



## **KAIMOSI FRIENDS UNIVERSITY**

### **SPEECH BY THE PRESIDING CHAIRPERSON OF THE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL, DR. JOSEPHINE WAUDO ON THE 1<sup>ST</sup> GRADUATION CEREMONY ON WEDNESDAY, 21<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2022**

**The Prime Cabinet Secretary, H.E. Dr. Wycliffe Musalia Mudavadi,  
Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education, Hon. Ezekiel Machogu,  
Principal Secretary, State Department for Higher Education and Research,  
Dr. Beatrice Inyangala,  
Madam Chancellor, Dr. Bernadette F. Mungai  
KAFU Ag. Vice Chancellor, Prof. Ogodo, M. J. Nandi,  
Members of the University Council,  
The Governor Vihiga County, H.E. Dr. Wilber K. Ottichilo,  
Vice Chancellors from other Universities Present,  
Deputy Vice Chancellors,  
Members of the University Management Board and Senate,  
Researchers and Scholars,  
Graduands,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is my joy to welcome you all today to our first graduation ceremony, an important occasion that marks a significant milestone in Kaimosi Friends

University's calendar. We celebrate this day with a deep sense of gratitude to God, by whose grace we are able to gather here today.

On behalf of the University Council, the University Management Board, Senate, staff and students of this great University, I express my heartfelt appreciation to you for joining us in this celebration. I also take this opportunity to convey our special thanks to the Chief Guest, the Prime Cabinet Secretary, H. E. Dr. Wycliffe Musalia Mudavadi, EGH for gracing this graduation.

Your Excellency Sir, currently, KAFU does not have a substantive Chancellor. It is our wish and humble request that you become the first Chancellor of this University

**Madam Chancellor,**

Today, we gladly release to the job market, 402 graduates, ready to take their place as the future workforce of this country and beyond. The theme of this graduation, *'Transforming a Generation for a Dynamic World,'* resonates well with our commitment to developing talent for a better Kenya, and indeed, a global service to humanity. As a learning and research institution, KAFU stands at a vantage point of strengthening our country's policies and service delivery for the realization of Vision 2030 and Agenda 2063. I would like, therefore, to ask all our stakeholders to join us in our undertaking to improve the quality of human capital in this University.

**Madam Chancellor,**

I acknowledge and appreciate tremendously the diligence of our University Council, University Management Board, the Senate, Deans of Schools and Directors, Heads of Sections, the academic and administrative as well as our students for working tirelessly to make this day a success. The Council is committed to positioning this University into a competitive dynamic global academic and research leader. I am certain that we will expand our services beyond Vihiga County and deliver clientele-centered services to all our students and stakeholders.

**Madam Chancellor,**

I sincerely commend and salute the University Management Board for their pragmatic stewardship that has seen the University grow from a campus of Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology in 2014 to a Constituent College and now a fully-fledged University. It is due to your visionary leadership that these milestones have culminated into this auspicious occasion of the first graduation ceremony.

The Council is pleased and confident in the leadership of KAFU for initiating several strategies that are aligning the institution to be a centre of academic excellence in this region. We have integrated ICT in teaching and learning, ensured adherence to academic and research standards and are working towards the CUE requirement on the ratio of lecturers to students. Madam, in order to implement these strategies, we request enhanced capitation from the Government in this financial year.

In addition, the Council is proud of the University Management Board for augmenting our internally generated funds through modern dairy farming.

Currently, KAFU produces about 100 litres of milk daily and over 10 trays of eggs per day. We also grow maize to cater for the institution's food requirements. These projects bring in income annually, saving the University a lot of money.

**Madam Chancellor,**

The Council takes cognizance of the fact that KAFU's growth and development to the current status has been occasioned by the University Management's prudent utilization of limited resources. Notably, we ensured that the University complies with statutory and regulatory requirements and management in accordance with the Principles of Corporate Governance, throughout the previous financial years. We have paid our bills in a timely manner and I am happy to report that the University had no pending bills as at 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2022.

Moreover, the University has developed and implemented 70 policies and is progressively moving towards ISO certification. We have successfully completed our flagship project, the *Uhuru Kenyatta Tuition Complex*, as well renovation and equipping of the buildings we inherited from the Kaimosi Teachers Training College. This has created a conducive environment for the pursuit of our core mandate of teaching, learning and research.

As a young University, we aspire to expand both our physical and human resource capacities. We are constructing an Ultra-Modern Library and a Perimeter Wall around the University. Based on the fact that KAFU's niche is in Health Sciences, we look forward to building a Health Sciences Complex. In addition, the University requires an administration block,

10,000 capacity hostels for the growing number of students and 1,000 staff houses to accommodate the staff. In order to complete these projects, we humbly appeal for more funding from the Government. We hope to utilize these funds in our strategic collaboration with the National Housing Corporation (NHC) and other stakeholders through Public and Private Partnerships (PPPs).

**Madam Chancellor,**

The graduands would not have been celebrating this day without the support of their parents, guardians, well-wishers, as well as the staff of KAFU. These individuals truly played a major role in nurturing the graduands. Consequently, I commend all the graduands for surviving the rigour of our academic discipline, satisfying the Senate of this University, and having finally earned the relevant qualifications. In KAFU, we provided an environment for you to not only have a great learning experience, but also an opportunity for personal growth.

**Madam Chancellor,**

On behalf of KAFU, we recognize the support and good relationship that we have enjoyed with the County Government of Vihiga led by the Governor, H.E. Dr. Wilber Ottichilo who has promised to support the University to establish a Centre of Climate Change. We humbly request the County Government to assist in providing adequate clean water, improving the Sewerage System, tarmacking of roads and provision of street lighting around the Kaimosi complex. This will give staff and students a conducive, safe and secure working and learning environment.

**Madam Chancellor,**

I would like to reaffirm that the graduands seated here today, have gone through appropriate mentor-ship and are equipped with the 21<sup>st</sup> century skills required to contribute to the development of Kenya and the global market. With the knowledge and skills that our graduands have acquired at KAFU, I have no doubt that they will become successful members of the society.

**Graduands,**

As you step out of this institution, I urge you to have a positive and vibrant mindset. Also, I encourage you to exploit your innovative skills to become great entrepreneurs, job creators and effective professionals.

Finally, on behalf of the University Council, I congratulate our first cohort of graduands. You have done the University proud and, therefore, we celebrate you for your efforts, dedication and sacrifice. May the Lord bless you as you join the outside world.

**Dr. Josephine Waudu,  
KAFU Presiding Chairperson of Council.**