

**REMARKS BY CHAIR OF THE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL PROF. HENRY THAIRU
DURING THE INSTALLATION CEREMONY OF THE 4TH VICE CHANCELLOR OF
DAYSTAR UNIVERSITY ON FRIDAY 29TH MARCH 2019**

The Guest of Honour, Prof. Kivutha Kibwana, the Governor, Makueni County;

Your Excellencies, Ambassadors, High Commissioners and Diplomats;

The CEO of the Commission on University Education, Prof. Mwenda Ntaragwi;

Founders of Daystar University, Prof. Donald Smith & Mrs. Faye Smith;

Former Chancellor, Daystar University, Dr. Florence Muli-Musiime;

Members of the DU Company and Council;

The Outgoing Ag. Vice Chancellor, Prof. James Kombo;

Former Vice Chancellors of Daystar University;

Vice Chancellors of other Universities;

Representatives of various Universities and Organizations;

Church Leaders and Distinguished Members of the Clergy;

Members of Daystar University Alumni Association (DUAA);

Parents & Guardians;

Faculty, Staff and Students of the Daystar University Community;

Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen...

I am delighted this morning to welcome you all to Daystar University Athi River Campus. Thank you for accepting our invitation to come and witness as we install into Office our 4th Vice-Chancellor Prof. Laban Peter Ayiro.

The process to this day began in August last year when the newly commissioned University Council began the process of searching for the next Vice-Chancellor following the turbulent season that many of you may have witnessed through the media.

The process was as transparent as it could be. The Council appointed a Search Committee comprising representatives of all University stakeholders. We also contracted a Human Resource firm to help us with the process.

The Search Committee prepared the Job Profile for the next Vice Chancellor of Daystar University and worked with the HR Consultancy Firm throughout the entire process.

We received a total of 30 very quality applications for the position of the Vice Chancellor of Daystar University. From information we received from the Manpower Services Ltd, this is the highest number of applications any University has in Kenya has ever received.

The Council interviewed the top six candidates and selected the top three whom we presented to a Daystar University Stakeholders' Forum on February 15th 2019.

The most notable thing from this is that the stakeholders all concurred with the Council about the candidate best fit to be the 4th Vice Chancellor of Daystar University.

To arrive at the final decision, we also subjected the top two finalists to a Psychometric Test.

That was not the end, the University Council carried out a thorough background check on final candidate, including interviewing his pastor.

Prof. Laban Ayiro was finally appointed by a full Council sitting on Friday 22nd February 2019, and took up his appointment on 1st March 2019.

For the last one month, he has undergone an intense induction programme led by the outgoing Ag. Vice Chancellor Prof. James Kombo. I wish to thank Prof. Kombo for facilitating this process on behalf of the University Council.

Prof. Kombo has served Daystar University faithfully and with committed dedication for last 24 years. During this time, he has served in various capacities and risen through the ranks to the position of Ag. Vice Chancellor. His last appointment was to manage a very difficult turbulent time since December 2018 and he managed to restore the University to normalcy.

The Council is indebted to Prof. Kombo for his sacrificial service to the University and we have granted him Sabbatical Leave immediately he completes his normal leave which begins immediately. On March 27th, we held a party to honor Prof. Kombo.

I wish to thank everyone who has been involved in this Council process and once more congratulate prof. Ayiro upon his appointment. The University Council has faith in you to give the University a new strategic direction as it remains true to its vision, mission and purpose.

Thank you and God bless you all.

Prof. Henry Thairu

Chairman, University Council