



REMARKS BY PROF. JOACHIM OSUR, THE VICE CHANCELLOR AMREF INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY (AMIU) DURING THE 3RD AMIU GRADUATION CEREMONY HELD ON 10TH JUNE, 2022 AT AMIU GROUNDS.

Prof. Joachim Osur

Mr. Chancellor, Sir

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the third Graduation Ceremony of Amref International University.

It is another momentous occasion for the University as we graduate our Diploma, Bachelors and Masters degree students. A total of 220 students will be graduating, almost twice the number of 113 that graduated last year.

Mr. Chancellor, Sir

Keeping with the international focus of our programs, we are proud to report that the students graduating today are drawn from eight different countries across Africa. These are Botswana, Cameroun, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe. This diversity of students is in keeping with our Pan-African identity. It is also in keeping with the realization that diseases obey no borders and that health policies are developed regionally and globally and so we must produce health workers whose capabilities are not defined by the limitations of their geographical borders. We note that this is a concept that is unique to AMIU since many health training institutions are focused on developing health workers at country level. Our university however exists to develop a health workforce that thinks globally and has connections needed to apply global standards in solving local health problems.

Mr. Chancellor, Sir

We hold today's graduation ceremony at a time when the University Council has recently approved the 2022-2027 Strategic Plan of the University. The new strategy is radical in approach and is based on the belief that we cannot continue doing things the same way and expect different results in the health sector. Some of the bold steps in the strategy among others include:

1. Focus on developing leadership for primary healthcare – leadership here means a sense of responsibility and the courage to create change. The focus on PHC is based on the belief that if we can strengthen PHC then we can significantly reduce inequality in access to health and that this would contribute immensely in achieving UHC. Going forward, we will review our curricular and ensure that we are producing leaders focused on changing PHC.

2. Adoption of student led learning – going forward, we will adopt methods of course delivery that support learners to formulate their own learning objectives rather than the traditional top-down lecturing. This way we will be producing life-long learners who know how to extract and use knowledge in their day to day work.
3. Experiential learning that bridges the gap between knowledge and practice and ensures that the graduate is market ready with hands-on skills.
4. Implementing research focused that is locally owned and context relevant aimed at improving PHC and supporting translation of research to policy and practice.
5. Diversity, equity and inclusion – especially ensuring that communities that have been left behind are proactively targeted for admission and that scholarship programs are in place to support them. Also creating a learning environment that is inclusive for diverse students and staff.

Mr. Chancellor, Sir

Part of the enduring lessons that we have learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic is the need to embrace ICT in our training. Training at a distance is the future of education and this is covered well in our new strategy. To that end, we have upgraded our Learning Management System and integrated the system with finance and student records. These advances enhance the efficiency of the delivery of our programs and improve efficiency in our cross-border engagements. We are thankful to our sponsor, Amref Health Africa, for financially supporting the improvement of the system.

Mr. Chancellor, Sir

I also wish thank the University Council for the guidance that they have provided to management in the daily running of the University. The University Management alone would not have accomplished much without the input we have continuously received from the council

Mr. Chancellor, Sir

As I close, I wish to, on behalf of staff and management of the university, wish our graduands well. You now have the skills to do the work but remember that the difference lies in your personal attributes. A culture of responsibility and discipline remains the key to your growth to the next level. Represent us well out there and remember to join the alumni association so that we continue growing our vision of the Africa we desire.

Thank you and May God bless you.

PROF. JOACHIM OSUR

THE VICE-CHANCELLOR, AMREF INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY.