

LAIKIPIA



UNIVERSITY

The 9th Graduation Newsletter

29th July, 2022



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EDITOR'S NOTE

The 9th Graduation Ceremony of Laikipia University is here with us. This is a very important and memorable occasion for graduands from the Schools of Education; Humanities and Development Studies; Science and Applied Technology; and Business and Economics. Indeed the 1,509 graduands to be conferred degrees and awarded diplomas have worked really hard and smart and are thus worthy of commendation. You are all decorated gallant soldiers today! In a moment, you will be part of the wider membership of the Laikipia Alumni who are already contributing to Kenya's fast growing economy. It has been a tough journey, but we are glad that you have managed to be in it to the very end and you are now part of the team that we are celebrating today.

Our dear graduands, you have achieved the best from Laikipia University to enable you transform yourselves and the society. We wish you well in this endeavour.

In a very special way, the editorial team today joins the graduands, their parents, guardians, sponsors and the entire University community in recognizing this landmark occasion.

Once again, we congratulate the graduands for their achievement and wish them success in all their future undertakings.

Thank you and God Bless you!

Prof. Felicia A. Yieke, PhD

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CHIEF GUEST

BIOGRAPHY OF HON. JUSTICE ISAAC LENAOLA, LLB, MBA, MSC, MBS, CBS - JUDGE OF THE SUPREME COURT

Hon. Justice Isaac Lenaola was born on 21st December, 1967 in Samburu County, Kenya. He is a Justice of Kenya of the Supreme Court of Kenya.

Justice Isaac Lenaola began his education in 1973 at St. Mary's Nursery School in Maralal. In 1974, he attended Maralal D.E.B. Primary School, then moved to Baragoi Primary School where he sat for his C.P.E examinations. He joined Alliance High School for his O-Levels studies and A-levels from the year 1981 to 1986. He was awarded the Gandhi Smarak Nidhi Award for the best possible achievement in A-Levels in Kenya. In 1987, Justice Isaac Lenaola joined the University of Nairobi for his LLB (Bachelor of Laws) studies and graduated with a Second Class Honours Upper Division in 1990.

After admission to the bar, he practised law in Nairobi, specializing in Commercial Law and Land Law. He served as a Commissioner both at the Peoples Commission of Kenya (PCK) and at the Constitution of Kenya Review Commission (CKRC). He also served as a member of the Tribunal Investigating the conduct of Puisne Judges.

He joined the judicial service in 2003 and worked as Resident Judge in Embu, Meru, Machakos and Kakamega High Courts. As a High Court Judge, Hon. Lenaola also

served as a Commissioner at the Judicial Service Commission (JSC) where he served as Chairman, Human Resource and Administration Committee (HRAC). He was previously a Member of the Board, Judicial Training Institute (JTI) and Chairman and member of various Judiciary Committees as well as Chairman of the Kenya Magistrates and Judges Association (KMJA) and Treasurer of the East African Magistrates and Judges Association (EAMJA).

Until his appointment as Judge of the Supreme Court, Justice Lenaola was the Presiding Judge of the Constitutional and Human Rights Division at the High Court in Milimani, Nairobi where he rendered illuminating and ground breaking decisions on human rights, devolution, separation of powers among other areas of jurisprudence. In all the stations he served outside Nairobi, he is reputed for diligence, hard work and has on many occasions been cited as an example in the best of case management and backlog clearance.

Justice Lenaola has served as Judge and Deputy Principal Judge of the Court of First Instance of the East African Court of Justice (EACJ) from 2011 to 2018 and as a Judge at the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone (RSCL) from 2013 to-date. He is President of the Advisory Council of the

Strathmore Institute for Advanced Studies in International Criminal Justice (SIASIC) and President of the International Association of Refugee and Migration Judges (IARMJ). He is a Fellow of McLaughlin College, York University, Toronto, Canada and Fellow, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (FCIArb). He is also Chairman of the Judicial Action Group (JAG) and a member of the Commonwealth Magistrates and Judges Association (CMJA), the Accountability Panel of the Wildlife Justice Commission (WJC) and also the African Judges and Jurists Forum (AJJF).

Honourable Justice Lenaola was awarded the Law Society of Kenya award for

distinguished service in the Administration of Justice (2008), the East African Law Society honorary membership award for exemplary service, and the development of jurisprudence in Kenya and the East African Region (2015) as well as distinguished service awards in the service of the International Association of Refugee and Migration Judges (IARMJ) (2014 & 2018). He is also a recipient of the Moran of the Burning Spear (MBS) from the President of the Republic of Kenya for distinguished service in the administration of justice in Kenya and the East African Region. He has also been named Jurist of the Year by the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) Kenya Chapter (2019).



CANDIDATE FOR THE CONFERMENT OF DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS (HONORIS CAUSA) OF LAIKIPIA UNIVERSITY

BIOGRAPHY OF ALHAJ DR. MOHAMED HUSEIN ABDULLA JAFFER, CBS, EBS, MBS

Alhaj Dr. Mohamed Husein Abdulla Jaffer was born on 10th March 1948 in Mombasa, Kenya. He is married and has three adult children (2 sons and a daughter), 6 Grandsons and 1 Granddaughter. He talks very fondly of his family and is very proud of them.

Dr. Jaffer is the great-great grandson of Dewji Jamal, one of the pioneers who came to East Africa in the year 1860 and traded as Shariff, Jaffer and Company. His family ventured in various trades as ship owners, bankers and merchants. They were the first Bankers to His Majesty King George

V. They were also Founder members of the Chamber of Commerce, and Founders of the first Power and Lighting Company in Lamu. One of his great uncles, whom he is named after, is the Hajj Mohamed Jaffer Dewji, a famous religious leader and a scholar. Dr. Jaffer's own father was a councillor of the Mombasa Municipal Council in the pre-independence period, and fought for the country's independence.

Dr. Jaffer is a philanthropist par excellence who has a huge social impact and is involved in very many social and community activities, in a bid to uplift humanity. An

astute business person, who has succeeded in start-ups in the emerging markets, he is quoted as saying that **one's business cannot be safe in a castle if those around you live in shanties**. For this, he is very passionate about improving the lives of all those around him in the society and this is actually what he does at his best. He is also quoted as saying that **'If only wealthy people in this country would give 20 percent only of their wealth, this country would be very different'**. Dr Jaffer walks the talk! This is his strong conviction.

Dr. Jaffer is the Chairman and Trustee of the Jaffer Foundation Charitable Trust whose main philanthropy activities cater for water, food, health, social welfare and religious support, and education projects to help change the lives of communities in the Coast region. He is also a founder, trustee and member of various clubs and organizations in Kenya. These include being a Founder Member of the Rotary Club of Bahari Mombasa; the Founder of Jaipur Foot Endowment Fund; the Founder of the Polio Plus Endowment Fund; the Founder of Innerwheel Breast Cancer Endowment Fund; and the Founder of the Charitable Trust of Bahari Club among others.

Being focused on having a holistic and all-inclusive kind of life as well as serving humanity, Dr Jaffer is a Life Member of the Muslim Education Welfare Association (MEWA); Life Member of the Kenya Red Cross Society; Life Member of the United Sports Club; the Patron of Jaffery Sports Complex; Member of the Nyali Golf Club; Member of Mombasa Sports Club; and is also the current Chairman and Managing Trustee of Khoja Shia Ithna-Asheri Jamaat in Mombasa.

Due to his exceptional social and

philanthropic work, Dr. Jaffer has been recognized and honoured both nationally and internationally. In May 2020, he was honoured with the Appreciation Award of Corona Warriors Award in Humanitarian Services by the President of Friendship with The World (NGO), Mr. Shasi Kumar. On 15th January 2019, Dr. Jaffer was conferred with the prestigious Honorary Doctorate of Philosophy in Humanities (PhD) by the United Graduate College and Seminary International. He was also bestowed with the World Civility Leadership Award by H. E. Prof. Sir Clyde Rivers of iChange Nations (ICN).

