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SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR PROF.NDIRANGU KIONI ON MONDAY JUNE 6TH 2022 DURING THE WORLD ENVIRONMENTAL DAY

1. Acknowledgments

- Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Hon. Keriako Tobiko, EGH;
- Principal Secretary Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Dr. Chris Kiptoo;
- Archbishop Nyeri Archdiocese, Rev. Anthony Muheria,
- Director General NEMA, EBS, Mamo Boru;
- Country Director GIZ, Mr. Bodo Immink,
- Managing Director and CEO KenGEN, Rebecca Miano, MBS
- Secretary-General, Kenya Red Cross, Dr. Asha Mohamed
- Other distinguished guests;
- Ladies and gentlemen;

Good morning?

1. **Opening Remarks**

We are glad to be hosting this year's World Environment Day in collaboration with the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) under the theme 'Only One Earth'. We are glad because our mandate is to produce high-level human resources that enable the society to cope with the challenges. DeKUT is addressing the issues of climate change through; the conservation of biodiversity, reduction of pollution through teaching research and extension work.

The University offers degrees in sustainable tourism and hospitality management and civil engineering. These degrees have embedded courses in water resources management, waste management, and, conservation of biodiversity. The University has a number of specialized research and extension centers that address the three focus areas. I will briefly mention a few;

- **Data Science and Artificial Intelligent Centre**.
  This center is applying data centers and artificial intelligence, and specifically bioacoustics to monitor the health of ecosystems.

- **Centre for Biomass Energy Studies.**
  This center has a number of programs some funded by GIZ aimed at increasing efficiency in the use of biomass, so as to reduce the degradation of forests. The center is also part of the Green Institute.

- **Geothermal Energy Training and Research Institute (GETRI)**
  This Institute conducts research on geothermal energy and has also played an important role in training at the postgraduate degree level human resources for KenGEN and GDC.

- **Centre for Electronic Device Development**
  This Center has been involved in the development of smart devices for the monitoring of air pollution and can be deployed by NEMA.

- **Adoption of Tanyai Forest**
  The University has adopted the Tanyai forest which is 800 hectares with an aim of not only increasing the forest cover but also creating a model for re-afforestation.

- **DeKUT Conservancy**
  This conservancy serves as the University's conservation laboratory that is extensively used for teaching students and for research.

- **Students Clubs**
  Students have various clubs through which they engage in environmental conservation activities such as tree planting among others.

- **Water Resources Management Centre**

  The focus of this center is a better understanding of our water sources with a special focus on aquifers and how they can be sustained.

Conclusion.

DeKUT is proud to be part of these celebrations and we look forward to developing more synergies in environmental conservation.