



SOUTH EASTERN KENYA UNIVERSITY

SPEECH BY PROF. GEOFFREY M. MULUVI, VICE-CHANCELLOR, SOUTH EASTERN KENYA UNIVERSITY, ON THE OCCASION OF THE 8TH GRADUATION CEREMONY HELD ON 23RD NOVEMBER 2021

Chief Administrative Secretary, State Department for Early Learning and Basic Education and University Education and Research,

Dr. Swabah Omar, Chairperson, South Eastern Kenya University Council,

Members of the South Eastern Kenya University Council,

Parents, guardians and sponsors,

Graduands

Staff and Students,

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

I am delighted to welcome you to our eighth graduation ceremony. I thank you most sincerely for sparing time to be part of this Congregation physically and virtually.

Madam Chancellor,

For the second year running, we are marking this occasion online as opposed to having an open-air function where we would freely celebrate the achievement of our graduands. As was the case last year, the bulk of the graduands, their parents and other important guests are participating online far away from here due to COVID-19.

On behalf of the Senate and on my own behalf, I welcome you all to this special day when we are celebrating the culmination of our graduands' many years of hard work characterised by great sacrifices and resolve to excel.

It is, therefore my joy and pride to present to you a total of 1,341 students, who have satisfied the entire University system and have, therefore, qualified for various degrees and diplomas of South Eastern Kenya University. Out of these are one PhD, 12 masters and 1,328 bachelors degree graduands.



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I, therefore, convey our heartfelt congratulations to today's graduands on this great achievement. The entire South Eastern Kenya University fraternity takes pride in your success, which is a direct result of hard work and determination to excel.

As we mark this great day, I would also like to pay special tribute to our lecturers and other members of staff, parents, guardians and sponsors, who have played a key role in this accomplishment. We cannot forget the Government, which has given us the necessary resources to enable us to realise our objectives.

Madam Chancellor,

As we are all aware, the country is recovering from and learning to live with the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects. While the pandemic has adversely affected us just like all other institutions, we have done our best to cope with the situation. SEKU was among the first institutions of higher learning to digitise our curricula and offer our course online thus ensuring continuity in teaching and learning.

Upon the Government's roll out of vaccination early this year, the University Management and Senate led the way in mobilising the staff to get the dose. As a result of this, I am glad to report that today more than 95 percent of the University staff have been fully vaccinated.

Moreover, so far, South Eastern Kenya University has not lost staff or students on account of COVID-19. We attribute this to the utmost seriousness with which we have treated the pandemic.

Mr. SC, Sir, as I reported last year, we have also made tremendous progress in terms of physical infrastructure, which has given us ample opportunity to adjust our teaching arrangements. Our two campuses, in Kitui Town and Wote Town are now being used by our students.



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This development has enabled us to transfer the bulk of the School of Business and Economics to the Kitui Town Campus. This building is also complete and, in addition to housing the central Administration, it is also accommodation the School of Education, Humanities and Social Sciences.

At the same time, I am glad to report that we have also made corresponding strides in the expansion of our academic programmes.

This year, the University got accreditation from the TIVET Authority to offer TIVET courses both at diploma and certificate levels. We have also got the first cohort of government sponsored engineering students.

We have also received the interim authority to offer bachelor of medical laboratory science. We also received accreditation to offer Bachelor of Public Health, and we are also accredited to offer food, nutrition and Dietetics..

As we continue on this expansion trajectory, I would like to assure all our partners and customers that the University will remain steadfast in ensuring quality in all spheres of its service. We have put in place necessary measures to guarantee adherence to our set quality standards.

Madam Chancellor,

The success the University has achieved in the last one year is due to the support from the Council and the Ministry. We therefore thank the Council, led by our able Chairperson, Dr. Swabah Omar, for its untiring support and guidance. My special thanks go to the Ministry of Education led by the Cabinet Secretary, for the crucial support in terms of resources, which have tremendously aided the growth of the University.

I cannot forget the members of staff who have not hesitated to go an extra mile in ensuring seamless service delivery. Our students have remained exemplary in terms of discipline. The students have remained most realistic and understanding in the face of challenges in the process of offering our services to them.



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Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is now my pleasure to invite the Chair of the University Council, Dr. Swabah Omar to address the Congregation.

Prof. Geoffrey M. Muluvi, PhD

Vice-Chancellor