Recently, on 8th July 2022 Dr. Jaffer was honoured with the title of 'Chief of the Order of the Burning Spear' (CBS) by the President of Kenya - H. E. Uhuru Kenyatta. On 12th December, 2012 during the Jamhuri Day celebrations, Dr. Jaffer was conferred with the title of 'Elder of the Burning Spear' (EBS) by the former President of Kenya - H. E. Mwai Kibaki. Earlier, on 1st June during 2000 during the Madaraka Day celebrations, the then president of Kenya - H. E. Daniel T. Arap Moi honoured him with the title 'Moran of the Order of the Burning Spear' (MBS).

Being an adept businessman, Dr. Jaffer is currently the Chairman of the MJ Group of Companies, which is Kenya's largest provider of cargo handling services. The MJ Group has specialized in establishing and installing cargo handling terminals (for instance, Grain, Edible Oil, Fertiliser, Clinker, Bitumen, Petroleum, LPG Gas, APM CFS) with the latest state-of-art equipment. The Group's particular success has been in port development projects in East Africa and abroad specializing in handling both Dry and Liquid Bulk Cargo. Additionally,

they have established a Grain Terminal at Port of Lake Charles, Louisiana, USA. The Group's reputation has attracted interest from outside countries and exporting its expertise overseas.

Dr. Jaffer is not only a very successful businessman but also a very special human being who cares for humanity and does a lot of philanthropic work because of his conviction to improve and transform the

lives of people around him and society in general. He is an inspiration for all who would like to have start-ups in the emerging markets. This in itself is an inspiration to all who have a chance to interact with him. It is humbling to observe that Dr. Jaffer has given assistance to many Kenyans to a better life by helping pay school fees, build schools, churches and other start-up businesses.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHANCELLOR

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate our 2022 graduands on this auspicious occasion of the 9th Graduation Ceremony of Laikipia University. The degrees and diplomas being conferred and awarded to 1,509 graduands is attestation of great work put in the academic journey of these graduands. It signifies a great milestone in the University Calendar despite the prevailing challenges associated with the post Covid-19 pandemic period. I acknowledge the resilience and hard work of the graduating class of 2021 whose commitment has enabled them realise their dreams that are now climaxed in this great occasion.

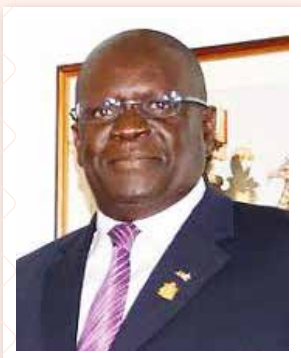
The University has continued to make reforms and strides as it moves to being a University of Choice in the higher education sector. The reforms are geared towards ensuring that the University matches the emerging and evolving trends in the education sector. Of importance, is the aligning of the University academic programmes to the Competency Based Curriculum (CBC). Further, the University is restructuring its research and consultancy programmes to generate knowledge and provide innovative strategies for the complexities in the society.

On this great occasion, I am cognisant of the challenges universities across the globe experience but I have the conviction that the strategic direction Laikipia University has taken will enable it to overcome. I therefore in a very special way, appreciate the University Council, the University Management Board, the Senate, the academic and non-academic staff for the determination that sustained the success of this grand occasion for our graduands.

This auspicious occasion will not have been made a reality without the steadfast support of the Ministry of Education. Their support has been the pillar for the realization of the transformative agenda of the University. The University hence prides itself in the achievement attained this far.

Dear Graduands, we are releasing you to the market today as a testimony to the fact that your choice and academic journey in Laikipia University was not in vain. We believe that you are well grounded and equipped with the capacity to transform our society and make outstanding contribution in the development of our country and across borders. I implore upon you to sustain the excellent achievement and put into practice the skills and knowledge imparted unto you. The world has numerous opportunities at your disposal for exploitation.





MESSAGE FROM THE CABINET SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

PROF. GEORGE A. O. MAGOHA, CBS

I am delighted to join the Laikipia University Council, University Management Board, staff, parents, guardians and the graduands on this 9th graduation ceremony of Laikipia University.

I salute and congratulate all these hardworking and diligent young Kenyans graduating today. Indeed, this graduation is a culmination of joint partnerships of all the stakeholders. For your hard work and resilience, I congratulate you.

