

**UNIVERSITY COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S SPEECH DURING THE CATHOLIC  
UNIVERSITY OF EASTERN AFRICA'S 40<sup>TH</sup> GRADUATION ON 29<sup>TH</sup>  
OCTOBER, 2021**

- i. *His Eminence John Cardinal Njue, Archbishop Emeritus of Nairobi and Pro-Chancellor of The Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA).*
  - ii. *CPA Nancy Gathungu, CBS, The Auditor-General of Kenya*
  - iii. *Very Rev. Prof. Stephen Mbugua Ngari, Rector and Vice Chancellor of The Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA).*
  - iv. *Your Lordships, Bishop Members of the University Council*
  - 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. On behalf of CUEA's University Council, I welcome you to our University's 40<sup>th</sup> Graduation ceremony. Congratulations to our graduands and to our graduands' parents, guardians and sponsors for enabling the graduands to reach this great milestone.
  - 2. This graduation is very special to us, the University Council. We the Council are coming to the end of our second term as currently constituted. Our journey in CUEA started in 2014 upon our appointment by the founders and sponsors of CUEA, the Association of Member Episcopal Conferences in Eastern Africa (AMECEA). We started our journey when CUEA was looking at herself and realising that she needed to rethink her strategies so as to realign them with the opportunities and challenges faced at the time.

3. Our purpose as a University Council has been to make sure that CUEA not only weathers the storms it faces, but comes out stronger and a better University. We as a Council believe that CUEA is successfully navigating her route towards becoming a formidable university among her league.
4. Today, the university sector is still facing many challenges but at the same time, the sector has many opportunities that can be taken advantage of. The AMECEA region has over 420 universities. Kenya alone has over 72 universities and university colleges. To this end, CUEA has Regional Integration and Pontifical Theological specializations as her niche that makes us stand out among others.
5. The university sector is also suffering from the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, which has led to slow and stunted economic growth across the world. Online learning however, has opened many doors in the sector. Today we have a university like the University of Phoenix, Online Campus which has 380,000 enrolled students. In addition, the Covid-19 pandemic has shown us that large numbers of students in different faculties can successfully pursue and conclude their studies online in CUEA. These are some of the opportunities that we have exploited.
6. CUEA's purpose is to offer lifelong learning programmes to form and inspire scholars to be ethical leaders through Judeo-Christian-African and other inter-cultural values. We do this through embedding the social teachings of the Church in our curriculum. That is why today, our graduands celebrate the completion of their studies not just as scholars and professionals, but also as ethical leaders in their specific areas of specialisation.

7. Each and every one of us has a purpose in life. When we were children, some of us wanted to be policemen, some wanted to be rally drivers and so on. As we grew older and got exposed to the world, we reviewed our purpose in life leading to some wanting to be lawyers, teachers, doctors, champions of justice, priests, religious men and women among others. Today as you graduate, I believe your purpose in life has been polished even further and each one of you has crystalized what your aim in life is.
8. What I ask of you is, whatever your purpose, make sure that as you work towards fulfilling your individual goals, use CUEA's core values to do so. Prayer, truthfulness, commitment, competence, honesty, excellence and being a witness to life are values that if embraced by you, will make you successful in whatever you aspire to do in life. This is because the world is yearning for honest and just leaders.
9. Once again, I congratulate the graduands for completing your studies. Today we celebrate you, tomorrow you begin the rest of your lives. We wish you well and you will always be in our prayers.
10. In conclusion I invite you to be active members of our alumni in order to be part and parcel of the larger family of CUEA that partners in placement of our students, growth of our University and most of all as ambassadors of CUEA.
11. God bless the graduating class of 2021, and God bless The Catholic University of Eastern Africa.

**Rt. Rev. Maurice Muhatia MAKUMBA  
CHAIRMAN, UNIVERSITY COUNCIL**