



OFFICE OF THE
DEPUTY PRESIDENT

**TALKING POINTS FOR H.E RIGATHI GACHAGUA, EGH,
DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA,
DURING THE 4TH GRADUATION AT NYERI NATIONAL
POLYTECHNIC IN NYERI COUNTY ON APRIL 5, 2024 AT
10:00AM**

The Cabinet Secretary for Education Ezekiel Machogu;
The Principal Secretary for TVETs Dr Esther Muoria;
Our Host, Governor Mutahi Kahiga;
Senator Wahome wa Matinga;
Nyeri Town MP Maina Mathenge;
County MP Rahab Mukami;
Other Members of Parliament and County Assembly;

The Chairperson, Nyeri National Polytechnic Governing Council Dr David Gachuru;

Members of Nyeri National Polytechnic Governing Council;

Development Partners;

Parents and Guardians;

Graduands;

Distinguished Guests;

1. I am delighted to be part of this 4th Graduation of Nyeri National Polytechnic. It is inspiring to witness 4,823 students receive the prize of their hard work. Now, they can venture out there to change the world.

Our President, H.E Dr William Ruto, who kindled the TVET@100 Flame at this institution a few days ago, sends his Congratulations and Best Wishes.

2. We mark 100 years of TVET Institutions when the Ruto Administration is implementing the Kenya Kwanza Plan for socio-economic transformation.

Development demands unique skills and competencies. This in turn requires us to continuously reform, restructure and align our Education System to offer labour market responsive education and skills.

3. In the ongoing Radical Reforms in the Education Sector, we have considered prior learning. It is an inclusive way of bringing on board experts who lack the paper to validate their knowledge and skills. Indeed, last month, we unveiled the Recognition of Prior Learning Policy Framework alongside the pass-out of the first cohort of 900 graduates. Some were from this Polytechnic.

- 4. I note that Nyeri National Polytechnic has put in place the necessary frameworks for accreditation as a Qualifications Awarding Institution of Recognition of Prior Learning.**
- 5. For this reason, we call upon the Jua Kali artisans in Nyeri County to apply to this institution and receive certification.**

We extend this call to all our artisans across the country to validate their skills and experience through the accredited institutions for improved employability.

6. In expanding learning opportunities, through the Open, Distance and e-Learning, it is commendable that the Polytechnic is focused on integrating intelligent digital technologies into manufacturing.

This is key in the digital-driven development Plan of our Nation.

7. Already, the Ministry of Education is implementing recommendations of the Presidential Working Party on Education Reform.

8. Tertiary institutions are a priority in driving the Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda for Inclusive growth.

9. The Ruto Administration fully understands the transformative potential of TVETs up to the grassroots.

That is why we are expanding them in our target of at least one TVET, in all the 1,450 Wards across the country.

10. With an allocation of up to 28.3 Billion Kenya Shillings to TVETS, we are investing in improved

facilities for quality learning- especially in practical skills.

In the 2024/2025 Financial Year, we expect to have completed 16 new TVETS, which will complement the 24 National Polytechnics and 272 Technical and Vocational Colleges.

This has been followed by recruitment of over 2,000 tutors as we target to reach 4,000.

11. We are making quality tertiary education accessible at the grassroots as one of the sustainable strategies of empowering our youth to contribute to Nation building.

12. Already, we have development partners who are ready to equip these learning institutions, further propelling our desire to not only produce quality labour for the local, but also the international market.

Exports from coffee, tea, Avocados, and other subsectors, in which we are implementing reforms, are on the rise.

13. The quality export of labour from our country is bridging the gaps in other countries- hence the need to sustain the supply through improved institutions.

This will further strengthen foreign remittances alongside export earnings. Indeed, a strong export portfolio of our country means a stable economy.

It is encouraging that already, students of this Polytechnic are earning from digital jobs.

14. It is, therefore, my trust that this 4th Graduation will inspire and make Nyeri National Polytechnic one of the best in the country.

15. I thank the Cabinet Secretary for Education Ezekiel Machogu, the Principal Secretary for TVET Dr Esther Muoria, TVET Principals, partners and other Education Sector actors for their commitment to transforming these institutions to centres of excellence.

16. To the Graduands

Hearty Congratulations on your Graduation.

**You have been approved and certified to be
gamechangers. Go and do exactly that.**

But remember, a machete that is not always sharpened rusts.

The Graduation today is not the end. You must update your knowledge and skills to remain relevant and productive.

ASANTENI SANA