Education just like any other sector in our country today, has faced enormous challenges occasioned by the covid-19 pandemic. It has become important to re-examine Education for innovation, work and sustainability.

I note with appreciation the efforts of Laikipia University in sustaining its role in the development of human capital and remaining relevant in the ever-changing educational landscape. The traditional methods of teaching have been put to test and today more than ever, universities need to embrace e-learning modules to mitigate the perennial interruptions to studies that bedevil institutions of higher learning. I am glad to note Laikipia University has embraced blended learning. This is the way to go.

As a ministry, we shall continue to provide the necessary support to universities in their move to embrace virtual learning and operational functions that have culminated in virtual graduations as evidenced by this graduation. The virtual platform is proving to be an efficient and effective alternative mode of operation that has also led to a reduction in graduation costs. I applaud the University for the uptake of this progressive decision to hold virtual graduation that is in compliance with our laws and regulations thus lending credence to the validity of degrees conferred and diplomas being awarded today.

My ministry relies on universities to train competent graduates for the new Competency Based Curriculum which inter alia celebrates the creative potential of all our children and teaches them the skills of critical thinking and problem solving as well as critical social values. I therefore, challenge the University to re-engineer and restructure programmes that are innovative, relevant and essential for the realisation of Kenya's development agenda, Vision 2030.

As an institution, I also encourage you to strengthen measures to increase retention and completion rates, particularly for the most vulnerable students from humble

households. The government is committed to equity in access to education for all Kenyan children. As a Ministry, we give you assurance of our continued support. The Ministry shall ensure timely disbursement of financial resources with the expectation of prudent and strategic utilization of the same to elevate the infrastructural, academic and support services in the universities. The University should explore alternative resource mobilization strategies to supplement its finances. I acknowledge the ongoing capital constructions in the University. I therefore, call upon the University Council and University Management to accelerate the completion and occupation of these projects.

The country has in recent times faced challenges that have disrupted business continuity in all sectors of our economy. Learning institutions were the worst hit and this led to the loss of valuable learning time; disruption of academic calendars, loss of revenue and other emerging social challenges. I call upon universities to conduct research on how to mitigate these challenges and adopt recovery mechanisms to ensure business continuity. Turn around strategies therefore, need to be espoused to ensure teaching and research which are the core function of universities. Innovative ideas to re-engineer service delivery need not be overstated.

Laikipia University needs to strengthen the linkages between education and industry. You must therefore create linkages with the potential job market to correlate the skills and knowledge set offered at the university with what is required in the labour market and indeed with the overall national agenda.

At the same time, more relevant, innovative and technical programmes will certainly accelerate recovery and economic growth.

Finally, I wish to implore the graduands whom we are celebrating today, to maximize the knowledge and skills that you have successfully acquired from Laikipia University. The skills you are coming out with should prepare you not only for the job market but should also be used as effective tools of socio-economic change. I challenge you to deliberately seek out opportunities for yourselves and make use of locally available resources and be entrepreneurial. Go forth and make a success of yourselves, create a positive impact in society, and transform yourself and the community around you. The value of the degree or diploma attained must be evident in society and it is your responsibility to work out this value even as the government remains supportive of your endeavours.

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, STATE DEPARTMENT OF UNIVERSITY EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AMB. SIMON NABUKWESI

I am delighted to join the Ministry of Education in congratulating the Laikipia University fraternity that includes 1,509 graduands, their parents and guardians on this auspicious occasion of the 9th Graduation Ceremony.

This indeed is a significant occasion given the challenging circumstances the education sector has undergone due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

I applaud efforts by the University Council, Management Board, Senate and staff in the making of these graduands. The graduands being conferred degrees and awarded various diplomas signify this great achievement. This should be an inspiration to all of you whose sheer hard work and determination have ensured that you have the success that you are witnessing today.

As a Ministry, we reiterate our continued support to Laikipia University as it walks the journey of realisation of its vision. The Ministry will ensure timely disbursement of financial resources with the expectation of prudent and strategic utilization of the same to elevate the infrastructural, academic and support services in the University. Nevertheless, I call upon Laikipia University to explore other resource mobilization strategies to supplement its financial resources.

