



**A SPEECH BY **MRS MUTHONI KURIA, CHAIR OF COUNCIL, AMREF**  
**INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY (AMIU), ON THE OCCASION OF AMIU 4<sup>TH</sup>**  
**GRADUATION CEREMONY, 14<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY, 2023****

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- **The Chancellor, His Excellency Festus Mogae, former President, Republic of Botswana**
- **The Cabinet Secretary, MoH, Kenya, Hon Dr Susan Nakhumicha**
- **The Minister of Health, Malawi, Hon Khumbize Chiponda**
- **The Secretary Administration, Higher Education and Research, MoE – Mr. Fredrick Ndambuki**
- **The PS State Department for Public Health and Professional Standards, MoH – Ms Mary Muthoni Muriuki HSC**
- **High Commissioner, Republic of Malawi to Kenya represented by the First Secretary for Administration and Education Desk, Mr Benson Ojesi**
- **Representatives of regulatory bodies from the MoH and MoE**
- **AMIU BoT members present**
- **AMIU Council members present,**
- **University management and staff**
- **Students and parents present,**
- **Our partners**
- **Ladies and gentlemen**

On behalf of the AMIU Council, I would like to say ‘Congratulations!’ to all the graduands today. Your hard work and resilience has not gone in vain. We are extremely proud of each and every one of you.

The AMIU Council approved the new AMIU Strategy 2022-2027. I am proud to say that the Strategy carries the aspirations that the larger Amref Health Africa and our partners have for the university. The Strategy is bold and focuses on:

1. Training health workers who not only fit in but transform Africa’s Primary Health Care;
2. Generating and supporting evidence in improving Primary Health Care.

To ensure that all parts of Africa are covered with training, the Strategy has transformative approaches to training that meet the needs of learners where they are, and integrates theory and practice. The Council is excited and closely monitoring the implementation of this Strategy. We believe that the impact that the university will create when the Strategy is implemented will be immense, and will change the course of healthcare in many of our African countries.

The Council is grateful to the support that the Board of Trustees continues (BoT) to provide to the university. It is quite expensive to start a university and more so a health focused university. The BoT has fundraised and provided resources which have given us a good start. It is for this reason that the quality of training at AMIU is of high standards.

Unlike other new universities, we are also privileged to tap into the resources of our sponsor. We therefore have robust systems including IT, HR, finance, security and transport among others. The fact that the organization has availed these facilities to the university has made it easy for the university to take off much easily.

Leveraging the global Amref networks has also been a key to our success. We have many global collaborations as a result including universities and research institutions in Europe, the Americas, African countries and even locally within Kenya. We are privileged to be in a global space which has made it possible for our students to interact with global audiences. We believe that this makes them think globally even as they act locally.

**And now to the class of 2023:**

The workplace has seen significant changes in the last few years, something that the graduands should be aware of. To adapt to the changing circumstances, the majority of people have had to undergo re-training. In order to ensure that the workforce of the future is highly skilled, young people are now investing more time in capacity building. Since technology has played a significant role in these changes, it is crucial to embrace it.

You have had the privilege of getting training from one of the most prestigious universities in this continent. I urge you to use the skills and knowledge you have acquired to positively impact your communities, especially in matters of linking technology and Primary Health Care.

I leave you with the words of Lord Baden Powell, Founder of the Scouting Movement:

“We must change from a ‘what can I get’ to a ‘what can I give’ attitude if we have to make Africa a better place to live”.

Congratulations once again, and I wish you the best best as you make the world a better place.