



KENYATTA UNIVERSITY

Speech

By

PROF. OLIVE MUGENDA, PhD, MBA, EBS, CBS

VICE-CHANCELLOR

OFFICIAL OPENING OF STAFF HOUSES

MONDAY 14TH MARCH 2016

- ✚ Our Chief Guest, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Land, Housing and Urban Development - Prof. Arch. Paul M. Maringa;
- ✚ Chairman of Council-Prof. Ratemo Michieka;
- ✚ Members of Council;
- ✚ Members of University Management;
- ✚ Senators;
- ✚ Directors;
- ✚ Invited Guests;
- ✚ Staff;
- ✚ Students;
- ✚ Ladies and Gentlemen.

Good Morning.

Allow me first to welcome Our Chief Guest, Prof. Arch. Paul Maringa- the Principal Secretary, Ministry of Land, Housing and Urban Development to Kenyatta University. We are delighted Sir, that you found time out of your busy schedule to join us today to preside over the opening of the Riverside Staff houses. Allow me Sir to also welcome all those who have managed to join us we celebrate this important occasion.

Our Chief Guest, ladies and gentlemen, the staff houses that we are opening today are part of the wider goal of the University to provide incentives to its members of staff. The greatest resource that an institution can have is its human resource. The University is very committed to improving the welfare of its staff and will therefore continue to invest in such initiatives that serve to improve employees' experience on campus.

The construction of these houses commenced in **June, 2014**. The idea of the houses came as a result of a high demand for on-campus houses by members of staff. Every year, the University receives on average of about **30** applications from members of staff requesting to be allocated houses on campus. The on-campus houses are popular because of their proximity to the work stations thus reducing the commuting expenses. The houses are also relatively more affordable compared to the rental houses outside the University. Since the University has invested heavily on security, those who stay on campus feel more secure. Previously, the University had **164** housing units for senior staff and 82 for junior staff.

Today, we are privileged to open **60** additional units for junior staff. The units are one bedroom with spacious sitting area and fully fitted kitchenettes. The houses will be allocated to mostly support staff,

especially those working in very critical areas and who work late in the evening such as security staff, drivers, library staff, health unit staff, staff in the Directorate of Accommodation Services, staff in the Funeral Home, among others. It is my hope that with the provision of these houses, these members of staff will enjoy the benefit of living at close proximity to their work place and thus improving their productivity.

Allow me now at this juncture to appreciate the role played by various people in the realization of this project. I want to thank the Council for providing the resources needed for the project. I also thank the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Finance and Development) and the Registrar (Finance and Development) for ensuring that we met the timelines that we had set. I thank the Project Manager and his team for working hard to implement the project. The Procurement Managers also worked round the clock to ensure timely procurement of resources and materials for the project.

Our Chief Guest, this project like many others that we have completed, has been implemented internally by our project team. The University has built a project implementation team that is able to deliver any type of project within the budget and as per set timeliness. We have found this approach prudent and one that saves the University resources as

well ensuring that there are no unnecessary delays. Indeed recently, the University was registered by the National Construction Authority (NCA) as contractor and this ensures that all the projects meet the standards set by the Authority. The University is thus grateful to the support we have received from National Construction Authority towards this end.

As I conclude, may I once again thank the Chief Guest, Prof. Arch. Paul Maringa- the Principal Secretary, Ministry of Land, Housing and Urban Development for honoring us today.

With those few remarks, it is now my pleasure to invite the Chairman of Council Prof. Ratemo Michieka to address the gathering.

Thank you