Council Chair's Speech

His Grace the Most Rev. Dr. Jackson Ole Sapit

SPEECH BY HIS GRACE THE MOST REV. DR. JACKSON OLE SAPIT, THE ST. PAUL'S UNIVERSITY COUNCIL CHAIR DURING THE 33RD GRADUATION CEREMONY HELD ON FRIDAY, 15TH NOVEMBER 2024 AT THE GRADUATION SQUARE IN LIMURU MAIN CAMPUS.

- **The Chief Guest and Chancellor of St. Paul's University Hon. Prof. Margaret Kobia, EGH,**
- **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 and members of our University Council,**
- **The Chair of the Board of Trustees The Rt. Rev. Dr. Thegu Mutahi and members of our Board of Trustees,**
- **Members of the Board of Management and Senate,**
- **All national government officials and county leaders present,**
- **Members of faculty and staff,**
- **Parents, guardians and sponsors,**
- **Graduating Class of 2024**

My heart is full of joy as I join you to celebrate the 33rd graduation ceremony. I understand the feeling of graduating because I have been there before and to the best of my knowledge, it is a great feeling. Therefore, this morning as we gather together to mark these achievement, let us remember to thank God for the gift of life, sustenance and provision. After all is said and done, it is only God who gives us the ability to achieve such notable milestones.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to extend my heartfelt appreciation to our Chancellor Hon. Prof. Margaret Kobia for her unwavering commitment and dedication to the growth of this university. I lack the right words to say thank you Madam Chancellor, deep in our hearts we want you to know is that we value and appreciate you wholeheartedly. To all members of the Council, Board of Trustees, Management, Senate, Faculty and Staff, receive my appreciation for the contributions you have made and continue to do so that has ensured St. Paul's University is a respected university regionally and globally. We take pride in this institution because of the significant contributions you have made in your own small way that cumulatively has resulted to a well known and loved brand that we all know as St. Paul's University.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

To those of us who have an understanding of where St. Paul's University has come from, our hearts are filled with gratitude and our lips with praise because were it not for the hand of God, I am not sure we would be where we are today. Our journey of growth is what makes us proud. Therefore to all those graduating today, take pride in this institution and know that you are part of our answered prayer. Being cognizant of the fact that you are a product of an answered prayer, we have no doubt that whoever connected you to St. Paul's University will be faithful to walk with you as you step out of the gates of this institution and success will be your portion.

While meditating on this year's theme, "**Establishing the nexus of faith, science and technology for global transformation,"** I wrestled with some of the truths we are currently experiencing in our day to day lives as the Christian community. One truth is that we are living in the age of science and technological advancement. Whether we like it or not, that is a reality that we must come to terms with. Are science and technology demons we should disassociate ourselves from? Of course NO. Unfortunately, in our dispensation, scientific and technological discourses are often assumed rather than discussed and debated. I believe as a university, we are guided by faith and life, and we are committed towards having engagements and conversations from faith perspective about science and technology in our realm of existence. We need to appreciate that science and technology are expressions of the human responsibility to help us learn, predict, imagine and invent for the sake of God. In this case, science and technology should be viewed as enablers in accomplishing God's purposes here on earth. We then need to use science as a means to transform our communities and human dignity.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we reflect on our milestones and achievements, allow me to point at our pillars of excellence and impact. Today, as we graduate (1802) of you to join the market place, I am also proud to note that our commitment towards growth is on course and taking shape one step at a time. The accreditation and certification of the TVETA centre is only an icing on the cake. I firmly believe the centre will help nurture and build skills of our young people and prepare them to contribute to the building of our great nation Kenya. Further, the accreditation of our virtual campus stands as a beacon of hope regionally and globally in enhancing access to higher education to a huge constituent of people who have been disadvantaged because of distance or busy schedules. The university's continued effort in upgrading its various infrastructures and investing millions of shillings in equipping our labs and studios is a testament on how focused we are in ensuring we strive to become the best at what we do and a point of reference in areas of innovation, research and quality academic standards.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish to remind you that your labor at St. Paul's University is not in vain. You made the right decision to join us and we have every reason to believe that you have a lot at stake to offer because to whom much is given, much is also expected, as captured according to the gospel of Luke 12:48.

I therefore wish you all the best in your endeavors and implore you to always consider St. Paul's University to be your higher education partner in the future.

Congratulations and may almighty God bless you.

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