

**SPEECH BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR, MASINDE MULIRO
UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DURING THE 8TH
GRADUATION & AWARD CEREMONY OF VISION INSTITUTE OF
PROFESSIONALS ON FRIDAY, 30TH SEPTEMBER, 2016**

Officials from the Ministry of Education

Teachers, Parents and Students,

Members of the Political Wing,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning!

It gives me great pleasure to join you today for this defining moment in the lives of our graduates, the 18th Graduation & Award Ceremony of Vision Institute of Professionals.

As we honor all of you who have made this day a reality, allow me to take the earliest opportunity to congratulate you all for your hard work and commitment that has led to the success achieved so far. *Hongera!*

To our graduates, allow me to take the earliest opportunity to congratulate you for this milestone that you have achieved in your lives. As you graduate today, remember, that persistent people begin their success where most others have quit. Let this be the beginning of many more graduation ceremonies that you will partake.

As we are gathered here today, we ought to remember that the future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams and all your dreams can become true if you have the courage to pursue them. To our graduates, I congratulate you for this achievement in your lives.

It is gratifying to note notable strides that our partnership has made in addressing access to quality education and training that will open up opportunities for our youth.

We in MMUST are only too pleased to collaborate and support like-minded partners like VIP in working towards changing the lives of the Kenyan youths. MMUST has the capacity to train, mentor, support and link you to firms that will propel your growth. There is great opportunity and potential here that must be harnessed.

To all the graduates congregated here today for this graduation, I urge you to be passionate about what you choose to do. If you have a great idea, work at it, don't give up. The world is currently ablaze with start-ups which have been initiated by young people such as you. Your success shall be measured by the vibrancy and dynamism of your individual ideas. Institutions of higher learning such as VIP are the market place of ideas.

It is in this vein that I must give special mention to your theme: ***Academic Excellence for Professional Growth*** resonates with the objectives of the collaboration between Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology and Vision Institute of Professionals.

Let us embrace our responsibility as it is evident that academic institutions are a critical catalyst in advancing Kenya's sustainable development goals. Our efforts must therefore extend beyond the lecture halls. We should invest in research and innovation that will create avenues for staff and students to be creators and not just consumers of innovation. The society should benefit from the research done in our universities.

Ladies and gentlemen, I once again commend the leadership of Vision Institute of Professionals for being responsive to the needs of our youth. It is my belief that the graduates who are today being churned out are well baked and equipped with knowledge, skills and positive

attitudes in areas of career development, moral development and entrepreneurship

Indeed, I hope that the time and resources that we have invested in these graduates will not only be beneficial to them as individuals but will be cascaded to benefit the country.

God bless us all! God bless VIP! God bless Kenya!

Prof. F.A.O Otieno
Vice Chancellor, Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology