



**SPEECH BY THE KFCB CEO DR. EZEKIEL MUTUA, MBS, DURING THE 77<sup>TH</sup> GRADUATION CEREMONY OF THE FRIENDS THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE – KAIMOSI, VIHIGA COUNTY ON 19<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2019**

It is my distinct honor to join you for the 77th Friends Theological College Graduation Ceremony. On behalf of the Kenya Film Classification Board, let me take this earliest opportunity to express our gratitude for this invitation that allows us to share, not only in your joys but to also rekindle the ever important discussion on moral values.

As we gather here to celebrate with you in your intellectual prowess and academic milestones, I wish to commend your college for being a springboard of both academic giants and moral champions. Whereas institutions of higher learning have traditionally placed greater significance on intellectual formation, leaders must be strong on moral values as reflected through their characters and convictions.

Indeed, by choosing to inculcate faith in academic pursuit, you are impacting the world positively through the leaders that are graduating from Friends Theological College (FTC).

It is my sincere prayer that the leaders who are graduating today will be at the forefront in challenging the Society towards embracing character formation and treasuring morality. The moral decadence that we are experiencing in our Society today cannot be wished away. Families are tearing apart, young people are suffering depression and mental illnesses and vices are being normalized.

I came here today to challenge you that as you go out to serve, do not remain silent; you must join in the conversation about redeeming our society. The church is the national conscience of the Society and indeed, it has to concern itself with moral values. Brethren, we must do the right thing and vocalize it.

We cannot remain quiet and watch helplessly as our children continue to be shaped by the media as well as listen to obscene lyrics and exchange of insults from adults and leaders who are otherwise expected to be their role models.

The place of Pastoral Ministry in the society cannot be underestimated. Viewing this graduation ceremony as your commissioning into service, you must brace yourselves for sacrifice in serving humanity. As captured well in *The Seven Blunders of the World*, by Mahatma Gandhi, religion must be accompanied by sacrifice that is seen in the real walk with people with the aim of serving their needs.

Further, with your work involving interactions with persons from all walks of life and who are experiencing diverse challenges, it is incumbent on you that you be the embodiment of morality and character. This is based on the fact that many will mimic what you do and not what you preach; many will look unto you as the epitome of uprightness in society. It is, therefore, befitting that we

have gathered here today to commission a crop of graduands who will exemplify virtues and act as the conscience of society.

You must walk the talk as your own integrity is key in the work that you have been prepared for. As you go out to serve, I urge you to be mentors and role models for our youth and inspire some hope in them.

We must collectively inculcate the predominant values of hard work persistence, determination, honesty in our young people and make them understand that shortcuts are not sustainable.

As the State Agency mandated to regulate film and broadcast content in Kenya, we cannot operate in regulatory solitude. To this effect, we have established strategic partnerships with key stakeholders including religious organizations to collaborate in carrying out our mandate more effectively. It is my plea, therefore, that you become our moral champions as you go about shepherding the flock.

Indeed, Religion must be viewed as a vehicle that creates meanings and inspires hope in people in our society. As you acquire powers to go out and evangelize, you must also use this vantage position to invite your audiences to interrogate its value system and commitment to norms.

It is imperative that we create counter narratives to the notion that in order to succeed, one has to engage in some dirty deals or be 'connected'. Through religious organizations, we can save the family unit that is currently threatened through foreign ideologies being sold to our children through the media. According to the Bible and even the constitution, family is defined as a union between two people of the opposite gender.

As I draw to a conclusion, the celebration here today marks a new beginning and calls for a new resolve. You have the sole duty to challenge mankind towards right living. Many will scorn at you for this yet your resolve must remain and you must endeavor to bring positive change to society through ministry.

You have the high calling to create meaning for society though your paths lead in different directions as pastors in churches and chaplains in schools, hospitals, prisons and colleges. Your interactions with faithfuls must spring from the desire to have a people strong on moral values and who esteem virtues.

Moving forward, walk convinced that God has given you the sacrosanct duty of forming norms for the society, you must be true to the words of

**You are the salt of the earth. (Mathew 5: 13-16)**

You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

**Thank you, and God bless you.**