

WELCOME SPEECH BY PROF. OGODO M.J NANDI, PRINCIPAL KAIMOSI FRIENDS UNIVERSITY COLLEGE TO FIRST YEAR STUDENTS ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2020 AT 10 A.M ON UNIVERSITY COLLEGE GROUNDS

- My Deputy Principals
- Other Management members present
- Deans and Directors
- Heads of Departments
- Staff
- Freshmen and women,
- Ladies and gentlemen

GOOD MORNING

On behalf of Kaimosi Friends University College I am delighted to formally and warmly welcome you, our First Year Students for the academic year 2020/2021, to the University.

I congratulate you all for having earned admission into Kaimosi Friends University College, the Spring of Knowledge.

I commend you for selecting KAFUCO as your university of choice. You made the right choice. Many of you revised your first choice universities in favour of KAFUCO. I sincerely thank you for the vote of confidence.

I want to assure you that together with my dedicated team, we are going to make the dreams which have led you here today come true.

I wish to extend my gratitude to your parents, guardians and sponsors whose support has enabled you to be here today. Respect and keep praying for them.

I am glad you arrived safely and I want to thank you for observing containment measures against the Covid-19 pandemic on your journey here as well as within KAFUCO.

You are aware the nation is still battling the pandemic and your continued cooperation will keep all of us safe. Help us serve you safely by continually observing the measures we have introduced to you.

The University College has instituted a surveillance team to help tame the spread of the pandemic and I urge you to offer the officers full cooperation in order to fulfill our collaborate efforts against Covid-19.

ASK FOR HELP

As you settle in, feel free to ask for help so that you can focus on your core business here as soon lectures begin. We have put in place deliberate efforts to support your first weeks here because we understand it is normal to feel lost, anxious or excited.

This new beginning may come with a mixture of excitement and anxiety. New friends, new subjects, big groups and challenges of university education all present you with excitement and apprehension in varying degrees. Give yourself time to adjust.

I want to assure you that my management will go to great lengths to protect you and champion your interests as a student throughout your stay here

Report any member of staff who denies you service. Likewise, feel free to report any attempts of sexual exploitation and abuse from any member of staff.

BACKGROUND HISTORY

KAFUCO was established as a constituent college of Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology in 2014 and was gazetted on May 22nd 2015 to increase access to university education.

It is the first and only public university in Vihiga County.

The history of the institution however dates back to 1902 when the Quakers established a mission at Kaimosi and among institutions founded the Kaimosi Teachers Training College

The quest to establish the university began in 2006 when the East Africa Yearly Meeting of the Friends Church submitted proposals to the Commission for University Education

In September 2014 Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology Council , through CUE took over the facility as one of its constituent colleges and seconded a staff establishment and the first batch of students to start the university.

SCHOOLS AND PROGRAMMES

Today, the University College offers certificate, diploma, undergraduate and postgraduate degrees in over 15 programmes at the schools of Science, Business and Economics, Computing and Information Technology and Education and Social Sciences.

We have also established the School of Nursing whose accreditation is nearly complete and will admit its first batch of students in September next year.

In addition to the regular and evening classes conducted at the University College's Main Campus, a robust Open Distance and e-Learning module has been under development to support distance learning.

The University College takes great pride in its achievement and growth pillared in Academic Excellence and Student Engagement; Technological Enhancement and Infrastructure; Research, Innovation, Outreach and Linkages; and Sustainability

KAFUCO endeavours to be ranked amongst the world class universities based on academic excellence and research that impact on societal needs.

Besides embracing innovation and ICT in all its programs and operations to position itself as a teaching, learning, and research and extension institution, emphasis is laid on entrepreneurial development and skills for the students to orient graduates towards job creation.

The institution strives for relevance in addressing the National aspirations by conforming to National policies such as Kenya Vision 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals.

Dear students,

KAFUCO is a student-centred academic community and endeavours to give you the best foundations to an independent life in your chosen career paths.

Our priority is to provide every one of you with formal qualification for a rewarding career. We opened a window of cross-faculty as well as intra-faculty transfers because we want you to settle on a career path of your choice.

Your success in the career programme you selected will however depend largely on your conduct as a student. Unlike primary and secondary schools where success is pegged only on the final national examinations, the university system is different. All forms of assessments cumulatively contribute to your exit grade at Fourth Year.

Treat your classes and these examinations as crucial components of this exit grade. Read the regulations on exams in your student handbook and abide by those rules and regulations to avoid consequences of exam malpractice.

I therefore wish to urge to work hard from the very beginning and remain steadfast.

Work hard but not too hard. Remember to cultivate your social life as well. We have a vibrant campus life as you have already been told. There are clubs, societies, outreach and voluntary programmes which will help build you into a wholesome person.

As part of long-term staff development strategies, the University College offers Masters scholarships to students who attain First Class Honours at the end of the degree programmes. The opportunity comes with guaranteed paid internship and subsequent job opening as part of our vibrant staff establishment.

FACILITIES

Students,

Like many young universities, KAFUCO strives to provide an enabling environment to students, staff and research collaborators. Against limited resources, we have greatly invested in modernizing and expanding the university to ensure the highest levels of quality is assured as enrolment continues to rise.

The success of this growth depends on you playing your part by promptly paying fees as spelled out in your admission letters.

We are devoted to our Mission to provide quality education and training, research and innovation to meet the needs of a dynamic society.

To achieve this, we are placing at your disposal resources such a modern library with improved access to learning material; a robust ICT infrastructure, including smart boards in some of the lecture halls, and some of the best programme leaders and lecturers in the field of academia.

Make good use of the resources this university avails to you and abide by the guidelines contained in your student handbook.

Our primary aim is to mould and send into the dynamic world a competent professional or an innovative entrepreneur who drives change.

University education is vast; a great discovery awaits you. Our support team comprised of dedicated, qualified and widely experienced academic and administrative staff will be waiting to help you steer your career course.

Dear freshman, you are aware you are joining the university under unprecedented circumstances. However, the hurdles presented by the ravaging effects of the Covid-19 pandemic have also fast-tracked our journey into the future of Learning, which as you all know is digital.

Across the world, institutions of our caliber are making the migration to the digital platform so as to offer learners the much-desired flexibility in accessing quality education.

To prepare you for this revolution, we at KAFUCO have embraced technology and have dedicated resources to ensure you are a part of the transition from the beginning.

As you have learned during the earlier phase of this orientation program, some of your classes may be online or blended. You have been inducted and onboarded onto the e-Campus.

I want to urge you to fully embrace technology enabled learning because even the future of the job market is digital.

THE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE SURROUNDING

Just like the settings you all come from, KAFUCO is established in a community. We have cultured a good relationship with the surrounding community and I want to appeal to each of you to make a positive contribution towards that relationship

Take time to understand and appreciate the way of life of your new neighbours and treat everyone with respect and humility

Make do with that which is available and your stay here will be memorable

CAMPUS LIFE

Our vibrant campus life will offer you a lot of freedom which comes with its share of social risks. Exercise this freedom with a lot of responsibility and endeavor only to cultivate healthy and beneficial friendships which will build positively towards your future.

In the University, you are considered an adult responsible for all your decisions. Still, I urge you to lead a responsible life. Shun companies and activities that will lead you down the path of destruction such as use of drugs and alcoholism, as well as destructive habits.

Explore the healthful community activities we have on offer such as social clubs, games and sports for better health and a stronger mind, which in turn will help you focus on your mission here.

We have recently formulated Sports and Talent policy to help nurture your gifts. I wish to urge you to fully explore these gifts both for wholesome growth and for the added advantages they present as career or scholarship opportunities.

DRUG AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Reports indicate that college and university students make up one of the largest groups of drug abusers nationwide. Young people (18 to 24 years of age) are prime targets for drug abuse, binge drinking, addiction and alcoholism.

The temptation to fall prey is high because, according to these reports, alcoholism and drug abuse make socializing easier.

Some of the reasons cited for this kind of behaviour include peer pressure, curiosity, stress, stress and course load.

Please take exceptional care and seek help from the University any time you feel at risk of falling victim to these social ills.

As you embark on this journey under the prevailing circumstances, great challenges and great opportunities lie ahead. Accept the challenges so that you can feel the joy of victory.

I wish you a safe, happy and challenging journey at Kaimosi Friends University College. Once again, welcome, class of 2020.