

DEDAN KIMATHI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
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SPEECH DELIVERED ON WEDNESDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER 2020 BY THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, STATE DEPARTMENT FOR UNIVERSITY EDUCATION AND RESEARCH-MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**, AMB. SIMON NABUKWESI DURING THE DMM HUB GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY, AT THE DEDAN KIMATHI SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PARK GROUNDS**

Acknowledgments and Greetings

- **Council Chairman, Dr. Jane Nyakang'o**
- **Vice-Chancellor DeKUT, Prof. Ndirangu Kioni,**
- **Ministry Officials,**
- **Partners and Investors,**
- **The University fraternity,**
- **All guests present**

I am glad to join you today in this significant event of the groundbreaking ceremony of the Design Materials and Manufacturing Hub. This day marks a significant milestone in our partnership with the University.

The Science and Technology Park is a national project under the Ministry of Education which is estimated to cost about 6.5 billion. Construction of the Design & Manufacturing Hub at the Science and Technology Park for which we are groundbreakimg today, is estimated to cost close to 1 billion.

The concept of Science Technology Parks started to gain attention in Kenya from the mid-1960s through the initiatives of Kenya Industrial Estates (KIE), a government agency within the Ministry of Industrialization. At its establishment, KIE was mandated to facilitate the development and incubation of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME'S) in the country by establishing industrial parks, and providing credit and business development services in a sustainable manner.

Over the years that followed, KIE partnered with various governmental institutions to carry out grass-root training of youths and entrepreneurs. Though some of these partnerships were with Universities and Research institutes, little effort was put on the utilization of skilled academic staff and researchers for product development, thus the need for the STP that brings on board the four players namely; Government, Academia, Industry and the Society.

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. 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. It is anchored on Vision 2030, Medium Term Plan II and Medium-Term Plan III as part of the Science, Technology and Innovation (ST&I) sector.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

The Government is committed to drive the sector through supporting the "Big Four" initiatives by coordinating Technology and Innovation Commercialization. The Science and Technology Park which focuses on three main thematic areas; Bio-resources, design, manufacturing and materials, and ICT hardware and software seeks to increase the wealth of the community by promoting a culture of innovation and the competitiveness of its associated business and knowledge-based institutions.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

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.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

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 items such as; hand sanitizers, hazmat suits, face masks and ventilators.

As I conclude, I would also like to commend the efforts and attest to the great work done by the University on their preparedness for post-COVID reopening.

Thank you.