

SPEECH BY THE GOVERNOR, COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF NYERI, H.E DR. WAHOME GAKURU DURING THE 3RD SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP CONFERENCE, AT DeKUT ON 1ST NOVEMBER, 2017

The Vice Chancellor, Dedan Kimathi University of Technology, Prof. P. N. Kioni

Deputy Vice Chancellors,

Registrars,

Deans and Directors,

Staff members,

Conference participants,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning?

It is my great pleasure to stand here before you today as the governor of Nyeri County, on this auspicious occasion as we kick of the 3rd Science, Technology, Innovation and Entrepreneurship Conference at Dedan Kimathi University of Technology.

Nyeri County is proud to have this great University within its boundaries. Indeed, the University has been a great contributor to the County's development through research and technology transfer in various areas like the coffee sector which is a major industry in the county.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Since inception, the great people of Nyeri have witnessed Dedan Kimathi University of Technology grow from strength to strength. What started as a community driven technical institution in 1972 has grown in leaps and bounds to become what Dedan Kimathi University of Technology is right now merely 5 years since the university got its Charter in December, 2012. The University is a trailblazer in the country and region.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As a University of technology, this University has claimed her position locally and internationally through focus on Quality Education, Research, Innovation and Technology Transfer. At the community level, this institution has brought education close to the people and improved their lives through research and training on coffee technology; coffee being a cash crop in this region.

The county is working on collaborating with the University in order to harness the knowledge that the University is generating and will continue to generate in areas such as coffee research, technology and innovation. The County is especially keen on the upcoming Science and Technology Park that will be hosted by the University. We look forward to building a partnership that will see us use the intellectual resource from this institution to build our county and the nation at large.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is as a result of the commitment to National Development through Quality Education, Research, Innovation and Technology Transfer agenda by this institution that we are here today, and will be here for the next three days, for this conference whose theme is *“Harnessing Science, Technology, Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Development”*.

This is commendable because, it is through such commitment by the academic institutions in collaboration with the government and the industry that Kenya will achieve national development and industrialization. As the governor of Nyeri County, I fully support the drive towards attaining sustainable development for the county and the Country.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I take this opportunity to welcome you all to the great County of Nyeri and to invite you to tour some of our beautiful tourist destinations such as the Aberdare Ranges, Mount. Kenya and historical sites like Kahigaini and the Nyeri National Museum. To our international guests and participants, welcome and feel at home. To guests and participants from other counties, karibuni sana.

It is my great pleasure to now officially open this Conference.

Thank you.