

SPEECH BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR, MASINDE MULIRO UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DURING THE 2ND NATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND TALENT SUMMIT HELD AT MMUST, MULTI-PURPOSE HALL ON FRIDAY, MARCH 3RD , 2017

Participants from across the county and beyond,

Invited Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good afternoon!

It is with great pleasure that I preside over the official closing of this Youth Summit organized by Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology. Allow me to take the earliest opportunity to commend the organizers. As an institution for higher learning, we are pleased to take the lead role in the provision of knowledge and skills that can solve societal problems.

I take this opportunity to thank you for availing yourselves from your busy schedules to participate in this important National Youth summit that was geared towards harnessing talents for wealth creation and sustainable development.

Indeed, I hope that the time and resources that you have invested in this summit will not only be beneficial to you as individuals but will benefit the society at large. It is important to note that, this summit is designed to promote understanding, appreciation and application of roles, talents and responsibilities of the youth. It is my hope that whatever you have learned during these two days will help you to realize your objectives and utilize your individual talents to make a difference in society.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we all appreciate that for a long time, there have been misconceptions about the role of youths within the society, which needs to be corrected. For a long time the youth have been tagged as “leaders of tomorrow”, of course this tomorrow never comes. With forums such as this, we at MMUST are committed to nurturing the Kenyan youths so that they take up their rightful position in society to positively contribute to development.

Allow me to take the earliest opportunity to thank all school heads who thought it befitting to have their students attend this Summit. I would like to say it here and now that whatever resources invested in this Summit are not in vain. The fruits of this Summit will be realized in the change of the mindsets of our youth.

I call upon all Universities, schools and colleges represented here today, to mainstream the Youth programme in their institutions. It is only through participatory initiatives that we shall save our youths who most of the time stray due to lack of proper guidance. Allow me to inform you that we at Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology are a step ahead as we have already integrated Talent Scholarships and Internship programmes in our University so that we give our students the much needed opportunity to be mentored by our capable staff.

It is my earnest hope that the ideas exchanged here over the past few days, will be your guiding light as you go back to our various destinations re-energized to make a mark in society and put into practice all the knowledge that you have acquired here and transform the lives of the persons whom you interact with.

I sincerely appreciate all our youth present here today, without whose presence this Summit would not have been a success. It is my earnest hope that we shall meet here again next here to assess the importance of this forum. *ASANTENI SANA!*

Prof. FAO Otieno, FAAS

Vice Chancellor, Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology