



SPEECH BY THE KENYA FILM CLASSIFICATION BOARD CEO DR. EZEKIEL MUTUA, MBS, DURING THE BARAKA TECHNICAL COLLEGE 29TH GRADUATION CEREMONY HELD ON 8TH NOVEMBER 2019 IN MACHAKOS COUNTY

It gives me immense pleasure to join and address you today as you celebrate your academic achievements. With this marking the genesis of a new chapter in your lives as you are given powers to read and write, the Kenya Film Classification Board highly appreciates this invitation and the opportunity to discuss the power of media. With education being an equalizer, gathered here is a crop that is set for greatness despite your history and background.

In the words of President Nelson Mandela, “Education is the great engine of personal development. It is through education that the daughter of a peasant can become a doctor; that the son of a mine worker can become the head of the mine; that a child of farm workers can become the president of a great nation. It is what we make out of what we have, not what we are given, that separates one person from another.”

You have been bequeathed with an education that should be the springboard into your glorious future. I urge you, therefore, to appreciate the fact that education is not in the books you have read the last two years or in the certificates accorded. Education is in the values and skills that you have picked and been sharpened in. You must, therefore, be willing to discredit your credentials and get your hands soiled in toil as you pursue your dreams. With a report from the World Bank showing that more than 800,000 people get into the job market annually to compete against 50,000 employment positions in formal employment, it is the high time that graduands reconsidered their employment prospects.

Arts and creativity are unlike ever before proving to be the next frontier for wealth and job creation. Governments the world over are recognizing the creative and cultural industries as immune to the precariousness of the business cycle when compared to the manufacturing and finance industries.

In view of this, your hobbies and other natural abilities have the potential to offer you fulltime employment as well as create opportunities for many others.

The technical skills acquired in your time of training shall count for nil if you leave this institution focused solely on employment. You are the people who shall reverse the menace called unemployment in this country. As we gather here to celebrate with you in this intellectual milestone, it is proven that the informal sector is not only absorbing more workforce than the formal sector but also acting as the citadel of hope for many youths.

With today marking the launch of BTC's digital class, it is important to be reminded of the power that the media wields. With the technological advancements that continue to revolutionize how things are done, it is worth mentioning that media wields enormous power. Coupled with better internet connectivity, the citizenry is exposed to a double edged sword that can either build or destroy. As you engage in digital media in the near future, I charge you to use the platform to primarily promote virtues and fight the moral ills that constantly threaten our pride in societal values and norms.

In view of the strong Christian foundation upon which Baraka Technical College is built, it suffices to say that this institution offers the best combination in training. While a sizeable number of technical colleges focus more on passing on skills, the Christian values that act as the premise upon which you have been trained shall go a long way in ensuring your posterity in the future.

I implore you, therefore, to add moral consciousness and pride in our culture to the education you have received. What the society today needs are mechanics, electricians, beauticians and other technocrats who are strong on morals and of sound character. The fight for a moral rebirth is ours to win, all of us.

The training you have received must be viewed as a tool for societal change and a licence to service. As you plunge into the 'world out there', go and make positive change.

Thank you and God bless you.