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Daystar Installs Third Chancellor



Outgoing Daystar Chancellor Dr. Florence Muli-Musiime (right) and Daystar Council Chair Prof. George Khroda (left) robe Prof. Mary Murimi during her installation ceremony as the 3rd Chancellor of Daystar University

Prof. Mary Murimi was on June 23, 2016, officially installed as the third Chancellor of Daystar University in a ceremony held in Athi River campus. Prof Murimi comes to Daystar from Texas Tech University College of Human Sciences, USA.

Her appointment follows completion of eleven-year tenure of the former Chancellor, Dr. Florence Muli-Musiime, and her predecessor Dr. James Kamunge.

She holds a Ph.D. in Human Nutrition with an emphasis in community nutrition and behavior change from Iowa State University. She is a registered Dietitian with the American Dietetic Association and a member of the Society of Nutrition Education, and has published over 35 works. Further, she has made international memorandum of understanding between Texas Tech University and Kenyatta University, The Kenya Medical Research

Institute, The Vaal University of Technology in South Africa, Rwanda College of Public Health and The Jigjiga University in Ethiopia.

Prof Murimi is currently a full professor of Nutrition at Texas Tech University in the department of Nutritional Sciences engaged in teaching, grant writing, and research at the local and international level.

Key dignitaries at the installation ceremony included the Chairman of the Commission of University Education, Prof. Henry Thairu, The Archbishop-elect of the Anglican Church of Kenya, Bishop Jackson Nasoore Ole Sapit, former and present Daystar University Company and Council members, representatives from Daystar U.S., Daystar University Parents Association board members, DUAA Board members, representatives of Private and Public Universities including the Founder Chairman of Mt. Kenya University, Dr. Simon Gicharu, Government officials, guests,



Daystar University's First Chancellor Dr. James Kamunge (left), second Chancellor Dr. Florence Muli-Musiime (right) together with the newly inaugurated Chancellor Prof. Mary Murimi (centre)

family and friends of the incoming Chancellor, faculty, staff and students.

As he recognized the Clergy, Vice-chancellor, Dr. Timothy Wachira narrated that the Daystar's origin and sustenance is anchored within the realms of the Church.

During the installation sermon, Senior Pastor A.I.C. Milimani, Rev. Dr. Matthews K. Mwalwa felt nostalgic about his time in Daystar University as the University Chaplain. "Those 15 years of ministry here at Daystar were very enriching for me. I have wonderful memories of my time with the faculty, staff and students," he said. His message stressed on empowering our society through education. "Daystar University stands at the epitome of empowering students by providing knowledge, Daystar is a gold mine for generations to come," he impressed.

The outgoing Chancellor Dr. Muli-Musiime was full of praise to everyone who supported her in her 11 years of service at the university. "The installation of the 3rd Chancellor of this university is a public demonstration of leadership transition and change management," she highlighted. "We should not take this lightly as we live in a continent where imminent transition opportunities can make or break people and their institutions, and more often than not can stifle the growth of nations or break them with dire consequences for their citizens," she went on. She concluded by pointing out the significance of servant leadership as being both a high calling and an adventure.

Daystar Company Chair, Rev. Dr. Macmillan Kiiru echoed the words of Dr. Muli-Musiime on transition as he acknowledged everyone present who played a role in laying the foundations of building Daystar University. He affirmed that the process and the journey to appoint the Prof. Murimi as third chancellor were credible. "In a time of intense prayer and seeking God, I can confirm without doubt on behalf of the Daystar Company members that Prof. Murimi is God's choice for us in this institution."

Daystar Council Chair, Prof. George Khoda presided over the citation and this was followed by the long awaited installation of Prof. Mary Murimi as the third Chancellor of Daystar University. Speaking with a distinct sense of belonging, Prof. Murimi offered sincere thanks to the search committee and nominator for showing confidence in her. "Ladies and Gentlemen, after much prayer and consultation, and with a great sense of humility and honor, I am delighted and enthusiastic to accept this appointment as the chancellor of Daystar University," she proclaimed.

"While the rest of the world is just waking up to the importance of women's education and gender equity, Daystar has defined the process," she emphasized, "a majority of our students are female and that proportion is reflected in the teaching staff, administrators and stakeholders," she continued. She promised to start her term by learning the culture of Daystar, listening and observing.