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23-9-2014

## **SPEECH BY THE COUNCIL CHAIRMAN DR. ABDULRAHMAN AL-MUHAILAN**

**The Chief Guest, His Excellency the Deputy President,  
Hon. William Ruto, EGH,  
Prof. Jacob Kaimenyi, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of  
Education, Science and Technology,  
Other Cabinet Secretaries,  
Senators,  
Governors,  
Ambassadors,  
The Chairman Board of Trustees Umma University,  
Prof. Abdulghafur El-Busaidy,  
Members of Umma University Council,  
The Vice- Chancellor, Umma University, Prof. Shaukat  
Abdulrazak,  
Other Vice Chancellors,  
Distinguished guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Good morning,

First and foremost I would like to thank the Deputy President for accepting to preside over this historic ceremony of opening Umma University's Kajjado Main Campus.

I congratulate the Board of Trustees, the Council and Management of Umma University for the enormous effort and commitment that has enabled the institution to develop into University status with a Letter of Interim Authority.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

The role that we are expected to play as a university is critical to the production of knowledge, inculcation of values and the advancement of skills requisite for social and economic development. As you are aware social productivity and wealth-creation have become more dependent on the generation of new knowledge, especially in the present time when the world is witnessing unprecedented growth in higher education.

The official opening of Umma University main campus is a clear demonstration that the sponsor, the board of trustee, the Council and Management are focused and really determined to achieve their dream of developing Umma into a world-class university.

In this regard, my team and the Management will continue to ensure that Umma University will comply with the provisions of the Universities Bill in regard to quality assurance. We take cognizance of the fact that Kenyans require value for their money and we have a big role to play in ensuring that the kind of education offered to students by this university remains of high quality.

As the Council we have taken upon ourselves that we adhere to all the stringent standards in respect to physical facilities and staff.

We are planning to put up a modern administration block, lecture halls, post-modern library, swimming pool and a graduation pavilion in phase two of the project, which will begin before the end of the year. The project will cost approximately Kshs. 800 Million.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

As a University, Umma has a challenge and a duty to enhance the intellectual capacity of those who pass through it in pursuit of higher knowledge. The teachings and learning processes at Umma will inculcate moral and ethical fortitude. This is important because it forms an integral component in the pursuit of excellence. It is my utmost hope that we ensure the value system of Umma University is geared towards producing a fully educated, cultured, responsible and disciplined graduate.

I commend management under the leadership of Prof. Shaukat Abdulrazak for exemplary performance so far.

Finally, let me end my remarks by once more extending my thanks to the Deputy President, all the invited guests for gracing this momentous ceremony, and congratulate the sponsor, the Board of Trustees, the Council and Management of Umma University on this remarkable achievement. Last but not least we pray for the founder of Direct Aid, the late Dr. Abdulrahman Al-Sumait for his efforts of helping the needy and serving humanity at large.

**Thank You and God bless you**