I congratulate the graduands of Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology on the occasion of the 5th graduation ceremony. This graduation ceremony is the culmination of every student’s academic pursuit. It is also an occasion that affords all an opportunity to reflect on the application of acquired skills to personal growth and the development of our economy.

The quality of teaching, learning and research are great determinants of the quality of personnel and expertise produced by local institutions. In this respect, Universities must remain focused on the relevance of the courses on offer. As a Ministry, we shall continue to support the Universities Education Sector in ensuring that requisite quality and relevance are attained for the benefit of our economy. University Education must therefore also meet the set standards and guidelines to guarantee global competitiveness.

As you know, there is a growing demand, from the labor market, for specialized and broad competencies required for a modern, globally-competitive and knowledge-based economy. There is also need for continued professional upgrading. Our Universities therefore have a task to observe quality, through review of the training curriculum that meets industry needs. This should be done through regular consultation. It is also imperative to implement practical components so as to address the knowledge and skill gaps in the market in order to achieve the objectives of post-secondary training.

In this regard, I ask Universities to ensure that they align their programmes to the needs of the job market to meet the skill needs of our country, continent and beyond.