I urge you to leverage innovations, in particular technology, to enhance classroom instruction, especially with digital and e-learning modes, and support professional development. As an institution of higher learning, you must re-centre your efforts on the core functions of Academics, Research and Innovation. This is the only way you shall regain your status and enhance visibility in the Development Agenda of the Nation. Research is the key solution to many problems bedevilling our country which universities have the minds and capacity to unlock. You ought to take advantage of the many scholarship opportunities that my Ministry advertises from time to time on our website.

Innovative ideas will continue to be churned out in universities if indeed continuity in learning and operations are embraced, and if indeed disruption is avoided in times of crisis such as the global pandemic witnessed in recent times. To this end, I extol the efforts you have made through the establishment of the Laikipia University ODeL Centre. I also congratulate you for the launch of the Laikipia University Radio which undoubtedly has added value not only for your media students but also to the community at large.



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN, LAIKIPIA UNIVERSITY COUNCIL DR. KEN NYAUNDI, PhD

The University Council welcomes you all to the 9th Graduation Ceremony of Laikipia University. I wish to congratulate the 1,509 graduands for this great achievement. *Hongera!* This achievement deserves commendation. Your dedication to pursuing higher education in our esteemed University has yielded empowered graduands. Today shall forever remain a distinguished day for the Laikipia University fraternity.

I have the conviction that the University has grounded you with knowledge and skills reverberating with our core values of quality, integrity, and respect. This places you in a better position to go out into the world as responsible citizens capable of defining individual and corporate destiny full of positive fruition.

We are privileged to gather here today to witness this momentous ceremony, I am delighted that the University Council has embraced a transformational agenda purposed to make Laikipia University match the best. The concerted effort to improve the learning environment cannot be over-emphasised. This is deeply appreciated. The completion of the ongoing capital projects is set to create a top-notch infrastructure for quality and enabling environment for learning. The University is in the process of reviewing academic programmes to align them with emerging trends that include the Competency Based Curriculum (CBC). This is highly lauded. The University is also cognisant of improving student welfare. To this end, programmes to encourage skills development have been put in place and rolled out.

The University is heavily investing in information technology for effective and efficient delivery of services to all our stakeholders including students. Of importance is the programmed commissioning of the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) that is set to transform and reinvigorate service delivery in all functional areas of the University. To this end, the university's human capital is being transformed through training and workshops among others.

The University has further joined in the government effort of expanding access to higher and technical education. The establishment of a TVET Institute as well as an Open and Distance e-Learning (ODEL) Centre are among some of the programmes the University is actively focusing on.

Resource mobilization and investments is one of the emerging strategies that are expected to make universities stay afloat during the harsh economic times. The Council is putting in place policies and structures to revamp and capitalize on opportunities for alternative

sources for its budget. I urge the University Management Board to fully take advantage of the support given by the Council to tap into additional support funds for the smooth operation of the University. The Directorate of Resource Mobilization and Investments is therefore expected to assist in the strategic mobilization of resources to complement the budget.

I urge our Alumni to consider partnering with the University Council in the realization of its mandate. Additionally, I urge both students and staff to support the University Council and University Management Board in their endeavour to make the University a Centre of Excellence in higher education. The University Council will continue to focus on its commitment to improved service delivery through the implementation of its Performance Contract, adherence to ISO Standards, and commitment to working within the set regulations of the Commission for University Education (CUE) to reengineer its services and programmes.

I sincerely thank the Government of Kenya through the Ministry of Education for its continued funding of university programmes. It is through the Ministry's timely and prompt release of budgetary allocations that Laikipia University has been able to successfully fulfil its mandate.

I take this opportunity to thank the University Management Board, the Senate, Faculty, Administrative, Technical, and Support staff for their singular efforts and dedication in ensuring a colourful graduation ceremony for the graduands.



