ST. PAUL’S UNIVERSITY

24TH GRADUATION CEREMONY OCTOBER 9, 2015

SPEECH BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR

• Our Chief Guest Hon. ………,

• All our national and county leaders present here; government officials
  • The University Chancellor, The Hon. Rev. Dr. Samuel Kobia.
    • The Chairman and members of our Board of Trustees
    • The Chairman and members of our University Council
  • Faculty, Staff and Students

• Distinguished Guests, graduands, parents and all present here today

I greet you all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

Graduation ceremony marks the highlight of our academic calendar. This is one occasion that I always truly look forward to year after year, and nothing gives me greater joy in my work than celebrating the achievements of our students, and witnessing their happiness in receiving their hard earned qualifications. We are truly grateful to God for bringing us to this momentous day and we can all say that this is the day that the Lord has made, we will rejoice and be glad in it.

Congratulations to you all, our dear graduands

(Recognize invited guests who are present – list to be provided)

Welcome to St. Paul’s University and to our 24th graduation Ceremony. And thank you for honoring our invitation.

This graduation is our biggest yet with more than 2,500 students graduating today. In the past year we have seen continued expansion in our human resource capacity, increase in physical facilities and support services, as well as sustained growth in strengthening our business support systems for greater efficiency. Structures have continued to evolve and I am happy that among other things, in the year, we were able to set up a fully-fledged research unit to strengthen our research work; we also
were able to relaunch a fully-fledged directorate of our Quality Assurance department, mandated to strengthen the quality of our teaching; gave new impetus to our alumni relations office; and to mention just one other, among many, the newly created students placement office to strengthen our practical aspect of learning as well as our network and linkages with the industry. We thank God for the confidence that our goal to becoming a world class university known particularly for academic excellence and Christian spiritual formation is well within our reach.

One highlight with regard our continued expansion of the range of our programs on offer is our very first PhD program in theology. This curriculum designed and carefully taught with one eye on sound academic content and the other on applicability to contemporary realities, is one of its kind in our region. Two other unique PhD programs, one in the area of Business and the other in Development studies, are also ready for launch as soon as we have received requisite approvals before we begin offering them. Plans are also at advanced stage to acquire a bigger and better facility for our Nairobi Campus, after which we also intend to do the same for our Machakos and Nakuru campuses in that order.

We thank God for the dreams that we continuously are able to translate into reality. We have a mission to raise the standards of education through holistic learning, taught in an ecumenical atmosphere that gives room for all to find a fulfilling place of study, research, intellectual and spiritual engagement and growth.

We are as ever committed to transformative education that effectively equips learners with skills and knowledge and imparts values that inspire quality service to God and humanity. Try us – we shall always listen, partner with us – we shall always work with you; and together, we can translate dreams into realities.

To the graduating class, we are sending you out at a time when the world is abounding in progress but also embroiled in unprecedented conflicts. Scientific and technological advancements are placing unlimited possibilities within our reach. Yet, almost in equal measure human conflict and strife are perhaps as threatening as more than ever before. You are equipped to find your niche and make your
contribution. Go out with confidence, take your rightful position, and make your contribution – both for yourself as well as for the society.

I want to pay a very special tribute to all our staff – faculty, administration staff and others. I appreciate in equal measure our students who make SPU what it is and always carry our banner high. Well done for yet and another successful year, we owe to God and to you all.

My very special appreciation also goes to our Council members without whose governance role, which they take so seriously, and without whose valuable contributions to our University life, we definitely would not have achieved this much. I am grateful also to all our partners, for their support and services. Thank you to you all.

As I always say, our story of success is a story of God’s favor, and I am confident that God who has continuously blessed the works of our hands and have brought us this far – will always guide us into all wisdom, good work and success – to god be all honor and glory – and to you all, may the Lord, our God bless you. AMEN