

**VICE CHANCELLOR'S SPEECH DURING THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF  
EASTERN AFRICA'S 38<sup>TH</sup> GRADUATION ON 25<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2019**

- i. Your Excellency, Rt. Rev. Charles Kasonde, Chancellor of The Catholic University of Eastern Africa*
- ii. Sr. Mary Persico, President of Marywood University, and the Special Guest in today's Graduation Ceremony*
- iii. Your Excellency, Rt. Rev. Maurice Muhatia Makumba, Chairman of the University Council*
- iv. Your Grace Most Rev. Zacchaeus Okoth Archbishop Emeritus of Kisumu.*
- v. Distinguished Members of the University Council,*
- vi. Distinguished Guests,*
- vii. Parents, Guardians, Sponsors and Graduands,*
- viii. Faculty and Students of CUEA,*
- ix. Ladies and Gentlemen*

1. I would like to welcome you all to The Catholic University of Eastern Africa and thank you for joining us in our University's 38<sup>th</sup> Graduation ceremony.
2. Congratulations to our graduands today for the achievement you have accomplished. To the parents, guardians and sponsors of our graduands, thank you for financing and journeying with us as we instilled knowledge and inculcated values on those who have brought us here today. To our Faculty and University staff, thank you for the ever important service you

have and continue to give to our students; today the fruits of your labour are here for all to see.

3. CUEA, which is a regional university representing AMECEA countries (Zambia, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Sudan, South Sudan, Uganda, Tanzania, Malawi and Kenya) trains professionals in line with the *Veritas Gaudium* to spur development, ethical leadership and mission work for Africa and the world. This is represented by the presence of graduands and faculty in this forum.
4. Sr. Mary Persico, our special guest, thank you for coming all the way from Scranton, Pennsylvania-USA. The partnership CUEA has with Marywood University, the Hilton Foundation and African Sisters Education Collaborative (ASEC) has helped educate hundreds of Catholic Sisters whose primary mission is to offer Catholic based education to society. What has been accomplished as a result will go a long way in impacting education in Africa.
5. Your Excellences, Distinguished Guests, ladies and gentlemen, today's graduation theme is ***Research and innovation for quality higher education: building the Africa that we want.*** This theme inspires our graduands to be innovative in their professions so that they could improve the social and economic needs of our continent.
6. In 1965 Pope Paul VI, now Saint, wrote the 'Gravissimum Educationis', a Declaration on Christian Education. In his declaration, Saint Paul VI stated that:

*“...children and young people must be helped, with the aid of the latest advances in psychology and the arts and science of teaching, to develop harmoniously their physical, moral and intellectual endowments so that they may gradually acquire a mature sense of responsibility in striving endlessly to form their own lives properly and in pursuing true freedom as they surmount the vicissitudes of life with courage and constancy.”*

7. This statement may have been written close to sixty years ago but it is still very relevant today. We in CUEA have taken up St. Paul VI's call because the world today, more than ever needs a lighthouse of morality; our aim is to be this light house in Africa's University sector. As we educate today's professionals and scholars, we focus on entrenching values in the lives of our students, and also in the lives of our University's staff.
8. Because of innovation, Kenya has affirmed itself as one of the economic and political pillars of Africa. With development and economic growth comes social and cultural challenges. Today we have our young adults committing suicide because of the fear of rejection and shame, we have those partaking in crime growing younger and younger with time, and we have vulgar songs being considered social anthems. Yes, today, Africa and the world needs The Catholic University of Eastern Africa.

9. We are asking you, our graduands to be champions of values. To be a values championing does not mean that you have to be perfect, nor does it mean that you need to place yourself in a cocoon of uprightness pushing away anything not within your circle of acceptance. Being a values champion means that as a graduate of CUEA, you are expected to be a professional who is innovative, research driven and ready to lead our continent into the unknown realms of discovery with societal values at hand to protect you from the temptations of stealing, forging research reports, cooking reports to show that you are meeting your targets and all other temptations that may come your way.
10. In front of us today are graduands who have been trained in arts and social sciences, commerce, law, science, medical sciences, education and theology. They are a new resource who are equipped with all the skills they need to determine and lead the new age of humanity, whatever this new age will be.
11. Graduands, the industrial and enlightenment ages, the machine age, the oil age, the atomic age, today's information age; these are all periods of history that were pioneered by men and women who were once at the beginning of the rest of their lives filled with hope, fear, excitement, insecurity and expectation all mixed up in one emotional feeling just as I suspect you are feeling today. I challenge you all to show the world that you can still be professionally and

socially apt today, in addition to being guided by Catholic values.

By doing so, you will be true ambassadors of CUEA.

12. Once again I would like to thank Sr. Persico and all in attendance for joining us in today's ceremony.
13. Our graduands, you are our pride and joy. You will always be in our prayers.

Thank you all and May God bless you.

**VERY REV. PROF. STEPHEN MBUGUA NGARI**  
**RECTOR/VICE CHANCELLOR**