

SPEECH FOR CHÁIRMAN OF COUNCIL PROF. HENRY THAIRU ON THE OCCASION OF DAYSTAR UNIVERSITY'S 41ST GRADUATION CEREMONY ON SATURDAY 29TH JUNE 2019, AT ATHI RIVER CAMPUS

Acknowledgements

The Chancellor of Daystar University, Prof. Mary Murimi

Our Guest of Honour and Chair of Daystar Company, Rev. Dr. Macmillan Kiiru

Daystar University Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Laban Peter Ayiro

H.E. The Governor of Makueni County, Prof. Kivutha Kibwana

H. E. The Governor of Nairobi County, Mike Kioko Mbuvi Sonko

Your Excellencies Ambassadors and High Commissioners

The Chairman of Daystar US Board, Dr. Frank Lloyd

The Board of Daystar University Alumni Association

The Chairman, Commission for University Education, Prof. Chacha Nyaigotti-Chacha

The Chairman, Higher Education Loans Board

Vice-Chancellors of Other Universities

Archbishops, Bishops and Members of the Clergy

Faculty, Staff and Students of Daystar University

The Graduating Class 2019

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen...

I greet you all in Jesus name. He is Lord.

Let me start by congratulating all of you graduands of June 2019. Today's graduation is a major step in your life. It is good that those important in your life have come to celebrate this day with you. We thank God for his protection and provision during your studies at DU.

I also wish to express my gratitude to the Almighty God, on my own behalf and on behalf of the University Council, for this far the He has brought us. Indeed we can say "EBENEZER! Thus far the Lord has brought us."

I say this because we have witnessed great progress since the last graduation. At a time like this last year, the Taskforce was concluding its work and soon after the July 7th Graduation, a new Council was appointed by the Daystar Company. This was my entry point into the Governance of Daystar University for a second time having served on the Council in earlier years and left.

I wish to thank the University Council for the great strides we have made together and continue to make on behalf of the University by way of stabilizing the institution.

I also wish to thank the Company for supporting the Council in its mandate since entrusting it with this great responsibility and privilege of leading this great institution on July 31, 2018.

A key achievement of the University Council during the past one year, is the appointment and installation into office of the 4th Vice Chancellor of DU, Prof. Laban Ayiro.

Since assuming office, Prof. Laban Ayiro has managed to stabilize the university with all its functions and given confidence to students and staff alike. His acceptance by DU community has shown that the decision arrived at in appointing him was right, not just for the Council, but for all

stakeholders of the University. This includes the Senate, Management, Faculty, staff, students, alumni, parents and also Daystar US who all participated in this decision.

One of the three questions Prof. Ayiro responded to was **What he planned to achieve in his first 100 days in office**. As we come to the end of that period this June, the Council will be sitting with Prof. Ayiro to review his achievements against what he promised. Nevertheless, I can also assure you that the Council has noted a lot of movement in a lot of areas that were otherwise stagnated.

We as a Council remain committed to the advancement of Daystar University with God's help and continue to keep a watchful eye on all the promises we made to the students.

I also want to recognize the commitment and steps taken by Senate and Management Board to stabilize the University. Thank you for all the support you have extended to Prof. Ayiro in his time of settling down in office. Without your support, he cannot achieve much. We need and desire team leadership.

As I conclude, I am glad to inform the University community that the Council is in the process of substantively filling the positions of both Deputy Vice Chancellors. Just as it was in the case of appointing of the VC, the University stakeholders will be involved in the final decision making stage.

As I conclude may I once again congratulate the graduands, parents and guardians for this great day. Celebrate and enjoy every moment of it. May the good Lord continue to lead you. I wish you all a very successful future in serving others as true servants of God.

Thank you and God bless you all.

Prof. Henry Thairu
Chairman, University Council