

LAIKIPIA



UNIVERSITY

THE VICE CHANCELLOR, PROF. KIBETT ROTICH, PhD
Professor of Bio-Statistics and Informatics

The Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education
The Chief Administrative Secretary/
PS State Department of University Education and Research
The Chancellor
The Chair, Laikipia University Council
Other Council Chairs Present, Members of Council, and others from other Universities
Other Vice-Chancellors Present
Hon. Patrick Mariru MP Laikipia West
Dr. Tabitha Mbiriri CECM Education, Rep. The Governor, Laikipia County
Deputy Commissioner
Student Leadership
Alumni
Guest Speaker
Graduands
Distinguished Guests
Ladies and Gentlemen

I thank God for enabling this auspicious occasion of celebrating with our graduands whose effort and endeavour have occasioned this 6th graduation ceremony. In deed it is a remarkable day since it is also my inaugural graduation ceremony and I am delighted to join the Laikipia University fraternity. On my own behalf, and on behalf of the University Management Board, Senate and entire staff of Laikipia University, I applaud the graduating class of 2018.

Ladies and Gentlemen

This ceremony will usher a total of 2,065 graduands to the job market world. I have trust that the graduands have been academically and professionally empowered to compete and fully participate in the transformation of our society. We have produced holistic all rounded graduands who we believe will be responsible Kenyans in all spheres of life.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Laikipia University is on the path to regaining its place in the provision of quality education. The university is restructuring and doing a rationalisation of its structures. The University Statutes are being reviewed to allow room for a lean, effective and efficient system. To catalyse this, the Income Generating Unit (IGU) of the university is being revamped. The revitalization of the farm for dairy farming and horticulture activities is on track. The Water Bottling plant is also on course. All these will complement the University Budget.

The university is working on improving its infrastructure; the construction of a Science Complex is on top gear while plans for a sports complex is also on course. The University Medical Centre which is fully accredited by NHIF offers affordable medical services to students, staff and the community around the university.

The University through corporate social responsibility has played a key role on environmental management through the annual ½ marathon that focuses on conserving the shamanek forest and the annual environmental week.

This Financial Year, the University will hold its inaugural Innovation day; the objective being encouragement and showcase of innovative ideas and talents from our students and youth from the surrounding community. The ultimate goal is to set up an Innovation Park that the University and County Government of Laikipia will be proud of. Further, the Directorate of Research, Extension and Consultancy (REC) will be restructured to enable it take its key role as a Centre of Generation and Dissemination of ideas and knowledge.

As Laikipia University, we are proud to announce that Dr Florence Opondo from the School of Business is an Agripreneurship Ambassador. She coordinates Entrepreneurship in Agribusiness programme, partnering with Agripreneurship Switzerland. The programme is a comprehensive experimental learning experience for young African Agripreneurs. The programme entails acquisition of business skill by students participating in agri-food courses. So far, Laikipia University has 20 students on the programme.

I take this opportunity to extend my gratitude to the community around the university for their continued support and collaboration. They include the private hostel owners who have gracefully continued to accommodate our students. I also wish to express my heartfelt thanks to the County Government of Laikipia for installing security lights that have greatly improved security along the Highway.

I wish to acknowledge our 77-year-old graduand, Mr. Wilson Dadson Mugwe Weru who is graduating with B.Ed (Arts) Second Class Honours (Upper Division). He served as an Army Officer and later as a Settlement Officer. He is now in retirement and has already enrolled for a Masters Programme. This is proof enough that education is a long life commitment.

Finally, to our graduands, I take this opportunity to express confidence in your ability. As you leave the environment of Laikipia University, you remain our worthy ambassadors. Lead by example. Remain focused and aspire to be world shapers as you have been empowered. Congratulations once more.

Thank you. Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous 2019.