



**VICE-CHANCELLOR'S OPENING REMARKS DURING THE PUBLIC
LECTURE ON GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO EXTERNAL SHOCKS
HELD AT THE KAIMOSI FRIENDS UNIVERSITY
ASSEMBLY HALL ON MONDAY 6TH FEBRUARY, 2023**

Chief Guest, Honorable Ndindi Nyoro, CBS, Member of Parliament, Kiharu Constituency, and Chairman Budget and Appropriations Committee in the National Assembly of Kenya,

The Governor, Vihiga County, H.E Dr. Wilber Khasilwa Ottichilo,

The Area MP, Hon. Charles Gimose,

The Chairperson of University Council, Dr. Bernadette F. Mungai,

Members of the University Management Board and Senate,

University staff and Students,

Other Invited guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure and honor to warmly welcome you all to Kaimosi Friends University (KAFU), '*The Spring of Knowledge*'. I also take this special opportunity to thank our Guest Speaker, Hon. Ndindi Nyoro for honoring our invitation and accepting to join us to deliver a public lecture to students and staff.

Sir, Kaimosi Friends University (KAFU) is a young fast growing full-fledged and only public University in Vihiga County. The University started in 2014 as a Campus of Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology (MMUST) and was

gazetted in May, 2015 as a constituent college. It was awarded University Charter on August 2, 2022.

Guided by our Vision to be “A centre of excellence in teaching, innovation and holistic development” and Mission “To provide quality education and training, research and innovation to meet the needs of a dynamic Society”. The university is committed to make distinctive contributions to society in Kenya and globally.

Our Chief Guest, as a public institution we are fully committed to advancing the government’s pillars for education: access, equity, quality and relevance. Strategically, the university has identified Health Sciences as its niche though offering other complementary market driven programs in four other schools: the Schools of Education and Social Sciences, Business and Economics, Computing and Information Technology, and Science

Sir, we are indeed pleased that you were able to spare sometime in your busy schedules to attend this inaugural public lecture during which we hope to share insights and opinions on government's strategy for handling external shocks, decision-making process and how it prioritizes resources in response to such shocks, and the role of different government agencies in responding to these shocks.

Sir, as a university, we have a vital role to play in ensuring that we are able to manage our resources effectively, even in the face of prevailing difficult times. We do this through our sound financial management practices and policies, which help to ensure that we are able to continue to provide our students with the highest quality education and support our research and community engagement efforts.

Sir, one of the key ways that we manage our finances prudently is through our budgeting and forecasting processes. We regularly review our budget and make

adjustments as needed to ensure that we are able to manage our resources effectively. We also have a strong system of internal controls, including regular financial audits and reviews, as well as policies and procedures that ensure that all university funds are used in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. Through prudent management of resources, the University has been able to complete all its projects and we do not have pending bills. We look forward to being rewarded for this prudent management of resources as per the Public Finance Act.

Our Chief Guest, 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.

Sir, we are aware that Government capitation to public universities has greatly reduced due to the harsh economic conditions. Moreover, we are constantly looking for ways to increase our revenue streams, such as through sponsors, grants and partnerships, which can help to ensure that we are able to continue to provide our students and researchers with the resources they need to succeed.

Sir, to fully realize our vision, we require increased recurrent and capital development budget to engage more academic staff especially in our niche areas and to avoid over reliance on part time lecturers, house more students and staff in campus, increase and improve our physical infrastructure and create an environment in which they can thrive.

Once again, I extend my sincere gratitude to Hon. Ndindi Nyoro for joining us today. I hope that this lecture will provide valuable insights and promote open dialogue on the government's response to external shocks.

Thank you.

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