I wish to congratulate you for being admitted to this prestigious University, and in particular to the College of Education and External Studies, popularly known as CEES. Please clap for yourselves on this achievement. About 650 of you have joined the College to undertake Bachelor of Education degree programmes offered in the School of Education and based at Kikuyu Campus (BEd Arts) and Kenya Science Campus (BEd Science and BEd ICT).

The College has a rich history. It has been in existence since 1956 when it started to offer certificate courses. Today, it offers a variety of programmes not only at certificate but also at diploma, bachelors, masters and PhD levels. The college has two schools and two centres, namely; the School of Education (where you belong), School of Continuing and Distance Education, Centre for Open and Distance Learning and Centre for e-Learning.

In order to reach out to as many learners as possible the College has established Regional Centres, popularly known as Extra Mural Centres, which are spread across the country. The centres are located in Nairobi, Nakuru, Nyeri, Kisumu, Kakamega, Mombasa, Meru, Garissa, Kisii, Kapenguria and Thika. They are also supported by a number of sub-centres to improve accessibility by the students.
The college has a strong faculty comprising over 150 academic staff supported by a work force of about 100 administrative staff who are always ready to attend to students not only on academic matters but also on issues related to student welfare. Guidance and counseling services are also available whenever you need them and the relevant staff will be addressing you shortly today.

Just for your information, the University of Nairobi is the leading University in Kenya and is highly competitive in Africa. It is a world-class institution. It comprises six colleges with their headquarters spread at various locations of Nairobi County. At main campus we have the College of Architecture and Engineering (CAE) and College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHSS). The latter has additional campuses at Lower Kabete (where the School of Business is based) and Parklands (School of Law). Recently CEES and CHSS have established additional campuses in Kisumu and Mombasa. At upper Kabete be have the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences (CAVS); at Chiromo we have the College of Biological and Physical Sciences (CBPS) while at Kenyatta Hospital we have the College of Health Sciences (CHS). It is of interest to note that for those of you who will be taking science subjects and ICT, the teaching staff will be drawn from CBPS.

Now let me talk to you about life at CEES. At high School, most if not all of you were used to the sound of a bell. You were also used to considerable “policing” during the school term. Please note that at this University, there are no bells and there is no “policing”. You have to manage time by yourself and always do what is right, bearing in mind that you are bound by the laws of the land and University rules and regulations which are spelt out in the University of Nairobi Students Information Handbook. However, I wish to give you a few tips that may guide you further and perhaps make your life comfortable or tolerable at CEES.
1. Remember that you have joined this College to study for the next four years, pass ALL examinations and get the degree you have chosen to pursue. In this regard, you are expected to manage your time correctly and respect the regulations governing the programme you are undertaking.

2. At CEES, you are going to interact with other students whose backgrounds may be different from yours. Some students will attempt to detract your studies. You are therefore advised to avoid any form of detraction if you hope to concentrate on your academic work and meet the targets set in 1 above.

3. There will be many challenges, threats and temptations in the course of your stay at CEES. These include drug and alcohol abuse that may be accompanied by loose or careless behavior which could expose you to the risk of HIV/AIDs. You are advised to face these challenges bravely and resist any temptations’ that could ruin your life.

4. You have been provided with the Student Information Handbook. Please familiarize yourself with the Rules and Regulations Governing the Conduct and Discipline of Students of the University of Nairobi. These rules and regulations will guard you against misconduct that may lead to either suspension pending disciplinary action or expulsion altogether. Expulsion will be a big blow to you since the road to your next destination could be a very rough one.

5. Respect all staff you will be interacting with, including lecturers and support staff. Your road to success will be smoother if you create a good rapport with them.

6. Respect the environment so that you stay here and learning facilities can be stress free.

7. Respect the community around you. You have found it in existence and the relationship with the University community should be kept in harmony.

8. Always walk in groups of at least two when outside the boundaries of the campus. Many people out there may be jealous of you for having made it to this University. Moreover, quite often you may not be able to communicate well with the people you meet outside campus. Also, the way you express yourself may
not be acceptable to them. All these scenarios may lead to a fracas and end up in injury or loss of life before you realize your dream of becoming a scholar.

9. Respect yourself and conduct yourself in a decent manner. This way, others will emulate and respect you.

10. As you settle down, study your roommate and understand him/her as soon as possible. This will enable the two of you to live in harmony and make your stay in the hostels stress-free.

11. Always channel your grievances through established protocol in order to avoid delays in solving specific issues that you may raise regarding your welfare. In case of any confusion, seek advice and guidance from the Assistant Dean of Students.

12. Use proper language when communicating with staff and fellow students. Any approach that is driven by emotions and abusive language will not encourage cohesion, team work and team spirit.

13. Respect, protect and guard University property including the teaching and learning facilities. You have found them in place. A lot of financial resources were spent to put them in place to help you and other users. Other people who will come after you will need them. Perhaps even your own child, family member or relative will use them in the future.

It is my hope that if you bear in mind these tips at all times, your stay in the University and particularly at CEES will be enjoyable and fruitful.

Thank you and God bless you all.

Prof. Isaac Jumba
Ag. Principal, CEES