



MURANG'A UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

Matriculation Speech

By

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Vice Chancellor

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

on

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

at

The University Students' Recreation Ground

SALUTATION

- CEO, KUCCPS, Dr. Agnes Wahome
- Deputy Vice Chancellors
- Registrars
- Deans and Directors
- Chairmen/Heads of Department
- Chairman and Secretary General of the Student Governing Council (MUTSO)
- Our NEW students
- Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Morning:

INTRODUCTION

On behalf of the University Council, the Senate and all Staff, I warmly welcome you all to the 2023 Matriculation Ceremony of Murang'a University of Technology. This ceremony marks the official entry of fresh students to the University and is a gathering to formally and publicly admit qualified students who have been fortunate enough to be offered admission at our institution. I congratulate you all on this great achievement.

Your choice to study at this University is a satisfying indication that you believe in the quality of teaching and learning being offered here. I want to assure you that you

made an excellent choice; and you are poised for a rewarding academic experience. The training environment available here is conducive for any student aspiring to realise significant academic accomplishments. We thank you for showing confidence in us.

You have joined a university that has set high standards, and which is on the path to becoming world-class, having been ranked, on the most part, between positions 8 and 12 among 75 or so universities and university colleges in the country. We consider this a very good ranking for a university that is barely seven years old as full-fledged.

This ceremony ushers you into a new and unique life experience. It is an important step in your academic life, for which you have every reason to be proud of. I trust that you will do your best in order to build on the successes of your academic pursuits and to achieve greater things in life.

My dear matriculating students, education is the cornerstone of social and economic development. Our university curricula are aligned to the social and economic sectors to ensure that your education hones skills that directly contribute to our national development. Your education, therefore, is expected to foster personal, community, and national progress.

The landscape of education has evolved, driven by the lessons of the past and the current technological advancements. Blended learning, and a fusion of online and in-person instruction are now the norm. For instance, here at Murang'a University of Technology, the University Senate has approved that all common university courses shall be taught online. Most of these units are offered in either the first or second semester of your year-one of study. Adaptability, resilience, and digital fluency are paramount as we navigate these new realities together.

Having said that, all of you must uphold academic integrity, for your certificates are not mere paper, but a reflection of

your dedication and skill. Cheating in exams corrodes the essence of education and tarnishes your potential; it is extremely discouraged.

UNIVERSITY VISION AND MISSION

Dear students, this University, which will become your main home for the next 4 or more years, was awarded a charter to operate as a full-fledged university in October, 2016 through an Act of Parliament. It was formerly a Constituent College of Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT).

The University is in the early stages of executing its Strategic Plan for 2023–2027, a roadmap that envisions us as a Leading University in Technological Innovation, Research, Training, and Outreach. The strategy of achieving our vision is contained in our mission which is to advance Knowledge and Technological Transfer through Teaching, Training, Learning, Research, Innovation, Consultancy, and Community Engagement for Sustainable Development. Our core values of Responsibility, Integrity, Transparency, and Accountability will serve as the guiding light in all our endeavours. The high standards the University has set are clearly driven by our vision and mission statements.

REQUISITE INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT

In pursuing the University vision and mission, we have been focusing on the requisite areas of academic and physical development.

The University will continue to improve these facilities to ensure we prepare men and women with the requisite capacity to provide solutions to the social and economic challenges facing humanity. The potential for increased funding to our universities will assist to build new and revamp old infrastructure, elevate the quality of education, and broaden avenues for research.

ENROLLMENT

Dear matriculants, you have been admitted into seven Schools/Faculties of the University, namely: the School of Engineering and Technology; the School of Computing and Information Technology; the School of Education, Humanities and Social Sciences; the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management; the School of Business and Economics; the School of Pure, Applied and Health Sciences; and the School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences. The School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences is established at Mariira Campus, about 40km from

the Main Campus. The students admitted for agriculture-related courses will be expected to study at the Main Campus during their first year but move to Mariira Campus for their second to fourth years of study.

Records so far before us indicate that, today, at this ceremony, we are supposed to be inducting 3,207 fresh students (this number may not all be seated here). However, we expect more students, who may not have reported yet because of various reasons. Based on the seven Schools, the number of fresh students who have reported to pursue our various programmes are as follows:

S/No	School	No. of Students
1	School of Education, Humanities & Social Sciences	1401
2	School of computing & Information Technology	389
3	School of Business & Economics	383
4	School of Hospitality & Tourism Management	347
5	School of Engineering & Technology	291
6	School of Pure, Applied & Health Sciences	275
7	School of Agriculture & Environmental Sciences	121
	Total	3207

With your enrollment, the total number of students at the University is expected to grow to over 11,000.

As guided by the Ministry of Education, we shall continue to admit the new students for 2022/23 KCSE Cohort without

having to ask you to pay (tuition) fees. This is in line with the New Model of funding, which focuses on the student, and is based on their scholarships, loans and bursaries. As you are aware, we only advised you to have just enough money to cater for your accommodation, food and personal effects; as you wait for your fees, including upkeep, to be processed. You may also be aware that the application deadline for scholarships, loans and bursaries was extended to 7th October this year, which means that for those who had not applied by the end of the previous deadline of 7th September, you will get to know somewhere in October the status of your fees allocations with respect to the proportions of scholarship, loan, and household

contribution, contingent upon the various student categorizations. It is, therefore, vitally important to ensure you have made your application within the new deadline, if you weren't successful within the earlier deadline, in order not to miss out on the funding for your education. This message should be passed on to your colleagues, parents and guardians out there who, because of too much misinformation being bandied around, mistakenly believe that students would be required to directly pay fees before they are admitted, to hasten and report before it is too late.

