



**SPEECH MADE BY PROF. PETER M. F. MBITHI, DEPUTY
VICE-CHANCELLOR (ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE)
UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI AND CHAIRMAN OF BOARD OF
GOVERNORS, MACHAKOS TECHNICAL TRAINING
INSTITUTE DURING THE INSTITUTION'S GRADUATION
CEREMONY HELD ON FRIDAY JULY 3, 2009**

The Guest of Honor

Members of the B.O.G

The Principal

Parents and Guardians

Our Students

Assembled Graduands

Distinguished guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

Today is another great day for this Institute when we come together to witness and be part of the graduation of our students who have managed to satisfy the requirements of their syllabi and passed examinations for the award of various diplomas and certificates.

It is indeed a day of great pride to the graduands, parents, guardians, sponsors and benefactors who are now able to see the fruits of their labour, whose input for the last three or so years have finally borne fruit. On behalf of the Institute's Board of Governors, I have this opportunity to thank you all most profoundly for your efforts and also congratulate the students for a job well done.

Graduation also accords us an opportunity to reflect on our performance as an Institute, with a view to improving in the future, and also review the challenges of the environment under which we operate. We also are able to reflect back on our relationship with major stakeholders and sponsors.

As you are aware, our Institute operates under the Ministry of Higher education, Science and Technology, which has lately made great strides in promoting and supporting the expansion of access to higher education and technical education. Apart from providing bursaries for technical education, the Ministry has allocated more funds to enable our institutions match world standards and industry needs in skills provision.

**TECHNICAL, INDUSTRIAL, VOCATIONAL AND
ENTREPRENEURSHIP TRAINING (TIVET)**

With the expansion of access to higher and technical education, there has arisen the need to address issues of quality, equitability and reliability in service delivery. Consequently, the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology has undertaken to review its position regarding the Technical, Industrial, Vocational and Entrepreneurship Training (TIVET), managed by the Directorate of Technical Education.

Under TIVET, tertiary institutions including national polytechnics and technical training institutes are registered and have their training programmes co-ordinated, managed and supervised by the Directorate of Technical Education. The current TIVET system has however, been noted to have a mismatch between skills acquired through the training programmes and those demanded by the labour market, lack of flexibility of curriculum and lack of clear pathways of technical and vocational development.

For us to have a modern, competitive and world class workforce, we need to adopt a philosophy of training which promotes universal access, quality, relevance and equity to TIVET. We need a TIVET system which is driven by curricula derived from a broad common consensus as to the profile, competence and learning standards which the products of the secondary school system must meet.

Consequently, the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology has prepared a bill for parliament to overhaul the current system of TIVET, so as to provide proper legislation of the sector with a view to providing effective and efficient coordination. The bill is informed by the fact that the current technical education demands for quality development of skills to match industry and the establishment of centers of excellence in specialized fields.

It also call for curricula review to ensure that the products of the system are capable of advancement in skills development and training up to degree and doctorate levels of technology. The bill intends to advance us that far and it is our hope that our legislators will support the legislation as envisaged by the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology.

VISION 2030

As you are aware, Kenyan's development is currently hinged on Vision 2030, whose realization requires the entrenchment of a culture of Science, Technology and Innovation in our society. The aim of Vision 2030 is to transform Kenya into a newly industrializing, middle income country providing a high quality life to all its citizens by the year 2030.

The Vision is based on three pillars i.e. the economic, social and political. The three pillars are anchored on: macro-economic stability; continuity in governance reforms; enhanced equity and wealth creation opportunities for the poor; infrastructure; energy; Science, Technology and Innovation (STI); land reform; human resources development; security as well as public sector reforms. Already, these goals are being pursued by line ministries and other government institutions.

For our situation, the government has proposed intensified application of STI to raise productivity and efficiency levels across the three pillars. It recognizes the critical role played by Research and Development (R&D) in accelerating economic development in all the newly industrializing countries of the world.

The government has, as noted with TIVET, therefore undertaken to devote more resources to scientific research, upgrade the technical capacities of the workforce and to raise the quality of teaching of mathematics, science and technology in schools, polytechnics and universities. The specific strategies adopted here include reforming of secondary school curricula and strengthening partnerships with the private sector.

As a technical training institute, we have a prime responsibility of ensuring we play our rightful role in assisting the government achieve the goals of Vision 2030.

THE ROLE OF ICT

It has been observed that the future success of educational institutions will depend on their capacity and willingness to adapt to the dictates of the new information society; that of ICT.

In the National Development Plan for 2001-2008, institutions of higher learning have been assigned by Government specific tasks in the area of the development of information and communication technologies. These tasks include:

- To develop capacity for ICT expansion, absorption and utilization.
- To mainstream ICT education and training programmes.
- To review accreditation of ICT training institutions.
- To strengthen and expand linkages between tertiary and other educational and institution libraries
- To encourage and facilitate e-learning.

There are several benefits of using ICT, among them being:

- Efficiency
- Bridging the information and knowledge gap
- Transparency and accountability
- Decreased cost of access, speedier retrieval and more flexibility
- Empowerment
- Linking to the global economy

Possibly our greater challenge as an Institute is not just ensuring our students and staff have requisite ICT training but making available the required hardware and software in terms of computers, accessories, internal networking and internet connectivity. It may be expensive in the short run but we must continue allocating more resources to this if we are to remain relevant.

Finally, as I wind up my remarks I want to challenge our graduands to always aspire for excellence in their areas of operation, whether producing some goods or offering some service, noting that in almost all cases, the market pays excellent returns and rewards for excellent performance.

The key to your earning excellent rewards in your work is for you to become absolutely excellent at doing the most important parts of your job as they are defined by your boss and your customers. The key to success in your business is

for you to develop a reputation for excellence in everything you do.

This is my challenge to you as you enter the job market or as you go to start off businesses.

Thanks you very much and may *God Bless You All*.