

**SPEECH BY THE CHAIRPERSON, KENYA MEDICAL TRAINING COLLEGE BOARD OF DIRECTORS PROF. PHILIP KALOKI, EBS, ON THE 88<sup>TH</sup> GRADUATION CEREMONY HELD AT THE KMTC GRADUATION SQUARE NAIROBI ON 3<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER, 2020**

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**Chief Administrative Secretary, Dr. Rashid Abdi Aman**

**Members of Parliament**

**Governors**

**KMTC Board of Directors**

**KMTC Chief Executive Officer Prof. Michael Kiptoo**

**Representatives of various Government and Private entities**

**Development Partners**

**Graduating Class of 2020 and their families**

**Media**

**Staff and students**

**Online audience**

**Ladies and gentlemen**

**Guest of honor Sir,**

On behalf of the Kenya Medical Training College Board of Directors, I welcome you to 88<sup>th</sup> Graduation Ceremony. Thank you *Bwana Chief Administrative Secretary* for finding time to grace this significant occasion to KMTC and to the lives of graduands. *Karibu* to KMTC.

I congratulate the graduating class of 2020, for staying focused to their goal and satisfying the examiners to qualify for various awards in their fields of study.

I want to say a special congratulation to the many graduands, who today become the first in your family to graduate. What a fantastic achievement! *Hongera!*

I sincerely thank our faculty, parents, guardians and partners for the immense support, enabling the graduands pursue their studies to completion.

**Guest of honor Sir,**

This is a unique ceremony, being the first ever virtual graduation in the history of KMTC.

The outbreak of COVID-19 has not only brought gloom - but also presented us with immense opportunities to build reliable and robust systems for continuity of service delivery.

I commend our faculty and graduands. Your determination and proactivity has enabled us have this graduation ceremony. As the Chairperson of the Board of Directors, I am very proud of you all!

**Guest of honor Sir,**

KMTC remains the lead middle level health trainer in East Africa and beyond. We address health workforce needs by contributing over 85% of the local middle level human resources for the health sector, by releasing an average of 10,000 graduands every year.

Today, the College will graduate 4,114 Graduands who will contribute to the human resources for health in the country, a key milestone in attainment of Universal Health Coverage and Sustainable Development Goal 3. An additional **8,114** final year students whose learning was abruptly disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic will however miss out on this year's graduation.

KMTC remains a major exporter of health workforce with our graduates working in far off countries in Europe, Australia and USA. This means we directly contribute to national development through diaspora remittances and investments.

**Guest of honor Sir,**

The College has continued to embrace a culture of good corporate governance, performance contracting and quality management systems, thus recording tremendous achievements over the years.

The achievements include: growth in the College asset base, establishment of new campuses, recruitment of more staff to support the growing number of students, uptake of research activities, enhanced terms and conditions of service, training, staff rewards as well as strengthening of Campus resource centres and transport systems.

**Guest of honor Sir,**

In line with the Board's transformative expansion agenda, the College continues to grow at an impressive rate. Five new Campuses: Mandera, Sigowet, Imenti, Taveta and Mbooni were operationalized, bringing the total number of KMTC campuses to 71 spread across 43 out of the 47 Counties in the country. By this, we have created additional opportunities to train competent health professionals to bridge the human resource for health gaps in the country.

Even as we grow, the College remains committed to excellence, ISO standards as well as regulatory frameworks.

**Guest of honor Sir,**

The Board has put in place various policies and frameworks to strengthen internal processes and procedures, to ensure compliance with existing laws and regulations.

The Board has ensured uptake of Enterprise Resource Planning, as well as E-learning to support and strengthen teaching, learning and service delivery.

**Guest of honor Sir,**

Towards ensuring students have the best environment for learning, the Board has spearheaded infrastructural development and further strengthened transport systems to ease mobility of faculty and students to clinical placement sites. Last year, the College acquired 62 vehicles (36 buses, 24 double cabins and two land cruisers), towards this course.

**Guest of honor Sir,**

Major achievements are usually not made by single entities on their own, but are made when people partner and collaborate.

The Board has enhanced resource mobilization initiatives and strengthened collaboration for mutually beneficial outcomes and sustainability.

Our collaboration with County Governments, National Government Constituency Development Fund and other partners has resulted to growth in land, infrastructure, equipment and secondment of staff.

To provide clinical training and internship opportunities for our students, we have partnered with over 450 hospitals and health facilities.

To our esteemed partners, we owe you immense debt of gratitude. You have supported us through; capacity building, equipping our Campuses with teaching and learning resources, exchange programmes and curriculum development.

Our partners include: Beyond Zero, World Bank, St. John's Ambulance, National Youth Service, USAID, DFID, WHO, DANIDA, Afya JIJINI Project, MSH, UKAID, UNICEF, Fred Hollows Foundation, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, Kenya Association of People with Epilepsy, Karolinska Institute, Book Aid International, AMREF, Jackson's Foundation, African Development Bank and Rattansi Foundation. Others are: Centre for Public Health and Development, General Electric, National Bank, Higher Education Loans Board, Toyota Kenya Foundation, Afya Elimu and IntraHealth. We sincerely thank you for supporting the College in attainment of its mandate.

**Guest of honor Sir,**

Outside our training, research and consultancy services, we have an incredible story to tell about what we do for Kenyans.

Since confirmation of the first COVID-19 case in the country, the College has been highly involved in supporting Government efforts in managing the

pandemic. KMTC is a member of the National Multi-Agency Team on COVID-19 tasked with preparedness of quarantine and isolation facilities. The College is also a member of the National Advisory Committee assisting in planning for COVID-19 containment interventions and strengthening of health systems for Universal Health Coverage in the Counties.

Further, the College availed 44 of its Campuses with a bed capacity of 3,397, which hosted 5,077 clients in quarantine and isolation.

As part of our efforts of giving back to society, we have undertaken Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives of various forms. They include health education and promotion, donation of hand washing facilities and provision of mental health and psychosocial support, to mitigate the effects of the coronavirus. The College is committed in complementing the Ministry of Health in the fight against COVID-19.

**To our graduating class of 2020, as you leave, build resilience.**

Just as our theme about building resilience, the days remind you to build resilience in yourselves.

Resilience to remain in the front line in the fight against global health pandemics.

Resilience to support Government attain Universal Health College for all Kenyans.

Resilience to support achievement of Kenya Vision 2030 and SDG 3 - to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

Go out there and create jobs while pursuing excellence. There is more ahead of you, and we encourage you to take this training to the next level.

We are proud of your accomplishments!

Once more, congratulations!

**Guest of honor Sir,**

I thank the Management Team and staff led by the CEO for their dedication in the day to day running of the College and for organizing this event.

My gratitude goes to the Board of Directors for providing leadership and ensuring proper governance systems and procedures are in place.

Further, I thank the Ministry of Health led by the Cabinet Secretary, for the support and guidance, enabling us achieve our Vision of “being a Model Institution in the training and development of competent health professionals”.

**As I conclude, Bwana Waziri,**

On behalf of the KMTC Board, Management, staff, students and stakeholders, I thank the Government led by H.E President Uhuru Kenyatta CGH, for the support towards growth of the College, enabling us realize our mandate.

It is now my honor and duty to welcome the Chief Guest, Chief Administrative Secretary Ministry of Health Dr. Rashid Aman to address the congregation.

***Karibu bwana Waziri.***

Thank you.

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