



KENYATTA UNIVERSITY

Speech by

**DISTINGUISHED KENYATTA UNIVERSITY
ALUMNUS**

MR. SAITOTI TOROME, CBS

**PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, STATE DEPARTMENT
FOR PLANNING, NATIONAL TREASURY AND
PLANNING**

On the Occasion of

THE VIRTUAL 48TH GRADUATION CEREMONY

Held on

FRIDAY 18TH DECEMBER, 2020

- ✚ Chancellor, Kenyatta University - Dr. Benson I. Wairegi;
- ✚ Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education – Prof. George Magoha, represented by Amb. Simon Nabukwesi, Principal Secretary, State Department for University Education and Research;
- ✚ Chairman of Kenyatta University Council – Prof. Shem Migot-Adholla;
- ✚ Members of Kenyatta University Council;
- ✚ The Host Vice-Chancellor – Prof. Paul K. Wainaina;
- ✚ Your Excellences the Ambassadors and High Commissioners present;
- ✚ Chairpersons of Councils from other Universities;
- ✚ Vice-Chancellors from other Universities;
- ✚ Members of University Senate;
- ✚ Staff and Students of Kenyatta University;
- ✚ Parents and Guardians;
- ✚ Graduands;

- ✚ Distinguished Guests;
- ✚ Ladies and Gentlemen;

Good morning!

- It is a great honour and joy for me to share this moment with you all and more so to deliver this year's Alumni Speech on the occasion of the 48th Graduation Ceremony.
- Allow me to start by saluting our graduands of the day who will deservedly earn degrees, diplomas and certificates in their respective areas of study. On behalf of Kenyatta University Alumni Association, I congratulate you on this great achievement.
- As an Alumnus of Kenyatta University, trained in the field of Economics and Geography, and having graduated in the year 1990, I can attest that the training and experiences at our prestigious university have

been and remain progressive, transformative and valuable in many respects.

- Since graduating from this university, I have worked as a teacher in secondary school teacher and colleges. Also, joined telcom Kenya and also worked in Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) as a director for Strategy and Development. In the year 2015 I joined State Department for Planning as a Principal Secretary and later worked as a principal secretary in the Ministry of Defence before returning to the State Department for Planning in August 2019 in the same capacity.
- No doubt, the academic certificate you will receive today is a culmination of the great work done in equipping you adequately to be productive in the society.
- The great task of preparing you holistically was not accomplished single-handedly. On

this note, may I recognize and appreciate the following stakeholders who have been part of this noble process - though not in any order of merit:

- First, I acknowledge Kenyatta University fraternity for providing an enabling environment for effective execution of the core mandate of the University.
- I would also like to appreciate lecturers who have remained committed to research, teaching and related assignments.
- I specially thank all sponsors and partner institutions that have provided scholarships, grants, fellowships and other forms of support.
- Members of the University support staff too have not spared any effort in supporting execution of university programmes and activities - many thanks to them as well.

- Last but not least, I recognize the Kenyatta University Alumni who, apart from being good Ambassadors of their Alma Mater, continue to support the University through various initiatives and opportunities such as attachment and job placement as well as physical infrastructure.
- As I conclude my remarks, I am glad to share a quick update and make a passionate appeal from the Kenyatta University Alumni Association (KUAA).
- With a total Alumni of over 80,000, we need to significantly grow this number of registered KUAA members to enable us make greater impact in supporting our Alma Mater. To this end, I call upon potential members - today's graduands and non-member graduates of earlier years - to enroll for membership at the earliest opportunity.

- As earlier mentioned, the KU Alumni have been at the forefront in supporting the University in the delivery of its core mandate through various initiatives. There is, however, need for continued, renewed and heightened support in among other areas; research funding, promotion of joint community welfare projects, University infrastructure development and facility improvement, excellence awards, industrial attachment and job placement opportunities. I exhort fellow Alumni to sustain and increase their support to the University in the aforementioned areas as well as in new initiatives.
- With those few remarks, I once again congratulate the graduands and appreciate all of you here present.

God bless KU. God bless you all.

Thank you.