

**REMARKS BY CHAIR OF THE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL
PROF. HENRY THAIRU DURING THE 43rd GRADUATION
CEREMONY AT DAYSTAR UNIVERSITY ON FRIDAY 13TH
NOVEMBER 2020**

The Daystar University Chancellor, Prof. Mary Murimi,

The Chairman and Members of Daystar Company Limited,
Members of the University Council,

Former Vice-Chancellors of Daystar University, Members of
the University Senate and Management Board,
Distinguished Guests,

Faculty, staff and students,

The Graduands of 2020,

Ladies and gentlemen.

I wish to first offer my utmost congratulations to the
November 2020 graduands for their achievement and
determination to be “**Stars of Hope Impacting the World**”.

I would also like to congratulate your parents and
instructors for supporting you through this arduous
academic journey.

I sincerely thank the Vice Chancellor, Professor Laban Ayiro for the continued astute leadership in the University and the great milestones he has achieved in his short tenure in office. He has steered the University through the Covid-19 pandemic with great resilience ensuring that learning and teaching continued successfully. Prof. Ayiro's charisma and influence are felt in every aspect of the University community as he has successfully built a culture of caring hearts and serving hands.

I also wish thank all the members of Daystar Company, Daystar University Council members of the Management, Daystar students, faculty and staff. To all invited guests in your various distinguished capacities, thank you for joining us in this important event of its kind, **being held virtually.

In the spirit of renewed hope of the *New Dawn*, the Lord has been very gracious to us and enabled us to accomplish several major milestones out of which I am happy to highlight only a few.

In Development Aspirations

i. Strategic plan 2020-2025

The 2020-2025 strategic plan is the result of extensive consultations and the product of concerted efforts and input from diverse university stakeholders. The new strategic plan captures the spirit of the ‘New Dawn’ dispensation that we rolled out in 2019, changing global trends, and scoping new realities in the education sector. The new strategic direction advances the gains made by the 2017-2021 strategic plan. The plan has been finalized and is awaiting the Company’s adoption.

ii. Revised Charter and Statutes

The Senate appointed a committee to review the Daystar University Charter and Statutes with a view to aligning them to the 2012 University Act. The process of revision is now complete and is waiting for the Daystar Company’s approval and adoption. I commend the team that has done an excellent job of developing these two important governance documents.

iii. Perimeter Wall

In order to secure our students, we are constructing a perimeter wall at the Athi River campus. The boundary wall project is in progress. Much of the work on the wall

has been done during the COVID-19 closure. This has cost us Kshs. 18,441,964.00 this far. We are committed to finishing this important project, which will contribute to the security of our students, staff and the University property.

iv. The GYM Construction in Athi River campus:

The university has spent a total of Kshs.10million on the Gym project. The wiring, plumbing and floor tiling work has so far been completed. Also completed is the work of Painting, installing windows and aluminum doors. The equipment for the Gym has been shipped and is already in the University waiting for the completion of the facility.

v. The Chapel Project

The need for the construction of the chapel was approved by Daystar Company and Council in May-June 2019.

Current Pledges stand at Kshs.7,259,570.00 and actual funds raised are Kshs.3,644,082.00. The workplan had envisaged the laying of the foundation to have commenced at the beginning of March 2020. We are developing a Log-Frame for the chapel project with an immediate focus on

resource mobilization from both internal and external stakeholders

To the graduating class, as you graduate today, be assured that this University will continue to mentor and train world class leaders. It is my prayer that as you walk out of Daystar with this this University's Certificate, the world will say "here comes another world mover to change and influence the world." Just as your theme is, may you be a shining star (Philippians 2:15) and impact the world around you positively. In a world full of hopelessness and gloom, may you shine through it and reflect the light of Christ. Be the light in someone's dark night and let your light make others see the way out of their darkness. Always remember that, "Nothing can dim the light that shines from within." – Maya Angelou. Thank you and God bless you all.

Prof. Henry Thairu

Chairman, University Council