

SPEECH BY THE GOVERNOR, KAKAMEGA COUNTY DURING THE 1ST MMUST YOUTH LEADERSHIP SUMMIT AT BISHOP STAM PASTORAL CENTRE ON THURSDAY, 28TH APRIL, 2016

Our Guest of Honour, the Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Dr. Fred Matiang'i,

The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Fred Otieno,

Hon. Ababu Namwamba,

Hon. Musalia Mudavadi,

Senator Daisy Nyongesa,

Officials from the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology,

University Staff,

Our Distinguished Young Leaders,

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, Good morning!

First and foremost, I want to officially welcome all our visitors to Kakamega County. I would like to commend Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology for hosting us all for this very important summit.

As we are all aware, education is one of the most essential components for development. Our youth should therefore take advantage of what they will gain from this summit so as to improve their lives.

Kakamega County government through its ministry of Youth Affairs is working closely with youth groups to ensure that our youth venture into gainful activities. *Mikopo Mashinani* is one among the projects that we have put in place to help the youth become self reliant. We are determined to support the youth.

Our Guest of Honor, Cabinet Secretary, Dr. Matiang'i, allow me to appreciate the role that this university has played in changing the narrative of Kakamega County and the entire Western region. The entry of MMUST improved the livelihood of the people of this county. We now boast of being a University town. We are fully cognizant of the efforts that the current University management has put in place to ensure the university stays afloat.

As the Governor of this county, I want to state here and now that we shall fully support the university management as we are only too aware of the importance of our formidable partnership. The county government has already signed a Memorandum of Understanding with MMUST that will see our people access better healthcare following the collaboration between MMUST and the County government for the establishment of the School of Medicine.

It is for this reason that I appeal to my fellow politicians to desist from interfering with the smooth running of learning institutions. Let us all support the administration of our university and other institutions to provide a conducive environment for learning.

To our youth who are gathered here today, I would like to wish you well as you participate in this summit which will sharpen your skills as future leaders.

H.E Hon. Wycliffe A. Oparanya,

The First Governor of Kakamega County