



**SPEECH BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR, PROF. OGODO, M. J.
NANDI PhD(Maseno), MBA(Moi), MA(UoN), BA (UoN),
DURING THE 1st GRADUATION CEREMONY OF
KAIMOSI FRIENDS UNIVERSITY
ON WEDNESDAY, 21ST DECEMBER, 2022**

**Chief Guest, 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 Muganda Inyangala,
Madam Chancellor, Dr. Bernadette F. Mungai,
The Presiding Chairperson of Council, Dr. Josephine D. Waudu,
Other Chairpersons of Council present,
Members of KAFU Council and other Councils present,
The Governor Vihiga County, H.E, Dr. Wilber K. Ottichilo,
Vice Chancellors from other Universities present,
Principals of University Colleges present,
Members of the University Management Board and Senate,
University staff and Students,
Graduands, Parents, Guardians and friends,
Invited guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is my pleasure and honor to welcome you to Kaimosi Friends University (KAFU), *'The Spring of Knowledge'*, as we celebrate our 1st Graduation, that has the theme: *'Transforming a generation for a dynamic world'*. We are deeply honored to have you join us as we mark this milestone. KAFU has witnessed tremendous growth of both student and staff population over the years, and this ceremony is one of the signs that this Institution is destined for greatness.

I thank our Chief Guest, the Prime Cabinet Secretary, H. E. Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, for accepting to grace this special event. All of us here in Kaimosi Friends University are, indeed, honored to host you today.

Madam Chancellor,

Today, we gladly present to this great country a skilled resource of 402 graduands ready to take their place as the future socio - economic and political drivers of our great country. This graduation is aligned to our commitment to support our country's policies and service delivery for the realization of universal healthcare, food security, manufacturing and affordable housing.

I am glad to inform you that all the graduands were prepared through rigorous training and examinations which satisfied the KAFU Senate and University Management Board. I equally recognize the efforts of lecturers and support staff who worked tirelessly to ensure that the students have a conducive learning environment to get equipped with knowledge, values and skills that will enable them fit the requirements of the job market and self-employment.

Madam Chancellor,

This is a significant occasion not only for the graduands and Kaimosi Friends University fraternity, but also to the people of Vihiga County and the entire nation. We wish to thank God for his protection and guidance from our initial stage as a Campus of MMUST, to a Constituent College, and then to a fully-fledged University after the award of a Charter on 2nd August 2022. We have attained all these milestones through focus, dedication and hard work.

Madam Chancellor,

The journey to this status started in 2014 when the first batch of 234 students and staff were seconded from Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology to Kaimosi campus. In May 2015, the campus was gazetted as a Constituent University College of MMUST and was awarded a Charter on 2nd August 2022.

Kaimosi Friends University has over the past seven years positioned itself as a center of excellence in teaching, innovation and holistic development with market driven programmes in Health Sciences, Pure and Applied Sciences, Education and Arts, Business and Economics and Computing. Notably, there has been a significant increase in the enrollment of students, which now stands at 3,925.

Guided by our 5-year strategic plan drawn from a 50-year master plan, Kaimosi Friends University has embarked on developing academic programs, Directorates, Departments, and the requisite infrastructure. Whereas the institution begun with

only two undergraduate programs, the number has since grown to forty -three market-driven programs aligned to the strategic plan.

Madam Chancellor,

KAFU has launched academic programs that are responsive to the needs of this county, the nation and the international market. Using our programmes in Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Clinical Medicine, Surgery & Community Health, and Bachelor of Science in Optometry and Vision Sciences, we have strengthened ties with neighboring County Referral Hospitals. They include: Jumuia Hospital, Sabatia Eye Hospital, a renowned eye hospital in East and Central Africa based here in Vihiga County, Kapsabet, Kisumu, Jaramogi Oginga Odinga and Busia. We are also proposing to start a programme in Medicine which will lead to setting up a Referral Hospital for this County. Madam, with the support of the government and other well-wishers, we strive to become a Centre of Excellence in Health Sciences in this region and beyond.

We therefore request for financial support from the Government to enable us build a Post Modern Health Sciences Complex to accommodate our niche areas in Health Sciences.

In a bid to support and strengthen research and innovation, KAFU has signed a number of MoUs with reputable partners and established academic linkages with other Universities. Some of these are: University of Michigan and Tree Frog Aquagric Ltd and the Vihiga Chamber of Commerce and Industry to spur local entrepreneurship among others.

