



A SPEECH BY DR GITHINJI GITAHU, SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, AMREF INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY (AMIU); AND GROUP CEO, AMREF HEALTH AFRICA, ON THE OCCASION OF AMIU 4TH GRADUATION CEREMONY, 14TH OF JULY, 2023

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 Chair of Council, Mrs Muthoni Kuria

Council members present,

The Vice Chancellor, Prof Joachim Osur

University management and staff

Students and parents present,

Our partners

Ladies and gentlemen

On behalf of AMIU BoT and Amref Health Africa family globally, I wish to congratulate AMIU in this 4th graduation ceremony. I want to thank the students who have worked hard and for which reason we are assembled here today.

I especially want to thank our Ministers of Health and the PSs from the Ministries of Education and Health for gracing the occasion today. Amref Health Africa and its subsidiaries, including the university work to complement the work of governments in Africa. We therefore highly value a cordial relationship with the governments. We are aware that the government is the duty holder for the right to health and ours is to support.

We also acknowledge and appreciate the support from other fellow NGO and private sector partners. We are alive to the fact that each sector has a contribution to make in ensuring development in our countries. We as an organization therefore enjoy the role of a convener, bringing together the governments, NGOs and private sector together to find the best ways of enhancing development in our continent.

The VC has ably highlighted how important AMIU is for AHA as an organization. I want to reiterate that the university has an important role to play in AHA's agenda to transform health in Africa. By training and graduating students who carry our mission to different parts of Africa, we are multiplying our efforts and are able to accelerate the change we aim for. We also believe that by using the networks created by our projects in communities, AMIU research division will be able to generate evidence that will be used to transform PHC. We are aware that the journey to generate and use evidence is well on course and it is a matter of time before, in collaboration with partners, evidence based transformative changes happen in our PHC systems.

Because of the important role AMIU plays in AHA mission, the BoT has allocated \$25 million for building a state of the art main campus for the university in Kenya. The next graduation ceremony for the university will be held in the new campus grounds.

Further, BoT has allocated funds for building virtual delivery capacity of AMIU programs. We believe that the model of delivery that the university has developed will benefit from strengthening the virtual delivery aspects and that through an effective virtual delivery system we will reach big numbers of students in remote parts of Africa with the necessary training in health.

To our graduands: we are proud of you. When you go out there do not forget that you are the face of AHA. Wherever you are do represent our value of Ubuntu. Offer care with passion but do not stop there, change the system so that there is sustainability and lasting change.