

**SPEECH BY AMREF INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY (AMIU) VALEDICTORY STUDENT DURING THE 3RD AMIU GRADUATION CEREMONY HELD ON FRIDAY 10TH JUNE, 2022 AT AMIU GROUNDS NAIROBI, KENYA**

Members of the Amref International Board  
AMIU Board of Trustees  
Mr Chancellor Sir  
University Council members  
Vice Chancellor  
The Senate  
University Management Board  
Students' Association  
Alumni Association  
Invited guests  
Faculty  
Members and friends of Amref Health Africa and Amref International University  
Visitors present

Welcome to AMIU. Thank you for joining us as we celebrate this 3<sup>rd</sup> graduation day that we have been waiting for.

My fellow graduands,

Congratulations and welcome to the culmination of our four-year journey at AMIU. I am extremely proud of each one of you for coming this far. Today we celebrate and reflect on the lessons, growth, challenges and opportunities acquired and experienced during the four years or more for some. Halfway through this journey, we were faced with a unique challenge due to the COVID-19 pandemic. But, we adapted, stood strong in the face of adversity and were reminded of the strength that a loving community holds. And, it is because of that that we are here today standing tall, victorious and proud as we celebrate this special day in our academic and professional lives.

As we graduate today, we are bound to venture out into the world with new roles and responsibilities, but, as we create new experiences, we will also be faced with several challenges. As we navigate these challenges, may the resilience that enabled us to push forward during the pandemic serve as a reminder and a lesson that we are capable of tackling any situation presented to us. To quote Margaret Thatcher, "You may have to fight a battle more than once to win it."

As graduates of Amref International University, we have a responsibility to use our education and skills to inspire lasting change as we serve communities. The world not only needs our talents and education but also needs understanding so as to build compassion and empathy. Indeed, our academic life at AMIU was more than just acquiring the skills and knowledge required for our professional lives but also the right attitudes. Let us all use our expertise to lift

up the voices of those who remain unheard and to better serve the communities around us. As we all go to the amazing places we are destined to be, I challenge each one of you to speak up on the issues that need to be addressed and to advocate for the needs of those we serve and interact with.

On behalf of the graduating class of 2022, I would like to say a few thank yous to individuals and organizations that have enabled us to be here today. To Amref Health Africa, the governing boards and trustees, thank you for championing for the education and development of health professionals across Africa and for providing a community within which we were able to learn, grow and network.

To the AMIU faculty and non-teaching staff, thank you for ensuring that we were able to acquire world class education in a safe and healthy environment. You have enabled us to grow from nervous first years to agents of change ready to build a better world. To our families and friends, thank you for the constant love and support that kept us afloat during moments of joy and even moments of despair.

Finally, and most importantly, to my fellow graduands, I am honored and privileged to have grown and learnt with you through the four years. I cannot wait to see the paths that you will create in the coming years.

As I wind up, I wish you a safe journey as you travel back home and moments of peace and happiness in all your endeavors. I wish you opportunities of reflection especially in the face of adversity and uncertainty. May you be able to build communities centered on empathy and compassion and find sustainable ways to advocate for progress as well as inspire lasting change especially in the health sector. May we continue to learn from one another and others as we navigate life.

Thank you and congratulations once again to the class of 2022.

**Ivy Truphosa Adhiambo**  
**Best Academic Student**  
**Class of 2022**