

## CHANCELLOR'S SPEECH

### Salutations/Recognitions

It is gratifying to see all of you gathered here this morning to participate in the 8<sup>th</sup> graduation ceremony of the KCA University. Your presence today is proof that our young and dynamic University is going forward and higher and that all of you present are interested in this journey as a people that have variously contributed to its realization. I am therefore overjoyed in welcoming you all to this great occasion.

I particularly want to extend a special and very warm welcome to our Chief Guest Prof. Ngugi wa Thiong'o, a distinguished professor of **Comparative Literature at the University of California, Irvine**, for accepting our invitation to grace this auspicious occasion. Prof. Ngugi is a household name in this region not just because he is a prolific, creative and innovative writer. We also know he has a stand on issues concerning the life of this nation and the profession to which he belongs. Prof. Ngugi stands for and has all along championed individual, cultural and national responsibility and, ultimately, the preservation of African ideals through sustained multilingual diversity. Professor you are most welcome and please feel both free and at home among your people and academic fans. It is indeed a great honour and privilege to have you in our midst as we join our graduating students, staff and guests in sharing our deep joy at the milestones they have achieved.

Allow me to share with you how Prof. Ngugi was nominated to be the chief guest today. As KCA University, we are driven by innovative faculty, students and programmes. As part of this innovation, we allowed our pioneer Bachelor of Education Arts (Graduating here today) to nominate through their dean the chief guest they wished to grace their graduation. This special group nominated the distinguished professor of Comparative Literature to be their chief guest. Ladies and gentlemen, we were challenged by this nomination and had to work with emergency speed on how to get hold of Prof. Ngugi to come to Kenya to be our chief guest. Today he is here. We are grateful to God that we were able to locate him in time.

Ladies and gentlemen, our vision to become a world-class university, remains undeterred. This definitely calls for, in all areas of our endeavour, continued hard work, discipline, perseverance, courage, and above all, the grace and guidance of God. That is why the continued mobilization of human, material, and financial resources, among other things, has remained a priority in our strategic planning. As a result of these efforts, we are today happy to state that we have made some progress towards enhancing our staff profile, improving our academic and administrative systems, sustaining four viable campuses, among other things.

This year alone, six of our faculty members have graduated with PhDs from various Universities in their various fields of study. More other staff are pursuing doctoral studies and others pursuing various master's degree programmes. We expect more to follow suit in the upcoming years. This to me is crucial in ensuring that the educators are themselves well educated and that the momentum to transform and uphold excellence is a continuing and up-beat tradition of this University.

Before addressing the graduating class, let me first thank the various categories of sponsors who chose our University for their loved ones, namely, parents, guardians and others. Today KCAU joins you in celebrating the outcome of your investment and sacrifice. Through your graduating relatives and friends you will always remain stakeholders in our University and we shall always remember you as partners more so as you continue to sponsor more of your own in this University. Without your support we would have no students to talk about. Congratulations too.

To the Graduating Class of 2016 I say **BRAVO AND CONGRATULATIONS!!!!** Your efforts have been worthwhile. This ceremony is testimony to the fact that you accomplished your mission successfully. Besides, it is further testimony that, for now, you have acquired academic credentials good enough to launch you in the world to pursue your wider life goals.

Let me remind you that you are a more fortunate young generation in human history. That is so because you have access to, by today's standards, the most amazing and sophisticated technology at your disposal which my generation could not dream of. Make sure you fully use that technological advancement to your advantage and for those in your life who were not as privileged. But remember, in your generation, something strange seems to have happened to the cosmos. Time passes by faster than it did in our youth. Therefore, you must account for every minute of your life. You must not squander the opportunities you encounter on meaningless and worthless activities and engagements. Get ready to make all the impossible possible and in time. And as your vice chancellor Prof. Midamba often says, '*think global and act local.*' In that way it will be possible for you to create a new world which no past generations dreamed of.

I add by reminding you that you must have observed that you are hereafter entering a society today that is bedeviled with many challenges: unemployment, corruption, poverty, diseases and many other forms of inequalities and injustices. Face this world with caution and not academic arrogance. Consult and or learn from those who have gone before you and if you find none to consult, fall back on the knowledge you acquired from here and then to God ultimately. Do not be scared. Be challenged instead and always take some action about your situation instead of lamenting. Challenges are not overcome by running away or burying our heads in the sand. *Meeting the challenge head on* must be your resolve because that is the approach that sparks the flame of

success and value for life. Remember also that you owe society something because when you came to this world some people had sacrificed for you. You therefore stood on the shoulders of others. At KCA we have taught you to add or return to society and to leave the world a better place than you found it. This University will always remember you because you have learnt here. But we want to be proud of you because you have become a woman or man of impact in your society and generation. Use this university, your alma mater, as the hub of all your creative initiatives.

Congratulations and May God bless you.