



**Remarks**

**by**

**Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology**

**Vice Chancellor**

**Prof. Mabel Imbuga**

**During**

**The Opening Session of the SABS Conference 2013**

**on**

***“PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE BUILT ENVIRONMENTS: ARCHITECTURE,  
ENVIRONMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIETY IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH”***

**Thursday, October 10, 2013**

Mr. Raf Tuts Chief, Urban Environmental Planning Branch,

Arch. Mariamu el Maawy, Principle Secretary, Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban  
Development

Arch. Daniel Manduku, Executive Director –National Construction Authority

Deputy Vice-Chancellors,

Principals,

Deans,

CODs,

Distinguished conference presenters and participants,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to join you this morning on the special occasion where professionals in various fields of Architecture and Building Sciences converge to deliberate on promoting sustainable built environment in Africa and the world at large.

On behalf of the entire Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) community, I take this early opportunity to extend a warm welcome to all participants, experts, industry leaders, professionals and scholars who are here today. I also take this opportunity to thank the School of Architecture and Building Sciences (SABS) for hosting this conference themed: *“Promoting Sustainable Built Environment: Architecture Environment, Technology and Society in the Global South.”*

Five months ago, almost to the day, I stood in this building and indicated that we would host an international conference on the built environment in October. It is therefore a singular feat of honour and pleasure to be here today to witness the actualization of that expectation.

The choice of the conference organisers to choose JKUAT to host this conference is a clear demonstration of the high regard the International fraternity of architectures have for JKUAT. It is a cause that we highly welcome since it fosters our Vision in which we endeavour to be “*A University of global Excellence in Training, Research and Innovation for Development.*”

Participants, JKUAT is a leading Kenyan public learning institution focused on *offering Accessible quality training, research, and innovation in order to produce leaders in the fields of*

*Agriculture , Engineering , Technology , Enterprise Development, Built Environment , Health Sciences, Social sciences and other Applied Sciences to suit the needs of a dynamic world.*

And as a result of the demand for Architectural courses offered at our University, our School of Architecture and Building Sciences has continued to grow in size, stature, and quality. It is because of such growth that the School has maintained well-staffed departments in Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Construction Management. Similarly, its programmes are internationally and nationally accredited and recognized by among others: the Commission for University Education (CUE), Commonwealth Association of Architects (CAA), International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA), Architects Association of Kenya (AAK) and the Board of Registration of Architects and Quantity Surveyors, to mention a few.

This year alone, in addition to organizing this conference, the School of Architecture and Building Sciences has made achievements on several fronts. These include receiving its first students under its new Bachelor of Quantity Surveying programme and supporting the establishment of a Centre for Urban Studies in partnership with the UN-Habitat.

Ladies and gentlemen, as you may be aware, this conference focuses on promoting the built environment, looking at issues in architecture, environment, technology and society in the global South. Over the next two days, you will address yourselves to sustainable development and urbanization, exchange best practices and experiences, and present research to your peers and others. I will however highlight one of the conference objectives, – that is, the importance of

identifying and strengthening opportunities for partnerships and collaboration towards creating and managing sustainable built environments.

This gathering presents an excellent forum for such professional, academic and social interaction. In this regard, I recognize the partners that have contributed to this event such as UN-Habitat, Catic Construction, and the National Construction Authority. With strategic partnership, we appreciate the fact that the valuable gains that have been realized can be secured while at the same time exploring new frontiers in the built environment.

As I conclude, let me reiterate my hope that the participation of researchers, academia, legislators, government agencies, professionals and private sector will spur an informed

exchange of ideas that will move us closer to creating built environments that are better equipped, more attractive, and more resource-efficient.

With those few remarks, it is now my humble pleasure to declare the 2013 SABS Conference on: *Promoting Sustainable Built Environments: Architecture, Environment, Technology and Society in the Global South*, officially open.

Once again welcome, and wish you fruitful deliberations.