

**SPEECH AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE PWANI
UNIVERSITY AGRICULTURAL AND AGRIBUSINESS COMPLEX
ON AUGUST 6TH, 2025 AT PWANI UNIVERSITY, KILIFI**

**Cabinet Secretary for Education,
Council and Management of Pwani University,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

1. It is with great pride and profound gratitude that I stand here today to officially inaugurate the Pwani University Agricultural and Agribusiness Complex. This state-of-the-art facility is a

testament to our unwavering commitment as a nation to invest in education, research, and innovation as the cornerstone of our socio-economic transformation. Today, we celebrate not just the opening of a building, but the dawn of a new era in agricultural excellence, food security, and sustainable development for the Coast region and the entire nation of Kenya.

2. Agriculture remains the backbone of our economy, contributing significantly to our Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and employing millions of Kenyans directly and indirectly. However, the challenges of climate change, population

growth, and dwindling arable land demand that we rethink our approach to

agriculture. We must embrace research, innovation, and technology to revolutionize this critical sector. This complex is a bold step in that direction, and I am confident that it will play a pivotal role in driving our national agenda for food security, employment creation, and the realization of the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) and Vision 2030.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

3. The Pwani University Agricultural and Agribusiness Complex is not just a physical structure; it is a hub of knowledge, innovation, and opportunity. It will serve as a centre for training, research, and innovation, equipping our youth with

the skills and knowledge they need to thrive in the modern agricultural landscape. The complex will also foster collaboration between academia, industry, and Government, ensuring that research outcomes are translated into practical solutions and innovations that benefit our farmers and agro-industries.

4. One of the key objectives of this facility is to address the declining interest of our youth in agriculture. For far too long,

agriculture has been perceived as a sector for the elderly, a labour-intensive endeavour with little reward. This perception must change. Agriculture is not just about tilling the land; it is about science, technology, and entrepreneurship. It is about

creating value chains, leveraging technology, and tapping into the vast opportunities that the sector offers. This complex will play a critical role in changing this narrative by providing our youth with the tools and training they need to see agriculture as a viable and lucrative career path.

5. To the youth of Kenya, I say this: the future of agriculture is in your hands. This complex is your gateway to a world of opportunities in agribusiness, food processing, agricultural

technology, and research. I urge you to take advantage of this facility and embrace agricultural training with the enthusiasm and determination it deserves. The Government is committed to supporting you through initiatives, which provide affordable

credit to young entrepreneurs, and Affordable Inputs Programmes, which ensure access to quality seeds and fertilizers. Together, we can transform agriculture into a sector that not only feeds our nation but also creates wealth and employment for millions of Kenyans and gives us pride.

Distinguished Guests,

6. The Coast region, with its unique agro-ecological zones, has immense potential to become a powerhouse of agricultural production and innovation. From the fertile soils of Kilifi to the lush landscapes of Kwale, the expansive Tana Delta, the rich agricultural heritage of Lamu, and the high-potential areas of

Taita Taveta, this region is blessed with the resources needed to drive agricultural transformation. However, unlocking this potential requires investment in research and innovation tailored to the specific needs of the region. This complex will serve as a focal point for such research, addressing challenges such as climate change, drought, soil degradation, and pest control, while also exploring opportunities in value addition and export-oriented agriculture.

7. As we officially open this complex today, let us remember that this is just the beginning. The true measure of our success will be the impact this facility has on the lives of our people. It will be measured by the number of young people who graduate

from here with the skills and knowledge to transform our agricultural sector. It will be measured by the number of innovative solutions developed here that address the challenges facing our farmers. And it will be measured by the contribution this complex makes to our national goals of food security, employment creation, and sustainable development.

Distinguished Guests,

8. In closing, I wish to reiterate the government's commitment to supporting education, research, and innovation as key drivers of our socio-economic transformation. The Pwani University Agricultural and Agribusiness Complex is a clear demonstration

of this commitment. It is a beacon of hope for our youth, a catalyst for agricultural transformation, and a cornerstone of our national development agenda.

With these remarks, it is now my singular honour and privilege to declare the Pwani University's Agricultural and Agribusiness Complex open.

**Thank you,
God bless you,
God bless Kenya**

**KITHURE KINDIKI
DEPUTY PRESIDENT**