HOLISTIC GROWTH

Dear students, for you to succeed, you must be focused, committed to your studies, be disciplined and be an active participant in the programmes of the University community. However, as you embark on your studies at Murang'a University of Technology, it is vital to recognize that knowledge and growth transcend books. In the quest for holistic growth, we encourage you to engage in extra-curricular activities such as games, sports, clubs, associations and community service.

Sports is an important part of University life. It is scientifically proven that physical exercises help the mental and emotional development of the body. The University

continues to upgrade sports facilities and new ones are being added for use by students. The University participates in Regional and National Sports and Games, and our performance in these games and sports has been quite encouraging.

The University is working hard towards providing facilities that will help in developing sports and recreational activities on the campus. The University Management is also working assiduously to improve these facilities so that our students can win prizes during the competitions.

By actively participating in these activities, you will enrich your university experience, reduce idle time, and cultivate

a sense of balance that is vital for personal and academic growth. As the saying goes, “all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy;” which means that if you don’t take time off from work, work in your context being studies, you will become both bored and boring. None-the-less, it also goes without saying that “all play and no work makes Jack a mere toy.” You must therefore find a balance to avoid too much of either. While you must prioritize your studies, because they are the cardinal purpose for which you are here, and you must endeavor to earn yourself a good qualification, you are also advised not to be constantly thinking of reading—during your lunch time when you are supposed to be enjoying a meal, you are thinking “I should

be reading,” in the bathroom taking a shower, “I should be reading,” in the toilet when you should be having ... your quiet and peaceful time, “I should be reading,” on phone with your parents or guardians or friends, “I should be reading.” Needless to say, you must strike a balance, otherwise you may run the risk of being stressed, something you must avoid.

Should you experience stress and other difficulties however, be assured that our Academic and Administrative staff are on hand to support you; they are there to help you realise your dreams and aspirations; they are there to make your university experience a positive and rewarding one.

You can always call on our experienced counsellors to help you with a variety of personal challenges. So, never suffer in silence; always try to seek help.

Please take note that, while we encourage students to join clubs, associations, religious groups, and other groupings, we frown at tribal groupings in the University. Tribal associations such as MUT Kisii or Luhya or Kikuyu, or Kamba or whatever-tribe Students Association are simply disallowed. Such unauthorized groupings will, therefore, be severely sanctioned. Religious and social (not anti-social or cultic) groups are, however, accepted as veritable units for the character-moulding of the students.

STUDENT DISCIPLINE

Dear students, in the process of obtaining a degree or diploma at Murang'a University of Technology, a student must learn and develop character, as already pointed out. Whilst our primary responsibility is to equip you with an education, with the spirit of intellectual enquiry, curiosity and resilience, we must also encourage character development that would enhance your success in society. Consequently, the journey of today's matriculation exercise and the graduation ceremony in four or five years to come, depending on the degree you are pursuing, and shorter

duration for those pursuing diploma and certificate programmes, must be devoid of acts that are associated with tendencies of bad character and learning. You are hereby cautioned, therefore, to shun all forms of social vices such as radicalization, alcohol and drug abuse, examination malpractices, sexual misbehaviour, cyber-bullying, scamming and other anti-social behaviour that could impair your studies and your future as a consequence.

The use of social media is now part of our daily life, and the fact that its usage has come into vogue from the recent past cannot be gainsaid. On the most part, the use of social media does have a positive impact on communication.

Unfortunately, quite frequently it is also used for negative reasons. As your Vice Chancellor, my role is to advise you to use social media only for positive purposes in the University. Let me make it clear that, just like it applies to the staff of the University, no student is permitted to publish anything concerning the University without the express permission of the Vice Chancellor. And if it is on student matters, no such publication is permitted without the clearance of the Deputy Vice Chancellor or Registrar in charge of student affairs, or Dean of Students, depending on the nature of the communication. All these Senior Officers of the University possess delegated authority from the Vice Chancellor insofar as communication on student

matters is concerned. In a few circumstances, some communication about student matters may be done by the Chairman or Secretary General of the Student Governing Council, after being sanctioned by the Dean of Students. Be careful not to violate this rule.

I further like to remind our students to keep our campus green, clean and serene. As you might have noticed, we are drilling a borehole near the water tank in order to have sufficient water supply to ensure our grass is kept green year-round. Besides this, we have paved enough walkways on campus for everyone—so avoid walking on grass.

Furthermore, we have provided enough dustbins for disposal of trash. Do not litter the campus.

I must also warn that you do not attempt to move lecture chairs and other furniture and equipment from their assigned rooms. If you ignore this warning, you are bound to face severe penalties. The University Chief Security Officer and his team will be on hand to apprehend those that will be disregard this rule. Note, however, that the Security Officers do more than this; they assist us take care of your security. They work round the clock to ensure the security of students, staff and property is maintained.

As the Vice-Chancellor, alongside the Academic and Administrative staff, it is never-the-less incumbent upon us to make your experience at this University rewarding, memorable and as comfortable as the resources available would permit. I have confidence that the skills and experiences you will acquire here will equip you for further achievements in the future.

CONCLUSION

My dear matriculants, I wish to reiterate that as you begin your new journey at this great University, you won't be doing it 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. 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 register my deep appreciation to our Academic and Administrative staff, together with the Student Governing Council (SGC), for dedicating their time and effort to make our 2023 orientation of the fresh students a success. They have worked tirelessly to ensure

that our new students settle-in and feel welcome at Murang'a University of Technology.

Congratulations once again to our new students on being admitted to Murang'a University of Technology.

Thank you.

Professor Dickson M. Nyariki
Vice Chancellor