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**REMARKS BY THE PRINCIPAL ON THE OCCASION OF THE INAUGURATION OF THE 6TH GOVERNING COUNCIL ON THURSDAY FEBRUARY 23, 2023**

**SALUTATION**

* The Hon Minister, of ICT and National Guidance (MoICT & NG)
* The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of ICT and National Guidance (MoICT & NG),
* The Executive Director, Uganda Communications Commission (UCC)
* The 6th and Incoming Governing Council
* The Chairperson and Members of the 5th and Outgoing Governing Council
* The Academic Board Members
* The Management and Staff of UICT
* The Media and Press
* Invited Guests
* Ladies and gentlemen
* All Protocol observed.

**WELCOME**

On behalf of the Academic Board, Management and Staff, our students, and Alumni of Uganda Institute of Information and Communications Technology, and on my own behalf, allow me to use this singular honor to welcome you all to this occasion of the inauguration of the 6th Governing Council.

In a special way, I welcome you, Our Chief Guest, the Hon. Minister of ICT and National Guidance and thank you for presiding over the inauguration ceremony of the new Governing Council of UICT.

**INTRODUCTION**

Hon. Chief Guest, this occasion came on the heels of the completion of the tenure of the 5th Governing Council appointed in 2019.

**THE OUTGOING GOVERNING COUNCIL**

The 5th Governing Council consisted of Seventeen (17) members representing different constituencies as stipulated in the Universities and Other Tertiary Institutions Act of 2001 (As Amended In, 2003 And As Amended In, 2006) and Statutory Instrument, 2005, No. 79.

Hon Chief Guest, allow me to acknowledge and appreciate the outgoing Governing Council for its contributions to the Institute and especially during the height of Covid-19 Pandemic. Indeed, the Governing Council led during a period of volatility, uncertainty, complexity and ambiguity (VUCA) when the world battled, this debilitating global pandemic. During the challenging times, the Council exercised their role and function in a collaborative manner with other stakeholders of UICT.

I would like to congratulate the Outgoing Chairperson and all the members on your collective achievements which the Chairperson shall elaborate in his speech.

**STRATEGIC FOCUS**

Our Chief guest, the Institute has registered some milestones in execution of its mandate. And our focus as per our new strategic plan as guided by the Outgoing Governing Council, amongst is:

1. Regeneration of the Ugandan economy through the development of curriculum and provision of Market-driven and skills-based capacity building;
2. A well-grounded Public Service and Workforce that utilizes ICT services effectively for service delivery, social and economic development
3. A coherent ICT Literate community to utilize ICT to facilitate them in contributing to the digital economy developed
4. Undertaking Applied Research, Innovation, pre-incubation and business consultancies to deliver economic, societal, cultural, educational & entrepreneurial impact
5. Enhancement of UICT Infrastructure: Specialized Labs, and Digitally Enabled Classrooms
6. Review, analysis, re-engineering and automation of our Business Processes to enhance efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery
7. Enhance UICT Human Capital to match the deliver teaching and training, undertake applied research & innovations as well as undertake business consultancies
8. Improve our partnerships network and collaboration network to facilitate the enhancement of the delivery of our mandate

**THE INCOMING GOVERNING COUNCIL**

Our Chief Guest, allow me to take this opportunity to congratulate the incoming 6th Governing Council upon their nomination by their respective constituencies and subsequent appointments. I thank you for accepting the appointment and for sparing some time-off in your busy schedules to be present during today’s inauguration ceremony.

Our Chief Guest, its noteworthy and with satisfaction that the members of the new Council are distinguished personalities in society with a wide experience base coupled with a rich mix of professions derived from different fields. The experience and leadership qualities that you all possess will be very critical in the work of the Governing Council especially as we continue to chart the way forward for this Institute.

We are looking forward and pledge to work amicably with the incoming Governing Council, making fruitful and great decisions that will benefit this Institute.

**CONCLUSION**

On behalf of the Management and staff of UICT, I take this opportunity to thank the Hon Minister of Education and Sports and First Lady, Maama Janet, you our Chief Guest, the Permanent Secretary, the ED -UCC and the different constituencies to or finding each one of the Members of the incoming Governing Council worthy to serve in this prestigious Institution. In the same breath, I wish to express UICTs gratitude to the Ministry of ICT & National Guidance, the Ministry of Education and Sports, the Government, Students, Parents & Guardians, the Community and our partners for the enormous support UICT has continued to receive to be able to realize the achievements made this far.

As I conclude, allow me our Chief Guest to give you a brief of the way forward after this Inauguration:

1. We have scheduled the Inaugural Governing Council Meeting immediately after this occasion, starting at 11.30 am – 1 pm – to elect an Interim Chairperson as well as nominate candidates for the substantive Chairperson of the Governing, thereafter the nominees shall be submitted to your office for further management
2. We are going to schedule a second Governing Council Meeting that is intended to have a formal handover from the 5th Governing Council to the 6th Governing Council.

**I thank you very much, in the Quest of Excellence and for God and My Country**

**Dr. Fredrick Edward Kitoogo**

PRINCIPAL UICT

Its now my singular honor, to invite the Executive Director of UCC to give her remarks