



CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL'S SPEECH DURING THE
3RD GRADUATION CEREMONY HELD ON 27TH
NOVEMBER 2015 AT THE GRADUATION PAVILION
UNIVERSITY OF ELDORET
PROF. HAROUN MENGECH

- Guest of Honour, the Cabinet Secretary MEST, Hon Dr. Fred Matiang'i
- Chancellor, UoE, Prof. Amb. Judith Mbula Bahemula
- Governor, Uasin Gishu County, H.E. Hon Jackson Arap Mandago
- Cabinet Secretaries here present
- Members of the University of Eldoret Council
- Vice-Chancellor, University of Eldoret, Prof. Teresa Akenga
- Members of the UMB
- Vice-Chancellors here present
- Honorable Members of Parliament here present
- Members of faculty and staff
- Parents and guardians
- Distinguished Guests
- Distinguished graduands
- Students
- Ladies and gentlemen

I am delighted to participate in this graduation ceremony as the new chair of the University Council. I therefore take this opportunity to welcome everyone to this 3rd graduation ceremony. May I also at this point appreciate the former chair of Council, Prof. Sarone Ole Sena. Being the first Chairman of the University of Eldoret Council, Prof. Sarone did an excellent job in laying the foundation of the University. Under his leadership, over 4500 graduands were conferred with

degrees and awarded diplomas of the University; three major capital development projects completed; the first five year 2014/2019 Strategic Plan launched; 30 policies approved and in December, 2014 he led the Council in partially receiving the assets and liabilities of the University from Moi University. We salute him for this exemplary service. The University Council is committed to continue facilitating provision of equal opportunities for affordable distinctive world-class education to all

our clients. This University will continue to maintain an environment that nurtures academic excellence and participation in world-changing research and development for both scholars and society.

Education for undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate students is a core mandate of the University. Due to globalization, however, Universities are expected to be vital sources of entrepreneurial skills. Indeed, many governments around the world today are

increasingly building their economic development strategies around entrepreneurship, and so, universities need to offer more enterprise and entrepreneurship education than ever before. Being an entrepreneur requires innovation, commitment, and vision. Therefore, our University is focusing more on nurturing innovation in order to develop the next generation of technologies. The Council has allocated KES 20 million this academic year (2015/2016) for research and innovation. I urge the

faculty to involve students in their innovative research activities and in the utilization of this and other research funds.

Ladies and gentlemen

As an institution of higher learning, University of Eldoret is proud of its contribution to the nation's economic, social and political pillars that underpin Vision 2030 through training of highly skilled personnel. Scaling up of undergraduate and post graduate

programmes at the University has ensured that the University remains a vital source of new knowledge and a provider of skilled human resource. The University Council embraces participatory governance regarding the operations of the University. It also recognizes and protects the principle of academic freedom as well as merit-based staff recruitment.

INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Ladies and gentlemen

We are committed to seeking public/private partnerships to mobilize funds for infrastructure development that supports teaching, research and extension programmes. In this regard, the University has and will continue to work towards achievement of her vision, mission and other strategic objectives.

In this regard, several infrastructural developments have been completed. These include the School of Education and School of Engineering complexes, the former having been completed and latter almost finalized. The University will continue expanding as envisioned in our strategic plan **2014-2019**.

The Commission for University Education (CUE) recently inspected our Town Campus for the purposes of accreditation. Town Campus, with a student

enrollment of over 2,500, continues to offer quality education, training and research in a wide-range of academic and professional programmes through various flexible modes of delivery. We will open the Nairobi City Campus sooner than later to cater for the needs of the ever growing student population across the country.

To the graduands, I hope that the achievements you celebrate today will open many doors of opportunity

and help you to realize your personal and professional ambitions. We expect you to exhibit excellence in knowledge, skills and attitudes, but also to be patriotic. I believe that you have been adequately prepared to take on industry and societal challenges with dedication and purpose. I encourage you to start up your own businesses which will not only create new jobs but also steer our country forward.

Finally I wish you all every success, happiness and prosperity for the future. God bless you all.

It is now my humble and pleasant duty to welcome our Chancellor to give her remarks.

Madam Chancellor.

Prof. Haroun Mengech
Chairman UoE Council