

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

Ladies and gentlemen, I start by congratulating you on this 10th Day of June 2022 when you are graduating from this wonderful University.

AMIU is not just a University but an institution that has proven to provide solutions to the African health challenges. In the year 2010 I got the life transforming privilege of joining the then Amref International Training Centre as a Diploma in Community Health student; with only a certificate in Nursing. At the time my life was limited around the corridors of a health facility and could never think I could make any impact outside of the facility. With the diploma academic document, I was able to gain admission to a Bachelors' academic programme which I successfully completed. Today, I am not only back at AMIU as a 3rd Semester Master of Public Health (MPH) student, but I hold one of the most important offices that impacts lives of millions of people in Malawi and Africa in the health sector.

Amref did not only teach me community health but also built my confidence and self-esteem. I started looking at a world of possibilities. Having the best lecturers that do not only read from books but also share real life experiences from the vast knowledge and rich experiences on the subject matter, I surprised myself when the hidden potentials in me were unveiled. No wonder I was the best overall student in my class and I came out with a medal of academic recognition which I treasure so much to date.

I know you may have joined this great University at different academic and career levels, but I can assure you that you have been baked in the best ovens; you have been tried and proven to be the best. It is no wonder today the university has found you worth of putting a seal on your papers and awarding you certificates in various fields; allowing you to go out and represent AMIU in your respective industry, a seal you will forever be affiliated to!

Now graduates, Africa and the world are earnestly waiting for your manifestation. Africa and the world are expecting you to provide solutions to the health challenges that it faces. There is a huge task for you to carry on the AMIU mantle and light to the most vulnerable, the voiceless, the hard to reach, the most underprivileged and underserved populations and this you will surely accomplish because that is exactly what mother Amref Health Africa is well known for; and the same has been instilled in you.

A lot is expected of you not just because of the qualification you have attained today, but because you bear the name Amref International University with you and you are entering a world that already respects you. For over 60 years, Amref Health Africa is well known and respected in Africa and beyond for its special qualities of Ubuntu, integrity and hard work. Since you are now carrying an academic award from this great institution, the world expects you to exhibit nothing but the same and beyond.

May you make it your personal priority to bring lasting change in health, to work with excellence, to be the best, and to uphold the same values even in secret when nobody sees you. This is because

the world has eyes and ears and has a way of bringing open rewards to all the work that everyone does in secret. May you always walk the talk.

Welcome to the AMIU Alumni Association and be the alumni that the world is expecting you to be - the best! Encourage others to join this thrilling AMIU journey by registering as new students and studying at one of the best universities in Africa! Thank you.

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