DEDAN KIMATHI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

P.O.BOX PRIVATE BAG-10143, NYERI

SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE DEPUTY PRESIDENT, HIS EXCELLENCY, HON. RIGATHI GACHAGUA DURING LAUNCH OF THE MACHINE BUILDING DIVISION OF SEMICONDUCTOR TECHNOLOGIES LIMITED, ON MONDAY 19TH DECEMBER 2022, AT DEDAN KIMATHI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

Acknowledgements

- Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education, Hon. Ezekiel Machogu;
- 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 glad to join you today in this significant event of 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 great stride for our nation in technology and innovation.

2. Kenya is one of the fastest-growing economies in Africa

Ladies and gentlemen,

Kenya is one of the fastest-growing economies in Africa. With sustained average levels of growth of 5.9% over the past ten years, the country's long-term development blueprint envisions a newly industrialized middle-income country by the year 2030. Industries are key drivers for this and are catalyzed by technology and innovation.

Technology and innovation are essential components for improving Kenyans lives, increasing our country's global competitiveness and economic growth, and creating much-needed jobs for our youth. The government is dedicated to ensuring this and has put in place several measures to support the above. As stated by His Excellency the President of the Republic of Kenya, Hon. Dr. William Samoei Ruto, during the recent Jamhuri Day Celebrations, the government will build a 100,000 kilometer digital superhighway to allow internet access to homes, cities, towns and every part of Kenya. The government is also looking to partner with technology and digital space leaders to provide one million tech jobs among our youths. The Kenya Industrial Estates will provide intensive coaching and mentorship to 100,000 entrepreneurs and provide information and networking opportunities to 250,000 youth.

3. Dedan Kimathi Science and Technology Park

Ladies and Gentlemen,

World over, Science and Technology Parks are increasingly being embraced as a means of enhancing knowledge application for the establishment of new innovative products, services and enterprises. The Dedan Kimathi Science and Technology Park is a national project under the Ministry of Education which is estimated to cost about 6.5 billion. The Science and Technology Park is an important platform that will bring together professors, innovators, capital and business expertise to work together to support the development of new innovations and the creation of new commercial enterprises with a goal of creating employment and increasing the wealth of the society, contributing to the improvement of standards of living.

In support of the Government's priorities of creation of employment, investment in agriculture, enhancement of manufacturing, support for small and medium enterprises, provision of affordable housing, promotion of ICT and digital economy and reform of education to back the transformation, I take note that the Park is pursuing themes in agri-tech, design, materials and manufacturing and ICT. I also take note that the Park is already making the necessary preparations for the digital media center; part of which is capacity building in animation, gaming and film.

4. Dedan Kimathi Science and Technology Park Ecosystem

Ladies and Gentlemen;

I'm pleased to note that the park is already operating with a network of eight (8) Universities to build a research and innovation ecosystem . The park is also working with various government agencies such as Kenya Industrial Property Institute (KIPI), Kenya National Highways Authority (KeNHA), National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI), Kenya Film Commission, Konza Technopolis Development Authority among others and has already on boarded several companies one of which we are launching their product here today.

5. Government's Commitment to the Success of DeST-Park

Ladies and Gentlemen;

The Government is committed to supporting DeST-Park which is the first national Science and Technology Park in the country and all the companies operating under it. 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.

I am alive to the fact that the first building in the Park, funded by the Government through the Ministry of Education is under construction. We shall fast track the construction through sufficient funding to ensure that the expected accelerated development is achieved.

The Government will support the construction of the horizontal infrastructure. This includes road construction, ICT infrastructure, water reticulation and extension of power connections to the entire Park. This will go a long way to support the private companies that have signed up to establish units in the Park that require this kind of infrastructure.

6. Semiconductor Technologies Limited

Ladies and Gentlemen;

The Semiconductor Industry is one of the most crucial globally, with almost every device we use having these important chips. From smartphones, fridges,

wearables, cars, laptops, consoles, and many others, chips are essential as they are the brains behind the operation of electronic devices.

Kenya is now one of the few countries globally with a chip manufacturing plant after the company's recent launch by the former President, Uhuru Kenyatta. The Public-Private partnership agreement will enhance our ability to become an industrialized nation and be able to create jobs for our young people. It will also transform Kenya from one that consumes products from other parts of the world to one that exports not only its products but its technology across the globe.

I am greatly honored to be here today to witness the Launch of the machine building division of Semiconductor Technologies Limited. That the division built Ol Borana, which as I earlier stated is the First Advanced Semiconductor Manufacturing System Designed and Built in Kenya is impressive. I am proud of the patriotism showed not only by the company but the Young engineers of this great nation who built the system, proving to the world that indeed Kenya has capable human capital in the technology industry and that they are capable of delivering at global standards.

7. Finally;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

I take this opportunity to congratulate Semiconductor Technologies Limited (STL) for the commendable achievement and progress it has made so far.