



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

**SPEECH MADE BY PROF. PETER M. F. MBITHI, DEPUTY VICE-
CHANCELLOR (ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE),
UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI AND CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF
GOVERNORS, MACHAKOS TECHNICAL TRAINING
INSTITUTE DURING THE INSTITUTION'S PRIZE GIVING
DAY ON NOVEMBER 26, 2009**

Members of the BOG

The Principal

Parents and Guardians

Our students

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

It gives me great pleasure to be with you here today to preside over this year's prize giving day. This is a day that has been set aside for the Institute to recognize and honor those who have achieved and excelled in various fields.

You are all aware that success does not come easily; it goes to those who have an ability to persist in the face of set-backs and disappointments. The persons being awarded prizes today are those who have shown a penchant for hard work, determination and courage to face obstacles in the path to success. I feel gratified to be associated with, and be in a position to congratulate this winning group.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our Institute has continued to grow rapidly especially in the last few years, thanks to the efforts of the current management and staff. You are aware that it is our desire to have the institute elevated by Government to be a national polytechnic in the near future but to acquire that status, we have to prove that we are up to the task, and can be relied upon to deliver at the higher level.

Towards this end, the Institute management has adopted modern corporate management styles in tandem with changing times and emerging challenges. As from the last financial year (2008/2009), the Institute was put on performance contract by the government, through the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology. As you are aware, performance contracting is one of the current tools used to assess the performance of institutions in meeting their goals and objectives. Good performance in performance contract is therefore an indicator of good management and focused goals.

In support of and as part of the performance contracting targets, the Institute is putting systems in place in preparation for ISO certification. We hope to get ISO certificate within the next two years. In this regard, I would like to urge the Principal and other managers and staff to put in extra effort so that we can be ISO certified on schedule. I know the process is very involving and quite taxing, but remember that the ability to make decisions and act boldly in the face of setbacks and adversity is the key to greatness in leadership.

Ladies and gentlemen, we are operating in an era of rapid changes especially in technology and new approaches to problem solving issues. A major challenge therefore is management of change, especially among staff. Though there has always been a way of doing something and it worked, there is also a way of doing the same thing or achieving the same goal that works better or faster. There is therefore need for proper planning and allowing

some flexibility in the way towards achieving our goals. Proper mentorship and a shared vision are critical to this process. Success is best achieved when you are clear about the goal but flexible about the process of going there.

While our challenge as leaders and teachers is to adapt to change and new methods of achieving set goals, we need also to ensure that we develop value systems that support this, and are in tandem with societal goals. Such values like teamwork, honesty, respect, accountability and adaptability to change. There is need to inculcate all these among our students.

I wish to take this opportunity to appreciate the great role played by our teachers, individually and collectively, in ensuring that this Institute continues to forge ahead and to deliver in its targets. Teamwork is essential in realization of goals and I wish to thank the Principal for encouraging and sustaining a culture of teamwork in the Institute.

I also wish to express, on behalf of the **BOG**, our appreciation of the great strides made in the academic performance of our students, again largely through the efforts of our teaching staff. The Institute's Administration should also be commended for maintaining a clean and well kept college, where matters relating to repair and maintenance are diligently addressed and where on-going projects are given due attention. We owe it to our sponsors, parents and the community to deliver within our mandate.

Lastly, I wish to thank the government through the parent **Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology** for the support they have given this institute over the years, which has enabled us meet the institute's objects and functions. Thanks also go to the parents, guardians, the community and relevant stakeholders for supporting this institute. As a technical training institute, we have to play our rightful role in supporting the

government to achieve the goal of Vision 2030, which is to transform Kenya into a newly industrializing, middle income country providing a high quality of life to all its citizens (by the year 2030).

To those who have received prizes today, remember that your competitors are watching. You must keep up the effort. Let us all aspire for excellence in everything we do, for as you are aware, we are all here for a purpose.

Thank you very much and have a good day.