

**THE SPEECH OF THE CHIEF GUEST PRINCIPAL SECRETARY STATE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION,(DR. BELIO KIPSANG) ON THE OCCASION OF
THE CELEBRATION OF ISO 9001:2008 CERTIFICATION ON 29TH JANUARY,
2015**

The Chancellor, South Eastern Kenya University, Dr. Titus Naikuni

The Chairman of the Council, South Eastern Kenya University, Prof. Louis Mumera

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Muluvi

The Governor of Kitui County, Dr. Malombe

Invited Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to join the South Eastern Kenya University Community in celebrating the ISO 9001:2008 certification. This is an important achievement indicating that the South Eastern Kenya University has now put in place systems for providing quality higher education. I therefore wish to take this opportunity to congratulate the Management and staff for their dedication in ensuring that the University attains this coveted status.

I am also delighted to note that the University Management under the able leadership of the Chancellor, Chairman of the University Council and the Vice Chancellor, has strived to expand the teaching and accommodation facilities so that the University can provide quality education to the increasing number of students. I am aware that the South Eastern Kenya University has made tremendous progress in the expansion of teaching and accommodation facilities and the student population has grown from about 100 students five years ago to the current student population of about 6,000. This is a clear demonstration of the contribution that the University is making in the expansion of access to higher education to the high number of qualified secondary

school students. I would like to urge you to even strive further and attain the goals stipulated in your 10 years Strategic Plan.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am glad to note that South Eastern Kenya University is making an important contribution in the expansion of access to quality higher education in the country. With the attainment of ISO 90200 Certification, you should strive to maintain high standards in the provision of quality education to the students. I would like to urge you to continue refining your procedures, systems and processes so that the University can attain the vision of being a world class institution of higher learning.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would in particular like to emphasise on the need of provision of quality higher education in our universities. Our public universities should work jointly with the Commission for University Education (CUE) to ensure that the academic programmes that are offered are up to the required standards and that necessary facilities for the delivery of those programmes are put in place.

I would also like to emphasise on the need for universities to consult stakeholders (including professional bodies) in the process of developing their academic programmes. This will ensure that the academic programmes that are developed are fully tailored to the market needs and are up to the required standards. This together with the ISO 9001:2008 standards and the Universities Standards and Guidelines 2014, will ensure that our universities provide quality education, and attain world class standards.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would also like to re-emphasise on the need for enhanced research activities in our universities, both private and public. Research in addition to teaching is one of the most important core businesses of any University in the world. I would therefore like to urge all our universities to invest more seriously on research. As per the Universities Act 2012, management of universities must allocate substantial amounts of their budget to research and ensure research activities take place and results are disseminated widely. I would also like to urge our universities to seek for external funding from various donor organizations all over the world, in order to supplement funds that the government provides.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

My ministry, through the National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovations (NACOSTI), will allocate more funds for research which our universities can also be able to assess through submission of proposals. My Ministry's long-term aim is to ensure that eventually at least 2% of the GDP is dedicated for research in our universities and research institutions.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Before I complete my speech, I would also like to once again congratulate the South Eastern Kenya University Management under the able leadership of the Chancellor (Dr. Titus Naikuni), Chairman of the University Council (Prof. Louis Mumera) and the Vice Chancellor (Prof. G. Muluvi), staff and students for the attainment of ISO 9001:2008 Certification. I would like to urge you to maintain high standards for which you have been granted the certification.

Thank you and may God bless you.

**DR. BELIO KIPSANG
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY
STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.**