

**VICE CHANCELLOR’S SPEECH DURING THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF
EASTERN AFRICA’S 41ST GRADUATION CEREMONY ON
28TH 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. Most. Rev. Anthony Muheria, Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Nyeri and Chairman, The Catholic University of Eastern Africa Board of Trustees*
 - iv. Rt. Rev. Paul Kariuki Njiru, Chairman, The Catholic University of Eastern Africa Council*
 - v. Your Lordships, Bishop Members of the University Council*
 - vi. Distinguished Members of the University Council,*
 - vii. Distinguished Guests,*
 - viii. Parents, Guardians, Sponsors and Graduands,*
 - ix. Faculty and Students of CUEA,*
 - x. Ladies and Gentlemen*
1. Welcome to The Catholic University of Eastern Africa’s (CUEA’s) 41st Graduation ceremony. This is the first on-site Graduation Ceremony CUEA has had after the Covid 19 Pandemic. I would like to thank Hon. Ezekiel Machogu, our Chief Guest, for accepting to grace our graduation this year.
 2. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all our Graduands today. Today you have made a momentous and life-changing achievement. We celebrate with you the fruits of your hard work,

commitment and sacrifice. To our Graduands' parents, guardians and sponsors, thank you for choosing CUEA as your partner in the education of our Graduands. We are humbled by your confidence in CUEA.

3. Honorable Cabinet Secretary, Your Graces, Your Lordships, ladies and gentlemen, CUEA is a University that has always aspired to offer quality education and to excel in research. With the changing dynamics of today's world we have and will continue to take advantage of the opportunities that come along with these changes. Today, our Graduands are being awarded with degrees, diplomas and certificates in their respective areas. To achieve this we have diversified our methodology of teaching by embracing technology. In particular, during the Covid-19 pandemic period, we embraced distance online learning and later on, blended learning, which was a merger of face-to-face and online learning.
4. This enabled our students to continue learning without interruption, thus fulfilling one of our primary goals which is offering an uninterrupted curriculum to our students. That is why our Graduands are graduating on time, as per their academic programme calendar. Similarly, the training that was given to all our students and staff have made them experts in the use of online platforms for study, holding meetings and carrying out research. This has prepared our Graduands to work from home. Today, many companies all over the world have embraced the

work-from-home concept so as to maximize their staff output irrespective of societal circumstance.

5. In response to the challenges facing the world as a result of the environment, and in response to His Holiness Pope Francis' second encyclical titled *Laudato Si* and sub-titled "on care for our common home", this year we introduced a new programme that studies our environment, that is, the Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Planning and Management. The programme, which is housed in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, is unique in its primary focus on managing and taking care of our environment. Other programmes will benefit from this programme with many students having the option of taking courses in the environmental programme to enrich their respective curriculum in the area of environmental management.
6. These are but few examples of CUEA taking advantage of opportunities of the changing global dynamics in order to improve our quality of education and train our students and staff with skills needed to navigate the world today academically and professionally. I advise our Graduands to keep growing professionally and academically by taking short professional courses to add skills that will give you an advantage as you grow in your career. This will help you improve your analytical and research skills when it comes to understanding your respective professions.

7. But I also ask you that you do not forget the values you have learnt in CUEA. Embrace our University's core values for this is what makes you clearly stand out in the job market today. Witness to life, Prayer, Honesty, Excellency, Truthfulness, Commitment, Competence: these are the values that you need to continuously embrace in your day to day professional and personal lives to make you value oriented professionally and personally.
8. Once again I would like to congratulate our graduating class of 2022. May God bless you and your individual missions, and may He bless The Catholic University of Eastern Africa.

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