



**MURANG'A UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY**

**Vice Chancellor**

**Prof. Dickson M. Nyariki, PhD**

**During the Occasion of  
Welcoming First Year Students**

**on**

**Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> September, 2019**

**at**

**The University Students' Graduation Ground**

**Deputy Vice Chancellors**

**Registrars**

**Deans**

**Directors**

**Heads of Departments**

**Academic and Administrative Staff**

**Chairman and Members of the Student Governing Council**

**Our freshmen and women**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

Let me welcome all of you, the class of 2019, to Murang'a University of Technology. This event is called matriculation. It is when you formally matriculate into the University and become one of the student body. This is also the eighth matriculation ceremony of our university. Today's gathering, therefore, is to formally and publicly admit you—fresh-men and

-women—into the rights and privileges of the university. It is our opportunity to welcome you into the fold.

As you have been told, my name is Dickson Nyariki and I am the Vice-Chancellor of the university. As the Vice-Chancellor it is my job, alongside the 300 or so academic and administrative staff, to make your experience as fulfilling as possible. We aim to provide a unique student experience—one which you will value and one which we will be constantly improving.

Since you reported at the beginning of the week, you have been and will be taken through the university processes. You have also met and been addressed by a number of our staff in the Divisions, Schools or Faculties, Departments, and Administrative Sections. It is my hope that you are finding the orientation beneficial. I also believe you have been and will further be exposed to the University Rules and Procedures. I encourage you to abide by them because they will guide your stay at the university,

and help you to avoid difficulties and troubles. Of particular importance are the rules governing examinations. I must make it clear to you from the outset that it would be of great help to take a keen interest in these rules and closely abide by them.

Another rule associated with exams is payment of university fees. It is important that you take note of deadlines set for paying fees. Fees are one of the sources of income for the day-to-day running of the university. If you have any difficulties that need to be addressed by the university authorities, please do not hesitate to approach the Dean of Students or the Registrar Academic and Student Affairs early enough to explore ways of assisting. Do not wait until exams are afoot for you to rush for help; it will be too late for any assistance. I emphasize this because a number of students do not complete their studies each year because of examination malpractices and related problems. We expect you to genuinely earn your grades and uphold the integrity of our degrees. Just work hard and smart

and you will succeed. Needless to say again, it behooves every student to keenly follow these rules to ensure a comfortable and peaceful stay in the university.

**Dear Students,**

From today you become part of the life and history of Murang'a University of Technology. As some of you may know, Murang'a University of Technology was founded by the local benefactors who made a significant contribution in the establishment of the original institution—Murang'a College of Technology (MCT)—in the early 1970s. We are proud of them.

Murang'a College of Technology was converted to a Constituent College of Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) in September, 2011. On 7<sup>th</sup> October, 2016, Murang'a University College was chartered by His Excellency Uhuru Kenyatta, the President of the Republic

of Kenya, at State House, Nairobi, and was renamed Murang'a University of Technology.

The University is steadily building a reputation for academic excellence as can be confirmed by the recent university rankings—which placed us within the top 10 category in the country—and has deservedly joined the league of nationally and internationally recognized universities.

Since the award of the charter, the university has continued to grow steadily in respect of student enrolment. This week we have registered more than 1,400 students who will be joining our various programs. With continuing students, the total number now stands at about 5,600. Considering this trend, this number is expected to grow towards 10,000 in a period of two to three years; which is a clear demonstration that our university is increasingly becoming a preferred choice.

**Dear Students,**

You should have noticed by now that the university is located in a serene environment conducive to learning; it is kept clean and green. I urge you, therefore, to support the culture of keeping it clean and green; do not litter the environment; do not destroy the grasses; do not damage the trees; only use the pathways that have been provided; help us maintain the highest standards of cleanliness and serenity.

You must by now be aware that, different from what was happening in high school, you will enjoy a great degree of independence at the university. This calls for greater responsibility, therefore. There will be no duty master to check if you attended classes; there will be no matron to check if you cleaned yourself or you made your bed, and so on and so forth. You will now have responsibility for almost everything. It's important to remember that it's up to you to make good choices. Though there are others around you to offer guidance, no one but you can keep you safe

and successful. Over the next four or five years, you will learn how to become self-reliant. Your new situation at the university would definitely demand more sacrifices than ever before.

You should take note that our solid reputation as a university has been built through concerted efforts by our staff and students. You are now part of that community and you should strive to enhance our values at all times. I say this because the name of an institution is as good as its community. Students build the culture and character of a learning institution. We shall aim to maintain our national and international character that has largely been made possible by your predecessors, who have usually engaged the university through dialogue on all the issues affecting them. We expect you to emulate those who came before you.

