SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND RESEARCH, AMB. SIMON NABUKWESI ON FRIDAY 28TH MAY 2021 DURING THE DEDAN KIMATHI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY 10TH GRADUATION CEREMONY

Acknowledgements

- **Ag. Chancellor and Chairman of the Dedan Kimathi University of Technology Council; Dr. Jane Nyakang'o**
  - **Members of the Dedan Kimathi University of Technology Council**
  - **Vice Chancellor of Dedan Kimathi University of Technology, Prof. Ndirangu Kioni**
  - **Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Dedan Kimathi University of Technology,;**
  - **Members of the Dedan Kimathi University of Technology Senate;**
  - **Distinguished guests**
  - **The Alumni Association;**
  - **Parents and guardians**
  - **All our graduands**
  - **Ladies and gentlemen**

Good morning,

1. It is with great pleasure that I join you on this auspicious occasion of the 10th graduation ceremony of Dedan Kimathi University of Technology. I congratulate the Dedan Kimathi University council and management for leading and building this great university to the height it has reached.

   As a ministry, we consider this as an important milestone in developing the manpower needed for the development of this country. We look forward to the great contributions that you the graduands will make in the development of this country.

Ladies and gentlemen,

2. As you are all aware, the coronavirus pandemic has brought about a shift in the education sector and I'm pleased to note that despite the challenges, the University was among the first to switch to e-learning to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 on University's academic calendar.

   I commend the university council and management for this progressive decision to ensure that their graduands graduate on time, and join the job market on time.

Ladies and gentlemen.

3. Kenya is one of Africa's fastest-growing economies.
   With sustained average levels of growth over the past ten years. The country's long term development blueprint, The Kenya Vision 2030, envisions a newly industrialized middle-income country by the year 2030.

4. As part of the Big 4 Agenda, the Ministry has embarked on the development of a National Science and Technology Park at Dedan Kimathi University of Technology. Dedan Kimathi Science and Technology Park (DeST-Park) is the first national project being implemented by the Ministry of Education as a key enabler of the three pillars of the Vision 2030.

5. In pursuit of transforming Kenya into a knowledge-based economy, the Ministry has also made a significant investment in supporting the development of the Science and Technology Park, which intends to enhance our economy and create jobs.

   The Ministry is committed to supporting the development of the STP, and we acknowledge the fact that the world is moving towards a new knowledge-based economy or knowledge society in which the role and significance of knowledge as an input in economic processes have fundamentally changed.

6. In relation to this, the Semiconductor Technologies Limited was launched last month which was presided over by His Excellency Uhuru Kenyatta. The factory, which is the only one of its kind in Africa, manufactures nanotechnology products such as integrated circuits and sensors used in electronic gadgets for the global market. Its products have a high demand and are used in electronic gadgets such as mobile phones, televisions and laptop computers.

   In addition, late last year, there was a groundbreaking ceremony for the Design, Materials and Manufacturing Hub (DMM). The hub focuses on mechanization of agriculture through advances in robotics and mechatronics. The park has also entered into partnership with the private sector for the manufacturing of electronic devices and construction of the DMM hub is ongoing.

Ladies and gentlemen,

7. Universities have to continuously reform and reinvent themselves. They should continually adjust to the changes that are happening around the world. They should take leadership and initiative in responding to changes including embracing and incorporating ICT in the activities.
8. Universities have three critical functions; research, education and dissemination of knowledge. I note with satisfaction that Dedan Kimathi University of Technology as a young university has over the years embarked on an aggressive development of the research and innovation capacity in the University by promoting postgraduate studies among the staff at PhDs and masters' levels.

Ladies and gentlemen,

10. I take this opportunity to commend the University in the efforts it has put in combating the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the emergence of this pandemic in the country, the University has been taking several initiatives to provide local solutions to the local problems in combating the Covid-19 pandemic. Striving to provide research and capacity development in the country, the University started creating and producing PPEs such as; hand sanitizers, hazmat suits, face masks and ventilators.

Finally, to the graduands,

11. We are here today to affirm your successful training and the skills you have acquired. Utilize the skills and competencies acquired to uplift yourself, your family, and also to sustain a Kenyan knowledge-based economy that is globally competitive. As you go out to start new chapters in your lives, the government will remain supportive of your endeavors. Be entrepreneurial and

always search and respond to opportunities. Remember, that success is the sum of small efforts repeated day in and day out and if an opportunity does not knock, build a door.

Congratulations and God bless you all.