

**SPEECH BY DAYSTAR COMPANY CHAIRMAN REV. DR. MACMILLAN KIIRU
DURING THE 41ST GRADUATION CEREMONY HELD ON 14TH DECEMBER, 2018
AT THE ATHI RIVER CAMPUS**

Daystar University Chancellor, Prof. Mary Murimi,

Chairman of the University Council, Prof. Henry Thairu,

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...

It gives me great pleasure to be a part of the 41st Graduation Ceremony of Daystar University.

On behalf of the Trustees of the University – the Daystar Company – I congratulate all the graduands of December 2018 and alongside them the Hon. Justice David Maraga, the Chief Justice and President of the Supreme Court of Kenya whom we have the privilege to honour today.

Daystar was founded for the sole purpose of equipping Christian servant leaders for the transformation of Church and Society.

Forty-One years later, the institution has continued to pursue its calling, albeit amidst many challenges that seem to fog its vision. When Daystar was incorporated in Kenya in 1973 as a non-profit Christian organization, the pressing need of the day was to train and equip emerging indigenous leaders following independence in most African countries. For the Church, this need was ever so important if the body of Christ was to accomplish its calling of the Great Commission and bring about positive influence in society.

Back then, Kenya was only 10 years old since independence and needed skilled communicators not only within the church but also within Government. Since its early

beginnings, Daystar had a pan-African outlook and continues to train for Africa and the world; Today we graduate 15 nationalities among Graduating nationalities include Burundi, Burkina Faso, DRC, Malawi, Nigeria, South Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Ethiopia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Kenya.

Why Africa and the world? Because the Church is universal in nature and where the Church is to be found Daystar has work to be done in equipping servant leaders to be salt and light of the world.

But the needs of society keeping changing. Comparative to the 1970s, the 80s and 90s when ignorance, disease and poverty were the biggest challenges, today's society is grappling with corruption, industrialization, environmental pollution, and the challenges that come with the information age. We must be prepared to equip graduates who can deal with these and much more. We need graduates who will exemplify the servant leadership of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Today, the Daystar University community is and Daystar fraternity globally is excited as we honour His Lordship the Honorable Chief Justice with a Doctor of Laws Honorary Degree (*Honoris Causa*). On behalf of the Daystar fraternity, I want to thank His Lordship the Chief Justice for the servant leadership he has demonstrated throughout his career in legal practice, and more importantly now as he dispenses justice to Kenyans in the office of the Chief Justice and President of the Supreme Court of Kenya. Congratulations!

I wish you all a wonderful graduation. God bless this great institution Daystar University; God bless Kenya

Thank you.

Rev. Dr. Macmillan Kiiru
Chair of the Daystar Company