

SPEECH BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER KENYA MEDICAL TRAINING COLLEGE PROF. MICHAEL K. KIPTOO, ON THE 87TH ANNUAL 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

Chairman, KMTC Board of Directors Prof. Philip Kaloki, MBS

KMTC Board of Directors

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

Representatives of various Government and Private entities

Development Partners, Parents and Guardians

Staff and students

Ladies and gentlemen

Madam Cabinet Secretary

I am honored and humbled to welcome you to this great occasion, the 87th Graduation Ceremony at KMTC. I take this singular opportunity to thank you for finding time out of your busy schedule to come and officiate this memorable event. Your dedication and commitment towards the training of human resource for health is unparalleled and consistent.

Today is a great day of celebration. To you **our graduands**, you have stayed true to your goal through hard work, dedication and sacrifice, and today marks a culmination of your efforts. You are now qualified to serve in the health sector and I congratulate you on your achievement.

I acknowledge and thank the parents, guardians, development partners, and lecturers who have encouraged and supported you through this chapter of your life's story.

Madam Cabinet Secretary

It is now my pleasure to highlight some achievements and plans for this great institution. I am delighted and glad to report that this is our biggest graduation ever, in which **12,621** graduands are being awarded various Diplomas and others being presented with Certificates. 534 will be awarded Higher Diplomas, 9,250 Diplomas and 2,837 Certificates. I wish to affirm to our stakeholders that these graduands are properly trained, educated, and examined. They are well prepared and skilled to contribute to the achievement of Universal Health Coverage. Our Graduates have remained competitive in the job market locally and internationally.

Madam Cabinet Secretary

KMTC is a premier training institution whose reputation for quality training and development of health professionals in East Africa and beyond.

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

As we move forward, we have put in place the right measures to support and sustain our excellence in teaching, attract and retain the best staff even as we seek to remain the best mid-level health training institution in Africa and beyond.

Having proven that community-based initiatives have enormous potential to facilitate the achievement of UHC and health system development, we

have expanded our programs to train various categories of youth to enable them promote access to quality healthcare to their communities.

In support of this initiative, we have partnered with the Ministry of Health to offer training to National Youth Service in a Community Health Volunteers module on Basic and Advanced Life Support. We are also in the process of training 1,200 Community Health Volunteers and Emergency Medical Technicians/Respondents in collaboration with the St. Johns Ambulance to address emerging issues.

Madam Cabinet Secretary

The introduction and implementation of programs such as the Foundation Course in Community Health Assistants and Community Health Volunteers, has also increased access to training opportunities in health for youth who would otherwise have not been able to join KMTCC.

Production of adequate numbers of healthcare workers with the right skills mix is critical in the roll out of UHC program across the country. Training of these cadres will help bridge the gap in shortage of health workers especially in the hard to reach areas.

These groups of health workers play a critical role in provision of affordable and quality promotive, preventive and rehabilitative health

services at the Primary Health Care levels. Having a pool of these cadres will facilitate faster implementation of the task shifting policy.

Madam Cabinet Secretary

Among the graduands are Enrolled Community Health Nurses drawn from Vulnerable, Marginalized, Arid and Semi-Arid communities. These are a product of collaborative effort between KMTC, Ministry of Health and Beyond Zero with funding support from the World Bank. This cadre of nurse midwives is expected to improve the health and well-being of mothers and children in the hard to reach areas in line with the Beyond Zero initiative.

Madam Cabinet Secretary

In order to help the government combat emerging and re-emerging health conditions, we have continued to develop and review our KMTC curricula. We have developed and implemented new programs such as: Higher Diploma in – Oncology; Palliative Care; Audiology and Hearing Care Technology; Emergency and Critical Care Medicine: Chest Medicine; Dermatology; Venereology; Echo-cardiography, Orthotics, Contact Lenses, Family Health and a Certificate course in Kenya Sign Language for Health Workers. To support disability mainstreaming efforts we have implemented a Curriculum for Certificate in Kenya Sign Language for Health Workers as well as mounted a course in Addictive Studies to enable

our graduates deal with challenges posed by alcoholism and substance abuse in the society.

