



WELCOME REMARKS BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR- PROF. P.N. KIONI

ON FRIDAY, 30TH JANUARY, 2015

**DURING THE MENTORSHIP FORUM AND TRAINING OF YOUNG LADY
AMBASSADORS FOR NYERI COUNTY SCHOOLS**

The Chief Guest- Ms. Julie Gichuru

The Nyeri County First Lady- Mrs. Margaret K. Nderitu

Nyeri County Officials & Staff

Dedan Kimathi University Staff

Teachers and Students

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning! It is my pleasure to welcome you to the mentorship forum and training hosted here at the Dedan Kimathi University of Technology.

This mentorship forum and training of young lady ambassadors aims to enhance the development of young girls and provide a forum to expose them to the benefits and the importance of positive self image, responsible personal

conduct, and respect for self and others via educational achievement, cultural enrichment and mentoring.

The goal of this mentorship forum is to empower young ladies to pursue excellence in every area of your lives.

What Is Mentoring?

- **A Matter of “Trust”**
- **A structured & trusting relationship that brings young people together with caring and accountable individuals who offer guidance, support and encouragement aimed at developing the young person’s competence, self-esteem and character.**

Why Is Mentoring Important?

Sobering statistics are real, at-risk children and adolescents/teenagers desperately need guidance and mentors to reverse these trends:

- **Complications from HIV/AIDS and childbirth is the leading cause of death among young women**

Mentoring Statistics: Making A “Measurable” Difference

National studies have shown that mentoring programs decrease:

- **Illegal drug use by 46%**
- **Alcoholic consumption by 27%**
- **School truancy by 53%**

Mentored Students:

- Increase their grades by 59%
- Increase their aspirations and goals by 79%

National studies have shown that mentoring programs decrease:

- 98% of the youths paired with mentors stayed in school
- 85% of youths who had a mentor did not use drugs
- 98% of teens matched with mentors avoid teen pregnancy
- 98% of youth paired with mentors avoided peer pressure and gang activity

The University is currently struggling with the enrolling the girls in science and technology subject related courses. From the current university enrolment statistics male students are 4,293 while the female students are 1,165. This shows that about 22% of the student population of 5,458 is made up of female students. As a result, we need to encourage the girl child to pursue the science and technology related courses since they are not meant to be taken by the boy child alone. I am encouraged to see DeKUT prospective students from the various high schools present today. I encourage the young ladies present today, to love sciences and pursue engineering courses, science related courses like mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, actuarial science et cetera.

So welcome once again to Dedan Kimathi University of Technology where our motto is better life through technology.

Better Life through Technology