

SPEECH FOR GUEST OF HONOUR REV. DR. MACMILLAN KIIRU ON THE OCCASION OF DAYSTAR UNIVERSITY'S 41ST GRADUATION CEREMONY HELD ON 29TH JUNE 2019, AT ATHI RIVER CAMPUS

Acknowledgements

The Chancellor of Daystar University, Prof. Mary Murimi

The Chairman of Daystar University Council, Prof. Henry Thairu

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 on 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...

Good morning!

Join me to congratulate the **687** Daystar University students Graduating today June 29, 2019.

We are here to witness you graduate because you - the graduands - have worked hard and stayed focused on your goal. At whatever level you are graduating, your achievement is no mean feat.

I want to believe however that getting to this day has taken more than yourselves as graduands. Alone, however, you could not make it. On your part, it has taken sacrifice, commitment, discipline, focus and hard work to name but a few.

For your parents, guardians and sponsors, it has taken ensuring your fees are paid on time to enable you to be in class, and to sit exams. When all that is done, it has also taken preparation and timely attendance of class by your Faculty to ensure that your Course Outline is fully covered every semester.

As I congratulate you the graduands, I also want to acknowledge and congratulate all these other actors who have actively participated in your making – the parents, faculty, staff, and even the government whether at policy level or in any of its capacities that has enabled you acquire the qualification you will be awarded today.

I take note that seated among us today are government agencies such as the Higher Education Loans Board which facilitates students with loans to bridge their financing for higher education or the Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Services (KUCCPS) which sponsors students to both public and private universities.

I am reliably informed that currently Daystar University has approximately 600 government sponsored students between the First and Third year of study, largely in the School of Science, Engineering and Health.

I also understand that being a private University that does not get government subsidy, the Daystar has designed it's own financing tools that support the advancement of institution. In this regard, allow me to acknowledge Daystar US Board through its Chair Dr. Frank Lloyd, and the Daystar US Office through the Executive Director Mr. Alan Cooke, for their continued support in forging partnerships to advance the Vision and Mission of Daystar University in Kenya – that of equipping Christian servant leaders for Africa and the world. In this past academic year, I am informed that the University spent approximately KSh 40 Million in student scholarships. I believe some of those graduating today are part of the 228 students who benefited from the benevolence of Daystar US and Daystar University this past year. We appreciate all our friends and partners across America, from Daystar staff, faculty and local churches that giver towards the Scholarship Fund at Daystar University.

All these efforts notwithstanding, it is not always everyone who starts ends. That is why the Bible says that the end of a matter is better than its beginning and also discourages us from glorifying the “old good days.” Sometimes this is due to our own failure.

We are saddened to note that some of our colleagues who started with us will not be graduating. On Monday 24th June 2019 soon after Graduands celebrated Graduation Dinner together, we lost Derrick Macharia Githinji, who was pursuing a BA Communication and would be on the line with us. Allow me to also thank the Vice Chancellor for visiting and spending time with the family.

Ladies and Gentlemen, may I invite us to rise up and observe a Minute of silence in respect of our student, our colleague and our son.... May the Lord Rest his soul in eternal peace.

Research Role

Aside from the teaching role of a University, institutions of higher learning also derive meaning from active engagement in research both academic and action-oriented.

I am delighted to note that the Chancellor Prof. Mary Murimi has since 2017 found her place in the University through The Chancellor’s Forum

through which she continues to encourage both faculty and students to get more involved in research and especially grant writing.

I am informed that during this year's Chancellor's Week, the Chancellor mentored eight research groups and that three have high potential of attracting external interest.

As I conclude, I wish the graduands all the best as you enter the job market.

I thank you all.

Rev. Dr. Macmillan Kiiru
Guest of Honour.