Starting March 2020, we will implement the Geriatric Nursing Course which will equip graduates with competencies for the elderly care as well as Pain Management.

Madam Cabinet Secretary

Research for health is critical in generating evidence for policy decisions. To enhance research which is one of our core functions, we sponsored staff to specifically conduct research, innovation and outreach. Various

researches have been conducted, published in peer reviewed journals and presented in various conferences.

The College held a symposium for health workers in April (this year) that provided an opportunity to stay abreast with emerging trends in the health sector.

The College also plans to hold its 6th Bi-annual Scientific Conference in May next year. The Conference provides an opportunity to share knowledge and provide solutions to some of the challenges facing the health sector among health workers. In this era of rampant lifestyle diseases, research findings have the potential to address a wide range of questions on how we can address this issues.

Madam Cabinet Secretary

With the support of the Board, we have strengthened our quality management systems, adopted world class academic practices, harmonized our academic programmes, teaching timetables and examination procedures across campuses to ensure uniformity, quality and efficiency in training is met. The curricula across campuses is unified ensuring our graduands are all qualified and ready to serve.

All our programmes have met the regulatory bodies requirements which regulate, supervise and develop structures and governance practices of the various professions and training offered at the College. These professional bodies include but are not limited to: the Nursing Council of Kenya, the

Clinical Officers Council, the Kenya Nutrition and Dieticians Institute, the Kenya Medical Laboratory Technicians and Technologists Board, the Physiotherapy Council of Kenya and the Pharmacy and Poisons Board. These efforts have ensured the College continues to produce quality graduands for the global market.

Strengthening the College quality assurance strategies is key in producing competent health professionals for this country and beyond. Our continued efforts to sustain the recently acquired ISO 9001:2015 Standard have seen us strengthen our quality management systems, including enhancing our teaching processes to enable the College provide internationally recognized and competitive training to our students.

Madam Cabinet Secretary

I thank the Board of Directors for availing resources for improvement of our transport systems, which has facilitated students to access to practical clinical sites to complete their training in preparation for the job market.

With the support of the Board, we have implemented the use of Enterprise Resource Planning, which has automated our systems, strengthened internal processes improving efficiency, effectiveness and prudent utilization of resources. Further, in keeping abreast with uptake of Information and Communications Technology, we have leveraged on an online admissions system which has improved efficiency in the admissions process.

To keep up with evolving technology and emerging trends in health training, the Board has availed funds for staff professional development, equipping our skills labs with modern equipment, computers, library books and resources.

Management will continue instigating reforms which must be implemented in order to ensure quality of our training is maintained and enhanced.

To our Graduands

Today, we are gathered to celebrate you, for you have done us proud. Congratulations! Your resilience, determination and focus has kept you going. 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 is greater than any other interest.

As graduates of KMTC and in line with this year's graduation theme "*Training Health Professionals Towards Accessible Universal Health Coverage*" you should be able to make a contribution to the attainment of the goals of UHC and Kenya Vision 2030.

I encourage you to join the College Alumni Association and seek to make significant contribution to your alma mater.

Madam Cabinet Secretary

I once again thank the National Government, County Governments and our development partners for the support accorded to us.

I thank the Board of Directors led by the Chairman, Prof. Philip Kaloki, for the support and strategic leadership that has enabled the College record exemplary performance.

I also thank Management and the Graduation Committee, led by my Deputy Director in charge of Academics, Mrs. Nancy Michire, for the

exemplary job of organizing this graduation ceremony. To all of you, *asanteni sana.*

I now call upon the Chairperson of the KMTC Board of Directors, Prof. Philip Kaloki, MBS to address the congregation. *Professor Kaloki Karibu.*

Thank You