



Address

By

Prof. Mabel O. Imbuga PhD

Vice Chancellor,

Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology

to

JKUAT CBD Mombasa

First Year Students

Monday, July 04, 2011

**Campus Director,
Staff and Students,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Good afternoon

Welcome to Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology community (JKUAT) and the CBD Mombasa Campus, in particular. It is both an honour and a privilege for me to be here today to welcome you to the JKUAT community.

CBD Mombasa has about 1000 students that is a growth of over 130% per semester since the Campus started in June 2009. We are certainly the fastest growing University in the Coast. The University is the only institution in Mombasa County with a PhD class (PhD Business Administration) with over 45 students. We target to have a total student population of 1300 by Sept 2011 and 2500 by May 2012.

It is my duty and pleasure to encourage you to start your academic career by making sure you get your priorities right. It is quite clear that you are the cream of our country's brains but remember that very good students can easily deteriorate if they lose focus and this is not rare. To continue excelling in university work, it is absolutely necessary for you to maintain high discipline particularly from some of the enticing excesses of life. Alcohol, drug abuse and worthless sexual desires are some of the most dangerous vices that have ruined careers of potentially promising youngsters like you. As in the past weeks we have read stories in the newspapers about young promising students who partake in alcohol and partying and end up dead. It is therefore my strong conviction that you should at all times evaluate your actions to ensure that you distance yourself from these bad practices.

You need to bear in mind that despite the great importance of education, it is not an end in itself. Rather, education should be understood as a means to a greater end of shaping persons and lives. Our purpose as a University is to prepare and inspire our students through higher training to enable them to make a good and positive difference in the world, and to make the lives of others better.

As Vice Chancellor, I wish to inform you that we are proud of our alumni in all fields of our training. Feedback that we continue to get from outside is quite encouraging, as most of our former students mainly engage in research, innovation and leadership activities wherever they are. Furthermore, our alumni remain the most preferred in the labour market. This is the community you are now joining and I urge you to be awake to the fact that you too are destined for unique opportunities as your predecessors.

JKUAT presence has also been felt at the regional and global level particularly in the realms of research and technology transfer. It is this distinction and tradition that last January saw , JKUAT break new grounds likely to enhance our international standing when we won a highly competitive bid to host a Pan African University, Institute of Basic Sciences, Technology and Innovation. This is a continental centre of graduate training and research aimed at promoting integration among African states through higher education and research. The centre is expected to open its doors to the first 100 pioneering students drawn from various countries of Africa in September. The new status

has effectively brought in JKUAT to actively participate in the process of Pan Africanism, a concept conceived over two centuries ago outside Africa to sensitise the world about the plight of the black race that had been abused through slave trade, colonialism and neo-colonialism. As our new students, you are potential beneficiaries of this project particularly if you excel in your studies.

I want to assure you that we at JKUAT will endeavour to maintain this privileged advantage but I also urge you to play a role in supporting this noble initiative by avoiding incidences that could disrupt our academic calendar.

I take this opportunity to caution you against any indulgences in examinations malpractices since it would lead to your automatic expulsion from the University. You must work and earn your marks.

I want to pledge to you that my administration will continue to do everything possible to ensure that your stay here is peaceful and rewarding as you embark on the preparation of your future careers.

I want to thank you for choosing JKUAT Mombasa CBD Campus. We are happy and privileged to have you here.

It is now my very great pleasure to officially welcome the 2011/ 2012 first year's class to CBD Mombasa Campus.

I thank you most sincerely for your attention.