

SPEECH

BY

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**Official Opening of Gate A & Dual
Carriageway**

Tuesday, 30th June, 2015

+ Members of Management;

+ Members of Senate;

+ Directors;

+ KUSA leaders;

+ Staff;

+ Ladies and gentlemen.

Good Morning.

**I wish to thank you all for
gracing this event. It is not
the norm for people to sit**

near the road but for today we have decided to be close to the gate we are opening and on the road that we will use from today. I know that people have felt inconvenienced by the closure of Gate A from the last week of April when the construction of the new gate and the dual carriageway

started. I hope that when we start using the new road that inconvenience will be quickly forgotten.

Today we officially open a new Gate A, a gate that is magnificent and befitting with the unique architectural design and the dual carriageway. Both the Gate

and the dual carriageway are in the University Master Plan that was developed in 2014. When the road was about to start I visited the site and discovered that the trees along the left side of the old road would have had to be cut. I decided that we could vary the plan a bit to save the trees and at the same time

introduce the two roundabouts. The result is what we see today – a beautiful gate and an eco-friendly road. The two roundabouts will not only ease congestion but also direct traffic at the two major junctions. The road is also clearly marked to ensure that we do not have problems

once we get to the roundabouts.

Both the new look gate and the dual carriageway will ease traffic flow to various points. The population of students, staff and visitors has increased tremendously over the years. Our roads have remained the same.

Some roads date as far back as the barracks. Some are so narrow that vehicles have to give way to each other. Pedestrians also have to squeeze along some of the pathways especially early in the morning when staff are reporting to work and students to classes and late in the evening as we leave

the University. With this growth it was thus imperative that we start thinking of how to improve our road network, especially the entrance into the University.

With the new gate, both the vehicles and human traffic are taken care of. You will also realize that there are

two sets of walkways on both sides of the gate. This means that pedestrians do not have to cross the road at the Main Gate as they enter or leave the University. We thus hope that pedestrians will now feel encouraged to keep off the road.

I have read that a gate tells a story. In fact I read that at Harvard University there are not only many gates but each has a story and they have documented those stories. The new gate tells the story of Kenyatta University. This story is in the architectural design. The columns are borrowed from the Roman

architecture called the Tuscan order which is simple but strong, proportionate and aesthetically appealing. The feature at the top depicts a chalice or special cup signifying the filling of people with knowledge and hope. The different levels of the gate show the progress in levels of education and at the

end you achieve your goals. The slant at the top mimics the slant of the graduation cap. The white and blue mark our key colors signifying purity and purpose. The gate also carries our logo and the motto-*elimu ni nguvu*. The eye-catching architecture thus has a story and this will be written and preserved in

our Campanile so that generations will know that the gate was not just an abstract construction. It resonates well with the ambience and the infrastructure in the University that we have been working so hard to create.

The previous gate was constructed in 2009. At that time it looked adequate and grand. However, with the passage of time, traffic jams became a common thing as people entered or exited Kenyatta University. It is my hope that this grand entrance will continue to be the welcome beacon for many

**Kenyatta University students,
staff and visitors.**

**At this juncture, I would like
to thank all the people who
have worked tirelessly to
complete the two projects. I
would like to thank the DVC
(F&D)- Prof. Mse, the
Registrar (Finance &
Development) - Dr. Karagu ,**

the Project Manager - Eng. Njaramba, the Architect Mwangi, Mr. Kalu of Procurement, Eng. Janet Kahuro, the two Clerks of Works – Keter and Mokaya and others who played a part in the project.

With those remarks, I now declare the new look gate

**and the dual carriageway
officially open.**

Thank You.