



KAIMOSI FRIENDS UNIVERSITY

(OFFICE OF THE VICE CHANCELLOR)

**WELCOME ADDRESS TO 1ST YEAR STUDENTS, ACADEMIC YEAR
2024/2025**

BY

ACTING VICE-CHANCELLOR,

PROF. PETER N. MWITA

AT KAIMOSI FRIENDS UNIVERSITY GROUNDS ON FRIDAY 6 SEPTEMBER, 2024

SALUTATIONS

- ❖ Our Chief Guest, who are our students that we are now initiating into academia;
- ❖ Deputy Vice-Chancellors;
- ❖ Registrars;
- ❖ Deans of Schools and Directors of various Directorates;
- ❖ Heads of Departments and Sections;
- ❖ KAFU Alumni
- ❖ The leadership of the staff unions: UASU, KUSU and KUDHEIHA
- ❖ Student Leadership
- ❖ Staff and students;
- ❖ Ladies and Gentlemen.

HAMJAMBO.....

1. WELCOME AND CONGRATULATIONS

It is a pleasure for me to join everyone else in welcoming our First Year students for the Academic Year 2024/2025 to Kaimosi Friends University. In this Academic Year, a total of 1905 students have been admitted and distributed across all our programmes. This is an increase of 465 students compared to the 1,460 admitted in the 2023/2024 academic year, an indication that our University is fast becoming a popular choice. Please feel most welcome.

At this particular moment, let me congratulate you for making it to the University. This is a remarkable milestone, given that you are now at the third and last tier of 8-4-4 Education system. Just look back and think of some of your classmates at primary school, who did not make it to secondary school and picture out those who have not made to the university. You will appreciate the journey of your success. Congratulations on your incredible success!

MATRICULATION CEREMONY

Matriculation ceremonies such as this are a very important tradition among universities, since historical time world over. It is during this ceremony that students are formally admitted to the University. During this ceremony, as a new student, you solemnly declare, under oath, your loyalty to the University and abide by the rules and regulations. The oath enjoins you to be of good behaviour and obedient to the authority of this University and to adhere to all practices of the institution.

2. FINANCIAL MATTERS- STUDENT-CENTRED FUNDING MODEL

The majority of you have been banded. For those who have not been banded and applied, or did not apply, we have a help desk that will assist you in making applications and following up. We will also assist you in making appeals when necessary.

3. ACADEMIC LIFE AND CAREER FOCUS

Young men and women;

I would like to tell with you, that as you embark on another cycle of academic journey, set ambitious goals, dedicate yourself to hard work, and take control of your own life. Consider where you envision yourself, four years from today. Establish your goals and diligently pursue them. If you discover that your chosen field of study does not resonate well with you, you have the option within the window period provided to change your program. Our academic staff are eager to assist you.

The period you will be in the University, is ideal to thoroughly explore your field of study and broaden your overall knowledge. A deep understanding of your discipline establishes a robust foundation for your future career or further academic pursuits. This will give you a background that will enable you to make solid contributions to nation building. As one prominent Scholar, Azusa Ono, said in 1882:

“Nation building depends upon the independence of its citizens, and the autonomy of the citizens is rooted in the freedom of their spirits founded on freedom of education. Therefore, since the

liberation of individuals' spirits can only be attained through the freedom of education, it is imperative for a nation to uphold the autonomy of learning.”

The above statement underscores the essence of academic freedom in a University and the guiding philosophy of pedagogy here at Kaimosi Friends University. As you have been informed by your respective Deans of Schools and Chairs of your Departments where you belong, you have the freedom. However, exercise this freedom well as you train or learn to be a responsible citizen.

Success in academics is founded on two key elements: Time Management and Discipline.

Time Management: Time management is a critical aspect of life. Spend your time wisely and always recognize that your studies are your number one priority. Academic excellence in the university requires hard work, dedication and sacrifice. Unlike your previous schools, universities are free from daily parental supervision thus, what you make of your stay at the university will depend on a great extent on the choices you make. Ensure that you make important and well-informed decisions.

Discipline: Discipline is a core value for you to excel in your studies and also in the future. Remember that whatever you do individually or collectively will impact future. Always think seriously about the consequences to you as an individual of any collective decision and seek to be on the right side of the law.

To be good ambassadors of the University, carry yourself with dignity, discipline, hard work as you build strong careers to build the nation.

