Council Chair's Speech

His Grace the Most Rev. Dr. Jackson Ole Sapit

REMARKS BY HIS GRACE THE MOST REV. DR. JACKSON OLE SAPIT, UNIVERSITY COUNCIL CHAIR 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 Board of Trustee**, The Rt. Rev. Dr. Thegu Mutahi,**

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,

Representatives from the National and County Government,

Faculty, Administrative Staff, Students and Alumni,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Graduating Class of 2026,

My heart is filled with gratitude as I join the St. Paul's University community to celebrate this important milestone, the 35th graduation ceremony. Indeed, today is a day of celebration. A day of achievement. A day of gratitude. Most importantly, today is a day of new beginnings.

I recognized all the council members present and bring our congratulatory Message to the graduating class of 2026. *(Recognize council members by requesting them to stand)*

I equally wish to express my sincere appreciation to the leadership of this University, beginning with our Chancellor, Hon. Prof. Margaret Kobia, PhD., EGH, for her passionate, visionary and dedicated leadership. To our

Board of Trustees, University Council members and Board of Management, I commend you for your steadfast commitment, strategic guidance and focused stewardship in ensuring that St. Paul's University remains firmly on course in pursuing its mission and vision. *Your collective leadership, dedication and commitment are instrumental in making St. Paul's University an increasingly progressive, resilient and impactful institution, transforming lives through quality education, Christian values, innovation and service to society***.**

Most importantly, I once again wish to convey my hearty congratulations to Prof. Esther Mombo on her appointment as St. Paul's University Fourth Vice-Chancellor. Your leadership for the short period of time you have been in the office has demonstrated your passion and commitment to seeing this University grow to greater heights.

To the **graduating class of 2026** who will be conferred with various degrees and awarded diploma and certificate, congratulations. Remember, your graduation is a public declaration that you have received requisite training that has prepared you to contribute to Kenya's, Africa's and Global development agenda. What a joy to graduate from one of Africa's premier institutions of higher learning, a market leader in delivering quality, relevant and holistic education.

Dear Graduands,

Today you leave the comfort of classrooms and enter one of the most dynamic labour markets in human history. You are graduating during an era defined by: Artificial intelligence, automation, digital transformation, climate innovation, global competition, remote work, the green economy, and the creative economy.

Graduands who will continuously learn will continuously lead. Therefore, you must build the muscle and capacity to be innovative and resilient, because many jobs existing today will evolve significantly with the likelihood that some jobs may even become extinct.

As you prepare to take charge of the future. Allow me to remind you that the winners of the future must possess three forms of capital: Human Capital, Digital Capital, and Social Capital.

Human Capital means knowledge, competence and mastery.

Digital Capital means technological adaptability, and

Social Capital means relationships built on integrity and trust.

In this regard, your certificates will only open doors, but your character will determine how long you remain inside the room. Your qualifications will get you hired, your character will get you promoted, but your innovative mindset will make you adapt to the fragile environment and remain relevant in the marketplace.

I therefore charge you, by the mercies of God, to think beyond formal employment and embrace the possibilities of innovation, entrepreneurship and problem-solving. As we celebrate our 35th Graduation Ceremony under the theme ***"Building Resilience Through Innovation in a Fragile Environment,"*** I urge you to recognise that in a world characterised by uncertainty, rapid change and emerging challenges, resilience is built by those who dare to

think differently, adapt to change and turn ideas into practical solutions. You have the knowledge, skills and potential to become innovators, entrepreneurs and creators of opportunities who respond to society's evolving needs. Remember, some of Kenya's most celebrated enterprises began with a single idea, one computer, one customer, one workshop or simply a dream. Do not view entrepreneurship as a second choice when formal employment is unavailable; see it as a noble pathway to self-reliance, job creation and nation-building. **Go forth and become a generation that does not merely endure a fragile environment, but builds resilience through innovation, courage and purposeful action.**

Innovation is not confined to laboratories. Innovation happens whenever you improve a process, reduce waste, serve customers better, apply technology creatively or solve community problems. Innovation begins with curiosity. In all these, the place of excellence cannot be overemphasized. Excellence is not perfection. It is the habit of consistently giving your best. Average people wait for supervision; excellent people supervise themselves. Average people complain, excellent people create solutions; average people seek comfort, whereas excellent people seek growth.

Dear Parents & Guardians,

I equally congratulate you all. Your financial, emotional and spiritual sacrifice is what has made this day possible. This graduation belongs to you as much as it belongs to the graduands. Thank you for believing in your sons and daughters. As they leave this institution, continue mentoring them. Graduation does not end parenting, your guidance remains indispensable as they transition into careers, entrepreneurship and family life.

Dear Graduands,

As you graduate today, I challenge each one of you to become:

Lifelong learners.

Resilient leaders.

Ethical professionals.

Courageous innovators.

Responsible citizens.

Builders of communities, and;

Passionate ambassadors of St. Paul's University.

This University has set the foundation of your future success.

As you step into the next chapter of your lives, I urge you to remember that history remembers those who dare to solve problems, create opportunities and make a meaningful difference in society. The future belongs to individuals

who embrace change, create value, uphold integrity and use their knowledge and talents to serve humanity. Go into the world with confidence. Dream boldly, work diligently, lead with integrity and serve faithfully.

I leave you with the words of Scripture in Philippians 4:13: *"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."* May these words be a constant reminder that, whatever challenges you encounter, your faith in God can strengthen and sustain you. Let your education be a tool for transformation, your values a compass for your decisions, and your faith the foundation upon which you build your future. Go forth and be a blessing to the world. May God guide your steps, grant you wisdom, and prosper the work of your hands

May your knowledge transform lives? May your innovation create opportunities? May your excellence inspire generations.

Once again, I congratulate all graduands, all parents and guardians, all partners and sponsors, and St. Paul's University for contributing to the development of the nation by training 21st century leaders, innovators and problem-solvers.

God bless all graduands, God bless St. Paul's University, and God bless the Republic of Kenya.

Thank you very much.

The Most Rev. Dr. Jackson Ole Sapit,

The University Council Chairman.

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