

**ADDRESS OF THE UNIVERSITY OUTGOING CHANCELLOR,  
THE REV. DR. SAMUEL KOBIA,  
AT THE 27TH GRADUATION CEREMONY OF ST. PAUL'S UNIVERSITY,  
ON FRIDAY 5TH OCTOBER 2018**

**The Guest of honor and the University Chancellor, HON. PROF. MARGARET  
KOBIA, CABINET SECRETARY FOR THE PUBLIC SERVICE YOUTH AND  
GENDER AFFAIRS,**

The Chairman of the University Council, His Grace The Most Rev. Dr. Jackson Ole Sapit,

The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Joseph Galgalo,

Members of the University Governing Council and Board of Trustees,

Invited Guests,

Faculty Members,

Staff, Parents, Guardians,

Distinguished Graduands,

Students and friends of St. Paul's University,

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I greet you all in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, Good Morning.

Unlike all the other graduations in the last ten years where I have been conferring degrees to graduands, today I stand here for a different reason; to handover the position to my successor and to celebrate the many years of service, and to congratulate you on this auspicious occasion of the 27<sup>th</sup> graduation ceremony. I started out as the first chancellor following the award of Charter eleven years ago. I sincerely appreciate all your support; and thank you for the opportunity to serve this great University.

I also take this opportunity to congratulate my successor Prof Margaret Kobia on her appointment and for her just concluded inauguration as our second Chancellor. In my humble submission, the Board of Trustees made the best choice; and I believe Prof Kobia's contribution to this university will be invaluable. She is an exemplary servant leader, a competent and selfless worker, and is endowed with the best intent and goodwill to support the growth of this university to greater heights. As we welcome her, let also give the support she would need to give the university her best.

My tenure of office will remain memorable, especially so, because of the milestones we were able to accomplish. Over the last ten years St. Paul's has simply continued to blossom – transforming from a small, rather inward looking college to a truly international university of

repute. Our transformation is most evident in our human resource development, infrastructure and expansion of physical facilities, and the modernising of our business support systems. We have grown our programs in ways to meet the ever changing needs of the society, and the very encouraging feedback we receive from our alumni, from around the world, validates our relevance and spurs us to do even more.

I have had association with St Paul's for much longer than I have been its Chancellor. I am a proud alumnus of this University. I graduated from here in 1971, then St Paul's United Theological College. It is not that long ago, but I guess, not many people now present here were born. St. Paul's is where I laid my theological foundation, and nurtured my ecumenical spirit, which proved rather handy in my later ecumenical career and service. St. Paul's instilled me leadership skills and a critical understanding of what it means to serve God and humanity; skill sets that have become part and parcel of my personal growth. I am glad to have the opportunity to serve this university as a Chancellor for I have thoroughly enjoyed awarding diplomas and conferring degrees – oh, yes, it great to pronounce: 'I now give you, the powers to read and do all ...'. More so, I am grateful for the opportunity I have had to make my contribution in building networks, and partnerships, and overseeing the great growth that we have realized.

Under the current leadership, some of the appreciable strides include the recent introduction of doctorate studies, the setting up of the research directorate, and the growth in research projects and publications. At the highest level of studies, we now offer doctoral programs in the fields of Theology, Business and Development Studies. As we equip our graduates with appropriate knowledge and skills, we are keen to produce graduates who are not only able to serve with competence and skill, but also with character and integrity.

St. Paul's is committed to upholding high standards of training, so that our students will make difference out there with their ethical approach to service, a virtue greatly lacking in the world of service today. Our graduates are tried and tested, and we know, from places our students serve, that they usually serve with distinction. Because of the confidence that we have in them, we highly commend to any one of you, who are looking for quality service to give these our graduands a chance.

Over the past few years, concerns have often been raised about the quality of university education and its relevance to industry needs. While the critical role the universities play in the progress of human knowledge is beyond question, how such knowledge, research, innovation and inventions can have practical impact is what should be made applicable and relevant to the needs of each generation and time. St. Paul's prepare students not just for the industry but also for life beyond formal schooling. We do not only prepare students simply to find and get into employment but also to creatively manage any resource at their disposal, and create employment. As they say, the taste of the pudding is in the eating – we now challenge them to go and apply what they have learned, and to serve with a difference.

Dear graduands, I charge you with the words of Psalms 90:17 "May the favour of Lord our God rest on you: establish the works of our hands for us – yes establish the works of our

hands.” Put God at the centre of what you do and see how he will establish your leadership and grant you success. The world is desperate for values-based leadership. May that be your unique contribution by which you can bring hope to the desperate world.

I also invite you to take a continuing interest in your alma mater. This place has shaped you over the last few years. Now consider to give back when you can. Join us the alumni of this university, and let us together, make St. Paul’s even greater.

I would like to draw to a close on a more personal note. I know many may wonder what it is like to be a Chancellor. My answer is very simple. Provided one is sufficiently robust, in a sense of being self-motivated, it is a magnificently satisfying role. There is endless varied intellectual stimulation and the university is so complex that one is always learning. I have found it a privilege to occupy this role and I am deeply grateful for the opportunity.

Let me say once again, a big thank you to the University for having me to serve here for the past 10 years. Your tremendous support during my tenure must be applauded. I want to specially thank the Board of Trustee, The university Council, Vice Chancellor, the entire university management and the St Paul’s community at large. I say thank you to you all. I also thank all of you for coming to this special occasion of the installation of the new Chancellor and the 27<sup>th</sup> graduation ceremony.

Thank you so much, and God Bless You All; God bless St. Paul’s University