

SPEECH BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR OF THE JOMO KENYATTA UNIVERSITY (JKUAT) – PROF. MABEL IMBUGA AT THE INAUGURATION GRADUATION CEREMONY OF THE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF MOMBASA POLYTECHNIC (MPUC) ON 25TH OF NOVEMBER 2010.

Salutation

The Chancellor,

The Ag. Minister for Higher Education Science and Technology,

The Permanent Secretary Ministry Higher Education Science and Technology,

Members of Parliament,

The Provincial Commissioner – Coast

Members of the Council of Mombasa Polytechnic University College

The Principal Mombasa Polytechnic University College

Principals and Heads of other institutions

Distinguished guests

Graduands

Alumni

All protocol observed

Deputy Vice Chancellors

All JKUAT staff

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is with profound honour that I address this inaugural graduation ceremony of the Mombasa Polytechnic University College. I wish to acknowledge today the collective and individual contributions of the founders and indeed the current staffers of this institution for their immense contributions that has transformed this

institution from a humble middle level status to a JKUAT Constituent university college.

This graduation ceremony is yet another epitome of the zeal and determination of the University College in its quest to realize its vision. It is a demonstration of the institution's mission in which MPUC intends **'to offer quality technological education and training; promotion of scholarship; research and innovation; outreach to community for industrial and technological development'**. We at JKUAT are pleased to note the vital role that MPUC is playing providing the much needed manpower to steer this country and the region forward.

Nothing has given me pleasure than seeing this baby grow. My role in men touring this institution is very exciting. You see the baby faltering and you realize it is your responsibility; you see it crawl and later take its first steps you beam at the joy of parenting. But when the child takes to the right direction you are overjoyed and you feel the appreciation that you were there for them.

As Jomo Kenyatta University of Technology and Agriculture, we are very proud to be associated with MPUC today and we want to assure you of our continued support as you prepare to acquire your own university autonomy. Indeed MPUC is the first of the four JKUAT constituent colleges to stage a graduation ceremony.

My advice to you as an institution is to remain focused and continue to fast track training infrastructure so as to realize your full potential. I know a lot has been done but remember the sky is the beginning level for the stratosphere . Kenyans are looking for innovations and efficiency thus adopting service delivery that places great emphasis on results and not just mere processes is paramount. That way you will continue to remain both competitive and relevant.

There is need to institutionalize results based management style. This is the only way you can make yourselves accountable to Kenyans by provision of set standards in the delivery your of services. This is in tandem with the new constitution dispensation with reference to article 46 that gives Kenyans the right

to goods and services of a reasonable quality. As you can see, we have not stopped to mentor you.

As for the graduands, I urge you to demonstrate professionalism; commitment and dedication in your vocation. I certainly may not be best placed to give you a lecture about your profession, but I do have responsibility to give you an indication of what the society expects and indeed will demand from you. As young professionals, you undoubtedly carry a big responsibility. Let your light shine all through as you earnestly give your services diligently, passionately and enthusiastically. The society expects nothing less.

In execution of your duties you are likely to encounter challenges. Confront them head on with all the wisdom and sobriety as demanded by your respective professions. Let this be your guiding light; let that be the source of your inspiration to rise and surmount every obstacle. You will clearly need patience, endurance, dedication and above all a great measure of perseverance.

To the graduands, the training that you have received has adequately prepared you to tackle the future challenges. I therefore have every reason to be confident that you will triumph. Not only will you have made this institution proud but the nation as a whole. Mombasa Polytechnic University College will continue to be interested in your success as this would reflect well on institution.

Remember that as our graduands, you will always be representatives of this institution wherever you will be. It has become clear that the world is interconnected. Globalization has allowed people to communicate and interact with one another, regardless of their physical proximity. Represent us well and understand the world we live in. It is a world in which the growing significance of boundary-crossing networks is forcing us to reconfigure our societies as interdependent parts of a global whole.

We live in a world where our identity as a nation matters a lot particularly in shaping our country's international image. I therefore urge you to be at the

forefront in fostering Kenya's image as you interact with members of other nationalities. Let us all stand to benefit as a people with regard to our respective professions.

Today's graduation is significant as the institution celebrates what it has achieved over the years. This is one of the rewards for an institution that has remained steadfast. Today we form part of this history and for this let us celebrate. Let us all reaffirm our dedication to the pursuit of the noble vision that constitutes the cornerstone of the existence of this very University College.

Finally I wish to take this opportunity to pay tribute to parents, guardians, and sponsors for the role that has culminated in your achievement today. It is my pleasure to wish you success in your future endeavors and welcome you to the world of work and nation building.

Thank you and God bless.