

Dr Muhailan Speech: Investing in African's Greatest Resource

- **Your Excellency, President William ARAP Ruto, President of Kenya,**
- **Your Excellencies, Honorable Ministers, Distinguished Dignitaries,**
- **Members of the Board of Trustees, University Chancellor, Members of the University Council, Vice Chancellor and university leaders, Faculty, Staff, and most importantly, UMMA University Students,**

ASSALAMU ALAIKUM WARAHMATULLAHI WABARAKATUH.

On behalf of **Direct Aid** from the **State of Kuwait**, it is an exceptional honor to stand before this distinguished gathering today. We are deeply grateful for your presence, Your Excellency, Mr. President, which signifies the immense importance of this project to the future of Kenya.

First let me take a moment to charge our memories on the **journey of UMMA University with President Ruto.**

From day one, when we inaugurated Thika campus, President Ruto honored us with his presence as the Minister of Higher Education, and when we inaugurated the first phase of Kajiado campus you were there as the Vice President of Kenya, and today when we are inaugurating phase two you honor us with your presence. This shows how much your excellency

is committed to promoting higher education in Kenya and in joining Direct Aid in its long journey of commitment to help young people of Kenya from 10 primary, 12 junior, 3 senior, 5 polytechnic and UMMA university. This didn't come from vacuum, it came from the close partnership of Kenya and Kuwait under the leadership of His highness our Amir Mishaal Ahmed Gaber Al-Sabbah supporting humanitarian work across the globe.

From the heart of the people of Kuwait, we wish the people of Kenya great prosperity and economic development. We believe that the truest form of progress is investing in the most precious resource any country possesses: the **“Minds of its People”**.

The commissioning of Phase II at Umma University is a moment of triumph. It is the physical embodiment of dreams once whispered in quiet rooms, now rising boldly into the sky. This ten-story marvel is not just concrete and steel, it is a sanctuary of learning, a cradle of innovation, and a promise to every young mind that walks through its gates: you belong, you matter, you will rise.

At the heart of this journey stands the **Direct Aid Society**, whose enduring commitment to education across Africa has transformed lives, communities, and nations. Founded in Kuwait and guided by the belief that education is the highest form of charity, Direct Aid has become a lighthouse of hope for millions.

Therefore, our support for this new phase of UMMA University is not merely a **Donation**; it is a **Strategic Investment**. An investment in the future engineers who will build sustainable

infrastructure, the future doctors who will safeguard public health, the future innovators who will drive the economy, and the future leaders who will guide Kenya to even greater heights.

Today we inaugurate **Dr Abdulrahman Al-Sumait building**, our founder and visionary who laid the first stone of this dream to become a reality. We need to keep the memory of Dr Sumait in our hearts and minds of many generations who will continue to learn and research in this great institution.

To our **beloved donors** who made our work possible, today, we honor you. Your contributions are not just financial, they are transformational. You have invested in the minds of Africa's youth, in the strength of its institutions, and in the promise of a better tomorrow. You may never meet every student whose life you've changed but know this: your kindness echoes in every classroom, every graduation, every act of service that begins here. You have built more than a university; you have built legacy.

To the **students** here: You carry the hopes of your families, your communities, and your nation. Fill these new halls with your ambition and your intellect. Let this space empower you to build a future that is as bright and promising as the Kenyan horizon.

Your Excellency, President Ruto, we humbly ask you to support **Muslim Thanawya Madrassa** to be approved within the National Qualification Framework, to enable more Muslim

students to enjoy the educational opportunities like their peers in UMMA University. I'm quite sure that UMMA University will do whatever is necessary to materialize this dream.

Your Excellency, President Ruto, Distinguished Guests, thank you for allowing us the privilege to contribute to Kenya's inspiring story of growth. This new chapter at UMMA University is a powerful symbol of what we can achieve together through partnership and a common vision for progress. Today we inaugurate the **Faculty of Engineering** and soon we will be inaugurating the faculty of **Medicine and Health Sciences in Phase Three**, and I hope your excellency will continue to grace us with your presence in these future events Insha'Allah.

May Allah bless Umma University and bless us all, and reward every donor, every partner, and every soul who believes in the power of education.

ASANTE SANA. SHUKRAN JAZEELAN. والسلام على المرسلين والحمد لله رب العالمين