



GARISSA UNIVERSITY INAUGURAL GRADUATION CEREMONY

Creating Pathways for Equitable University Education

DATE: THURSDAY 27TH JUNE 2019



Prof. George A.O. Magotha

I congratulate Garissa University during its first graduation ceremony today. I wish to thank the entire administration, faculty and non-teaching staff for all the good work that has led to today's event. I am sure the Univer-

Message from the Cabinet Secretary for Education

sity is injecting into the labour market quality graduates who are ready to contribute to the realisation of the Kenya Vision 2030.

Garissa University council and management should remain focused and efficient towards the development of a world class university that creates knowledge, skills and innovations for the benefit of Kenya and the world at large.

With the challenges that higher education is facing in Kenya, I wish to acknowledge the role Universities are playing to help solve social, economic and political challenges. Despite the limited resources, the government will continue to make efforts to support the development of higher education insti-

tutions in line with the needs of the Nation.

I urge Garissa University and all other tertiary institutions to continually review their academic programmes in tandem with the changes taking place in the country.

Going forward, Garissa University must devise ways to remain competitive in the face of reforms that the Ministry of Education plans to implement in the sector to raise the quality of learning and research.

I wish all the graduates who will be receiving academic degrees and diplomas today the very best of luck as they join the world of work. Kenya and the world needs you. I am sure you are adequately prepared to excel in all spheres. Congratulations.

Message from CAS and PS, State Department for University Education and Research



Prof. Collette A. Suda

On my own behalf and the Ministry of Education Science and Technology I take this opportunity to congratulate the stake holders of Garissa Univer-

sity for their efforts that have culminated to this historic and momentous occasion of the 1st graduation ceremony. I am impressed with the progress the University is making since 2016 in terms of student enrolments, completion of the perimeter wall, student hostel and it is the Ministry's hope that these achievements will help the University attain its goals. Quality higher education is paramount and Universities, Garissa inclusive should strive towards achieving it for the realization of vision 2030 that demands quality services and products out of our institutions.

The ministry of Education Science and Technology is determined to help universities achieve their agenda as they strive to be agents of change in Kenya and globally through research and teaching. It is for this reason that the Commission for University Education (CUE) will conduct audits for all Universities and the findings used for the guidance and realization of University agenda in this Country.

Finally, I join the rest of well wishers to congratulate the graduates of the 1st Garissa University graduation in 2019.

Message from Chairperson of Council



Dr. Christopher G. Gakahu
Chairperson of Council

The founder Garissa University Council is honored and proud to be one of the key pillars of this inaugural graduation ceremony. I take this opportunity to congratulate the University fraternity for planning and convening this memorable occasion and key milestone in the University for many years to come. Naturally, the day belongs to you, the graduating students, without whom there would be no

graduation ceremony. Today is the climax of your hard work. Congratulations again. It is important to remember that behind your success are men and women in the name of parents, guardians and sponsors who denied themselves so that you became what you are today.

We must appreciate also the University management and lecturers and a diverse team of dedicated support staff who ensured you were taught the skills and knowledge you came for and now certified as ready for the world out there.

I believe you have been equipped with skills, analyzing and thinking capacity to add value to the world you are going to and to adjust and to adapt to new life. I also believe you have been equipped with abilities to communicate and work in diverse teams and environs while shining in your discipline in which you have earned and awarded the degree, diploma or certificate.

The development of Garissa

University cannot be actualized without the commitment and financial support of the Government through the Ministry of Education Science and Technology (MoEST). Among other projects by MoEST, is an Information Communication and Technology infrastructure project which has been completed. The project has enabled the University to use Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) in its daily activities. Two major projects; the Students Hostel and the perimeter stone fence, also financed by the MoEST, are about to be completed and will go a long way in the improvement of the University's ability to provide hostel services and security for the students. The role of the Commission for University Education (CUE) in its guidance and oversight in improving the quality of our programs cannot be gainsaid. Garissa University seeks and partners with like-minded organizations.

The University has al-

ready adopted a strategy of developing new innovative programmes while phasing out some of the current programmes. By identifying the current and future comparative advantages the university has formed academic teams to formulate programmes in dryland management and agriculture, livestock improvement with the focus on the camel, climate change adaptation and resilience, gender and pastoral women empowerment, capacity building for devolution, Islamic studies and conflict/peace studies among others. These efforts are in line with our 2018/2023 Strategic Plan that is to be launched at this inaugural graduation ceremony.

Finally, to the graduates, congratulations once again. I believe Garissa University, the "Oasis of Innovation" has imparted to you knowledge and skills needed to face the world's challenges by being flexible and innovative. Go ahead and do it, with God's blessings.



Prof. Hellen Sambili
Chancellor

I am very much delighted to preside over this First Graduation Ceremony of Garissa University. This Convocation has been made possible by men and women who burnt midnight oil to achieve this great feat. A feat which requires discipline and dedication to duty. Congratulations!

I am aware of the difficult past that Garissa University has come through. We



Dr. Bertha K. Kaimenyi
Council Member



Mr. Jacktone Akeio
Council Member



Eng. Mohamed A. Farah
Council Member



Mr. Bonface K. Ngigi
Rep. PS National Treasury



Mr. William O. Motari
Council Member



Mr. Evans M. Atambo
Representing PS, State Dept. of Higher Education



Prof. Ahmed A. Warfa
Council Secretary

Members of Council

Message from the Vice Chancellor

iv of Garissa University. This is a momentous occasion for the graduates who have tirelessly endeavored to work within strict scheduled timelines to accomplish curricular objectives within their various disciplines. It can't go without mentioning that this forms an epoch-making ceremony to the parents and guardians who have made immeasurable investment in the graduates for the period they have been pursuing their various courses at Garissa University. Additionally, it is widely acknowledged that the staff of Garissa University have played a significant role in supporting the academic journey of the graduates to its end as exemplified by the historic graduation ceremony.

As a symbol of resilience against violent extremism, Garissa University stand to be counted having been able to graduate 346



Prof. Ahmed A. Warfa
Ag. Vice Chancellor

I welcome you to the first graduation ceremo-

graduates. We have been able to grow student population exponentially through attractive and affordable courses (perhaps most affordable in the country) under very conducive environment. We are thankful to our professors and faculty in general for mentoring our graduates to pursue their courses successfully to completion.

In this accord, we are confident that our graduates will contribute enormously to national development and most importantly become ambassadors of peace. In being responsive and relevant to the immediate and future needs as outlined in the national development blue print including Vision 2030 and the Big Four Agenda.

Garissa University as guided by its vision to be a world class university of technological process and development, has proposed school of Agriculture and Natural

resources to address food insecurity with North Eastern region and its arid climate forming a special niche in formulating the programmes. Efforts are on the way to launch various programmes for validation with Commission for University Education (CUE). To promote access and efficiency in pursuing various academic programmes, Garissa University Management Board has agreed to launch online programmes.

Additionally, in enhancing strategic partnerships with our collaborating institutions in research and consultancy, Garissa University has been signing a number of MOUs to launch various student-centered programmes which have a direct impact on the schools and communities in the Northern region. Garissa University houses a fully operational police station with strict checkpoints during entrance and exit of the

university. We are confident that our students will continue to be safe within the university premises. Garissa University continues to develop her infrastructure with its perimeter wall and 750 capacity hostel almost complete.

We have proposed construction of the state of art tuition block due to the increasing demand for lecture halls and a modern library that will house the school of information sciences. Garissa University has as well launched ERP successfully that is currently seeing all major university operations done online. This portrays our focus towards provision of quality services and making the University acquire international recognition status. I congratulate our newest alumni and wish them all the best in their endeavors.