

**SPEECH BY SEN. MUTAHI KAGWE EGH, DURING THE 89TH
GRADUATION CEREMONY (VIRTUAL) OF THE KENYA MEDICAL
TRAINING COLLEGE, HELD AT THE KMTC GRADUATION SQUARE
NAIROBI ON 13TH APRIL, 2021 AT 10:00 AM**

H.E. the President, Hon. Uhuru Kenyatta

The First Lady of the Republic of Kenya

Principal Secretary Ministry of Health Susan Mochache, CBS

Chief Administrative Secretary Dr. Rashid Aman and Dr. Mercy Mwangangi

Leadership of the other Arms of Government

Members of Parliament

County Governors

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

KMTC Board of Directors

KMTC Chief Executive Officer Prof. Michael Kiptoo

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

Your Excellency Sir,

It is my greatest honor to welcome you Your Excellency Sir, to the Kenya Medical Training College (KMTC) to officiate the 89th Graduation Ceremony.

This is a special ceremony organized to graduate the 7,509 graduands whose learning was abruptly interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. This group of Graduands has had to work extremely hard to complete their studies, as they faced many challenges of juggling between online classes and Clinical Practice which is undertaken face to face in a hospital setup.

The graduands before us were to graduate together with 4,114 others who were released to the job market last year on December 3rd, 2020, but were not able to complete their studies due to COVID-19 pandemic.

I take this early opportunity to Congratulate the graduands for this important achievement and milestone in your life. I wish you well in your service to Kenya and beyond, and in your future endeavors.

Your Excellency Sir,

As a Ministry, our primary role is to provide policy framework that facilitates the highest possible standards of health in a manner responsive to the needs of the population. To achieve health outcomes commensurate with that of a middle-income country by 2030, we require a Health workforce that is strong, skilled, motivated, knowledgeable and responsive to the ever evolving needs of the health systems.

KMTC is a Parastatal placed under the Ministry of Health to perform the strategic function of providing Medical Training both at pre-service and in-service level. The College is a major contributor in the delivery of healthcare services in the country. It is a strategic institution that contributes immensely towards bridging the Health

workforce gaps hence propelling the country towards the attainment of specific Health related targets including the Universal Health Coverage and the Sustainable Development Goals.

KMTC as an institution has come a long way since its inception in 1927. We acknowledge and thank the Government as well as other stakeholders including State and Non-State Actors for supporting the College in the Mission of “*producing competent health professionals through training and research, and providing consultancy services*”.

Your Excellency Sir,

I acknowledge the role played by KMTC in complementing the Ministry of Health’s efforts in fighting the spread of COVID-19.

The College 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.

Specifically, I thank the Board Chairperson Prof. Philip Kaloki for leading a Ministry of Health cluster that supported the Government in the preparedness and fight against COVID-19 in Isiolo, Samburu, Laikipia and Marsabit counties.

Further, the College availed facilities to provide isolation, quarantine and treatment services, and the Medical Lecturers were on the frontline reinforcing the government efforts in the fight against COVID-19. I commend the Lecturers for a job well done!

Your Excellency Sir,

Through the Board of Director's transformative agenda, the College has recorded rapid growth in the last five years including increase in the number of campuses, programmes offered, student population, graduands, faculty and staff as well as Internally Generated Revenue.

The Board initiated partnership and resource mobilization efforts resulting to growth in infrastructure and financial support to students. This is in addition to implementation and use of Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP), which has improved efficiency and prudent utilization of resources across the College.

I commend the College Board of Directors, Management team, staff, students and stakeholders for supporting the College deliver on its mandate in support of the Government's development agenda as well as in the war against COVID-19.

Your Excellency Sir,

It is now my humble duty and honor to invite His Excellency the President of the Republic of Kenya, H.E Hon. Uhuru Kenyatta, to address the congregation.

Karibu sana Bwana Rais!

ENDS
