

**SPEECH OF THE VICE CHANCELLOR DURING THE OCCASION OF
THE AWARD OF CHARTER TO KIBABII UNIVERSITY ON
SATURDAY, 14TH NOVEMBER 2015**

Your Excellency, President Uhuru Kenyatta,

Cabinet Secretary for Education, Science and Technology Prof. Jacob Kaimenyi,

Principal Secretary, State department of Education, Science and Technology, Prof. Collette Suda,

The Commission of University Education,

Vice Chancellors Present,

Representatives of Various Universities,

Distinguished Guests, Parents, Staff, Students, Ladies and Gentlemen, I salute you all.

First, I want to thank His Excellency the President for having accepted to grace this occasion to award a Charter to Kibabii University. We are indeed honored to have you with us on this auspicious occasion that will forever remain etched in the annals of the history of this budding university.

Your Excellency Mr. President, as the parent University, we at Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology, are excited to witness our very own constituent college attain the coveted status of a fully fledged University. The history of Kibabii University College goes way back to the 2011 when it was established as a Constituent College of Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology. To operationalize it, MMUST staff and students were seconded here alongside assets.

Mr. President Sir, allow me to thank you on behalf of MMUST fraternity for the honours that were bestowed upon us to take this institution through its

first baby steps that have culminated into this momentous occasion. The award of Charter is landmark achievement to all of us present here today and to Kenyans whose desire is to pursue higher education. Being awarded a Charter is the ultimate recognition of the quality training offered here, which staff and students must work hard to maintain.

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is my earnest hope that following this milestone, Kibabii University will continue to uphold the culture of quality training, research and innovation that has been the cornerstone of our mentorship. We pledge to walk with the Kibabii fraternity in the journey of self discovery whose ultimate goal should be anchored on the development aspirations of the nation and livelihood transformation of the Kenyan people.

Your Excellency Mr. President Sir, allow me to note that this charter brings fresh expectations on the university especially in regard to teaching research quality assurance and service to community. It will also contribute significantly to enhancing access to higher education in Kenya. This will greatly contribute to the achievement of the National Vision 2030 and compliment efforts by the Kenyan government's efforts of ensuring that all students are afforded an equal opportunity to enable them realize their potential.

Your Excellency Mr. President Sir, we thank you for your commitment in implementing the Constitution of Kenya which provides that each County should have a University and residents of Bungoma cannot afford to be left behind in their quest for a university for their people. Kibabii University will change the social, cultural and economic livelihoods of the people of Vihiga County as the Late Nelson Mandela rightly put it Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.

I am confident this new University of Technology is up to the task of such a dynamic and vital role in the communities that it serves and will rapidly become a part of international networks of research and educational institutions.

Your Excellency Mr. President Sir, I wish to personally and on behalf of the MMUST Council, Staff and Students, thank you for the steadfast support you have given to education in this country. One day when the historians will write the history of Kibabii University, your name and ours will be written in golden letters.

It is gratifying to note that this new independent status is a God-sent opportunity that we must grab to leap rapidly to the forefront of technological innovations on a global scale. I know the huge amount of sacrifice and work that together we have devoted in order to realize the dream that we are living today. It is my belief that with a little more dedication from education stakeholders, Kibabii University will serve as a model for the entire continent of Africa and the World.

Your Excellency, Mr. President Sir, thank you once again for gracing this occasion. Please find time to visit us also at Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology. God bless Kibabii University, God bless us all and God Bless Kenya.

Thank you.

PROF. ENG. FAO OTIENO, FAAS

**VICE CHANCELLOR MASINDE MULIRO UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY**