



Guide Notes for

Prof. Mabel Imbuga, PhD, EBS

Vice Chancellor

Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology

Professors Luncheon

Tuesday, July 19, 2011

Hon. Martha Karua, M.P. for Gichugu Constituency

Distinguished Professors

Ladies and Gentlemen

- I feel privileged to welcome you to the annual Professorial Luncheon that brings together all our Professors to take stock and compare notes. From the onset, I pay tribute to you Hon. Martha Karua for accepting to be with us this afternoon to talk to our professors.
- Hon. M.P, JKUAT has a total of 73 professors, 17 of them in the rank of full professors while 23 percent of the total number of professors are women. With the ratio of one professor to 310 students, we fall short of the international requirement of one professor to 20 students.
- Ladies and Gentlemen, your role as Professors in this University is to provide academic leadership to students and faculty, and to ask questions and provide answers. As professors, it is your duty to ponder what the idea of university entails and whether we have lived the idea. Indeed, a progressive professor should be able to know what to do to rediscover the idea of a university.
- This is because a university is a place of good but also crazy ideas i.e. ideas specific to your particular disciplines and areas of competency as opposed to the general ideas. It is only through crazy and bold ideas that society can advance and I want to remind you that you are the custodians of these ideas.

- One of the guiding principles of a progressive university is found in the promotion and protection of academic freedom which my administration pledges to support and uphold. Academic freedom covers the right for scholars like you to pursue research as an academic endeavour. Indeed, Chapter 4 of our new Constitution spells out a wide range of bill of rights. Of particular interest to us 'is the freedom of expression, freedom to seek, receive or impart information or ideas, freedom to articulate creativity, academic freedom and freedom of scientific research'.
- I urge you professors to rediscover, embrace, champion, and be guided by these principles. I also urge Hon. Karua to lobby her colleagues in the august House to support academic freedom through adequate funding of universities and their research programmes in particular.
- I thank the Steering Committee members led by Prof Rosebella Maranga for their time and effort in preparing for today's gathering.
- It is now my pleasure to introduce Hon, Martha Karua.
- Her name is well known in Kenya and is often associated with the Civil Society and struggle for reforms of the 1980s in Kenya. Her work in the Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA-Kenya) and national organizations such as the League of Kenyan Women Voters is well documented.
- A University of Nairobi trained lawyer, Hon Karua has been M.P. for Gichugu from 1992 to date. As an M.P., Martha has served in two ministerial positions. First as Minister of Water, where she successfully rolled out water sector reforms and laid the foundation for the revival of the extensive irrigation projects currently in place across Kenya. As Minister for Justice, thereafter, Justice & Constitutional Affairs, she oversaw key legislation that set the stage strengthening the electoral, national reconciliation processes and notably the constitutional process.
- She was at the forefront of the Parliamentarians that formed the Inter-Parties Parliamentary Group (IPPG) on reforms from 1997 to 1998 which advocated and successfully lobbied for expanded democratic space to allow the deepening of democracy in the country.
- It is now my pleasant duty to invite Hon. Karua to address the Professors.