Chancellor's Speech

Hon. Prof. Margaret Kobia, PhD, EGH

REMARKS BY HON. PROF. MARGARET KOBIA, PhD., EGH, DURING THE 35TH GRADUATION CEREMONY 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 Guest Speaker, **Ms. Nancy Njau, Chief Executive Officer & Managing Director, Family Bank Limited, Kenya.**

The University Board of Trustee Chairman**, The Rt. Rev. Dr. Thegu Mutahi,**

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

Members of the Board of Trustee and the University Council,

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

The University Board of Management and the Senate,

Representatives from the National and County Government Present,

Faculty, Administrative Staff, Students and Alumni,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Graduating Class of 2026,

Good morning.

It is a great honour and privilege to stand before you today as we celebrate a remarkable milestone — the **35th Graduation Ceremony of St. Paul's University**, where we proudly recognize and celebrate **2042 graduates** who have successfully completed their studies and are ready to take their next steps into the world.

Today is not just a celebration of certificates and academic achievement. It is a celebration of commitment, resilience, determination, and the transformation that happens when individuals are equipped with the right skills, knowledge, and opportunities.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the University Board of Trustees, the University Council, the University Management and Senate for their visionary leadership, dedication and unwavering commitment to the growth and development of St. Paul's University. I also extend our special gratitude to our Guest Speaker, **Ms. Nancy Njau**, for honouring our invitation and making time to be with us today. We are grateful for her willingness to share her insights, mentor and inspire our graduands as they embark on the next chapter of their lives. Education is not merely about imparting knowledge; it is about transforming lives, nurturing character and preparing individuals to make meaningful contributions to society. Your collective efforts in shaping competent, confident and values-driven graduates continue to strengthen the University's mission and create a lasting impact on individuals, communities and the nation.

As we celebrate this **35th graduation ceremony**, I am reminded that every graduate represents a story of perseverance. Behind every certificate is a journey filled with challenges overcome, lessons learned, and dreams pursued.

Dear Graduands,

This day marks the end of one chapter and the beginning of another. You joined St. Paul's University with impeccable dreams, ambitions, with the desire to find your path in your career aspirations. Through rigorous training, you have gained more than qualifications; you have developed practical skills, professional values, confidence, and the ability to contribute meaningfully to society.

The theme of this graduation, **"Building Resilience Through Innovation in a Fragile Environment,"** reminds us that you are leaving this institution at a time when the world is changing rapidly, and every sector has become unpredictable, including the education sector. The workplace today demands more than academic knowledge. It requires individuals who can adapt, innovate, solve problems, embrace technology, and continuously learn. This is why your education remains critical in preparing you for meaningful participation. Institutions such as St. Paul's University play an important role in equipping learners with holistic, market-relevant skills that connect education with real-world opportunities.

Therefore, as you step into your careers, remember that your skills are your greatest asset. Whether you venture into healthcare, ICT, communication, education, languages, business, entrepreneurship, or any other field, the value you create will be determined by how well you apply what you have learned.

Do not wait for opportunities to find you. Create opportunities. Identify challenges around you and become part of the solutions. The greatest innovations often begin with someone who looked at a problem and asked, *"What can I do differently?"*

Innovation does not always mean creating something completely new. Sometimes innovation means improving an existing process, using technology more effectively, serving people better, or finding smarter ways of doing things. I urge you to integrate excellence as your personal standard. Wherever you go, let your work reflect integrity, professionalism, discipline, and commitment. Your certificate may open doors, but your attitude, character, and willingness to grow will determine how far you go.

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We celebrate you as well. Your encouragement, sacrifices, prayers, and support have played a significant role in bringing these graduates to this important day. Your investment in their education is an investment in the future of our society.

A call to graduands,

To all graduands, I challenge you as you leave this Graduation Square today to go out into the world as proud ambassadors of St. Paul's University, representing our values, vision and mission wherever you go. As you begin this new chapter, carry with you four important principles:

First, **be resilient**. You must develop the muscle to craft innovative solutions to overcome life challenges.

Second, **keep learning.** Graduation is not the end of education; it is the beginning of lifelong learning. The world will continue to evolve, and those who remain curious and willing to improve will remain relevant.

Third, **embrace innovation.** Be willing to think differently, use technology wisely, and develop solutions that improve lives.

Fourth, **pursue excellence.** Do not settle on being average. Whatever you do, strive to do it with passion, professionalism, and purpose.

Your success will not only be measured by the jobs you secure or the businesses you build, but also by the impact you create in your communities. Therefore:

Go out and become innovators.
Go out and become problem-solvers.
Go out and become leaders.

May you use your skills to transform your lives, uplift your communities, and contribute to the growth and development of our nation.

Congratulations to the graduating class of 2026.

Thank you, and may God bless you all.

Prof. Margaret Kobia, PhD, EGH

Chancellor St. Paul's University

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