

Introductory Remarks
by Prof T. C. I. Ryan, the
Chairman of the Strathmore University Council
on the
Occasion of the Third Graduation Ceremony.
14th September 2007

Monsignor Pampillon - the Pro-Chancellor, Prof.Odhiambo - the Vice-Chancellor, invited dignitaries, members of the faculties and the most important people present the families of those who are graduating. They are the most important because they are the ones who have made today possible. While those graduating or qualifying may feel and rightly so - that we are here to celebrate their achievement - and indeed we do - it must be seen as a milestone on a long, long road on which your families have been accompanying and encouraging you for many years.

Your graduation from Strathmore University today can be likened to a stage in a manufacturing process. You now have the potential to acquire life skills. They are not yours yet. Part of the implicit contract into which you entered many years back when you enrolled in Strathmore was that you

would be exposed to much more than lecture room and library knowledge. You would gain much more than new friends and technical skills. You would learn lifelong values which would differentiate you from others who had read as you have.

That quality is what I call the Strathmore Brand. It is not just a turn in mind acquired over your years here. It is not just a style of behaviour of what the Vice-Chancellor calls the entrepreneurial spirit. It is all these but so much more - much of which you will only discover that you have acquired some time - may be years in the future.

In jargon terms I am talking of a concern for the common good, a commitment to social responsibility and a self awareness that when we do wrong we know its wrong. All this, and so much more, constitutes that Strathmore Brand which I now urge you to go out - heads high with proud steps to change the world.

My personal congratulations to you all and to your families. I wish you well in your futures and now call on the Vice-Chancellor to address the convocation.