

**SPEECH BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, KENYA
MEDICAL TRAINING COLLEGE PROF. MICHAEL
KIPTOO, ON THE 88TH GRADUATION CEREMONY HELD
AT THE KMTC GRADUATION SQUARE NAIROBI ON 3RD
DECEMBER, 2020**

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

Members of Parliament

Governors

Chairperson of the KMTC Board of Directors Prof. Philip Kaloki

KMTC Board of Directors

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,

It is my honor to welcome you to the 88th Graduation Ceremony for Kenya Medical Training College, a premier middle level health training institution in the country and beyond East Africa.

Thank you for honoring our invitation to officiate this event.

Guest of Honor Sir,

In this morning's address, I draw upon the wisdom of Nelson Mandela: "Education is the great engine of personal development. It is through education that the daughter of a peasant can become a doctor, that the son of a mineworker can become the head of the mine, that a child of farm workers can become the president of a great nation..."

Today, we are setting that path to greatness.

I hope each graduand finds joy, genuine pleasure, and satisfaction in your accomplishments as you join the ranks of healthcare workers.

I salute our lecturers and staff, parents, guardians and sponsors, the men and women who devoted their time and professional lives to support the graduands throughout their studies.

Guest of Honor Sir,

It is almost one year since the COVID-19 pandemic struck.

No one foresaw that it would turn the world upside down.

Ordinarily, we should all be gathering here today. But we can't do it because of our circumstances.

Despite these exceptional challenges, the College has risen to the test, and we are thriving.

I am proud to inform you that today **4,114** graduands will be awarded various Diplomas and Certificates. Out of the graduands, 348 will graduate with Higher Diplomas, 2,733 Diplomas and 1,033 certificates. I confirm that these graduands are well trained, examined, equipped with the relevant skills and competencies to serve in any part of the world.

Guest of Honor Sir,

Achieving UHC involves the distribution of resources, including competent and resilient human resources for health to match population needs.

Towards this end, we continue to expand our training programmes, review curricula and introduce specialized programs to ensure a continuous supply of competent and motivated health workers that are *fit for purpose* and *fit to practice* in the country context.

Courses such as Critical Care Nursing, Family Health, Nephrology Nursing, Clinical Officers and Nursing Anesthesia, Foundation Course in Community Health, Oncology and Palliative Care, Audiology and Hearing Care Technology, Infection Prevention and Control, as well as Echocardiography, are now being offered in the College.

In response to Government Policy on disability mainstreaming, KMTC mounted a course in Kenya Sign Language for Health Workers and we are proud to report that four pioneer students are among the team graduating today.

Given our extensive expansion of programs, quality assurance remains a key focus to ensure graduates remain competitive.

Guest of Honor Sir,

As a training institution, we are cognizant that Primary Health Care is the cornerstone for the realization of UHC, which is central to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal Number 3.

We are also cognizant of the central role played by Community Health Volunteers and Community Health Assistants in transforming how populations can access health services.

That is why, the College, through the Ministry of Health and other partners developed training course for Community Health Volunteers, Community Health Assistants, Community Health Extension Workers, Basic and Advanced Life Support and Emergency Medical Technicians.

To reduce the burden of treatment emanating from late diagnosis, we continue to attach our students to rural health facilities, where we spend over 51,000 hours weekly on community diagnosis and treatment.

Guest of Honor Sir,

Recognizing research as a central and indispensable component in generating evidence for policy decisions and improving global health, the Board has allocated sixty million shillings this financial year as seed capital to provide grants for research work, promote innovation and creativity.

This far, several studies have been funded, conducted, published in peer reviewed journals and presented in various conferences, to contribute to a knowledge-based economy as well as enhance teaching and learning.

Guest of honor Sir,

When the COVID-19 pandemic abruptly disrupted the conventional face to face classroom teaching method, we knew we had a challenge in front of us.

In response, the Board pulled resources together to invest in a robust ICT infrastructure – an infrastructure that has ensured students cover their course content, take exams and graduate without undue delay.

Guest of honor Sir,

Our strategic response to the COVID-19 epidemic has enabled us combine efforts with County Governments and other partners in provision of quarantine and isolation/treatment facilities. The College distributed 191 hand washing facilities, availed and trained human resource for health to ensure provision of critical services.

Further, we have integrated COVID-19 Infection, Prevention and Control protocols in our training.

The College continues to uphold the Ministry of Health's protocols in supporting the Government combat the Coronavirus epidemic as well as ensuring compliance with the Head of Public Service circulars on workplace guidelines.

Guest of honor Sir,

I am glad to report that the College has made tremendous achievements in the past year.

Roll out the Enterprise Resource Planning across the College has ensured enhanced efficiency and effectiveness as well as automation of services leading to tracking of utilization of funds and harmonized reporting.

We have also created secondary data centre for institutional continuity and data security.

Further, the College has forged strategic partnerships with like-minded partners to enhance teaching and learning as well as ensure needy

students access education. We remain indebted to our partners and look forward to working together in the future.

Finally, To our Graduands

Today, we are gathered here to celebrate you, for you have done us proud. Congratulations!

Your determination and focus, which have kept you going, will be your daily tools of trade as you step out into the medical field.

Now go out and make a positive impact in the world.

As you do this, remember that at all times the interest of your patient supersedes any other interest.

Even as you go out, you remain part and parcel of the KMTC family and I have no doubt that you will remain proud ambassadors of the College.

As graduates of KMTC and in line with this year's graduation theme, "Responding to global health challenges through training of resilient and competent frontline health professionals" go out there with a vision of making a contribution to the attainment of UHC and Kenya Vision 2030.

Guest of Honor Sir,

I thank Management and the Graduation Committee for the exemplary job of organizing this graduation ceremony. To all of you *asanteni sana*.

I thank the Ministry of Health, our Board of Directors, Management team, Staff, Students and partners for supporting the College achieve its mandate.

Guest of Honor Sir,

I now call upon the KMTC Board Chairperson Prof. Philip Kaloki to give his remarks.

Karibu Prof.

Thank you.
