

**SPEECH NOTES FOR THE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL CHAIR PROF. HENRY THAIRU  
DURING THE 41<sup>ST</sup> GRADUATION CEREMONY ON FRIDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2018**

Daystar University Chancellor, Prof. Mary Murimi,

Chairman of Daystar Company, Rev. Dr. Macmillan Kiiru,

Company Members present,

Honorary Members of Daystar Company

Founders of Daystar University, Dr. Donald and Mrs Faye Smith

Council Members present,

His Lordship The Hon. Justice David Kenani Maraga, Chief Justice and President of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Kenya

The Honourable Paul Kihara Kariuki, Attorney General of the Republic of Kenya

Members of Daystar US Board,

Faculty, Staff and Students

Graduands, parents and guardians,

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen...

I wish to start by congratulating the graduating students of December 2018.

Allow me to also express my gratitude to the Almighty God. As we reflect back over the last one year, we appreciate God for giving us a third graduation ceremony since December last year; a second since my recent association with the University through the Taskforce in May this year, and later the newly appointed University Council in July.

On behalf of the University Council, I wish to appreciate Ag. Vice Chancellor Prof. James Kombo, the Senate, Management, Faculty, staff, students, alumni, parents and all University stakeholders for working together to ensure progression of the institution.

I also wish to thank the Company for interventions it has made since April by appointing the Taskforce and later appointing a very focused University Council.

Based on where we are, I call on all of us to forget the past and purposefully forge ahead.

I wish to assure you that the University Council is keen to see to it that staff and Faculty members are addressing the needs of students.

We are committed to ensuring that both learning and sporting facilities, including the Gym, are constantly improved. This will require the concerted efforts of everyone.

I also want to recognize the efforts the Ag. Vice Chancellor and the Management Board are making to address student concerns through the rapid Results Initiative (RRI).

As I conclude, I am glad to inform the University community that the Council is in the process of substantively filling the position of the Vice Chancellor which has been vacant for the past one year.

In the new year, we will be involving the various University stakeholders through, their representatives, in the process when the interviews begin.

With this, I once again congratulate the graduands and wish you all Happy Holidays.

Thank you,

Prof. Henry Thairu  
**Chairman, University Council**