

**Mount Kenya**



**University**

**REMARKS**

**BY**

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**VICE-CHANCELLOR**

**DURING THE  
LAUNCH OF UNESCO/UNITWIN CHAIR**

**AT**

**MOUNT KENYA UNIVERSITY NAKURU  
CAMPUS**

**ON**

**7<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2019**

## Salutation

- The Secretary General KNATCOM UNESCO, Dr. Evangeline Njoka,
- The Directors in charge of UNESCO CHAIRS in Kenya who are here present,
- The Senior Officers representing the Kenya Prison Services,
- Guests from various partnering organizations,
- Colleagues from MKU,
- Staff,
- Students,
- Ladies and gentlemen.

## Opening Remarks

Allow me to start by passing warm greetings from Mount Kenya University, Thika Campus to you all.

Secondly, allow me to reflect on MKU's partnership with the Kenya National Commission for UNESCO, a relation which started in 2016.

My reflections on the partnership gives me hope and encouragement. Many projects all of which have been fruitful to the two partner institutions have been initiated. I recall with delight the value addition and support MKU received from KNATCOM-UNESCO in 2016 during the Peace Conference which was held at the Safari Park Hotel, when KNATCOM - UNESCO joined us as a strategic partner.

Ladies and gentlemen, I appreciate the passion with which KNATCOM-UNESCO and MKU are nurturing the partnership. I also appreciate the National Research Fund

and the Kenya Prison Services for the support in enhancing the UNESCO Chair activities.

As you are all aware, big achievements are only possible when individuals and organizations work together. We, therefore, do appreciate you our partners in the UNESCO Chair project.

In the same breath, I thank the MKU team that has been involved in running this partnership headed by Prof. Joel Kiboss as the Director (and I wish him quick recovery), Moses Nderitu as the Coordinator, and other persons from all the partnering organizations. I also take this opportunity to extend the invitation to other organizations to join in this partnership.

## **Establishment of a Coordination Office at MKU Main Campus**

Ladies and gentlemen, after receiving the UNESCO chair in 2016, we were to undertake two vital responsibilities as a university, namely:

- Identify the relevant activities and have them started.
- Conduct the launch.

We noted that there was a little delay in getting started. This led to an administration decision of starting a coordination office at the Main Campus so as to ensure timely undertaking of our responsibilities and reporting in time to the relevant partners.

## Enhancing Teaching and Learning using ICT

Ladies and gentlemen, the UNESCO-Chair at MKU is on Digital Education, Interdisciplinary Teaching and Sustainable Development. The world has changed to be fully digital.

According to Allen (1997): “The traditional text book can no longer fulfill the need in the rapid changing and the information-explosion world. The traditional teacher-centred approach makes classroom no longer an effective system to prepare students for the realities which they will face in the future”.

Osener (1997) described IT as “good as, or even better than, traditional method of teaching and learning as if being limitless of time and space”.

Poole (1998) pointed out that “Suitably integrated computer use can contribute to successful results in the classroom as to; support teaching and learning, support

children's socialization, enable children with disabilities to integrate and enables teachers to duplicate excellence".

Ladies and gentlemen, taking cognizance of the importance of ICT, MKU has integrated ICT in teaching and learning processes. The integration facilitates promotion of student-centred learning. For example, the MKU digital platform consists of both student management system and digital learning system. The digital platform contains modular content. Staff and students transact work electronically. Access to the web-based learning materials is controlled through the use of passwords. We are sure we are a model in line with the thematic area of MKU UNESCO-Chair.

Ladies and gentlemen, today, we are gathered here to formally launch the UNESCO/UNITWIN CHAIR here at MKU Nakuru Campus. Also allow me to note that a new consortium network namely, **The Kenya UNESCO-CHAIRS Network** spearheaded by the KNATCOM-

UNESCO has been established. On behalf of the MKU Management, I promise support to both the UNESCO/UNITWIN Chair at MKU and the new network of UNESCO Chairs of Kenya.

Additionally, ladies and gentlemen, I also wish to thank all the other organizations that have joined MKU as partners at the UNESCO Chair project. These include the National Research Fund and the Kenya Prisons Services for they are a significant part of our success story.

Last but not least, I also pass my congratulations to all inmates who are beneficiaries of this partnership and encourage joint mobilization of resources to support the activities of the UNESCO Chairs.

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU.