

**Speech by Dr. Nicholas Kibiwott Letting:**  
**VICE - CHANCELLOR, THE MANAGEMENT UNIVERSITY OF AFRICA.**

---



**Dr. Nicholas Letting**, B. Com, MBA, PhD (UoN), HSC, MKIM, FCPA(K), FCS(K)

**T**he Chief Guest, Prof. Margaret Kobia, The Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Members of the Board of Trustees present, The Chancellor, The Chairman of the University Governing Council, Members of the University Governing Council present, Members of the UMB and the Senate, Vice-Chancellors present, The Deputy Vice-Chancellors present, Principals of Colleges and University Colleges, Members of faculty and staff, Parents and Guardians, Distinguished Guests, The Management University of Africa Students, Graduating Class of 2017, Ladies and Gentlemen, Good Morning! ... Good Morning once again!

### **Preamble**

I am delighted to stand here this morning to welcome you all to the Management University of Africa. We are gathered here this morning to witness and celebrate our 2017 graduating class. Congratulations Class of 2017. We are proud of you all!. I appreciate all of you present for gracing this important occasion and making it memorable for the graduands, their families and friends. I congratulate you all.

For your information, this is the University's 4th Graduation Ceremony since inception in September 2011 and I am proud and honoured to present to you 160 graduands who have worked tirelessly to earn their well-deserved accolades. Indeed this is a reason to celebrate.

## **The Management University of Africa**

Ladies and Gentlemen, the Management University of Africa (MUA) which is sponsored by the Kenya Institute of Management (KIM) is a premier, private not for profit University which operates under a Letter of Interim Authority granted by the then Commission for Higher Education (CHE) on 2nd September, 2011. The University is in the final stretch of being awarded full Charter by the regulator, the Commission for University Education (CUE). The University has witnessed tremendous growth over the years and has achieved remarkable milestones. Currently, the seat of the University is situated where we are congregated today at South C in Nairobi but it is our hope that come next year, we shall congregate at Kisaju where construction of the main campus is currently going on. We expect to accommodate close to 250 students in Kisaju in January 2018. Thank you all for supporting us this far in this journey.

## **Governance**

Ladies and Gentlemen, the University has a Board of Trustees chaired by Dr. Peter W. Muthoka. The Board of Trustees is the custodian of The Management University of Africa and its major role is to ensure prudent management of the assets of the University. Then we have our Chancellor, Dr. Arch. Reuben Musyoka Mutiso who is a leading Architect in Africa. He is the first and still serving Chancellor of the University and a former chairman of the Kenya Institute of Management. The University also has a governing council. The MUA Governing Council is a blend of top, senior and experienced leaders in public and private sectors ranging from Chief Executive Officers, academicians, bankers and experts in areas of entrepreneurship, management, governance, business and leadership. The University Governing Council is led by Eng. Michael S.M. Kamau. The mentioned governing bodies work hand in hand with The University Management Board and the Senate to steer this University to greater heights. Their contribution to this University is immeasurable. The graduands we are presenting here today have been guided by these values throughout their stay at MUA. Life Long and Experiential Learning is no longer a concept, but a reality in the world today. The University has inculcated a learning culture in all our graduands that will continue to inspire them throughout their lives.

## MUA Core Values

Ladies and gentlemen, the University is guided by five (5) core values:

1. **Lifelong and Experiential Learning;**
2. **Academic Freedom;**
3. **Creativity and Innovation;**
4. **Integrity; and,**
5. **Social Responsibility.**

That is why our students range from eighteen to seventy five years old and still going on.

The graduands have experienced Academic Freedom by learning in a conducive environment where they were able to network and exchange thoughts and ideas with a high caliber mix of students and faculty. Creativity and Innovation saw the graduands introduced to new methods and interventions through Research and Development while the high level of Integrity expected by the University ensured excellence by upholding professional and ethical standards especially in our examination processes.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the graduands have proven their prowess in Social responsibility by providing leadership in responding to issues of national, regional and global concerns through collaborative efforts. They have come together to help the less fortunate in society all over the country through community service, among them, the Kenya Red Cross Society in the Save Kenya from Hunger Campaign, they have given their valuable time and resources at the Texas Cancer Centre, NONDO, (mention other beneficiaries), among others.

These graduands have joined the University in raising funds to save the dreams of the needy but bright students by participating in the Save a Dream Walk and Dinner. It is against this background that I believe they are well prepared to lead and transform society.

## Academic Programmes

Ladies and Gentlemen, the University has a total of seven (7) academic programmes which are fully accredited by the Commission for University Education (CUE). The programmes are:

1. **Bachelor of Management and Leadership,**
2. **Bachelor of Arts in development Studies,**
3. **Bachelor of Commerce,**
4. **Master of Business Administration,**
5. **Master of Management and Leadership,**
6. **Master of Arts in Development Studies; and**
7. **Doctor of Philosophy in Management and Leadership.**

In the year 2018, we expect to offer more market oriented Degree as well as Certificate and Diploma programmes.

Ladies and Gentlemen, The University is an accredited Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport – CILT (UK) training and examination center for Diploma and Advanced Diploma courses in logistics, a Kenya Accountants and Secretaries National Examinations Board (KASNEB) examination center and International Computer Driving Licence (ICDL) training and examination center. The University also offers capacity building under the Directorate of Executive Capacity Development Programmes with a wide range of customized programmes to suit your needs. It is worth noting that MUA is registered with the National Industrial Training Authority (NITA) so come train with us.

## Growth and Expansion

Ladies and Gentlemen, the University has experienced tremendous growth since inception in the year 2011. We started with two academic undergraduate programmes but as mentioned earlier, we now have seven academic programmes: three undergraduate, three masters and one PhD programme.

In 2012, the University enrolled 184 students, five years later we are proud to have enrolled 2529 students in various programmes. Recently, MUA was privileged to be allocated a total of 700 government sponsored students under the Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Services (KUCCPS) in the year 2016 and 2017.

Moreover, we look forward to moving to our Kisaju campus in January 2018 where we shall offer classes and accommodation for students who come from far flung areas.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the University has had three other graduation ceremonies with 598 graduands being empowered to lead and transform society. Today we release another 160 graduands to join the others in transforming the world. I appreciate all those who have made this growth a reality. The University has also held international conferences where our faculty and students have participated immensely by presenting papers that delve into issues transforming Kenya, Africa and the world. The next conference shall take place in March 2018 and you are all invited to participate.

## **Challenges facing Higher Education**

Ladies and gentlemen, the current political environment in Kenya is affecting student enrolment in Universities. Allow me to take this opportunity to appeal to the political class to tone down rhetoric and give higher education institutions a chance to prosper. As we politic, let us think about the bigger picture and the future of our children in years to come.

## **Conclusion**

Ladies and Gentlemen, Graduation is the culmination of hard work, sacrifice, long hours and everything else you have put in your studies all these years. This is an important and unforgettable milestone for you and your families. Your families, friends and we, the staff of MUA, are proud of you for having completed your degree programmes. However, education is a lifelong experience. The University has developed in you a learning culture that continues throughout your life time. With this in mind, I welcome you to register for the Masters and PhD programmes immediately after this ceremony.

Once again, I congratulate you on your deserving achievement. Now that you are empowered, go ahead and transform the world as a proud alumnus of the Management University of Africa.

**Have a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year 2018!.**

*God bless you. God bless Kenya. Thank you very much indeed.*

*Dr. Nicholas Letting, PhD, Vice - Chancellor, Management University of Africa.*