



**SPEECH READ BY PROF. HENRY W.
MUTORO DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS (AG.) DURING THE
ORIENTATION OF FIRST YEARS HELD ON
THURSDAY 23, MAY 2013 AT TAIFA HALL
UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI**

New students

Student Leaders present

Members of the University Administration

present

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is indeed a wonderful and memorable day for us at the University to welcome yet another cohort of young minds who emerged as the top students in the country and therefore earned their place in this Premier University.

May I take this opportunity to congratulate you for your focus and hard work that enabled you to be admitted to this University. You are the chosen few and we are proud of you

Let me assure you that by coming to the University, you have made the right decision. The University of Nairobi is the oldest and largest University in the region. It is committed to fulfill its mission of providing quality University education and training through creation, preservation, integration, transmission and utilization of knowledge. The University has also remained focused in its determination to be

a truly World Class University. It has engaged its transformational gear which has already started bearing fruits. These include being ISO 9001:2008 Certified and consistently emerging among the top institutions in meeting its performance targets.

At the University, we Endeavour to provide a serene academic environment with a view to help our students to realize their maximum potential. Our intention is to provide an environment that will enhance physical, mental, spiritual and intellectual development. In so doing, we want you, by the end of your course, to evolve into a holistic graduate who can fit in the world of work by exhibiting the following qualities:

- **Discipline**
- **Skills and competencies**
- **Diligence and**

- **Scholarly excellence among others.**

We welcome you to the world of scholars. In order to fit into our world, you need to subscribe to the values we hold dear to us.

These Core Values include:

- **Freedom of thought and expression,**
- **Innovativeness and creativity,**
- **Team spirit and team work'**
- **Professionalism,**
- **Quality customer care,**
- **Responsible corporate citizenship and strong social responsibility and**
- **Respect for and conservation of the environment.**

You are encouraged to make use of the facilities at your disposal in order to make your stay here comfortable.

As the person in charge of the Academic Division, I would like to assure you that we are committed to best practice

In whatever we do. The University regards students as our most valued customers and we are committed to delivering superior customer service that exceeds expectations. In order for this to happen, we would like to know your views, feelings, suggestions and comments. It is only when we know your needs and expectations that we can design appropriate interventions and initiatives to make your stay at this university worthwhile and memorable.

It is also our desire to enhance dialogue between the university organs and all our students through such legitimate channels as the students' organizations. We also have an array of

support services provided by various departments/units/offices.

These include the Dean of Students Office, Department of Sports and Games, University Libraries, University Health Services etc. It is therefore important that all students familiarize themselves with the University set-up so that your needs/problems can be addressed by the right office for faster response. In this respect, it is important that each student ensures that they have a copy of the Students Information Handbook and Information Booklet.

In line with our commitment to service delivery, the university has also developed a customer Service Charter with specific timelines within which issues raised will be addressed.

As you begin your new life, you are likely to experience more freedom than you have never

enjoyed before. This freedom is both an opportunity and responsibility. You have an opportunity to chart your life but you also have a responsibility to conduct yourself in such a way that your behaviour does not infringe on other people's freedom. To navigate your way through the turbulent waters of academic life, you need to develop strategies that will help you to survive and thrive. You may therefore need to borrow from Charles Darwin who observes that, "it is not the most intelligent of species that survive; it is the one that is most adaptive to change." It is therefore important to be flexible and tolerant in order to manage diversity and get along with others. If you strongly feel that things must change, then you have to start with yourself as advised by Mahatma Gandhi who says that "You must be the change you want to see in the world."

The Academic life you have just started can be stressful sometimes and cause some worries about the future. However, you can surmount the anxieties, if you go by what Winston Churchill says that we should “Let our advance worrying become advance thinking and planning.”

As the Deputy Vice- Chancellor in charge of Academic affairs, I need to emphasis the following to ensure your stay here is not disrupted:

READ UNIVERSITY CIRCULARS OF INFORMATION MEANT FOR STUDENTS CAREFULLY AND THOROUGHLY

- **Cheating in exams is punishable by EXPULSION even at final year level!**

- **SPECIAL EXAMINATION REQUESTS. This should be done before exams not after!**
- **PROBLEMS cited by students who request for special examinations:-**
 - **Sickness of various types**
 - **Absence from the University due to personal problems such as funerals, Finances police cases and land cases.**
 - **Negligence by students. Arriving late for exams e.g.**
 - **Piling of one's work.**
 - **Problems with various members of staff-in class or outside. Should provide this information before exams.**
- **MAKE IT ABUNDANTLY CLEAR THAT SENATE WILL NOT ENTERTAIN CASES WHICH ARE REPORTED AFTER EXAMINATIONS ARE OVER.**

- **REPORT THESE PROBLEMS TO DIRECTOR, DEAN OR CHAIRMAN OF DEPARTMENT. ON MEDICAL, TO THE CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER , UON HEALTH SERVICES. NO. MEDICAL REPORTS/CERTIFICATES BY A PRIVATE MEDICAL/DENTAL PRACTITIONNER SHALL BE ACCEPTED.**
- **Failure to present oneself for exams because of MISREADING EXAMINATION TIME TABLE! This is not CONDONABLE. If it happens, report immediately to:**
 - **ACADEMIC REGISTRAR**
 - **CHAIRMAN OF DEPARTMENT**
 - **DEAN/DIRECTOR OF FACULTY/school/ Institute concerned.**
- **INSTUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES DURING UNIVERITY EXAMS. Please read them very carefully always:**

- **No unauthorized material e.g. Books, bags, notes, rough papers, Mobil phones etc.**
- **Write one's Examination number, title and code for each paper on the answer sheets.**
- **Invigilators are allowed to confiscate any unauthorized materials and expel any candidates who creates disturbance in the exam room.**
- **MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME – utilize it. Tell your mentor the socio-economic problems which might impact negatively on your studies and examinations.**
- **Consult your teachers regularly.**
- **Be courageous to assess our lecturers. Time keeping seriousness in teaching, etc.**

- **Use student leaders to get your learning concerns addressed.**
 - i) Practicums**
 - ii) Library**
 - iii) Missed lectures**
 - iv) No CATS**
 - v) Release of exam exams**
 - vi) results late.**
- **EXAMINATIONS APPEAL – Don't appeal long after you have failed your exams.**
- **Honestly and integrity while you are at the university. Remember Chapter Six of our Constitutions on leadership and integrity. Don't fabricate reasons why you did badly or failed your exams. Let your parents know what is happening with your studies.**

In conclusion, I would like to assure you that you have done well to choose to be on the side of education. Education is both a means to an end

and end in itself. There have been arguments that if education does not lead to employment then it is useless. Please note that it is not the business of education to provide jobs. Education provides you with the knowledge and skills to [perform a job provided by the economy. in any case, it is better to be educated, since as Aristotle puts it; “The educated differ from the uneducated as much as the living from the dead.”

As you embark on the academic life, I urge you to strive to excel in whatever you do Aristotle observes that “We are what we do repeatedly. Excellence, then, is not an act but a habit.” You need to form a habit of excellence. With those few remarks I wish you a happy and successful stay at the University of Nairobi.

THANK YOU.