



**PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
ISLAMABAD**

**SPEECH OF PRIME MINISTER SYED YUSUF RAZA GILLANI ON THE
OCCASION OF KEMU CONVOCATION- 2010**

Islamabad: June 12, 2010

Following is the text of Prime Minister's speech:-

“Prof. Dr. Muhammad Zafarullah Khan, Vice Chancellor King Edward Medical University, Members of the Academic Council, Teaching Faculty, dear students, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Assalam-o-Alaikum

It is my privilege to attend the Convocation-2010 of King Edward Medical University, Pakistan's prestigious Medical Institution. First of all, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the fresh graduates, their teachers and parents for this academic achievement.

King Edward Medical University has been a beacon of hope for the ailing humanity of this region for the last 150 years. It has carried on the traditions of Academic Excellence and Research in the field of medicine. Those of you, who are graduating today, are now the torch bearers of this great tradition. We hope that inspired by your success, you would continue to bring laurels to your Institution and the country.

It is a matter of satisfaction that the teaching and training imparted at this Institution corresponds to the emerging challenges in the medical field. The success of any teaching institution rests first and foremost on its leadership and human capital. The role of the faculty and administration of the University under the leadership of its Vice Chancellor has been instrumental in placing KEMU among the best Institutions committed to imparting Medical Education in Pakistan. King Edward Medical University has combined medical education and health delivery in an appreciable manner.

Let me say to the graduating class, that you are receiving your degrees today but your life of learning has just begun. You have received the most precious gift from this Institution but the challenge now begins as you enter your professional life.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We live in an age of unprecedented change and ever rapid progress but deprivation and disparity among disadvantaged sections is also a reality that we cannot deny. The Government of Pakistan is fully cognizant of the challenges existing in the health sector. It is unfortunate that the health sector did not merit the kind of policy attention, which it rightfully deserved in the past. Upon taking over, my government established a Health Policy Task Force in 2008 to present comprehensive recommendations for overhauling the health sector in Pakistan. You would be glad to know that the National Health Policy 2010 is in the final process of formulation. This Health Policy occupies important place in designing institutional response to the problems in the health sector.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is pertinent to mention here that after the abolition of concurrent list from the Constitution thanks to the 18th Constitutional Amendment, the subject of health has exclusively been assigned to the provinces. The 7th National Finance Commission Award has also made abundant economic resources available to the provinces. Besides this, after the deletion of devolution from the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, it is upon the provincial administrations to manage local governments.

Therefore, I would urge the provinces to focus on the capacity building for effective delivery of health services at the grassroots level. The Federal Government would handle the functions of coordination, resource mobilization, information and evidence, disease security, ensuring compliance with international health regulations and streamlining aid effectiveness agenda.

Dear Students

It is for you to adopt the new technologies and knowledge of this era to make a real difference in the lives of poor people. Real and meaningful success lies in giving back to the society and serving the public. You have great space to bring about much needed change in the lives of people by solving our national health problems. You must be guided by ideals of excellence, public service, social responsibility and human compassion. We all are aware that our great nation is passing through a challenging and testing time.

More than ever, our country today needs people and leaders who make public service, the hallmarks of their endeavors and who commit themselves to address the terrible burden of diseases and poverty. Today's challenges require all of us to uphold not only highest professional skills

but also the highest of ethical and moral standards. Our belief in faith equips us to meet all these challenges successfully.

Dear participants

Each day will bring you new challenges. You will have to make many critical decisions. Some of them may mean life and death. Your faith and professional integrity would guide you to make the right choice. This choice would be guided by character, conviction, conscience and compassion. In making these choices I hope you prefer compassion over complacency, build bridges rather than barriers and opt for hope over fear. You will not only save lives, Inshallah, by your knowledge but will also change lives by acts of compassion.

Dear Students

I would advise you to make a distinction between being an optimist and a pessimist. A pessimist sees difficulties in opportunities and an optimist sees opportunities into difficulties. To be a winner, you have to reject being a pessimist. Do not wait for extraordinary opportunities to come your way. Rather seize every moment of the day to be successful. Devotion and commitment are the fundamentals of high performance. A good professional is a good team player and is able to bring out the best among others if he enjoys the confidence of his peers and juniors. You can turn weakness into strength, obstacle into opportunity and challenge into achievement by leadership, vision and example.

Dear students:

Today you are on a take-off stage of your lives. Your education has prepared you well. It is now for you to harness the skills that you have acquired and also summon the knowledge to make this world a better, more humane, tolerant and a just place. Those of you, who are sad to be departing, should remember that it is the legacy and moments that you would carry with you wherever you go.

In the end let me quote our great leader Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah, who said while addressing the youth “Pakistan is proud of its youth who are the nation builders of tomorrow. They must fully equip themselves by discipline, education and training for the arduous task lying ahead of them”.

I would like to thank all of you for hearing me with patience.
God bless you all.

PAKISTAN PAYINDABAD!”