DEDAN KIMATHI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

P.O.BOX PRIVATE BAG-10143, NYERI

SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE CABINET SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, HON. EZEKIEL MACHOGU DURING THE LAUNCH OF THE MACHINE BUILDING DIVISION OF SEMICONDUCTOR TECHNOLOGIES LIMITED ON MONDAY 19TH DECEMBER 2022, AT DEDAN KIMATHI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

1. **Acknowledgements**

Acknowledgements

- The Chief Guest, Deputy President, His Excellency, Hon. Rigathi Gachagua;
- Chairman of the Dedan Kimathi University of Technology Council, Dr. Jane Nyakang'o;
- Members of the Dedan Kimathi council present;
- Vice Chancellor, Dedan Kimathi University of Technology, Prof. Ndirangu Kioni;
- Deputy Vice-Chancellors of Dedan Kimathi University of Technology;
- Distinguished guests;
- Ladies and gentlemen;

Good morning?

1. Opening Remarks

I'm pleased to be here today for the Launch of the machine building division of Semiconductor Technologies Limited that has seen the designing and building of Ol Borana, the First Advanced Semiconductor Manufacturing System designed and built in Kenya.

This is a significant milestone in the development of Dedan Kimathi Science & Technology Park (DeST-Park) and in fast-tracking the modernization of this country.

2. The Dedan Kimathi Science and Technology Park

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Ministry of Education has embarked on the development of a National Science and Technology Park at Dedan Kimathi University of Technology. We are committed to supporting the development of the STP, and are working to get the construction of the Design Material and Manufacturing Hub (DMM) completed by the end of 2023.

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. To this end, we congratulate the University for the effort it has made to support the Park through initiatives such as the establishment of a Startup Centre, Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship Management, DeHUB, Film Animation and Gaming Hub among others, and hosting tenant technology companies such as Semiconductor Technologies Limited from which we are launching the Ol Borana system today.

The Semiconductor Technologies Limited factory has already employed eighty (80) youths and trained over one hundred and fifty (150) young people. Notably the film and gaming hub has trained over 100 actors and actresses, 15 script writers, 23 PSC interns, 100 work-study students and over 50 young animators through animation workshops, short trainings and boot camps. The Film and

gaming hub has been able to harness the power of partnerships through its partnership with the Kenya Film Commission as well as counties most especially the Nyeri County Government which has sponsored film makers to undertake training at the hub.

3. **Partnership between Konza Technopolis Development Authority and DeKUT**

Ladies and gentlemen;

Kenya recently signed an agreement with Korea to establish the Kenya Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (Kenya-AIST), which is being constructed at the Konza Technopolis. The Institute, which will be a replica of the Korean Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST), will be established at this University and will provide specialized research and training in various cutting-edge engineering technologies. This will help the country fast-track modernization of its economy.

The University has partnered with Konza Technopolis Development Authority in harnessing the innovation ecosystem in the country. Further, DeKUT is employing some of the ICT technologies being deployed by the Technopolis such as the Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI) solutions. The two institutions are also partnering in deployment of Data Center Management solutions.

4. **DeST-Park is now a member of the International Association of Science Parks and Areas of Innovation (IASP)**

Ladies and Gentlemen;

The Dedan Kimathi Science and Technology Park is now on the world map after being admitted as a member of the International Association of Science Parks and Areas of Innovation (IASP). IASP is a global network of science parks and innovation zones that brings together professionals who manage Science, Technology, and Research Parks (S.T.P.s) and other areas of innovation to provide services that help members grow and succeed.

Recently, Kenya, led by the Konza Technopolis Development Authority and Dedan Kimathi Science and Technology Park playing a supporting role, won the competition to host the IASP Conference in 2024 during the 39th IASP World

Conference, held in Seville, Spain. Hosting the IASP Global conference within the African continent, specifically in Kenya, will present many opportunities and advantages. The conference will draw players from the domestic, regional, and international ecosystems, sparking renewed interest in promoting and developing disruptive innovations that will ultimately accelerate the country's and the African region's transformative economic development.

5. **Public-Private Partnership**

Ladies and Gentlemen;

I'm pleased to note that this specialized facility, which is the only one of its kind in Africa, is a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) between the University and Semiconductor Technologies Limited. The collaboration will attract more anchor clients to the Dedan Kimathi Science and Technology Park thus enhancing industry-academia relationships. The output of this collaboration showcases the ingenuity, depth of skills and industry in the Kenyan youths.

This will facilitate the growth of the Science and Technology Park ecosystem, which will consequently support the local manufacturing industry, which is a crucial engine for sustainable economic growth and development, job creation and poverty alleviation and the "Buy Kenya- Build Kenya" initiative.

6. **University focus on STEM programs**

Ladies and gentlemen,

I'm also delighted to report that during my recent visit to this university, I was impressed by some of the work done in support of the science and technology park. The University has established several research centres to support the Science and Technology Park and provide innovative solutions to various technological and social challenges.

I also congratulate the University for maintaining its focus on STEM programmes, noting that 71% of the courses undertaken at the University are STEM-based, with 36% of the courses being in the Engineering sector.

7. **Ministry's commitment to supporting to the University**

Ladies and Gentlemen;

The ministry is committed to supporting the University in terms of infrastructure and are aware of the University's request for extension of the academic block, the Semiconductor lab Annex and the University gate and is looking into ways to fast track this process.

The ministry will also support the establishment of specialized capacity-building programs in areas such as polymer chemistry to support the Science and Technology Park and the Semiconductor Technologies Limited.

In order to ensure that the expected accelerated developments in the Science and Technology Park are on course, the Ministry will fast track the completion of the DMM building and also the required infrastructure within the Park.

8. **Finally**;

I congratulate the University and the Semiconductor Technologies Limited for the establishment of this division. I wish you all the best as you transform the technology industry in Kenya.