

VICE CHANCELLOR'S SPEECH DURING THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF EASTERN AFRICA'S 40TH GRADUATION ON 29TH OCTOBER, 2021

- i. *His Eminence John Cardinal Njue, Archbishop Emeritus of Nairobi and Pro-Chancellor of CUEA*
- ii. *CPA Nancy Gathungu, CBS, The Auditor-General of Kenya*
- iii. *Your Excellency Rt. Rev. Maurice Muhatia Makumba, Chairman, University Council of The Catholic University of Eastern Africa*
- 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*

Welcome to The Catholic University of Eastern Africa's 40th Graduation Ceremony.

1. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the graduating class of 2021. Your achievement today, especially in spite of the challenges faced in university education at this time as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, is no mean feat. You have been an excellent class in adopting to covid-19 demands. Further, I would like to congratulate the parents, guardians and sponsors of those graduating for facilitating the education of our graduands. You have made a large contribution towards changing the lives of those we celebrate today.
2. I would like to thank our Chief Guest, CPA Nancy Gathungu, the Auditor-General of Kenya, for accepting to join us in celebrating our graduands. We are truly honoured for your choice to grace our graduation ceremony.
3. In the past one year CUEA has lost several members of her family to different ailments. We lost Ms. Esther Muli from the Finance

Department, Dr. Solomon Okumu, a lecturer at the School of Business, Ms. Margaret Maringa, a lecturer in the Faculty of Law, Rev. Prof. Peter Gichure, the Director of Graduate Studies and a Professor of Theology, Prof. Harriet Njui, a Professor in the Faculty of Education and Mr. Barnabas Gikonyo, a Tutorial Fellow in the Faculty of Science. Let us all take a moment of silence in their memory....

Eternal rest grant unto the faithful departed members of the CUEA family Oh Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

4. Our Chief Guest, Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, CUEA was founded by the Association of Member Episcopal Conferences in Eastern Africa (AMECEA) to evangelize the Word of God through education. This, we do through three key pillars: research, quality education and community service. Our purpose as a University can be summarized into one statement, “producing ethical leaders for Church and society.” Over the years, in an effort to fulfil our purpose the University has grown its infrastructure and manpower to ensure that quality education is offered, impactful research is carried out and the formation of our students takes place.
5. As CUEA endeavours to fulfil her vision, we completed the construction of an 18 lecture halls building in our Gaba Campus in Eldoret. Also, in the first four months of this year (2021), we digitized 16 classrooms in the University. Eight classrooms were installed with state-of-the-art digital interactive projectors, and another eight classrooms were installed with projectors and drop-screens.
6. Our graduands, you have completed your studies here in CUEA and that is why we are gathered today to celebrate you. You received quality education and you were formed into the professionals and scholars you now are. CUEA has purposefully formed you into ethical leaders over the years of your studies. This we have done academically by insisting that you take core courses that are based on ethics and

values, constantly moulding you directly or indirectly to live by the Core Values of our University, and by encouraging you to be there for your brother and sister in good times and in bad. The formation and education you have received has prepared you to actualize your life's purpose and made you global citizens in consonance with our Graduation theme.

7. A global citizen is one who due to his intellectual, spiritual and philosophical world view is not limited by space, culture or time. A global citizen is a member of the world village and adopts well to it. A global citizen is an asset to humanity.
8. You as a human being have a personal purpose that you want to fulfill in life. This purpose may be pegged on your family or your vocation or to your calling in life. Whatever your purpose, utilize what you have learnt in CUEA to fulfill it as a leader who is of moral standing and grounded in Catholic values.
9. In addition, by the fact that you have been a student in CUEA, you have interacted with people from different countries and different backgrounds. This has exposed you to being a global citizen. Thus, not only are you ready to be an ethical leader, you are also ready to be a leader in any part of the world. This is the best preparedness you can have in any educational institution.
10. Do not be deceived, the world is as hostile in its nature as it is beautiful. It is full of opportunities that, using the knowledge you have acquired in CUEA, can be positively taken advantage of. However you have to be committed, competent, and excellent in whatever you do. The world is also full of temptations, challenges and tribulations. To overcome all this you have to be honest, truthful, prayerful and a witness of life. If your life is grounded on these values, you are assured of success in whatever you pursue.
11. Again, I would like to congratulate our graduands for your momentous achievement today. All I ask is that you be strong ambassadors of

CUEA out there in the world and please, do not forget your Alumna Mater.

May I take this early opportunity to wish you and your loved ones a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year 2022.

You are all in our prayers.

May God bless you all and may he bless our beloved University, CUEA.

Very Rev. Prof. Stephen Mbugua NGARI
RECTOR/VICE CHANCELLOR