SPEECH

BY

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Commissioning of the Uni-City Mall & Petrol Station

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Good Morning.

I take this opportunity to welcome you all to Kenyatta University and to this auspicious occasion of the Commissioning of the Uni-City Mall and the National Oil Petrol Station. Allow me to extend a special welcome to our Chief Guest, Dr. Fred Matiang’i, the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology for finding time in his busy schedule to come and preside over this important event.
Our Chief Guest today marks a great day for Kenyatta University as we celebrate the achievement of yet another milestone by commissioning the Uni-City Mall and the National Oil Petrol Station. Today’s event is a culmination of a long journey that started several years ago. The journey started out of a dream to add to our third revenue stream base in order to cater for the ever increasing need for resources. We have been gradually adopting an entrepreneurial model at the University fully aware that this is the way to go as a university in these dynamic times. The success of these projects is also evidence to the importance of Public Private Partnerships (PPP) which are key to our institutional growth and development. Generally PPPs allow for the utilization of efficiencies of private sector in supporting public sector organizations. They also provide a new source of investment capital for required infrastructure projects

Our resolve over the years has been to seek for alternative sources of funding to supplement the government capitation and fees. The University of the 21st Century has to be innovative and entrepreneurial. One way of being entrepreneurial is by establishing and running profitable enterprises. The resources raised from these enterprises will go a long way in funding the University’s core business of teaching, research and community service.
Our Chief Guest, the KU Uni-City is a modern mini city, located within a serene and clean environment resplendent with fresh air and cool breeze yet very close to the capital city. The location of the Uni-City along Nairobi-Thika Super Highway coupled with its proximity to the busy railway line and Northern and Eastern by-pass makes it readily accessible to many commuters using various modes of transport. From a research that we undertook prior to the construction of the mall, we realized that statistically, Thika Super Highway has an approximate traffic load of 70,000 vehicles daily, which is increasing at a rate of about 1,000 cars every month; the huge human settlement of approximately 2 million that dwell along the highway, within and around the main campus makes the Uni-City a business hub for income generation to the University. Kenyatta University alone, with over 70,000 students and over 5,000 members of staff offers a ready market for entrepreneurs that who will invest at the mall.

The Uni-City Mall seeks to create a strategic business environment where investors can establish their businesses for wealth and employment creation. This is in line with the Kenya Vision 2030.
Today we are commissioning phase one of the Uni-City Mall which is designed to provide a wide range of social and commercial amenities such as the departmental store, retail shops, banks, food courts, National Oil Petrol Station and a spacious car park. The other phases will comprise of conference facilities, a 5-star hotel and a recreational park. This will facilitate provision of services to the fast growing needs of the ever-increasing population of students, staff and the surrounding communities. Additionally, the neighbouring communities will realize increased employment opportunities which in the long run have a positive impact on their livelihoods.

The Uni-City will offer a wide range of benefits to investors, the University community and the public as a whole. First, to the investors, the mall provides an opportunity to invest in a strategic location that is close to various economic and social amenities that will help to attract a wide range of clientele. The large population within the university and also its vicinity creates a ready market for investors seeking to get returns on their investment. Our Chief Guest, I would therefore like to commend our partner, The National Oil Corporation of Kenya for the great contribution to construct the petrol station at Kenyatta University. Indeed, if the response from the motorists plying the
Superhighway to buy fuel from the station for the last few days is anything to go by, I assure our partners that this was a wise decision.

Secondly, to the community, we now have easy access to essential goods and services within a strategic location along the Nairobi-Thika Super Highway.

At this juncture, I would like to express my sincere gratitude and acknowledge the contribution to the completion of these two projects by all those who worked hard round the clock to beat the deadlines. I would like to appreciate all the support that we get from individuals and organizations that have strongly supported us. I would like to thank the Chancellor and the Council for accepting to support these innovative ideas. I also thank the National Oil for their commitment to the contract. I am sure that the two investments will be very vibrant in the future.

With those few remarks, may I now invite the Chairman of Council - Prof. Ratemo Michieka to make his remarks.

Thank you.