

The Kirinyaga University College Strategic Plan 2013-18 Launch

Thursday, July 2014

Introduction

It is a great pleasure to join with the Kirinyaga University College Council and staff of the University and all guests this afternoon.

Today we launch Kirinyaga University College's five year strategic plan, the service charter and the ISO9001:2008 QMS manual

I take this opportunity to thank and congratulate all players on the publication of this plan and acknowledge the volume of work and depth of knowledge that evidently went into the preparation of this document.

Kirinyaga University College

KyUC is one of the 31 public Universities and constituent colleges in Kenya mandated to provide relevant and equitable quality training for Kenya manpower demands for the vision 2030.

This University is also the only public University in Kirinyaga County. KyUC was established by legal notice order No. 108 of 2011 from the former KTI as constituent college of JKUAT. We have a proud history in the great Kenyans of Kirinyaga County who from their own initiative driven by great vision and love for this county and country established the KTI. We salute those great Kenyans. You are true heroes. You were able to make so much out of so little and a big heart.

“George Washington Carver was born a slave in the last year of the American Civil War. His talent and passion led him into an unexpected career in agricultural research. After the fall of the cotton monoculture, he is credited with saving Southern agriculture through development of plant variety and crop rotation. He is one of the heroes of agricultural research. The epitaph on his grave reads: “He could have added fortune to fame, but caring for neither, he found happiness and honor in being helpful to the world.”

Not just out of local Kirinyaga County pride, I hope that somewhere in the audience today there sits Kenya's Carver. But even if you don't win prizes and accolades, you can make a difference.

Today we are sharing the hard-won facility with the rest of Kenya and the world. We stand tall as a University College ready for takeoff to fully fledged University in a few months.

We, KyUC are leaders and innovators in the field of Technical Education and Technology transfer. We play a key role in economic pillar of the vision 2030 by training job creators to achieve prosperity.

You might not think of yourselves in these terms, but when you train a well-rounded and grounded graduate who will immediately provide relevant service to the country and abroad you are drivers of the Kenya economy. You are not only doing good and doing well; you are also supporting Kenya's national interest.

It is in our national interest to grow a strong and resilient economy powered by well-trained experts. It is also in our national interest that our friends and neighbors throughout Africa and beyond enjoy life free of ignorance, disease and hunger, a life of stability and prosperity and hope for the future.

Since its inception 2 years ago, KyUC has been at the forefront of this challenge.

KyUC is also strategically placed in this county and will play a pivotal role in championing value addition of the regions rich agricultural ventures. That fantastic initiative will serve to ensure enough food for a lifetime, and guarantee enough money to send kids to school, and to create jobs for the neighbors, grow our communities, and bring prosperity and stability to the region.

I am pleased to confirm that KyUC and our young graduates will effectively drive much of county's work and success.

The Strategic Plan

The new strategic plan outlines what KyUC intends to achieve in training, research and innovation for development, how this will be delivered, and how its impact is measured.

The strategic plan is also harmonized with the objectives of the second Medium Term Plan (MTPII) for the period 2013-2018 and the country's economic blue print, the Kenya Vision 2030. It also integrates additional strategies to address both short-term and long-term constraints in the education sector. The key strategies are geared towards appropriate policies, and good governance, pillared on enhancing

accountability and decision making; wide adherence to legal provisions in provision of University education, optimal HR, competitive academic programmes, well established infrastructure, financial resource mobilization, technology transfer and CSR.

During the next 5 years, KyUC will be more embedded in broader development efforts, be more market-focused, with a more visible and significant voice in the Kenya Government's development agenda, and "economic diplomacy" focused on a future of shared prosperity. Of particular interest to me is the introduction of rigorous benchmarks and strengthened performance measures in the new Strategic Plan.

We need to work out ways to assess how well we're doing, not only so we can show to taxpayers that their shillings are spent effectively, but also so that we can judge what works and what doesn't and so spend our budget better and get the biggest bang for the shilling for the people we're trying to serve.

The service charter serves as our commitment to meet our customers' satisfaction driven by our Vision, Mission and Core Values.

The ISO9001:2008 will provide the traffic rules and regulations as we walk the strategy armed with the service charter.

The University has developed and is implementing policies to achieve good corporate governance and is effectively measured through our annual performance contract.

We appreciate our stakeholders; students, faculty, administrative staff, support staff, parents, community, suppliers, media, MoEST, County government, County administration, etc.

The great English writer Jonathan Swift wrote, "Whoever could make two ears of corn or two blades of grass grow where only one grew before, would deserve better of mankind than the whole race of politicians put together."

What you do matters. What you do helps. What you do leaves a mark. Let's commit to our strategy.

I thank you and I wish you well.

