

PROF STEPHEN TALITWALA'S RESPONSE TO HIS AWARD OF AN HONORARY DOCTOR OF LAWS (HONORIS CAUSA) DEGREE OF DAYSTAR UNIVERSITY ON FRIDAY, 20TH DECEMBER 2019

Good morning,

Today is such a special day that words fail me. I really thank God for His love, strength and grace over my life through the years and for giving me my family who stand here with me today.

I say a very big to thank you to the Daystar University for the opportunity to serve and bring faith to life and open doors for people. Words fail me as I see everyone in this room especially the graduands, because I am reminded why we worked so hard in the early days of Daystar. We were just a small group of people who loved God as best we knew and wanted to make a difference for Him in the Christian education landscape.

In time it became more than just providing education as we understood that our role was to raise an altar of people who will be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Our task was to raise a people so different that they would draw men unto God as we build a place of worship that would be useful not just to Daystar but to Kenya, East Africa, Africa and the ends of the earth. It was always our prayer that we would build representatives of a city built on a hill that cannot be hidden, stars that will be a light.

I still dream of the chapel in Athi River with a cross and well-lit star at the highest point of the campus as a reminder to us and the world that indeed the Lord Most High has found a people and a resting place that will draw men unto Himself. The dream of a chapel on the hill (the rock) is over twenty years old. Twenty years ago, we walked from Kampala to Nairobi to begin the process of fund raising for the chapel. I sincerely hope that one day very soon this dream will become a reality, a beauty to behold, a place of worship for our God.

It is also my hope that we continue to make room in our institution for those who wouldn't be here if they weren't supported. I come from a very simple family and my own journey in education was only possible because of scholarships so they are close to my heart. My humble submission, if you will allow me, is that Daystar remains deliberate in providing scholarships for deserving students. I also pray that in turn all the supported students will give back to the community by supporting others to grow.

I ask every young person in the room, student and graduand, to dream. Dream about how you will change the world you live in. Dream about how to influence the world around you. Dream about who you must become. Dream about how you will raise the standard of living in your family. Dream, dream, dream; then strategise and set a plan in motion, work towards the dream and never give up. There will be challenges but keep going, keep building, keep growing, keep learning, keep moving and in the end you will change your life, provide for your family and shift the direction of our nation, continent and world. Dare to dream and then become!

Finally, I give a special thanks to the School of Law for this honorary degree. After all the years of studying engineering, can you imagine wanting to go back to get another long-study degree? (Laugh a little). Neither do I (Laughter). Now you understand why this is such an honour. This means more to me than I could ever explain and I say thank you. It feels like the years spent creating opportunities for education in the region have finally paid off.

May God richly bless each one here and answer you from Heaven when you call.

Prof Stephen Talitwala.

Read by Dr. Mutheu Talitwala.