

**SPEECH BY KMTC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER PROF. MICHAEL  
KIPTOO, ON THE 89<sup>TH</sup> KMTC GRADUATION CEREMONY HELD AT  
THE KMTC GRADUATION SQUARE NAIROBI ON 13<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2021 AT  
10:00AM**

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

**Chairperson KMTC Board of Directors, Prof. Philip Kaloki**

**KMTC Board of Directors**

**Vice Chancellor, Lukenya University Prof. Constantine Nyamboga**

**Representatives of Government entities**

**Development Partners**

**Graduating Class of April 2021 and their families**

**Members of the Fourth Estate**

**Faculty, Staff and Students**

**Online audience**

**Ladies and gentlemen**

**Guest of Honor Sir**

It is my pleasure to welcome you to preside over the 89<sup>th</sup> Graduation Ceremony for Kenya Medical Training College.

Your dedication and commitment towards the training of Human Resource for Health is unparalleled and consistent.

KMTC is a premier Training institution whose reputation for quality training and development of Health professionals cuts across East Africa and beyond.

Our mandate is to develop human and institutional capacities by providing training facilities for national Health manpower requirements.

### **Guest of Honor Sir**

This is the second virtual graduation the College is holding, the first having been held in December 3, 2020.

It is a special graduation ceremony to graduate graduands whose learning was abruptly disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

To our graduands, receive our heartfelt congratulations, as you are the Class which has endured the effects of the Coronavirus pandemic, worked extra hard and under difficult conditions than probably any other group to qualify for your graduation.

I acknowledge and commend the dedication of our Faculty, Staff, guardians and partners for their remarkable support during these difficult times, enabling graduands to complete their studies as scheduled.

### **Guest of Honor Sir**

I am proud to inform you that today **7,509** graduands will be awarded various Diplomas and Certificates. Out of these graduands, **332 will graduate with Higher Diplomas, 1,487 Diplomas and 5,690 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.

We encourage the County Governments to provide employment opportunities to these graduates to bridge the Human Resource for Health gaps. At the same time, we encourage our graduates to think outside formal employment, seize entrepreneurship opportunities, become self-reliant and create employment for others.

### **Guest of Honor Sir**

When the COVID-19 pandemic abruptly disrupted learning, we knew we had a challenge in front of us. Having been around for 94 years and with the confidence that we have the best innovators and trainers, we drew upon Mahatma Gandhi's wisdom and made an analogy about our situation. That, "True education must correspond to the surrounding circumstances, or it is not healthy growth." This analogy corresponds with today's theme ***"Embracing Innovation and Technology in Equipping the Next Generation of Frontline Health Professionals."***

In response, we pulled resources together to invest in a robust ICT infrastructure to drive e-learning, thus ensuring students cover their course content, take exams and graduate.

## **Guest of Honor Sir**

In a special way, we thank H.E the President, for allowing KMTC being one of the medical training institutions to continue with training, while strictly observing the set COVID-19 protocols. This has given our students first-hand experience in managing COVID-19 patients.

The College has indeed been a frontline player in providing Multi-sectoral solutions to support government in managing the Coronavirus.

In our strategic response, we combined efforts with County Governments and other partners in provision of critical services and integration of COVID-19 Infection, Prevention and Control protocols in our training.

Despite the pandemic, the College is committed to training health professionals to support the Ministry's efforts in fighting malaria, HIV/AIDS, other communicable and non-communicable diseases, which continue to claim lives.

## **Guest of Honor Sir**

Achieving UHC involves the strengthening leadership and governance, Health service delivery, work force, information systems, access to essential medicine, distribution of resources, including competent and resilient Human Resources for Health to match population needs and enable the health care system to function.

Towards this end, the College has expanded its training programmes, aligned Curricula and introduced specialized courses to ensure graduates acquire the relevant competencies to respond to the ever-changing societal and policy needs.

Quality assurance remains a key focus in our expansion program to ensure our graduates remain competitive.

## **Guest of Honor Sir**

To strengthen Primary Health Care and how populations can access Health services, the College has collaborated with partners to offer training for Community Health Volunteers, Community Health Assistants, Community Health Extension Workers and Life Support as well as Emergency Medical Technicians.

During clinical placements and rural experience, our students and faculty play a significant role in augmenting healthcare service delivery alongside other healthcare professionals.

Among the graduands are 406 Enrolled Community Health Nurses drawn from Vulnerable, Marginalized, Arid and Semi-Arid communities, who were fully sponsored by the World Bank through the Beyond Zero programme, to undertake their training. This cadre of nurses is expected to improve utilization and quality of Primary Health Care services with a focus on Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health services in the hard to reach areas in line with the Beyond Zero initiative.

## **Guest of Honor Sir**

To generate evidence for policy decisions and improve global health, the College has supported staff to specifically conduct research, innovation and outreach.

In addition, the College will hold its 6<sup>th</sup> Scientific Conference in June to provide a platform to share health related knowledge and solutions.

## **Guest of Honor Sir,**

I am glad to report that the College has made tremendous achievements in governance, administration and academics. Roll out of the Enterprise Resource Planning has enhanced efficiency in service delivery. We have 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.

## **To our Graduands**

Congratulations! You are the reason for this occasion and we are proud of you! Your resilience, determination and focus has kept you going. Never has a graduating class been called to step into the future with more purpose, vision, passion, energy and hope, as now. Go out and make a positive impact in the world, as you offer selfless services to both God and man.

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

I encourage you to join the College Alumni Association, remain proud ambassadors of the College and seek to make significant contribution to your alma mater.

## **Guest of Honor Sir**

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

I now call upon the Chairperson of the KMTC Board of Directors, Prof. Philip Kaloki, to address us.

**Thank You**

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