Chancellor's Speech

Hon. Prof. Margaret Kobia, PhD, EGH

SPEECH BY HON. PROF. MARGARET KOBIA, Ph.D., EGH, THE ST. PAUL'S UNIVERSITY CHANCELLOR DURING THE 33RD GRADUATION CEREMONY HELD ON FRIDAY, 15TH NOVEMBER 2024 AT THE GRADUATION SQUARE IN LIMURU MAIN CAMPUS.

- **The Guest Speaker, Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki, General Secretary, All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC),**
- **The Council Chair, His Grace The Most Rev. Dr. Jackson Ole Sapit,**
- **The Chair of the Board of Trustees The Rt. Rev. Dr. Thegu Mutahi,**
- **Members of the Board of Management and Senate,**
- **Members of faculty and staff,**
- **All parents, guardians and sponsors,**
- **Distinguished guests,**
- **Graduating Class of 2024**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am greatly privileged and honored to join you in celebrating a worthwhile milestone in your academic journey. This 33rd graduation ceremony is more than just a celebration; it is a new beginning into another realm of opportunities and possibilities. I therefore wish to express my sincere gratitude to members of faculty and staff who have made this day a reality. To all the graduands, I am happy that you are finally reaping the fruits of your labor. Indeed, it is now evident that your hard work, resilience and sacrifice have not been in vain.

Let me recognize all parents, guardians and sponsors whose financial sacrifice and support is what has enabled the university to have its 33rd graduation ceremony. Kindly note that we do not take your support for granted. We have come this far as a university because of you.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This year's 33rd graduation ceremony is unique in so many ways. Take note that the number 33rd symbolizes compassion, blessings, inspiration, honesty, bravery and courage. Let us remember that as we transition to the next phase of life to impact our communities with skills and expertise we have acquired in various fields, let us do it knowing we are different. At St. Paul's University, we are modeled to represent Jesus Christ and because of that reality, there is much that we give to the society apart from our knowledge and expertise. I therefore charge all graduands to carry the torch of excellence and influence the world with your skills and faith in God.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Guided by the theme for the 33rd graduation ceremony, ""**Establishing the nexus of faith, science and technology for global transformation**," I wish to submit a few reflective thoughts. The intersection of technology and faith marks a complex and dynamic juncture where age-old religious beliefs encounters rapid pace of scientific advancements. As humanity ventures further into the digital age, questions arise about the compatibility of deeply held religious convictions with the ever-expanding realm of technological innovation. This intersection prompts an exploration of whether faith and science can coexist harmoniously or if inherent tensions between the two domains pose a challenge. From debates surrounding the ethical implications of emerging technologies to discussions about the role of artificial intelligence in matters of spirituality, the interplay between technology and faith underscores a profound and evolving conversation that seeks to reconcile ancient traditions with the relentless march of progress. In navigating this complex terrain, there must be a common ground and need to forge a symbiotic relationship where science and technology will become useful tools for global transformation. As a university founded on deep Christian principles, our goal has been to navigate the interface between science and technology in advancing academic excellence in areas of research and innovation.

The intersection of technology and faith presents a fascinating and complex landscape, raising profound questions about the compatibility of religious beliefs with the relentless march of scientific advancements. Throughout history, these two realms have often been perceived as opposing forces, with tensions arising from perceived conflicts between religious dogma and empirical evidence. However, a closer examination reveals a nuanced relationship where faith and technology can coexist, complementing each other in unexpected ways.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish to reiterate that in the ever-evolving higher education landscape, St. Paul's University has remained steadfast in its core mandate of offering high quality education. We remain strong and firm in our pursuit because the society is in dire need of innovators and change makers; and our university is contributing its fair share to the market place. I am intrigued to report that the launch of the TVET centre is not only timely but also strategic move. These centres will be a resource in advancing technical knowledge to so many youth and help them earn decent livelihoods. I therefore applaud everyone whose effort made this endeavor possible. In addition, the accreditation of the Virtual Campus will significantly provide access to quality and affordable higher education to members of the society who would be inconvenienced because of distance or complexities of there working environment. These developments point to the fact that the university is fully committed in ensuring that it remains a market leader and great contributor in the advancement of the society.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Finally, i wish to thank the university leadership led by the board of management for ensuring this university remains a key player in the higher education sector. Your sense of focus and vision is a definite attribute that will forever in the hearts and minds of those who have a clear grasp of the history of this great institution. To parents, guardians and sponsors, we urge you to continue walking with us in this journey because in our unity, there is no mountain or valley that can hold us back. I have no doubt the future is bright, and with the kind of momentum the university is growing with, we have every reason to believe our horizons will expand far and wide.

Once again, congratulations to the graduating class of 2024.

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