

ACCEPTANCE SPEECH

By

Dr. (H .C.) Charles Wanyoike Rubia, CGH, EBS

During the

Award of Honorary Doctorate

Humane Letters (*Honoris Causa*)

On

Friday 10th August, 2018

- The Chancellor, Murang'a University of Technology,
Prof. Justin Irina
- Chairperson, Murang'a University of Technology
Council, Dr. Joachim Osur
- Vice Chancellor, Murang'a University of Technology,
Prof. Dickson Nyariki
- Chancellors of Sister Universities present
- Chairpersons of Councils of other Universities

- Vice-Chancellors of other Universities
- Principals of University Colleges
- Members of University Councils
- Members of Universities Management Boards and Senates
- Murang'a University of Technology staff
- Members of the Students Council
- Guardians, families and friends

- Students
- Invited guests
- Ladies and Gentlemen

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

I would like to begin by expressing my sincere gratitude to you the Chancellor, Council Members, Senate, Staff, Alumni and Students of this great institution for nominating me for

the award of the Honorary Degree of Murang'a University of Technology. As I accept the honour, I feel humbled and greatly privileged to have been considered amongst many other able and outstanding scholars and personalities locally, nationally and internationally.

I have been made to understand that Murang'a University of Technology bestows this award on an individual with outstanding accomplishments in scholarship, creativity, public service, education, or contribution to the welfare of

humanity. I am informed that the recipient of the Honorary Doctoral Degree should be one who in his/her life has demonstrated high standards of excellence as evidenced by scholarship, humanitarian or professional achievements. Therefore, believe the award is an acknowledgement, appreciation and recognition of my contributions to the humanity and societal advancements locally or internationally, and specifically the contribution I made

towards the establishment of Murang'a College of Technology, currently Murang'a University of Technology.

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

As already mentioned by the Vice Chancellor in the citation about me, the idea of having a significant project for Murang'a people began in 1970. A number of meetings were organized both in Nairobi and the diaspora and it was decided that non-politicians be appointed to lead the

project; so Mr. B.M. Gecaga who was working with B.A.T then, and was not involved in active politics, was appointed as the Chairman of the project, Mr.Solomon Karanja of the University of Nairobi was nominated to be the Secretary, while Mr.John Michuki who was with Kenya Commercial Bank was given the role of treasure. On my part, I was requested to be the chairman of the Fundraising Committee. Also, several other business people, politicians and civil servants from Murang'a were appointed trustees of

Murang'a Harambee Development Fund, which was registered as a Self Help Charitable Organization charged with the mandate of developing Murang'a College of Technology. In my effort to fundraise as the chairman of the Fundraising Committee, we mobilized the people and collected so much money in a single harambee, equivalent to billions of shillings today, people couldn't believe it.

Oh Yes! Early 1970 it was just a dream and required and obtained the practical support of thousands of Murang'a

people and their friends to transform into "A dream came true" it is today- I can very humbly and faithfully say that "I too was there".

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

Allow me now to recognize and call upon some of the people here present all those who in those early days contributed immensely to the establishment of this

institution to stand up and be appreciated by the congregation.

They are:

1. Trustees of The Murang'a Harambee Development Fund.
2. The Members of The Council of Eminent Persons of Murang'a.

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

As founders of this institution, we believe that Murang'a University of Technology will address itself to developing programmes that are relevant to the needs of the nation, and particularly those that are technology-related issues, because that was the reason for which the Institution was originally established. The programmes should respond adequately to the specific socio-economic, political and environmental challenges facing not only this country but also the world as a whole. As a University of

Technology, the Institution should place emphasis on innovative ways to supplement government resources. People who innovate are able to thrive and even outmanoeuvre any challenges they encounter on the way.

I believe and I am confident that the people of Murang'a have the will and are ready to promote and protect the brand and image of Murang'a University of Technology.

Once again, I am grateful to Murang'a University of Technology for the honor bestowed upon me on this day.

Thank You and God Bless You All.