



**Speech by Dr. Edward
Odundo, Chairman,**
University Governing Council,
Management University of
Africa

The Chief Guest, H.E. the Deputy President of Kenya, Dr. William Samoei Ruto, Chair Board of Trustees, Members of the Board of Trustees present, The University Chancellor, Members of University Governing Council present, The Vice-Chancellor, Other Vice-Chancellors present, Members of the University Management Board, Members of the University Senate, University Staff, Alumni, The Graduating class of 2019, Members of the press, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, All protocols observed, Good Morning.

I feel honored and privileged to have had the chance to attend the 6th graduation ceremony of this this excellent institution. It is my first since I took over as Chairman. I have great admiration for the emphasis MUA places on life-long and experiential learning and development, positive engagement with the community, developing management and leadership skills; qualities that positively impact our communities, country and the world at large.

To the Graduating Class of 2019,

You are all overachievers and motivators from different and diverse backgrounds but formed brilliantly as a team. I think history will record this as a defining moment in Management and Leadership because of where we are currently placed in the state of higher education as a providers of transformative management and leadership solutions. Provided you build on these great strengths from here on, I am confident that your future in the real world is secure. Many business leaders strive to build such qualities with mixed success. You have all worked hard with focus, determination and discipline.



Bill Taylor outlines in “Do you pass the Leadership test?” that “The true mark of a leader is the willingness to stick with a bold course of action – an unconventional business strategy, a unique product-development roadmap, a controversial marketing campaign – even as the rest of the world wonders why you’re not marching in step with the status quo. In other words, real leaders are happy to zig while others zag. They understand that in an era of hyper-competition and non-stop disruption, the only way to stand out from the crowd is to stand for something special.”

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our University has been adopting various change models to upgrade its standards every day and this is very commendable, particularly so because many of you come from diverse communities and because of this aspect, we are diversifying in multiple ways and becoming more inclusive. To this end, MUA management team intends to intensify the momentum in our initiatives to ensure all our students finish their degrees on time.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The University Governing Council (UGC) is pleased to work in line with the mandate of the Commission for University Education mission by ensuring that MUA has quality and regulated University education that is globally competitive. The Council also established elaborate networks that have streamlined the provision, promotion and coordination of quality education, training and research that have similarly enhanced integration of Governance, Management and Leadership, which is our stronghold.

In this view, we endeavor to maintain consistency and transparency in exercising general oversight over the institution and its affairs. That is why the council is made up of top, senior and experienced leaders in public and private sectors ranging from Cabinet Secretary, Chief Executive Officer, Academicians, Bankers and experts in areas of Entrepreneurship, Management, Governance, Business and Leadership, who all exercise their responsibilities in the interests of MUA as a whole rather than as representative of any constituency.

In adherence to this year’s graduation theme, Empowered to Lead and Transform Society, the UGC:

Strives, at all times, to protect institutional reputation by being assured that clear regulations, policies and procedures that adhere to legislative and regulatory requirements are in place, ethical in nature, and followed.



Ensures institutional sustainability in setting the institutional mission and strategy, ensuring the appropriate steps are taken to deliver them, laying key emphasis on effective systems of control and risk management.

Promotes equality and diversity throughout the institution, including in relation to its own operation.

Ensures that governance structures and processes are fit for purpose by referencing them against recognised standards of good practice.

It is with no doubt that I urge you all to embrace, together, our humility—our willingness to admit what we have yet to discover. After all, if you knew all the answers, you would not need MUA. And if humanity knew all the answers, the world would not need MUA.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Let us make sure every student at MUA has the same opportunity to lead and transform society because we are enough to take care of our own community. We are enough to ensure we have all of the opportunities of our dreams and we will show it to each other through our actions, words and deeds.

Graduates,

Push yourselves – and let yourselves – be transformational leaders for your generation and the next. Maintain and protect who you are, and remember that being a person with integrity is the most valuable asset you have. Don't ever let anyone take it from you. Carefully consider the values and the culture of the organizations in which you seek to work. Look for employers who set high standards for personal conduct and who reward ethical leadership.

Developing as a leader largely comes from also practicing good followership. See how the leaders you are following carry themselves, how they manage their responsibilities, study how they communicate and make decisions, observe how they learn from mistakes or missteps – their own and those of others. Importantly, recognize that integrity is not unique to any one culture.

Once again, Congratulations!

Thank you and May God bless you!

