



8<sup>TH</sup>  
COMMENCEMENT  
**EMPOWERED**  
CHANGEMAKERS

## VICE CHANCELLOR'S SPEECH



**ur Distinguished Chancellor, Dr. Wilfred Kibodo, Our Keynote Speaker Dr. Ezekiel Mutua, Our Distinguished Parents and Relatives of our graduands, all our valued partners and guests, Board of Trustees and Council members present, my colleagues staff, our esteemed graduands Class of 2024, Students, Distinguished Guests, ladies and gentlemen, good morning**

Any Gen Zs in the House!!!

A million congratulations to all of you my dear friends on your graduation. First, I wish to applaud all our dear parents and relatives for the sacrifices, prayers and moral support given to this graduands. A big round of applause to our dear parents.

Secondly, I wish to appreciate my family who are here, I also have a niece who is graduating. Congratulations Ashley. I acknowledge my Senior Pastor at ICC Imara Daima Rev Julius Wainaina whose son is graduating today, my colleague Vice Chancellors with us today starting with my very good friend Dr. Vincent Ogutu the Vice Chancellor of Strathmore University (applause), and my equally very good friend Prof. Washington Okeyo the Vice Chancellor of Management University of Africa (applause).

The 3 of us are very good friends and we have a nyumba kumi around here. We are also part of the Education Collaborative under Ashesi University Ghana where with others, we are seeking to train 1.1 million ethical graduates in Africa by the year 2030 and we will do it.

Riara is also part of the Kenya Network of Entrepreneurial Universities (KNEIL) which is supported by the British Council and I wish to thank all our donor partners, British Council, Mozilla Foundation, among others (Monica – Head of Education at BC).

Finally, on behalf of all our partners, please allow me to invite the Managing Director of KCB Bank Kenya to greet the congregation.

Karibu sana MD

KCB have been our bankers as the Riara Group for several decades now and they have supported this campus from ground breaking in 2010, to what you see today.

Further, it is my pleasure to announce to all of us today that, Riara University has become the first private university to purchase land at the Konza Technocity for the construction of what will be our main campus in a few years. With dependable partners like KCB, we will soon be holding graduation ceremonies at Konza City. A big round of applause to them.

I will end my remarks with just a few words to you our esteemed graduands.

During our Graduation Dinner at Sarova Panafric last Friday, I gave you a snippet of my life story and what I have gone through to reach where I am today. I hope my short story inspired you to believe that Greatness is possible right? Viva Class of 2024! Viva Greatness! Viva RU! I almost said Viva GenZ but you may make me trend

Allow me to just share three things have helped me in my journey towards career success.

#### 1. Excellence

Be men and women of excellence in all your undertakings. Be men and women of excellence in speech, in actions, in thought, in planning, in execution, in following through, etc. Also, have excellent relationships as they determine your success, have excellent thoughts as out of your thoughts springs the trajectory of your life. Excellent thoughts lead to an excellent life. Above all have excellent habits. As Brian Tracy said: **Successfully people are simply those with excellent habits of success.** John Dryden also said: **We first make our habits, then our habits make us.**

#### 2. Integrity

Your recent successful demonstrations are a true example of the need for integrity in a society. We cannot live in a society where the quickest ways of getting rich are tenderpreneurship, bootlicking, corruption and sheer theft. If you do the right thing nowadays you are the enemy. During my entire life, I have never stolen anyone's shilling, whether here at Riara or anywhere else and I am grateful to God for my honest living even if I do not drive the biggest cars or live in the poshest neighborhoods. For those going out, be men and women of integrity, keeping you word, assisting those who need assistance without asking for kickbacks. I have never asked for kickbacks my entire life. If I can serve you, I serve you wholeheartedly and I am sure you guys can confirm. Do the same out there.

May I never hear a Riara graduate being visited by Gen Z ama akisalimiwa na GenZ ama Generation Alpha

#### 3. Fear of God

The final pillar that has given me great success and peace of heart is the Fear of God. You must always keep in mind that you are a mere mortal and you will not leave this earth with anything. Whether you are a Christian, Muslim, Hindu or whatever, remember this: Nobody comes out of life alive! The fear of God helps you to serve others with humility, compassion, love, and true humanity. Pride, arrogance, selfishness, big cars, huge investments, and hubris are fleeting, but what remains in the very end on the death bed, is the impact, the joy, the testimonies that you will leave in the hearts of other human beings. That can only be achieved when you realise that whatever you will get or achieve in life, is not yours. You will only be a steward and your creator could demand it from you.

For those who are staying with us, we will continue to engage but for those leaving, I will really miss you my good friends. Msitusahau

Wherever you go, lead with excellence, lead with integrity, lead with the fear of God.

I wish you every success and every blessing to you and your dear families as you forever aim for greatness!

Viva Class of 2024, Viva Greatness, Viva RU!

A million congratulations my dear friends!

Asanteni sana

