

SPEECH DELIVERED BY DR. G. M. KIRUHI, CHAIRMAN, BOD OMC, ON SATURDAY, 18TH NOVEMBER 2023 AT THE 12TH GRADUATION CEREMONY

- The Guest of Honor
- The Guest Preacher, Rev Dr. Edward Karanja
- Members of the BoD OMC
- Distinguished Guests from State Department of TVET
- Distinguished Guests from Ministry of Health
- Distinguished Guests from County Government of Nyeri
- Invited Guests
- Faculty and Staff OMC/OTRH
- Parents of graduands
- Graduants
- Invited Guests
- Ladies and Gentlemen

Solomon, the wisest man who ever lived, in the book of Ecclesiastes said, **“The end of a matter is better than its beginning”**. I am delighted to celebrate with you today, the great achievement by our graduands as they are conferred the power to read and do all that appertains to their academic certificates. It is yet another momentous occasion for OMC, as we celebrate and commemorate the 12th Graduation ceremony. On behalf of the Board of Directors, the management and entire Outspan family, I welcome you all to our 12th graduation ceremony. Special welcome to our Guest of Honour and all distinguished guest who have graced this ceremony today. Thank you for leaving your very busy schedules to grace this occasion.

First and foremost, I wish to convey my most sincere congratulations to the graduating class of 2023. No doubt years of persistent hard work and struggle have paid off handsomely culminating to this special day when you will be given the powers to read and do all that appertains to your academic achievements. Congratulations once again, I salute you. As we celebrate your achievement, it is important for you to remember that the world is undergoing rapid change driven by environmental changes, innovation, research and technology. It is therefore imperative that you make use of the excellent skills that you have acquired at OMC to stay abreast of the changes so that you can serve your fellow countrymen and humanity at large competently.

As you embark on your tour of service to humanity it is imperative to remember that you are now graduates of the noble profession of medicine. Service in the medical field is a calling. It is a matter of life and death for the patients that you serve. A simple mistake or delay in action can cost a life. Most of the patients are vulnerable, and together with their relatives, are stressed about the outcome of the disease. Managing them requires diligence, commitment, dedication,

compassion and self-sacrifice. Remember your medical ethics and the oath that you will take today and act accordingly.

Let me also take this opportunity to congratulate your parents, guardians and friends who have walked with you throughout your course. They are the heroes who allowed you to step on their shoulders so that you can achieve the success we are celebrating today. I salute them for their contribution towards your achievement. I also wish to congratulate the Board of Directors, College Management Team, Faculty and the supporting teams including the management team and entire staff of our sister institution the Outspan Teaching and Referral Hospital. Together, they ensured that you received the best training while enrolled in this college.

In a country where there is a paradox of a high unemployment rate, lack of competent technical personnel and employers across the industries claiming that academic qualifications alone do not generate competent employees who are ready for the workplace, a lot needs to be done to correct the inherent problem in our current education system. To ensure the gap is corrected, there is a great need, now more than ever before, for **dual training** to balance training of theory and skills in a college setup and practical training, mentorship and orientation in the industry. A dual training system, also referred to as experiential learning, is a competence based training which combines training of theoretical knowledge, practical skills and competence in colleges and the industry simultaneously.

Dual training promotes social and professional progression by ensuring a progression path based on competence from the lowest skill set to the highest, driven by the student, at their own pace. It ensures continuous learning, upgrading of skills and competence to meet the ever changing needs of the world. Learning institutions in collaboration with the industry use their experience to develop curricula that produce graduates which are fit for the market place and are oriented to life-long learning systems that keep the professionals in touch with the changes in the industry. In addition to the above advantages, dual training ensures high quality training with personal contacts and appropriate equipment, high practical relevance due to directly working in the industry and rapid integration into areas of responsibility. OMC from its inception was integrated with Outspan Teaching and Referral Hospital as its main practical attachment center, hence ensuring a dual training system.

The OMC Management is alive to the fact that the world has become a global village and therefore our graduates are trained for the global market. To achieve this, we have built effective and equitable partnerships with internationally accredited training institutions and health educators to ensure a broad based exposure of our graduates to global standards of clinical practice. We have also linked our students to international platforms with open-access to current scientific and medical journals through unlimited internet access. Consequently, our graduates are flexible and service-oriented, well equipped to serve as competent service-oriented healthcare professionals in variable settings. They know how to build equitable and successful collaborations across cultures, disciplines, and distances.

I have no doubt that our culture of **fearing, trusting and acknowledging God in all our transactions, integrity, customer centricity, quality, innovativeness, discipline and hard work** has inculcated a principle based culture which is guided by our philosophy of **doing the right things right the first time and always**.

The Board of Directors is committed to our vision 2026 of **becoming a global reference university in training service-oriented healthcare professionals and providing affordable, quality, wholistic healthcare solutions**. To achieve this, we have consistently been working on improvement of our systems and infrastructure to meet the needs of a global university. We recently completed our **multipurpose hall** which has greatly improved our capacity to accommodate more students in the main campus, and we have embarked on expanding our resource center and skills labs which will be completed soon.

Finally, to my dear graduands, remember as the saying goes **“when you get there, it is not there; it is beyond**. Continue adding value to yourself through continuous professional development, strive to gain more competencies and be a person of character. Learn to make wise decisions, right choices and as our philosophy in this collage says “do the right things right, the first time and always”. Be wise!

Congratulations once again and may the almighty God bless you in all your endeavors.

To our Guest of Honour, Thank you once again for accepting to preside over this ceremony. Thank you all. God bless you, God bless OMC, and God bless Kenya.

Dr. G. Macharia Kiruhi, MBS

Executive Director & Chairman of the Board