

REPUBLIC OF KENYA



**THE PRESIDENCY
MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SERVICE, YOUTH AND GENDER**

SPEECH BY THE UNIVERSITY CHANCELLOR PROF. MARGARET KOBIA, Ph.D, MGH, CABINET SECRETARY MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SERVICE, YOUTH AND GENDER, ON THE OCCASION OF THE 28TH GRADUATION CEREMONY AT ST. PAUL'S UNIVERSITY, HELD ON FRIDAY, 4TH OCTOBER 2019 AT THE MAIN CAMPUS GRADUATION SQUARE, LIMURU.

Theme of the Graduation: "Inculcating Integrity for Sustainable Development"

- **Amb. Ukur Yatani, Cabinet Secretary for Labour and Social Security and the Acting Cabinet Secretary for National Treasury,**
- **Rev. Dr. Jackson Ole Sapit, The Chairman of the University Council,**
- **The Most Rt. Rev. Julius Mwamba, The Chairman of the Board of Trustees,**
- **Members of the Council present,**
- **Prof. Joseph Galgalo, The Vice Chancellor,**
- **Members of the University Senate,**
- **Management Board Members Faculty and Staff,**
- **Distinguished Guests,**
- **Parents, guardians and sponsors,**
- **The Class of 2019,**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honour for me to preside over the **28th graduation ceremony** and in my capacity as the Chancellor; I warmly welcome you all to celebrate with us. This year's

graduation marks yet another milestone in our work, and we are grateful to God, and to many people who have continued to contribute to our manifold achievements. I would also like to extend a special welcome to my cabinet colleague and a friend, who is our **Chief Guest today: Hon. Amb. Ukur Yatani – the Cabinet Secretary for Labour and social Protection and the Acting Cabinet Secretary for National Treasury.** Chief Guest sir, thank you for accepting our invitation to grace our 28th graduation ceremony here at St. Paul's University.

Our graduates are stamp of quality that sets us apart as a university. We strive to integrate academic excellence and Christian moral values. We emphasize values-based knowledge, and deploy holistic approach to learning. We do this in order to produce a graduate who is able to apply a holistic view of life in the service of God and Humanity.

This year's graduation theme, "**Inculcating Integrity for Sustainable Development**" reflects our endeavour. *Integrity* and *sustainable development* are the two key ideas in this theme.

Integrity, is one of our University's six core values. Integrity for us is important not only for its practical value in promoting quality of human relations, but also that it is in line with our national aspirations.

The Constitution of Kenya, for example, in Article 10(2) stipulates the following national aspirations: Patriotism, national Unity, the rule of law, human dignity, equity ... and among many such others, *integrity* and *sustainable development*.

We train our graduates to become integrity champions! We challenge them not to accept the false dichotomy between ethical service and professionalism. It is our hope that they will impact the world of work, one step at a time and offer much needed values-based leadership and ethical services, which our communities so badly need.

Ladies and gentlemen, I think I have said enough on integrity. Let me now make a brief comment on the second aspect of our graduation theme: ***Sustainable development***.

According to the United Nations, Sustainable Development refers to development that satisfies the needs of the present without compromising the capacity of future generations. Sustainable Development is sustainable only if it guarantees a balance between economic growth, and the care for the environment and social well-being. Espoused in the Vision 2030 Agenda are the Sustainable Development Goals, a call to action to protect the planet and the global well-being of people. These common goals require active involvement of individuals, businesses, institutions and countries around the world.

The Sustainable Development Goals are the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. Without integrity, it will be difficult, if not impossible, to achieve any of these goals in any sustainable manner.

I hope you see the connection between these two ideas, ***integrity*** and ***sustainable development***, as I do.

Ladies and Gentlemen, when I was installed in this position of the Chancellor and the titular leader of St. Paul's university a year ago, I offered my commitment to serve the University in the following **five areas** as outlined in the St. Paul's University statute:

(a) **Be the head of the University and, in the name of the University, confer degrees and grant diplomas, certificates and other awards of the University.**

– I have always looked forward to this day of graduation, and I thank God for His mercies that this has come to pass today. Today the University will confer degree and award Diplomas and certificates to more than **2,500 graduands**, and we thank God for that. This is a great achievement.

(b) **As a chancellor I'm to direct inspection of the university or an inquiry into the teaching, research or any other work of the University;** This is a mandate that I have done with love and passion to support teaching and research. It's through this that the university is able to release graduates that are ready to solve some of the challenges our world is facing today.

(c) **Further, Arranging for visitation into the general administration and organization of the University in such manner as may be provided in the statutes;**

(d) **From time to time give advice to the Council which I may consider necessary for the betterment of the University;** I thank the governing council for the continued support in making St. Paul's a better place for learning.

(e) **Enjoy such powers and privileges and perform such other functions as may be provided in the statutes of the University.**

I thank those who have been with me in this journey so far and I'm confident that together we will continue working to make this University achieve its stated vision and mission. I believe that we have the capacity and the resources required. If we pull together and in the same direction, and accept the need for change that will enable us to grasp the enormous opportunities before us, we shall make it. The onus lies with each and every member of this University to play his or her role. When we work together we will find amicable solutions to our problems. I give you my pledge that I will continue to do the best that I can to help build on the foundation and strengths of our past, into a formidable future.

As I conclude dear graduands,

I urge you then to live a life of integrity. One Brene Brown once said: "**Integrity is choosing courage over comfort; choosing what is right over what is fun, fast, or easy; and choosing to practice our values rather than simply professing them.**" The point is, let us believe in what we say, and do what we believe.

That is integrity for you: it does not take shortcuts but a long and hard view of life. Choose it; and you will never be put to shame; ignore it at your own peril.

Congratulations once again, and my best wishes to you all as you go out and service with integrity.

I THANK YOU.