



SPEECH


BY

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Vice – Chancellor


**PPP Hostels Project
Agreement Signing Ceremony
Friday, 19th June, 2015**

 **Permanent Secretary,
Ministry of National
Treasury Dr. Kamua
Thugge;**

 **Permanent Secretary,
Ministry of Education, DR.
Belio Kipsang;**

 **Kenyatta University
Chancellor, Dr. Benson
Wairegi;**

 **Chairman of Council, Prof.
Ratemo Michieka;**

 **Managing Partner, Africa
Integrass, Mr. Andrea
Pizzicon;**

 **Members of Senate;**

 **Directors;**

 **Ladies and Gentlemen.**

Good Morning.

I welcome all of you to this event of the signing of the Hostels Project Agreement between Africa Integras, a New York-based firm and Kenyatta University. Allow me to thank the Chancellor and the Chairman for finding time to grace this ceremony. After this ceremony of the signing towards meeting the

commercial close of the project, Africa Integras will embark on the process that will lead to the Financial Close.

I am happy to report that the Hostels Project, whose approximate investment value is US\$ 52.5 million, was approved by the Cabinet on

21st May, 2015 on a public private partnership (PPP) basis and in line with PPP Act, 2013. This means that Africa Integras will build, operate and then transfer the hostels to the University at the end of the concession period.

For Kenyatta University, today marks a milestone in

the provision of accommodation for our students. The KU Hostels Project will be located at the University's Main Campus and is designed to provide accommodation for 9,350 undergraduate students; 500 post graduate students; and 150 for married students. These are going to be the

first hostels within a public university in the country customized to cater for such categories of students like the married ones.

Ladies and gentlemen, though admission to university is delinked from bed spaces, inadequate accommodation for students

remains a big challenge not only for Kenyatta University but nationwide. It has led students to seek hostels around the University and they often end up in insecure areas. The off campus accommodation is in many instances in buildings that were not initially designed as hostels and they therefore

lack supportive facilities such as common rooms and reading spaces that enhance the academic and social life of a student. Other students are forced to travel long distances from their homes. Such students often miss early morning and late evening lectures. The students are also not able to

access services offered at the University such as a libraries, laboratories and recreation facilities that add to the quality of campus life.

Additionally, the existing hostels accommodate undergraduate students only.

Presently, post-graduate and married students have always had to seek accommodation

outside the campus. So with the Cabinet's approval of the project, we are happy that we will not only provide more accommodation for the undergraduate students but for the first time accommodate post-graduate students and married students who are increasing in the numbers every year.

I am sure many will recollect that it has taken Kenyatta University a long time to get here. The hostels project started with the concept development, and at first we had gone to the newspapers and invited private developers to come and invest directly into the

project. It is only after being advised otherwise that we embarked on the long process as per the Public Private Partnership Act, 2013.

At this point I want to thank Eng. Stanley Kamau, who guided us on the requirements of the Act even before it came into effect.

Various committees worked under the guidance of the Transactional Advisors – the International Finance Corporation (IFC) to develop the agreement; the tender documents and the negotiations with Africa Integras.

May I point out one major reason for putting up the

hostels using the PPP model. Public universities do not have access to the kind of funds needed for the provision of the hostels given other competing financial needs for example expansion including the development of facilities for the faculties. Therefore involving the private sector creates a win-

**win situation for both parties.
So while the project is quite
timely as it will ease the
accommodation pressure at
Kenyatta University, it also
provides a model that can be
replicated by the other public
institutions**

**At this juncture, allow me to
recognize those who have**

played different roles in the project. Special thanks go to the Council for supporting the bold move from the norm in approving the involvement of the private sector in the hostels project. I wish to thank the members of the Mobilization Committee that was chaired by Dr. Ruth Ndung'u for developing the

draft agreement and the tender documents. I also want to thank the Negotiations Committee that was chaired by Dr. Gachanja for spearheading the negotiations up to the level of approval by the Cabinet.

I also congratulate Africa Integras for winning the bid

and for concluding the negotiations. Now that we have an agreement we should embark on the implementation process as soon as possible.

Finally, my request is that the key players in this process from the Ministry of Education; the National

Treasury; IFC; and PPP Unit to continue supporting us in the implementation stage of this project. As a University we commit ourselves to the Project Agreement that we have just signed today.

We look forward to the ground breaking so that the buildings can be put up. All of

**us especially our students
are eagerly awaiting the
completion of the hostels.**

**With these few remarks, it is
my honour to invite the
Chairman of the Council, Prof.
Ratemo Michieka to make his
remarks.**

Thank you.

