Board of Trustees Chair's Speech

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Thegu Mutahi

REMARKS BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, THE RT. REV. DR. THEGU MUTAHI DURING THE 35TH GRADUATION CEREMONY OF ST. PAUL'S UNIVERSITY HELD ON FRIDAY, 6th NOVEMBER 2026 AT THE GRADUATION SQUARE IN LIMURU MAIN CAMPUS AT 9:00 A.M.

Theme:

"Building Resilience Through Innovation in a Fragile Environment."

SALUTATION:

The University Chancellor, **Hon. Prof. Margaret Kobia, PhD, EGH,**

The Guest Speaker, **Ms. Nancy Njau, Chief Executive Officer & Managing Director, Family Bank Limited, Kenya.**

The Chairman University Council, **His Grace the Most Rev. Dr. Jackson Ole Sapit,**

Members of the Board of Trustees and the University Council,

St. Paul's University Vice-Chancellor**, Prof. Esther Mombo,**

The University Board of Management and the Senate,

Members of the Clergy present,

Representatives from the National and County Government,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Graduating Class of 2026,

Good morning.

It is a great honour and privilege to join you on this momentous occasion as St. Paul's University celebrates its **35th Graduation Ceremony**.

On my own behalf and that of the Board of Trustee Members, I congratulate the graduating class of 2026. *(Recognise the BOT Members Present by requesting them to stand for appreciation)*

Today, we celebrate the achievements of our graduands, the dedication of our staff, the support of families and the collective efforts of everyone who has contributed to the growth and advancement of this great institution.

To the graduating Class of 2026, congratulations! You have reached this important milestone through hard work, determination, sacrifice and perseverance. As you receive your qualifications, remember that education is not merely about acquiring knowledge or earning certificates and degrees; it is about developing the character, competence and wisdom to make a meaningful contribution to society. As you embark on the next chapter of your lives, remain grounded in faith, uphold integrity, embrace innovation and use your knowledge to serve humanity. May you become leaders who inspire, entrepreneurs who create opportunities and professionals who make a positive difference.

Our graduation theme, **"Building Resilience Through Innovation in a Fragile Environment,"** reminds us of the importance of preparing graduates who can navigate uncertainty, embrace change and respond to emerging challenges with courage, creativity and purpose.

As Chairperson of the Board of Trustees, and importantly, as an alumnus of St. Paul's University, this occasion holds a special place in my heart. Having studied at this institution, I have witnessed and appreciate its remarkable journey and transformation over the years. It is gratifying to see the University continue to grow in stature, strengthen its academic programmes, embrace innovation and expand its impact while remaining faithful to its Christian identity. The progress we celebrate today is a testament to the vision of its founders and the commitment of generations of leaders, staff, students and partners.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to my fellow members of the **Board of Trustees** for their steadfast commitment to safeguarding the University's founding vision and long-term sustainability. I also commend the **University Council**, under the leadership of its chairperson, and our Chancellor, **Hon. Prof. Margaret Kobia, PhD, EGH**, for their invaluable contribution to institutional governance and strategic advancement. I particularly appreciate our Vice-Chancellor, **Prof. Esther Mombo**, the University Management, academic and administrative staff and the entire University community for their dedication and commitment to the University's mission.

As the supreme governing and sponsoring body representing the founding Christian churches, the Board of Trustees has a fundamental responsibility to safeguard the University's founding ethos, Christian identity, institutional heritage and long-term interests. Our responsibility extends beyond preserving the legacy entrusted to us; it also involves supporting the University's continued growth, sustainability and readiness for the future.

To our graduands, as you leave this institution, remember that you remain part of the St. Paul's University family. Carry its values with pride, remain connected to your alma mater and use your knowledge and opportunities to uplift others. Go forth as ambassadors of excellence, integrity, innovation and service. Your achievements will become part of the University's continuing story, and we look forward to celebrating your contributions to society.

In conclusion, I congratulate the entire University community on this important milestone. I wish St. Paul's University continued growth, wisdom in its leadership, strength in its Christian mission and greater impact in the years ahead. May the University continue to nurture competent, innovative and values-driven graduates who will contribute meaningfully to the transformation of society.

May God bless the graduating Class of 2026, bless St. Paul's University and guide all those entrusted with its leadership and stewardship.

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Thegu Mutahi

BoT Chairman and the Moderator of the 24th General Assembly of PCEA.