



**Speech by the Chief Guest
Prof. Margaret Kobia**
During the 4th MUA Graduation
Ceremony.

Preamble

Members of the Board of Trustees present, The University Chancellor, The Chairman, University Governing Council, Members of the University Governing Council present, The Vice-Chancellor, The University Senate, The University Management Board, Alumni, Graduating Class of 2017, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Good Morning! Good Morning Once again!

It is indeed a privilege and great pleasure for me to stand before you this morning to preside over this 4th Graduation Ceremony of the Management University of Africa (MUA). The is an honour not only to me but also to the entire public service in Kenya.

I am proud to be associated with MUA.

Congratulatory message

Ladies and Gentlemen, allow me at this juncture, to congratulate the graduands on your deserved achievement. I know it has not been easy. It has taken hard work, perseverance, commitment and sacrifice to be part of this congregation today. Allow me to also congratulate the faculty, parents and guardians who have sacrificed their all to prepare you to reach where you are today. Congratulations and well done!.

Management University of Africa and Pan-Africanism

Ladies and Gentlemen, the name of the Management University of Africa embraces the Pan – Africanism dream – the original call of the founding fathers of our nations at independence namely: Kwame Nkrumah, Kabarage Nyerere, Jomo Kenyatta and Haile Sellasie, among others. Among the Pan – Africanist institutions in Kenya is the Public Service which has a lot in common with the rest of Africa.

The University’s vision of placing management and leadership at the centre of every conversation in Africa resonates very well with the Government of Kenya efforts to alleviate poverty and ignorance in Kenya through higher education, among other development initiatives.

Transformative leadership

Ladies and Gentlemen, as the Chief Guest and the personality of the moment, I am indeed very delighted to celebrate your achievements with you today. I am informed that you have gone through very rigorous management and leadership programmes and that you have been equipped with the right knowledge, skills and attitudes to take transformational leadership to the next level. This is exactly what Africa needs at the moment to drive its economic agenda. This time, the scramble for Africa is about economic growth and prosperity as well as improvement of the lives of the people. As I stand before you and reflect back to the days of our forefathers and freedom struggles, I am convinced that Africa has come of age and that it is your time to be part of that age.

Public Service Commission of Kenya

Ladies and gentlemen, allow me to briefly talk about the commission which I chair. The Public Service Commission was established by the British Colonial Government in 1954 under the name Civil Service Commission and mandated to advise the National Government on matters of personnel appointment. The commission has served in its role well over the years. Now it also works closely with County public Service Boards in all the 47 Counties.

Ladies and gentlemen, Management and leadership are key ingredients of development and management of public affairs. The commission will therefore be recommending to the National Government inclusion of Management University of Africa programmes as minimum qualifications for various appointment within the public service.

Global Citizens

Ladies and Gentlemen, higher education in Kenya and Africa as a whole plays an important role in development and social progress. Institutions of higher learning are now training for the world, releasing into the job market global citizens who can work and live anywhere. The class of 2017, as you graduate today, remember to put your best foot forward as the world is waiting for you – to transform and change it by applying the knowledge and skills acquired at the Management University of Africa.

Appeal for partnership

Ladies and Gentlemen, allow me to observe that the Management University of Africa has uniquely prepared you for the world – equipping you with knowledge, skills and the right attitude for the 21st century work place. The ball is now in your court, to be all that you can be, in becoming good ambassadors of your Alma Mater.

I am informed that many of you are seasoned professionals in your own right. I implore you to negotiate opportunities for partnership with your Alma Mater to promote and enhance research and attract funding. Such funding will develop and enhance the University facilities. I also urge you to participate in the growth and development of MUA because you are what you are because MUA impacted progress in you and enabled your future.

Conclusion

Ladies and Gentlemen, as I conclude, allow me to wish you a merry Christmas and a prosperous 2018. Go ahead and transform the world. Congratulations once again and God bless you all!

Thank you.

Prof. Margaret Kobia,

Chairperson, Public Service Commission of Kenya.