

**SPEECH BY PROF. STEPHEN G. AGONG', PHD, FAAS, VICE-CHANCELLOR,
JARAMOGI OGINGA ODINGA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY,
ON THE OCCASION OF THE INAUGURATION OF NAMBALE CAMPUS OF THE
UNIVERSITY ON FRIDAY 31ST JULY 2015**

Our Chief Guest, His Excellency the Governor of Busia, Hon. Sospeter Ojaamong'
Hon. John Bunyasi, Member of Parliament for Nambale Constituency,
The entire leadership of Busia County
Deputy Vice-Chancellors,
Deans and Directors present
Staff and students of the University
Distinguished Guests
Ladies and gentlemen

Your Excellency the Governor, I take this opportunity to thank you sincerely for accepting our invitation to be with us today on this important occasion of the inauguration of the Nambale Campus of Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology.

May I also take this chance to thank and welcome all our invited guests who have spared time to be with us today. This inauguration signifies yet again the University's determination to provide quality education to deserving Kenyans.

I would like on the onset to express our utmost gratitude to the leadership of Nambale Constituency, led by the Member of Parliament Hon. Bunyasi, for the tremendous support that we have continued to get in setting up the Campus.

Through this unwavering support, the Campus has grown significantly since its inception just under two years ago.

The establishment of this Campus demonstrates our understanding that, together, we have a key role to play in provision of holistic education that to spur development for the good of society. We have no doubt about the significant role this Campus will play in nurturing and producing the requisite human capital to steer development agenda of this region and beyond. Our Chief Guest, Nambale Campus opened its door to the first cohort of students in September 2014, with a student population of 126. I wish to pay tribute to the pioneer students who enrolled with us at the inception. I am glad to report that the number of new

applicants is increasing steadily and it is our hope that Nambale will be our model Campus in terms of student enrolment.

I recognise the ambassadorial role that these pioneer students have played in marketing the Campus thereby realizing more enrolments. Because of the concerted effort by the students and our staff, the number of students now stands at 169.

I urge the Deans of the various schools to complement these efforts in order for us to realise higher student numbers.

Our Chief Guest

Let me take this opportunity to thank all the students of this Campus who have chosen Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology. Some of our students are fairly senior citizens who have decided to ration their time well between pursuing academic excellence and other interests. This is a commendable decision.

I encourage you, regardless of your age, to pursue education for personal improvement and for the benefit of this region. You have made the right choice in life, because our best hope for tomorrow lies with the education we acquire today.

It may appear to be expensive, it may appear to be time consuming; but there is no better investment than in education. At whatever level you are now – be it certificate, diploma bachelor's or master's; and whatever your age, consider this the best time you ever had to pursue your academic dreams.

I wish to thank in a special way the leaders who have accepted our invitation to be with us on this occasion. Your presence here today is significant to us. It gives us a sense of welcome and lends us the impetus to work even harder for the good of the local community and beyond.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Let me assure you that our decision to invite you to be with us here today goes beyond the celebratory purposes of this occasion. It signifies our quest for a lifelong partnership. A partnership which should grow bigger in strength and scope, to see us accomplish many strategic tasks.

It is the policy of Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology, to engage the communities in planning and implementing our academic programmes, outreach and research activities.

We are aware of the role of universities today in the development of society. That development role must begin at the grassroots. It must begin with the University's immediate community and spread out to the global sphere.

It is for this reason that I make a personal appeal to all the leaders to work with us; to hold our hands and walk with us as we harness and develop the academic potential of the people of this region.

I wish once again to thank the leaders and members of the community who have spared their precious time to be with us today. For having stayed with us the whole day, we now consider you part of the Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology. You are now our goodwill ambassadors. Go out, therefore, and spread the good message of Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology as the *Oasis of Knowledge*.

Thank you. God Bless.