4. ACADEMIC DISTRACTION

With freedom comes the choice of pleasure and pain to which the line between is very thin. For example, you may face the choice of having a morning sleep and an early morning lesson. Some of you may choose morning glory over morning class! You may wish to know that with a little sleep, poverty grows your side every day. You may choose evening, go partying

and merry making. For the lady students, evening happiness and morning glory may bring morning sickness. Simply put, choices have consequences. Please do not distract yourself from your core business here which is your academics.

5. CONVENIENT CHOICES

This advice is mainly for female students, though it may apply to males as well. Some of you might choose to live beyond your means, seeking the latest fashion and make-up. If you lack the funds to support this lifestyle, you might choose to live with a partner who provides for you, often referred to as "sponsors" or "mubaba." While this may seem convenient, it can lead to difficult situations, including potential homelessness if things go awry. We have witnessed tragic incidents involving college students. Please avoid “mapenzi ya kukata na shoka.”

The bottom line is that learn to live within your abilities and live without what you cannot afford.

THE FUTURE AHEAD

Our beloved students:

You exist in a time characterized by rapid advancements in scientific technology and significant shifts in societal structures. Consequently, you are likely to encounter numerous questions that lack definitive answers. The future remains uncertain. In such an environment, regardless of how discouraging the challenges may appear, possessing specialized professional skills alongside a comprehensive liberal education will enable you to engage in critical thinking and identify the essence of these issues. However, this is not a guarantee, until you appreciate and develop innovation abilities.

6. INNOVATIONS

Young men and Women,

Innovation has become the surest way of solving problems that affect the society and stimulate economic growth. Young people, and more often university students are now the engines of innovations that drive the society in making the world a better place. Big names in the industry such Mark Zuckerberg started facebook from his campus room. Today, facebook is one of the largest platform used for communication in social media. Steve Jobs came up with iPhone, which many of you prefer and when you get it, you feel yourself on top of the world! Coming back home here in Kenya, Zetech University was started in a hostel room at the University of Nairobi. Today, Zetech is an emerging player in the provision of University education. So with innovation, you can be an employer while you are still a student. However, I caution you from starting bars and related entertainment zones as well as betting.

As you pursue your degree courses, think both outside and without the box. Identify some of the problems that affect our communities and come up with innovative ways of solving them. Combine innovation and entrepreneurship so that even before you graduate, you have established a name in the labour market. For this, is the way young persons with fresh minds need to approach life and make a positive impact in making the world a better place than you found it.

7. A BALANCED HOLISTIC LIFE

Kaimosi Friends University is committed to offering its students an environment that is both academically rigorous and culturally enriching. Our learning process evolves into a dynamic experience. Please prioritize your happiness and strive for a well-rounded life. It is important to recognize that success encompasses more than just academic accomplishments. Good health, familial love, and the support of friends are vital components of true success. Do not take any aspect of your life for granted. Cultivate a sense of gratitude

for every opportunity presented to you, for every act of assistance you receive, and for each valuable day you experience. Keep your family updated on your university journey and regularly convey your love and appreciation to them. Show care for your classmates and friends, offering assistance whenever they require it. Diligent efforts today will lead to academic success, while being a kind, loving, and grateful individual will foster lasting happiness throughout your life. I eagerly anticipate witnessing your growth into more capable and empowered individuals by the time you complete your studies either in 4 or 5 years.

8. RELATING WITH LOCAL COMMUNITY

You have all come from different parts of the country to integrate and live within the Kaimosi community. As you may know, the University does not have enough accommodation. In fact less than half of you have spaces within campus. This means the rest are now living in the neighbourhood. The University has maintained very warm relationships with the neighbours and I would like to ask you to maintain it. Those private hostel providers have been guided to ensure your safety and well-being. It is always said, security starts with you. Always be conscious of this statement. This starts with simple things like respecting traffic on the road. On many occasions you are likely to use bodaboda transport than any other, besides walking on foot. Lives have been lost through bodaboda accidents some of which could be avoided by respecting personal space. Please take great care of yourselves.

Please watch over your security and that of your property. Be focused on what you have come for. You have some freedom from your parents and guardians, but know that freedom comes with responsibility. Be careful that you are not abused and that you do not abuse this freedom space.

Once again, please avoid come we stay, you are not wife and husband!

6. CONCLUSION

Young men and women;

You are now at the tail end of your academic journey and soon, the world of service will unfold. I implore you to the extent that in whatever you do, always do it for the Good of God, for the Good of our Country, for the Good of Kaimosi Friends University and finally for the Good of Yourself.

May God always keep you warm, safe and happy during the period of your study and even beyond.

Once again, congratulations and thank you!