



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND EXTERNAL STUDIES
KENYA SCIENCE CAMPUS

**Deputy Principal's Address to the 2017/2018 First Year Students on
Wednesday, 11th January, 2017 at the Uhuru Hall**

All protocols observed.

Dear Freshers, It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the Kenya Science Campus, a campus of the University of Nairobi, where we provide excellent science teacher education and training.

The University of Nairobi is a very large institution. It is comprised of six colleges: College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences (CAVS), College of Architecture and Engineering (CAE) College of Biological and Physical Sciences (CBPS), College of Education and External Studies (CEES), College of Health Sciences (CHS) and College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHSS), located in various parts of Nairobi. KSC is administratively placed under CEES. The two programmes that you have been admitted into, BEd(Sci) and BEd(ICT), belong to the School of Education, based in CEES.

I congratulate you for your excellent performance in the KCSE examinations that enabled you to join this great University. About 200 of

you have been admitted here to undertake either of the two programmes. This has been a unique admission since the university normally admits in September. This was necessitated by the admission of the accelerated group that broke the traditional university cycle.

I appreciate that this has been a hectic three days for you as you have been registering, and familiarizing yourselves with various facilities and amenities available to you at the Campus.

You are embarking on an academic journey that may appear long now but I can assure you, soon you will be looking back and wondering how the time flew by so fast.

The University of Nairobi prides itself in being the best. It is the best university in Kenya and in the region. It is currently at position 6 in Africa and one of the topmost universities in the world. As captured in our vision, it is a world class university committed to scholarly excellence. We currently have a student population of over 80,000 and over 5,000 members of staff.

At the University of Nairobi, we admit quality students; we have quality academic and support staff and quality learning and teaching resources. You therefore have no reason whatsoever not to excel.

It is my belief therefore, that in pursuit of your academic goals, you will play your role in uplifting the standards of this great University.

Ladies and gentlemen, the University is an academic environment and as such you will be expected to attend classes, undertake tutorials, practicals, assignments and examinations as directed by your lecturers. Stiff penalties

are meted out to those who fail to meet our academic expectations. The lecturers are ready and committed to teaching you and empowering you with new skills and you are expected to consult them whenever you have any academic problems.

In addition, the office of the Dean of Students and the Special Students' Advisor are open to deal with other problems that a student might have. Therefore, as students of University of Nairobi, I encourage you to make good use of the resources availed to you. We believe that you will find your niche and settle down to learn, and to succeed.

Ladies and gentlemen, we expect you to excel in whatever endeavors you undertake during your studies here at the University. We expect you to participate actively in club activities and professional associations which will provide you with opportunities to acquire leadership and the personal skills, which you cannot get in a formal class or lesson. Whatever the duration of your course, the time you will spend in the University will be important for each one of you in specific and personal ways. But overall, each one of you should experience growth in intellectual knowledge, personality, cultural enrichment, building personal friendships and career planning. I also urge you to be conscious of the environment around you. For starters the University of Nairobi is a very safe environment, however its location in the CBD, predisposes it to various security risks. The Security Officer will alert you further on this. However, you should avoid going to town at night unaccompanied. It is the responsibility of all of us to do security policing and ensure our safety rather than that of the security personnel. Please feel free to report any suspicious looking persons to the security offices so that appropriate action can be taken immediately.

Ladies and gentlemen, I wish to encourage you to enjoy your time and experience in campus, especially as you interact with people from different parts of the world. Do not be cocooned in your discipline. A university education means a holistic experience. As the newest members of this community therefore, I urge you to abide by the rules and regulations that govern student conduct. At the end of the day you will only have yourselves to blame if you do not achieve what you came to this University to achieve and that is; a good education.

Ladies and gentlemen, University life will accord you a lot of freedom which most of you may not have experienced. This freedom comes with its own social risks. I urge you to keep off antisocial activities. Alcohol and drugs, destructive habits and bad association, among others have ruined many promising careers. The choice of who to associate with is yours; the sort of company you keep determines how empowered you will be or how it will lower your opportunities. Again, recognize that political groups will try to woo you, be discerning as identifying with the wrong groups lower your opportunities.

I know you are well aware of the HIV/ AIDS pandemic that is claiming many lives in the country. I urge all of you to lead responsible lives and avoid risky behavior. Let abstinence be the norm and if you cannot, please use condoms which are available in our clinics. We also have voluntary counseling and testing services and an HIV/AIDS policy document is also available in the libraries and on our website. Once again, make use of the available resources.

Ladies and gentlemen, the University of Nairobi has not prescribed any formal dress code for students, save for the College of Health Sciences. It

is however the responsibility of all students and members of staff to observe standards that subscribe to modesty and decency in both dress and manner. By so doing, you are respecting yourself and those around you and above all you are a point of reference or mentor who will influence others positively.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I know that you are from diverse backgrounds with different opportunities, but this should not blind you to believe that where you come from solely determines what you become. It is not where you were born that is important, it is what you do with the potential you possess. . Be focused, consistent, disciplined, and diligent. Utilise the resources at your disposal well and face challenges courageously and you will inspire others.

Today, we are formally inducting you into the University community, with other orientation activities especially at the residential and college level expected to continue until you start your classes next week. The orientation week will usher in the most unforgettable and rewarding experiences in your life as you build your career at the University of Nairobi.

With those remarks, I wish you the most fulfilling and rewarding experience at this great University.

Thank you.