

**SPEECH NOTES FOR THE AG. VICE CHANCELLOR PROF. JAMES KOMBO  
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

Chairman of the University Council, Prof. Henry Thairu,

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 members,

Graduands, parents and guardians,

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen...

I welcome you to all to Daystar University Athi River campus.

May start by congratulating the graduands of December 2018

It was only four months ago on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2018 that we were here for the 40<sup>th</sup> Graduation Ceremony. Our running graduation theme this year has been *“Transforming Africa and the World through excellence and integral leadership.”*

A renown President Emeritus and a Professor of Science at the University of Michigan said: “obsolescence lies in store for those who cannot, in some manner, adapt to new reality.” From this I wish to draw a few reflections:

- Africa today is presenting us with new realities;

- As such, we must learn to be to be both **adaptive** and to be **generative**—so much is going on around us which we can adopt but we must also be ready to generate new knowledge and new thinking;
- In other words, as Prof. Duderstadt explains, we must devise new ways of responding to opportunities while we sustain our most cherished core values;
- Historians have told us that we in Africa cherish history, that we like wallowing in traditions of the past. We need to break away from this and be disruptive of our comfort zones—note that any form of makeover is a demanding challenge;
- I charge you our December Graduands to seek to explore new opportunities, learn from others but also learn from past success and failures;
- Appreciate change of culture, change of mindset (attitude and disposition, assumptions, methods, notations) and passion for work;
- Remember that while at Daystar we showed you the way—we trained you in the area of your calling but also underpinned your training with three values of **Excellence, transformation** and **servant-leadership**. As you exit, resolve to make these your fallback position, always.

As John Maxwell puts it, go into the world and lead “...one who knows the way, goes the way and shows the way.’

ends.