



8TH
COMMENCEMENT
EMPOWERED
CHANGEMAKERS

VALEDICTORIAN'S SPEECH

Ladies and gentlemen, esteemed faculty members, proud parents and guardians, and my fellow graduates of the Class of 2024. Today, I stand before you filled with gratitude as we reflect on our journey that has led us to this momentous occasion. Our path began during the COVID-19 pandemic. As the graduating law class of 2024, we navigated the complexities of online learning, masked interactions, and the transition away from the normal campus life.

Starting our academic pursuits from home, we adapted to the virtual classroom where lectures and discussions unfolded through screens rather than in person. While online learning had its challenges, it also offered unexpected conveniences—like attending classes from the comfort of our beds, especially during the cold season.

However, we missed the vibrant campus life—the events, shared meals in the cafeteria, and the sense of community that comes with face-to-face interactions. Over time, we transitioned to hybrid learning, and eventually returned to physical learning.

I would like to thank Riara University and specifically the law school faculty; notable mentions to Ms. Marceline, Dr. Nyagah, Dr. Lando, Mr. Ombis, Mr. Chege, and others—who stood as pillars of support, guiding us with unwavering dedication. They not only imparted knowledge but also inspired us to grow personally and professionally. One thing that I would commend Riara University for, is the open-door policy where a student can always bring up their problems with the faculty, and have such problems heard and addressed. This culture of accessibility and responsiveness, has empowered us to thrive and grow.

We are thankful to our families, friends and mentors for their unwavering support throughout every challenge we have faced, from balancing demanding coursework to managing personal commitments.

To my fellow graduates, you have taught me invaluable lessons in patience, effective communication, and the power of teamwork through our shared experiences in core foundation units. Our graduating class is quite diverse, with those looking to pursue law in future, others in Journalism, International Relations, Computer science, Business and Education amongst others. These are all ventures that will shape the future of our society in many different ways. As we celebrate our achievements today, let us not forget the journey that lies ahead for our fellow students in lower years. To our fellow students in lower years, seize every opportunity presented by Riara—engage in conferences, participate in school competitions, and explore the resources available to you. These experiences will enrich your academic journey and prepare you for the challenges ahead.

I leave you all with a quote that has guided me throughout this journey, “A head full of fears, has no space for dreams.” Whether you choose to pursue the course you are graduating with today, or chart a different course, know that your time in Riara has equipped you with the tools to make a meaningful impact in our society. As we venture into diverse careers and endeavours, let us remember that our potential is without limit. Let us uphold the principles of integrity, compassion and resilience in whatever it is that we choose to do.

In closing, let us celebrate not only our academic achievements but also the friendships and memories that we have forged along the way. Thank you to Riara University, for providing us with a foundation upon which to build our futures. To the class of 2024, may our paths be illuminated by the knowledge we have gained, the friendships we have cultivated and the dreams that await us. Congratulations to each and every one of us!

Thank you.