charge the graduands whom we are celebrating today, to maximize the knowledge and skills that you have successfully acquired from Laikipia University. The skills you are coming out with should ready you not only for the job market but should also be used as effective tools for socio-economic change. I challenge you to deliberately seek out opportunities for yourselves and make use of locally available resources and be entrepreneurial. Go forth and make a success of yourselves, create a positive impact in society, and transform yourself and the community around you. The value of the degree or diploma attained must be evident in society and it is your responsibility to work out this value even as the government remains supportive of your endeavours.

Once again, congratulations and all the best!

