

**President David Kabua**  
**CMI 29th Commencement Exercises**  
**Graduation Remarks**  
**Thursday, May 26, 2022**

Kile komwoj otemjij ilo lajrak ko dien kautiej. Kamolol kin adwoj maron kobatok nan kaiboj im kamol tobrak in an ajri rein nejid, jibwid im kadkad ko jet.

Yokwe kom and good afternoon. It feels good and it's nice to be here with so many of you today - to celebrate a momentous occasion, a lifetime achievement, a significant milestone, a proud day for all of us.

My warmest congratulations to you each and every member of the graduating class, to your parents, guardians, and families. This is your special day, and yes, it is very much a happy day to you, to our community and our nation.

And of course my special kommol tata and appreciation to the Board of Regents, the President, the Faculty and Staff of the College of the Marshall Islands for your dedication to the cause of education, and for a job well done. Thank you also to the Ministry of Education, the Nitijela, the United States and donor partners for the never-ending support

Above all, graduates, this is your moment to shine, and you deserve the praise and attention. For you have lived through tests and difficulties for the past 14 years. I admire your sacrifice, your dedication and commitment.

Today we are celebrating the fruits of your labor, a new stage in your development and journey. And I am honored to offer and convey the Marshallese people and Governments' best wishes for your accomplishment.

I also encourage each and all of you to continue and scale higher levels of education. Your theme reminds us to reflect on the past, focus on the present and seize the opportunities that the future holds.

Students, as we journey through life, It is inspiring and healthy for us as individuals and a community, to pause occasionally, and ask ourselves:

How did we get here? Where did we come from? What happened before the CMI was established? How can the College serve our nation better? Can the CMI and USP work together to provide more teachers to our elementary schools, or more nurses to our hospitals or other skills manpower needed for the forward momentum of our country?

Today, our country is in desperate need of critical manpower in many fields of public service. We need teachers, we need nurses, we need welders, we need carpenters, we need accountants, pilots, auditors, journalists, engineers, doctors, the list goes on.

And so, I am asking you to pursue your education to the highest level possible. Get to the education finish line. After you have attained your goal, you must return to serve your country.

It is natural that as often as is the case, we humans tend to seek job opportunities that pay more and the working environment is better than at home. Also, we leave home to attend colleges and universities in America and most of us just stay there and never return.

I am appealing to you to return home after you get your degrees and specialized qualifications. The Marshallese people wish for each of you to return to work for the progress and betterment of our community.

Personally, I think there is a deeper sense of fulfillment and self-satisfaction when one is sacrificing by serving others rather than oneself. After all, by serving others, we serve God.

So, keep moving higher in pursuit of better education, and when all is done, show your love and loyalty to your country, and come back home to serve your people and your country.

May God Almighty bless you and your families and the people of the Marshall Islands.

Kom kanoj in emmol.