Madam Chancellor,

I am excited to inform you that our top students have been getting the Vice Chancellors award immediately after graduation by being awarded a full scholarship for the entire masters degree. I appeal to our area leaders and other stakeholders to offer at least one full scholarship for top students, especially those who attain first Class Honors, to pursue masters degrees in their areas of preference. It is our request that our local leaders be involved in this noble cause starting from the MCAs, MPs, Women Representative, Senator and our Honorable Governor. This will, indeed, be a good way of giving back to the society and nurturing future academicians and professors for the University.

Thus, there is need for our leaders to encourage more local students to join KAFU and pursue their careers by marketing the university positively. Previously there have been a few cases of misunderstanding by some individuals who have been putting the name of the University in disrepute. I want to assure the public that the University has an open door policy, hence, we welcome everybody to come and find out how our University operates instead of relying on rumors and hearsay. Also, patronize your sons and daughters to join KAFU, where top brains and programmes are found.

Madam Chancellor,

I am happy to report that I have presided over the completion of 25 capital development projects, renovation and associated works. Currently, we have two major ongoing capital development projects namely: The Proposed Construction of the Modern Library at a total sum of KES. **645,555,963.00** and the Proposed Construction of Boundary Wall and associated works at a total sum of **598 Million.**

I request the office of the Prime Cabinet Secretary, H.E. Dr. Wycliffe Musalia Mudavadi and the Ministry of Education through the State Department for Higher Education and Research to support us with the requisite funds to enable us complete these projects which will give KAFU a facelift. Our Chief Guest Sir, we will be forwarding to you through our PS, our actual budget estimates for your utmost consideration.

Madam Chancellor,

We are currently in the process of rolling out an ambitious staff development program in line with our strategic plan and niche. From inception, the University has been working on creating a structured operational framework upon which to develop and implement the necessary academic, governance and administrative system.

We hope to open our first campus as soon as possible. Our proposed campus will be Vokoli and we shall work closely with the stakeholders of Vokoli campus to accommodate the School of Business and Economics, and the Department of Optometry and Vision Sciences, because we are now a fully-fledged University with the capacity to nurture it through the stages to a Constituent University College and eventually to a fully-fledged University. Our Chief Guest Sir, we request for your blessings.

Madam Chancellor,

To enable us achieve the above named, we need increased recurrent budget to enable us engage more academic staff in order to attain the ratio of 70:30 for teaching to non-teaching staff. Currently, the University relies more on part time lecturers which may compromise the quality of teaching. More than two thirds of our students stay outside the University while the majority of staff members commute from

Kakamega and other towns due to limited accommodation facilities. Madam Chancellor, we seek the indulgence of the Chief Guest through PPP and BOT programmes with the National Housing Corporation to construct housing facilities to assist the University get a 10,000 capacity hostels and staff units receptively.

The University places great emphasis on sports, clubs and societies. Our commitment to actualizing this is manifested in the investment in games and recreational facilities as well as the development of regulations to govern professional and welfare societies. In this regard, we request for funds to build a modern stadium and a swimming pool. Ultimately, this is expected to provide students and the community with opportunities for self-actualization, recreation and for exploring and developing their leadership skills and talents.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I give special thanks to the Government of Kenya, the Ministry of Education, the State Department of Higher Education and Research, Commission for University Education, the ‘Mother’ University, MMUST, the Governor of Vihiga County Government, H.E Dr. Ottichilo, former Governor, Hon. Akaranga, our political leaders, the Friends Church of Kenya and the East African Yearly Meeting, the Community, Tiriki Elders, KAFU Council, the University Management Board, Senate, Staff, students, parents, sponsors and all other stakeholders, for their invaluable support. I humbly urge you to continue supporting us.

Graduands,

You have undergone a thorough four-year training and I am confident that as you step out of this University, you are ready to add value in whichever capacity you will be required to serve in the great republic of Kenya and beyond. Today is just the start of all the wonderful things that life has to offer. I urge you to take every chance

that comes your way with boldness excitement and hope. KAFU has prepared you well. Use the skills you have acquired in this University to create a better world.

Once again, I congratulate you and wish you well in your future endeavours. I urge you to join our Alumni and help develop this great University.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2023! May God bless Kaimosi Friends University.

Prof. Ogodo, M. J. Nandi
AG. VICE CHANCELLOR