SPEECH BY THE DR. FRED MATIANG'I- CS MINISTRY FOR ICT

ON MONDAY, 16TH MARCH, 2015

AT THE TECHNOLOGY OPEN DAY & LAUNCH OF DeHUB CEREMONY

Senator Nyeri County Mutahi Kagwe

Chancellor- Prof. Shellemiah O. Keya

Council Chairman- Prof. Dulacha Galgalo

Vice Chancellor- Prof. P. Ndirangu Kioni

CEOs of iHUB, Safaricom, Samsung, Kennet, IBM, ESRI and other company representatives

County Executive for Education- Elijah Nguyo

Deputy Vice Chancellors

Registrars

Members of the Senate & Management Board

Academic and Administrative Staff

Students

Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen!

It's my pleasure to visit Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (DeKUT) and I am honored to be the guest during this official opening of this Technology day and the launch of DeHUB.

Since inception, DeKUT has integrated education with technology in Engineering, Tourism and business studies. The Technology open day was conceived following successful experiences through similar exhibitions held at the university in the past the most recent being held in collaboration with the Nyeri County like the Nyeri Hack. The event had seventy (70) students from across five (5) universities in Kenya showcasing innovative projects. DeKUT DeHUB is fully equipped for collaborative learning and student interaction which is the hallmark of DeKUT Quality Education, Research and Innovation, the university's strategy for preparing students with skills needed in the 21st century workplace.

The DeHUB will also be a hive of student initiatives and programmes that will foster the spirit of entrepreneurship,

innovation and social awareness among students. The new learning and innovations hub offers one of the world's best learning environments for students of the 21st century. It provides an exciting mix of learning, community and recreational spaces for DeKUT students, professors and researchers from various disciplines to gather and interact. By bringing people and their ideas together, Dedan Kimathi University of Technology can spark future innovations and new knowledge that increasingly happens at the intersection of disciplines.

DeHUB is envisioned to be a place where students might meet their future business partners or conceive amazing ideas with university colleagues.

In this knowledge and information age, the most important commodity on a campus is social space to meet and learn from each other. The learning and innovations hub is a space that brings everyone together, for informal collaborative learning. The Government of Kenya through the Ministry of ICT is honoured to have the chance to witness this milestone in the history of DeKUT today. DeKUT is indeed a forward-thinking and ambitious technology and innovation institution to realize such an excellent project. In addition, we are proud to be associated with DeKUT as

an ICT centre of excellence where staff, students & industry work together to provide unique, innovative and commercially viable ICT solutions to societal problems, anchored on her unique location in a rural agricultural region.

It is my hope that DeKUT HUB will take higher education in Kenya to new and greater heights. DeHUB comes complete with flexible clustered seating for small group discussions, LCD screen, whiteboard and wireless communication tools. The clustered seating is designed for students to discuss their ideas in small groups, before sharing and presenting their ideas with the rest of the class. This will not only deepen their learning beyond the curriculum, but also enable them to develop important life skills such as leadership and intercultural competence.

I take this opportunity to congratulate DeKUT on this first one of a new series of annual technology open day exploring how technology could be effectively utilized in teaching, learning, and educational administration. Congratulations on this Launch of Dedan Kimathi University of Technology Innovations Hub. I now declare DeKUT ICT Strategic Plan (2014 – 2017) and the DeHUB officially launched.

Thank you.

Better Life Through Technology