

**UNIVERSITY COUNCIL CHAIRMAN’S SPEECH DURING THE CATHOLIC  
UNIVERSITY OF EASTERN AFRICA’S 41<sup>ST</sup> GRADUATION ON 28<sup>TH</sup>  
OCTOBER, 2022**

- i. Hon. Ezekiel Machogu, CBS, Cabinet Secretary of Education*
  - ii. Most Rev. Phillip Anyolo, Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Nairobi  
and Pro-chancellor of The Catholic University of Eastern Africa*
  - iii. Rt. Rev. Paul Kariuki Njiru, Chairman, The Catholic University of  
Eastern Africa Council*
  - iv. Your Lordships, Bishop Members of the University Council*
  - v. Distinguished Members of the University Council,*
  - vi. Very Rev. Prof. Stephen Mbugua Ngari, Rector and Vice Chancellor of  
The Catholic University of Eastern Africa*
  - vii. Distinguished Guests,*
  - viii. Parents, Guardians, Sponsors and Graduands,*
  - ix. Faculty and Students of CUEA,*
  - x. Ladies and gentlemen*
1. Today we are delighted to have Hon. Ezekiel Machogu, CBS, Cabinet Secretary of Education with us as our Chief Guest as we celebrate CUEA’s 41<sup>st</sup> Graduation Ceremony. We are also delighted to have with us His Grace Archbishop Anthony Muheria, our University’s Chairman of the Board of Trustees. However, the day belongs to our graduands who have worked hard to earn the certificate, diploma or degrees they are about to be awarded today. We also thank the graduands’ parents,

guardians or sponsors for choosing CUEA to facilitate as the University the graduands' perused their tertiary education.

2. In July this year, we, the leadership of the University participated in a Plenary of our University's sponsors, the Association of Member Episcopal Conferences in Eastern Africa which is chaired by His Excellency Rt. Rev. Charles Kasonde, who is also CUEA's Chancellor. Very Rev. Stephen Mbugua Ngari, the Rector and Vice Chancellor, was re-appointed for another four years, and the University Council had 13 of its fifteen members re-appointed for another 4-year term. We also got three new University Council members who are serving their first term as council members. These are His Lordship Bishop Robert Muhiirwa - Bishop of the Diocese of Fort Portal, Uganda, His Lordship Bishop Mark Kadima Wamukoya - Bishop of the Diocese of Kakamega, Kenya and Dr. Annie Kangwa Chewe, a Faculty Member of the University of Zambia's School of Law.
3. His Grace Archbishop Maurice Muhatia Makumba concluded his second term as Chairman of the University Council. I was humbled to be appointed as CUEA's new University Council Chairman. I thank the AMECEA Bishops Plenary for giving me this great honour to serve CUEA.
4. We, the re-constituted University Council promise to continue with the good work the Council has been doing, especially for the last eight years where they spearheaded and guided CUEA into the transformative university it is today. This has placed our University on a clear path to

becoming a world class university producing ethical leaders for Church and Society.

5. We will also continue our oversight role of the University and work with the Management to pursue higher quality of education. This will ensure CUEA's prosperity in all fronts. We will also work closely with CUEA in order to actualize its 12 year strategic plan, which is currently under implementation. This includes the milestones contained in the strategic plan.
6. As we celebrate our Graduates for their wonderful achievement, we also reflect on how we can expand opportunities that emanate from growth through quality education, ethics, spirituality and training without losing sight of changing global dynamics.
7. The world today is facing climate related environmental challenges. We have and continue to experience prolonged drought in parts of Africa and Europe while at the same time experiencing heavy rains in the Australian Continent and Eastern Asia. As we look at expanding opportunities of growth through quality education and training, let us ensure that we focus on our environment. Let us skew our growth in the areas of education and research towards saving our planet. I am happy that CUEA has started offering an Environmental Degree. Let all faculties tap from this programme to see how they can contribute to preserving the environment. The theme of the 20th AMECEA Plenary which was held in July this year and took place in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, was;

Environmental Impact on Integral Human Development. This indicates how seriously the Church takes the matter of our environment.

8. That is why I challenge our Graduands to use the academic and professional knowledge they acquired in CUEA to champion the preservation of our environment as we continue to grow economically, socially, ethically and politically. The world is in dire straits when it comes to the environment. We are working day and night to achieve the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals. However, we need to particularly focus on ensuring that we preserve our environment for our children and the future heritage. This is a spirit already captured in the millennium goals.

9. Graduands, today you will be given the power to read, to write and to use the expertise you have acquired for the common good. Utilize the powers accorded to you with righteousness, decorum and always let the Catholic Values that you have received in CUEA shine through you as a light tower for all to see and be guided.

Congratulations on your graduation today.

May God bless you, may He bless the work of your hands and may He bless us all.

**RT. REV. PAUL KARIUKI NJIRU**  
**CHAIRMAN – UNIVERSITY COUNCIL**