

SPEECH BY THE CHAIRPERSON, KENYA MEDICAL TRAINING COLLEGE BOARD OF DIRECTORS PROF. PHILIP KALOKI, MBS, ON THE 87TH GRADUATION CEREMONY HELD AT THE KMTC GRADUATION SQUARE NAIROBI ON 5TH DECEMBER, 2019.

Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Health, Mrs. Sicily Kariuki, EGH

Governors

Senators and Members of Parliament

Chief Administrative Secretary, Dr. Rashid Abdi Aman

Principal Secretary, Ministry of Health, Ms. Susan Mochache, MBS

KMTC Board of Directors

Vice Chancellor (VC) Lukenya University, Prof. Constantine M. Nyamboga

CEO, Kenya Medical Training College, Prof. Michael Kiptoo

Representatives of various Government and Private entities

Development Partners, Parents and Guardians

Staff and students

Ladies and gentlemen

Madam Cabinet Secretary

It gives me and the entire Board pleasure to welcome you to the 87th Annual Graduation Ceremony of the Kenya Medical Training College – the largest and biggest government owned mid-level health training institution in East Africa and beyond.

Let me take this opportunity to congratulate our 12,621 Graduands who through hard work and determination, have successfully completed their training. We sincerely thank our faculty, the parents, guardians and development partners for the immense support to the Graduands to pursue their studies to completion.

Madam Cabinet Secretary

Allow me to thank you and express our deep appreciation and gratitude for honoring us with your presence as you officiate this significant occasion. This year's graduation theme: *“Training Health Professionals Towards Accessible Universal Health Coverage (UHC)”* underscores our commitment and conviction that these graduands are ready to positively impact the health sector in our country and beyond.

Madam Cabinet Secretary

Established in 1927, KMTC remains the lead-trainer in the medical field producing over 85% of middle level health professionals for the local health sector. In any health facility you go to in Kenya and even internationally, you will not miss to find a KMTC graduate or trainee. KMTC graduates are highly sought after and work in far off countries in the USA, Canada, Australia, the UK, other Western Countries, Middle East and in Africa, just to mention but a few.

Madam Cabinet Secretary

Over the years, the Board has embedded and strengthened the culture of good governance to ensure compliance with existing laws and regulations.

As a result, during the **10th Champions of Governance 2019** award ceremony, **KMTC** was once again awarded the **1st Runners up** position in the Public Bodies Sector category.

The areas that were considered for the award were; transparency & disclosure, accountability, risk management & internal controls, ethical leadership and corporate citizenship, shareholder rights and obligations, stakeholder relationships, sustainability and performance management, compliance with laws and regulations.

This is proof that the Board has embraced and upheld sound corporate governance practices and provided of able leadership for efficient service delivery.

Madam Cabinet Secretary

Today's graduation ceremony is a significant mark of growth to the College.

In line with the Government's Universal Health Coverage goals and the Board's transformative agenda, the College has started 43 new campuses, increasing the number from 28 in 2013 to 71 in 2019. Some of the newly established Campuses include: Mbooni, Imenti, Othaya, Ugenya, Mandera, Sigowet (Kericho), Lodwar, Kuria, Molo, Lamu, Isiolo and Taveta. Our campuses are strategically placed adjacent to referral hospitals thus providing human resource to over 450 hospitals, which are our clinical training sites.

This expansion has ensured we are on the right path towards bridging the human resource for health gaps as a contribution to achieving UHC goals by 2022 as envisioned by the government. The graduands before us represent the face of Kenya and are ready to transform the health sector in their communities.

Madam Cabinet Secretary

To ensure equity in access of training opportunities, the Board has established admission desks in all campuses to support admissions at the local community level. As a result, the College admitted 12,942 new students in the Academic Year 2018/19, growing the student population from about 19,358 in 2013 to over 41,459.

The expansion has led to an increase in the number of graduands over the years, with the College releasing 12,621 graduands, an increase from last year where we graduated 10,689. In the next four years, KMTC plans to produce over 50,000 graduates to support the agenda of achieving UHC for all Kenyans by 2022.

Madam Cabinet Secretary

To enhance teaching and learning, and ensure students have a conducive learning environment, the Board has continued to allocated resources for academic strengthening, infrastructural development and corporate branding. The College successfully transited from ISO 9001: 2008 to the new standard of ISO 9001: 2015, which has given our graduands an advantage as they are internationally recognized and can work in any part of the world.

To transform the institution in service delivery, the Board has spearheaded transport reforms, where this year alone, we added 31 new buses and 12 double cabins for use by our students and faculty to access clinical training sites.

Madam Cabinet Secretary

The Board instituted reforms leading to re-categorization of the College from PC2 to PC 4A level in State Corporations ranking, and as such our mandate was expanded to include that of research in addition to training and consultancy.

I am happy to report that our faculty and staff have benefited and I thank government for the support in budgetary allocations.

Madam Cabinet Secretary

The Board has initiated collaborations with County Governments, National Government Constituency Development Fund(s) and other partners, through which the College has recorded growth in land, infrastructure, equipment and secondment of staff, in support of teaching and training.

In a special way, I would like to appreciate our partners for the unwavering support accorded to KMTC that has enabled us deliver on our mandate. These invaluable partners include Beyond Zero, World Bank, St. John's Ambulance, USAID, DFID(UK), 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, the Jackson's Foundation (USA), African Development Bank and Rattansi Foundation. Others are: Centre for Public Health and Development, General Electric, Higher Education Loans Board, Toyota Kenya Foundation, Afya Elimu and IntraHealth.

The aforementioned partners have supported us through; capacity building and strengthening, equipping our libraries, training equipment, exchange programmes and curriculum development, in support of teaching and learning.

To our Graduands,

As Nelson Mandela said, *“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”* I encourage you to be good ambassadors of KMTC and contribute to making Kenya a better nation. I wish you all the best in your future endeavors and urge you to further your education.

Madam Cabinet Secretary

I thank the Management Team and staff led by the CEO for their dedication in the day to day running of the College. I also appreciate the organizers of this event. My gratitude also 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 Cabinet Secretary Mrs. Sicily Kariuki, for the support and directions given to the College that have enabled us achieve our Vision and Mission.

As I conclude, Madam Cabinet Secretary

On behalf of 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.

Once more, congratulations to all the graduands!

Your Excellency Sir,

I now call upon the Principal Secretary, Ms. Susan Mochache, CBS to make her remarks and thereafter invite the Chief Administrative Secretary.

Madam PS Karibu.

Thank you.