



Speech

By

DR. BENSON WAIREGI, EBS
Chancellor

**Official Opening of the Health Unit & Engineering
Workshops**

26th January, 2016

- + The Chairman of Council, Prof. Ratemo Michieka;**
- + The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Olive Mugenda;**
- + Members of Management;**
- + Senators;**
- + Staff of Kenyatta University;**
- + Invited guests;**
- + Ladies and gentlemen.**

Good Morning.

I want to start by appreciating the invitation to preside over the official opening of the Kenyatta University Student Health Centre Building and the Engineering Workshops.

I wish to acknowledge and commend Kenyatta University for the tremendous efforts and hard work that has been put in place to increase quality access to health care by all. Under the leadership of the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Olive Mugenda, the University has seen tremendous growth and development in various spheres including health. The Student Health Centre and the upcoming 600 bed capacity teaching, research and referral hospital which is due for opening any time soon is a clear manifestation of the University's commitment to the contribution towards attainment of Kenya Vision 2030. The two

facilities will enhance creative healthcare service delivery supported by research not only in Kenya but in the region and globally. Medical tourism out of Kenya will be a thing of the past. Congratulations! As the Chancellor, I fully support the opening of the Student Health Centre for the supplementary role it will play in the provision of health care for Kenyatta University students.

The student and staff population at this University has grown tremendously over the last 10 years. This population increase has come with its own share of challenges among them a strain on the existing health facility. The Student Health Centre I am opening today will therefore enhance service delivery by reducing the pressure on the existing facility which served both staff and students. There will be better and faster medical service delivery to both staff and students as these two groups will have separate and designated points of service.

The Kenya Health Policy, 2012 - 2030 gives directions to ensure significant improvement in overall status health in Kenya in line with the country's long term development agenda, Vision 2030, the Constitution of Kenya 2010 and global commitments including the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Health Ministry is

committed under government stewardship, to ensuring that the Country attains the highest possible standards of health, in a manner responsive to the needs of the population. The Policy is focuses on the two key obligations of health: contribution to economic development as envisioned in the Vision 2030; and realization of fundamental human rights as enshrined in the Constitution of Kenya 2010. It focuses on ensuring equity, people centeredness and participatory approach, efficiency, multisectoral approach and social accountability in delivery of health care services.

The Engineering Workshops and Laboratories being opened today are a clear manifestation of Kenyatta University's goal in offering quality education to engineering students. The equipment in the Workshops is cutting edge and it will go a long way to ensure that practicals are meaningful. However, I must say that it is not enough to have the equipment, we must ensure that the machines are well utilized by our students and staff.

The two facilities that I open today clearly demonstrate the concern for students' welfare. Our students should be healthy for them to get the best out of the learning context. It is also essential that they have cutting edge equipment. It is also known that the best hospitals are

renown not only for their staff but also for the equipment that enables precise diagnosis. I therefore challenge our students today to make use of the Student Health Centre well when the need arises. I also urge the engineering students to ensure that they come of Kenyatta University with solutions to the myriad of needs that face Kenyans and especially in the medical field.

Ladies and gentlemen, as I conclude, let me say how delighted I am to note the bold steps KU has taken in complementing the government efforts to improve health in a symbiotic manner. I am happy that KU continues to score many firsts and I wish to commend the University leadership for the work they are doing.

And with these remarks, I now have the pleasure of declaring the Kenyatta University Student Health Centre Building and the Civil Engineering Workshops and Laboratories officially open.

Thank you.