MESSAGE FROM THE VICE CHANCELLOR

PROF. KIBETT ROTICH, PhD
PROFESSOR OF BIOSTATISTICS AND INFORMATICS

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to the Laikipia University 9th Graduation ceremony. It is an occasion duly dedicated to honouring the achievements of our graduands. I extend my congratulations to the class of 2021 graduating today.

This is an important day as it is the wholesome hard work and endurance that has culminated in this historic occasion. I am excited to witness the conferment of degrees and award of diplomas to the graduands in their various areas of specialization. This event esteems the

Laikipia University fraternity. Well done on this accomplishment!

With the valued support of the Ministry of Education and the synergy exhibited in the University Council, the University Management Board, Senate, staff and students, we have continued to witness strides of growth and development in the University. The existence of a serene academic environment that spurs quality learning and fosters research, scholarship and innovation has worked towards producing transformative graduands. These

graduands have gained the necessary knowledge and skills to contribute to the realization of the national development goals and agenda.

Our graduates have cut out a niche for themselves in the job market and industry due to the unique knowledge acquired in the course of their studies. This has resulted in a steady growth of student numbers as witnessed in the placement numbers allocated by the Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Service (KUCCPS) which have increased from 1884 to 2528 this academic year. Within these numbers, the placement of TVET students is a great indicator that Laikipia University is working towards the achievement of its mission. Indeed, Laikipia University is the University of Choice.

Laikipia University has in the recent past continued to enhance efforts of internationalization of its programmes through strategic collaborations and linkages. This is critical in the empowerment of our students, since it provides them with cutting-edge skills and the mindset to enable them to cope with life and professional challenges. Recently, the University in collaboration with the University of Pretoria in South Africa, Egerton University in Kenya, and the Future Africa Campus of University of Pretoria hosted a multi-disciplinary research conference on sustainable agricultural development. From this conference, the best publications have been featured in peer-reviewed journals. Further, to tap into the research and innovation opportunities, the University held its second Research and Innovation Week in which several prototypes were showcased. This has propelled the

University to establish a research centre in its laboratories for purposes of pursuing patents and trademarks on the same.

The University continues to improve on its infrastructure and academic programmes. These improvements are focused on ensuring business continuity in case of unforeseen disruptions such as the recent pandemic that interfered with the university calendar. The establishment of an ODeL Centre should ensure that the university calendar runs normally even in case of future disruptions. This shall culminate in wider access to our academic programmes in virtual space. Further, the University is set to commission its ERP system that automates core academic and support functions of the university spread amongst all its modules.

The recently launched Laikipia University Radio which is operational serves both the university and community. The Radio is a strategic investment that also serves as a Media Studio platform for our communication and media students in their acquisition of hands-on knowledge on media broadcast.

The ongoing capital projects that the University is undertaking are meant to improve and increase learning spaces and the physical work environment. The completion of the 1,500-capacity state-of-the-art Library and Administration Block, the projected completion of the twin Tuition Block, and the Science Complex are all meant to make our students access quality education within a conducive learning environment. The University has continued to embrace the Performance Contract as a transformational tool. The Performance Contract has seen the University adopt a

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customer-focused Business Process Re-engineering concept aimed to achieve a turnaround in service delivery, particularly on academic processes. This is enhanced by the continued implementation of the integrated ISO Standards on Information Security Management System (ISMS) and Quality Management System (QMS). The University is also implementing several projects and programmes under the Rapid Results Initiative as it strives to maximise its limited resources. The initiatives have seen the University commence the construction of the perimeter fence, the zero-grazing unit, and equipping the gymnastic and other sporting equipment among others. These programmes are expected to enhance customer satisfaction.

Student welfare is a critical component of the university. Given this, the University has consistently on an annual basis secured a budget, places students on a work-study programme and awarded bursaries to needy students. I am aware this programme has gone a long way in ensuring the sustainability of needy students in the University leading to improved completion rates. To this end, the University is exploring means of launching scholarship programmes. Further, the University Council approved a policy on the establishment of an Endowment Fund. The University is committed to establishing a Board that shall explore means and ways of generating and tapping valuable resources that may go into scholarships and bursaries for the needy. I therefore, call upon Alumni and philanthropists to come in and support these noble ideas.

The University, like other public institutions, is constrained as far as resources are concerned. The resource mobilization strategies are therefore critical. The University shall continue to prudently utilize available resources. Consequently, the Council approved a Resource Mobilization

policy to guide this. In the near future, the University is investing in establishing a consultancy bureau aimed at fully exploiting opportunities in the economy. The acquisition of professional skills is vital to graduates for the competitive job market. The University has therefore developed short courses that are to be rolled out in this financial year for purposes of equipping specialized skills to the students. The short courses should also enhance resource mobilization. Additionally, the University is revamping its farm as a strategic resource mobilization unit.

To our dear graduands, graduation is a turning point in your lives. It marks the beginning of the transformation from student life into lifelong service to society. The skills and knowledge imparted to you, guarantee competencies and capacity that will enable you to adapt to the ever-evolving dynamics of the job market. You are indeed empowered to catalyse the transformation of society. Importantly, the University has set you on the path to self-realization and service to humanity. Spice up this important journey with courage, confidence and determination to last the full course.

Today, we celebrate a very special graduand: **Alhaj Dr. Mohamed Husein Abdulla Jaffer, CBS, EBS, MBS**, who is being conferred with the **Doctor of Humane Letters (*Honoris causa*)** of Laikipia University. Throughout his life, Dr. Jaffer has made numerous tremendous efforts to transform society and both his businesses and philanthropic activities have had a positive impact on the livelihoods of the communities in the country. Dr. Jaffer truly emulates our vision of valued transformation of humanity. Laikipia University could not have found a better person to confer this honorary degree other than Alhaji Dr. Mohammed Jaffer. As you leave Laikipia University, you remain our worthy ambassadors.

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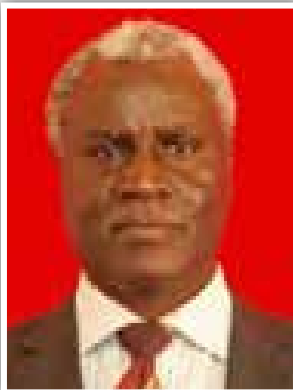


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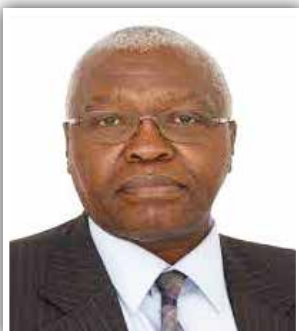
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2013-2018
(Former Chancellor)**



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PhD
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(Former Chairman)**



**The late, Mr. Ken
Mbwaya, BSc
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(Former Chairman)**

FORMER VICE CHANCELLOR AND PRINCIPALS



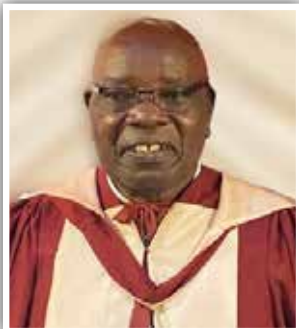
**Prof. Francis K. Lelo,
PhD
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M. Ngunjiri, PhD
2007-2008**



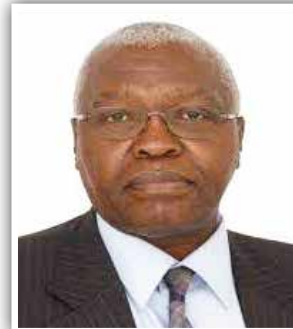
**The late, Prof. Aggrey
M. Sindabi, PhD
1999-2007**



**The late, Prof. Peter L.
Shalo, PhD
1994-1999**



**Prof. Chacha N. Chacha,
PhD
1992-1994**



**Prof. Raphael M.
Munavu, PhD
1990-1992**



DIVISION OF ACADEMIC, RESEARCH AND STUDENT AFFAIRS (ARSA)

PROF. FELICIA YIEKE, PhD

AG. DEPUTY VICE CHANCELLOR, ARSA

On this 9th Graduation Ceremony, I say Congratulations to the Class of 2021! Graduation is a very important day in one's life. This is particularly so, when you made the important decision to begin this academic journey in your life. This graduation is therefore the culmination of this great journey. You have run the race! You have reached the finishing line and sailed through it! You are counted as victorious! What a momentous race it has been! It is my greatest pleasure to acknowledge the hard work, diligence, perseverance and resilience that you have made to ensure you reach where you are today to celebrate this great occasion. I acknowledge that all this would not have been possible without the enormous sacrifices that your parents, guardians and well-wishers have made. You are all awesome!