**Dear Students,**



Universities are not just about the lecture halls and research labs. They provide a much broader experience—one that you will value and should make the most of. At university, academic success tends to go hand-in-hand with getting involved in and enjoying the life of the campus and the opportunities that come from being a student; so we are keen to see you getting involved. So don't you always be thinking you should be reading even when it is time to eat; you should be reading even when it is time to sleep; you should be reading even when it is time to bathe; you should be reading even when it is time for exercising and games; you should be reading even when you are seated on your toilet seat. In other words, you should manage your time appropriately, bearing in mind that there is time for everything.

Having said that, our purpose is to equip you not just with an education, but with the spirit of intellectual inquiry; with a deep curiosity; and with the

resilience and the resources to one day go out into the world and make a difference.

**Dear Students,**

Let me share with you details of a few of the developments the university is currently spearheading in order to improve facilities and enhance her standing:

- One, even though we have had difficulties in securing the necessary funds, the university is currently building two modern hostels which shall accommodate approximately 1,000 students when complete, to make a total of about 1,500 to be accommodated internally. One of the hostels shall be fitted with a kitchen and spacious reading and recreation spaces. This will provide opportunities for more students who may wish to reside on campus.

- Two, the university is putting up a state-of-the-art Science Complex, which is now at an advanced stage. This complex shall accommodate most of our laboratories for science related courses.
- Three, to secure the students, staff and university property, we are erecting a perimeter wall; and you can agree with me that it is coming up beautifully.
- And there will be many more developments, that you will witness during your stay in the university.

**Dear Students,**

As your Vice Chancellor, I must stress the following, to which I request your keen attention:

- First, even though we have no specific dress code as what obtains in high school, we wish that you would all dress appropriately when on campus. Skimpy and short blouses, spaghetti straps or bare backs, very short skirts and very tight trousers, for example, should be discouraged

on our campus. We have seen students hanging trousers so low as to expose the inner wears, some to the extent that the trousers are about to drop. These are all not considered appropriate dressing. Further to this, avoid putting on hats and bathroom slippers to lecture halls.

- Second, as a student, you must treat your peers and staff with dignity and respect. Physical violence will lead to your being withdrawn from the university.
- Third, sexual harassment and assault is not condoned in this university and will be met with prompt and harsh disciplinary action.
- Fourth, excessive and irresponsible consumption of alcohol and experimentation with drugs is not acceptable. Such behavior will lead to alcoholism and drug addiction and will impair your ability to study. Excessive drinking and drug use will destroy your life and dash any hopes of succeeding. Your parents and guardians will be heartbroken if you allow yourself to be a victim.

- Fifth, you are all aware that HIV/AIDS is still a menace in this country, and university students are among those vulnerable. As a young adult with great independence and freedom, you must now rely on your own wisdom and inner strength to guide you in navigating life and its pitfalls. It is my plea to all students, therefore, to always strive to behave responsibly by ensuring that you avoid this ailment. Ensure that you are well-informed about HIV/AIDS and that your behaviour protects you from the risk of contracting HIV. Stay safe and endeavour to make the best of your youth. Don't be pressured into being sexually active. If you must, don't have unprotected sex, and avoid multiple and concurrent sexual partners.
- Six, universities are not immune from the problems of criminal acts associated with radicalization, leading to terrorism. Each one of us should develop a heightened sense of crime awareness. For example, do not allow people you do not know in your residence or room, whether you reside on campus or outside, as your action will place everyone in

that residence at risk. Promptly report any suspicious characters on campus to the university authorities.

- Seventh, reading for a degree is demanding. If you don't meet our academic requirements, you will repeat exams, lose years of study or be withdrawn from the university. Failing your exams would not be something that suddenly happens at the end of the semester or year. It would happen over a period of weeks and months when you neglect your studies. In short, never lose sight of what you are here for.

I persuade you to take heed of these messages, and you will have a great time of growth and learning at this university. Should you experience challenges, however, be assured that the responsible staff are on hand to support you; they are there to make your university experience a positive and rewarding one. Please don't store up any concerns or anxieties. We may not get everything perfect, but we can improve on things if we know there is a problem.

You should therefore remember that you won't be embarking on this journey alone. You will form close friendships and make many enduring relationships during the next four or five years. Remember to look out for one another. Use your cell phones to let each other know where you are, especially if you are off-campus or away from your residence outside campus. There is nothing more important than keeping one another safe. However, no matter how wonderful your friends are, you are still your own best asset, and it is up to you to take care of yourself.

As I conclude, I wish to thank all the staff that have organized this orientation exercise; in particular the Deputy Vice Chancellor and the Registrar in charge of Academic and Student Affairs, and the rest of their team. They have managed the registration and orientation process with great success. Much appreciation too to our student leaders for all their work in ensuring that our new students feel welcome at the university.

Today, you begin a new journey of your life at this university and I am privileged and proud to be part of that journey.

God Bless you.

**Prof. Dickson Nyariki, PhD**

**VICE CHANCELLOR**