



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

MINISTRY OF ICT, INNOVATION AND YOUTH AFFAIRS

SPEECH BY MR. JOE MUCHERU , EGH – CS, MINISTRY OF ICT, INNOVATION AND YOUTH AFFAIRS, DURING THE OFFICIAL CLOSING OF THE DAYSTAR UNIVERSITY INAUGURAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON 30TH SEPTEMBER 2021, AT DAYSTAR UNIVERSITY, NAIROBI CAMPUS.

Prof. Walter O. Oyawa - Director General/CEO, National Commission for Science, Technology & Innovation, Prof. Laban Ayiro, Vice Chancellor, Daystar University, Mr. Timothy Owase, CEO, Kenya Film Commission, Mr. Omwoyo, CEO Media Council of Kenya John Onyango, Ag. Managing Director, Kenya Industrial Property Institute, Prof Alice Mutungi, Chair, National Bioethics Committee, Conference convener: Mr. Boniface Wanyama - Ag. Director Research, Accreditation and Quality Assurance – NACOSTI, Conference Convener – Sr. Prof. Agnes Lucy Lando – Director of Research & Graduate Studies, Daystar University, & chair of Daystar University Ethics Review Board, Daystar University Council Members, Members of The Fourth Estate, Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen, Good Afternoon.

It is with great pleasure that I join you today on this important occasion, during the official Closing of the three-day Daystar University Inaugural Annual Conference & The joint ***The National Commission for Science, Technology & Innovation and The Daystar University Ethics Review Board 1st International Conference on Research Process and Research Ethics***

May I take this opportunity to congratulate managements of Daystar University and the National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI) for pulling through a very successful Conference which was held in a hybrid delivery mode which has largely become an acceptable way of doing things in the new Norm.

Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) is one of the enablers of the Vision 2030, a government's long-term policy objectives that aims to transform Kenya into a newly industrialized, middle-income country providing a high quality of life to all its citizens by 2030 in a clean and secure environment.

It is globally recognized that Research, Science, Technology and Innovation (RSTI) enables creation of new knowledge which plays a central role in wealth creation, social welfare and international competitiveness. At the economic front, STI plays a critical role

in ensuring that productivity growth occurs, and that the economy is progressively transformed into a knowledge-based economy.

This 3-day Conference whose theme was ***"Strengthening Research Process and Research Ethics for Healthy Nations"*** brought together leaders, scholars, scientists, researchers, policy makers and students to exchange and share their research findings and experiences on various topical issues on research.

Developments in Research, scientific and technological advancements, and STI trends and trajectories continue to evolve in a world disrupted by the pandemic. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to be a highly personal, individual experience that is also an unprecedented globally shared phenomenon with wide-ranging repercussions. It has

presented an unfettered prospect for countries and institutions to increase investments in enabling research and development for, national security, public safety, social order, and wellness of the society.

The information gap between developing and developed countries is persistent. How we communicate research is changing because of new digital possibilities. Research dissemination has been disrupted by the internet and digitally networked technologies. Information dissemination behavior during the pandemic. This is more so important in this age of user-generated information flooding the cyberspace which has made discernment of authentic and credible information difficult.

In this era of information explosion where we have an excess of misinformation and disinformation, especially currently when the world is facing the COVID-19 pandemic, there is urgent need for the research and academic community to serve as catalysts for the effective dissemination of information to promote true knowledge.

Information Communication Technologies (ICT) have given society a wide array of communication capabilities such as video conferencing and social media networks. Researchers can utilize applications of ICT in easing the knowledge gathering processes as well as enhance resource development. It improves efficiency and eases communication with key stakeholders. Research deals with vast amounts of information that needs to be gathered, analyzed, organized, and given meaning. ICT can therefore be utilized optimally by researchers in pre-data analysis, data analysis and post-data analysis.

To Daystar University, you could consider taking this conference a notch higher, by ensuring, that jointly with NACOSTI, we have a second, third and fourth annual conference on research ethics and process. Further, it is my hope that the organizers and conveners of this conference will consider publishing in your own or external Journal, the papers presented. I cannot however fail to congratulate Daystar University for this inaugural annual conference. This is one of the core activities of an academic institution such as this worth its reputation.

In conclusion, I thank the organizers for inviting me to grace this occasion. I am extremely pleased that the inaugural conference was well attended by various stakeholders ranging from researchers, academicians, policy makers and private sector

players. I hope networks were formed and other institutions will follow suit and organize such conferences.

Finally, I note that there are general recommendations that have been made during this Conference. My Ministry commits to address the issues and recommendations that relate to our mandate.

It is now my honour and pleasure to officially declare this Inaugural Annual Conference & the 1st International Conference on Research Process and Research Ethics officially closed.

THANK YOU ALL.