Council Chair's Speech

His Grace the Most Rev. Dr. Jackson Ole Sapit

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL CHAIR

THE ADDRESS OF THE , HIS GRACE THE MOST REV. DR. JACKSON OLE SAPIT, AT THE 34TH GRADUATION CEREMONY OF ST. PAUL'S UNIVERSITY,FRIDAY, 7th NOVEMBER 2025 AT THE GRADUATION SQUARE IN LIMURU MAIN CAMPUS.

Theme: "Empowering Ethical Leaders through Faith, Innovation, and Lifelong Learning"

SALUTATION

1. **The University Chancellor**, Hon. Prof. Margaret Kobia, PhD, EGH;
2. **Our Guest Speaker**, Ms. Juliana Rotich; Fintech Leader and Tech Entrepreneur, Chief Executive officer Electronic Citizen Solutions Company;
3. **The Chair of the Board of Trustees** and Moderator of the 24th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of East Africa, Rt. Revd. Thegu Mutahi;
4. **Members of the University Governing Council and Board of Trustees**;
5. **The Vice-Chancellor**, Rev Canon. Prof. James Kombo;
6. **The University Management Board and Senate**;
7. **Invited guests;**
8. **Faculty and staff;**
9. **Parents and guardians**;
10. **Distinguished graduands and students -** on behalf of the University Council, I warmly welcome you to the 34th Graduation Ceremony of St. Paul's University. It is a privilege to share this important day with you.

Let me begin with gratitude. I thank the Trustees, Council Members, the University Management Board, Senate, faculty, staff and the wider St. Paul's community for their steadfast service to our mission. Special thanks to our Chancellor, Hon. Prof. Margaret Kobia, for her continual support and for honoring us with her presence today. Your collective dedication has helped shape the lives we celebrate this morning.

As Chair of Council I speak not only in celebration but in stewardship. Under the Council's oversight this year we finalized and launched the 2025–2030 Strategic Plan, expanded virtual learning provision to reach a wider set of learners, and strengthened research partnerships that directly benefit our local communities. These steps reflect the Council's commitment to academic quality, financial prudence and public service — duties we hold with seriousness and humility.

This year's theme — *"Empowering Ethical Leaders through Faith, Innovation, and Lifelong Learning"* — captures who we are as a Christian university and what we place at the center of formation: character, creativity, and

continuous growth. Allow me briefly to reflect on each of these pillars and what they mean for you, the graduands, as you step into the wider world.

First, empowering leaders through faith. At St. Paul's we teach that faith is not mere sentiment but a moral compass that guides decisions and sustains integrity in both public and private life. In an era where leaders face complex pressures and ethical dilemmas, your grounding in Christian values will be the difference between transient success and lasting service. Be leaders who choose truth, justice and compassion even when it costs you; such leadership renews institutions and restores hope in communities.

Second, empowering leaders through innovation. We live in a time when ideas and technologies can unlock solutions to long-standing problems. The Council is proud of the investments we have made to strengthen teaching, research and digital access. But innovation without conscience can harm as much as it helps. Let your creativity be coupled with ethical judgment — use technology to widen opportunity, protect dignity, and expand access to quality education and services.

Third, empowering leaders through lifelong learning. A degree is an important milestone, but learning does not end here. The contemporary world demands continuous updating of skills, habits of reflection, and adaptability. Make professional development, mentorship and community engagement part of your life. Read widely, test your ideas, learn from failure, and remain willing to retool as society's needs evolve.

We also recognize the challenges that lie ahead. Sustaining quality in a fast-changing higher education landscape, ensuring financial access for talented but resource-constrained students, and maintaining research that is both relevant and ethical are not small tasks. The Council remains committed to prudent governance, transparent stewardship of resources, and bold partnerships that secure the university's future and protect its mission.

Graduands, let me leave you with three practical charges. One: lead with integrity — let your actions match your values. Two: apply what you know — translate knowledge into service that addresses real problems in your communities. Three: remain curious — commit to continuous learning so you remain relevant and resourced to serve. These are not abstract ideals but habits that shape a life of effective leadership and enduring contribution.

To parents, guardians and sponsors: thank you. Your sacrifices and encouragement have brought us to this day. To our faculty and staff: your guidance and commitment have formed minds and characters; the university owes you a deep debt of gratitude.

To our alumni, partners and friends: your mentorship, networks and investment are essential. I invite you to deepen your partnership with St. Paul's through internships, research collaborations, and scholarship support so that our graduates may both lead and serve. True institutional progress is a shared responsibility.

As you receive your awards today, remember that success is best measured by contribution — how your gifts uplift others, strengthen institutions, and renew hope. Carry with you the identity of St. Paul's University: faithful in purpose, innovative in method, and relentless in the pursuit of knowledge.

I close with a word of blessing and encouragement from Scripture: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11). Walk into that future with confidence, humility and a commitment to serve.

May God bless you all.

May St. Paul's University continue to grow in excellence, faithfulness and public service. Graduands of 2025 — go forth as ethical, innovative, lifelong learners, and transform the world.

Thank you.

His Grace, The Most Revd. Dr. Jackson Ole Sapit

Chair of the University Council