It has been an honour to see you grow personally and professionally while pursuing your college career here at Laikipia University. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to be a part of your journey. We are really proud of our Class of 2021 and cannot wait to see all your accomplishments in the next chapter in your life. Today, we release you to the world out there. Be prepared to encounter both challenges and opportunities. In whose hands have you been safe? I want to assure you that the Laikipia University label is

like a life insurance to you. Yes, it is! It is 'The Life Insurance'. It has already prepared you for all these encounters and you will surely be able to take advantage of every single opportunity you meet and still be able to overcome the life challenges you will encounter and still emerge victorious. Welcome to this world.

To confirm that we offered you the best in the menu, Laikipia University has ensured that its academic programmes are in line with the needs and requirements of industry and the society at large. We are focused on producing global graduates. We live to our vision of being 'A University for Valued Transformation of Society'. Our graduates are some of the most valued and sought after in the region and beyond since they are already well equipped with the practical element of what they have been qualified for. They are the best!

As part of the accomplishments in the next chapter in your life, we look forward to interacting with you at a different level as we welcome you to the Laikipia University Alumni Association whose motto is 'A student once, alumni forever'. Congratulations on becoming the latest entrants to join the alumnus group. We ask you to be our good ambassadors out there and always know that whenever you write the story of your life, the years you have

spent at Laikipia University will be among the most precious memories that you will always recall with nostalgia.

Once again, Congratulations on earning the Laikipia University degree! This is never a small achievement and certainly a great one in our times. Now go out and do all that appertains to this degree! Use your powers to create a more compassionate, considerate, and equitable world. This will certainly lead to you participating in valued transformation of the society we live in.

Good luck and success in your future endeavours! Congratulations and BRAVO! God Bless You!

About the Division

The Division of Academic Research and Student Affairs has enhanced its services through four Schools, four Directorates and one Centre. These are:

- Schools of: Education; Humanities and Development Studies; Science and Applied Technology; and Business and Economics.
- Directorate of Research, Human Rights and Gender
- Directorate of TVET, Career Placement, Alumni and External Linkages
- Directorate of Examination and Timetabling
- Graduate School.
- Open, Distance and eLearning (ODEL) Centre

The Academic Division has 11 departments. We are already preparing for the Competency Based Curriculum (CBC) earnestly and teams in the departments are already reviewing all our programmes to ensure compliance with this exciting new way of learning. The ODeL Centre is active and we are already offering a good number of our programmes on a blended mode of

both face-to-face and virtual. The TVET Institute is expecting students for the first time in the next academic year that begins in September 2022. We are very proud as a university to be able to offer programmes at various levels from tertiary education upwards to all students in the country.

Responsibilities of the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academic, Research and Student Affairs

The Deputy Vice Chancellor (DVC) Academic Research and Student Affairs (ARSA) has continued to perform her duties in providing leadership in the Division. To actualize this, the DVC (ARSA) chairs the following Committees:

- Deans Committee
- Students Welfare Committee
- Library and Publication Committee
- Students Disciplinary Committee
- Training, Research, Extension and Consultancy Committee
- Linkages and Collaborations Committee
- Graduation Committee (*Ad hoc*)

The DVC (ARSA) also has such other duties as many be assigned or delegated to, by the Vice Chancellor in accordance with the University Statutes. To this end, the DVC (ARSA) applauds the Senate for its support, all staff of the University, all our stakeholders that include our creditors, our neighbours-Shemane Community, and all our friends from across the world. Special thanks to the teams in Schools, supporting departments including Finance, Procurement, Catering, Medical, Security, Halls, and Estates that have worked tirelessly to support each of the Committees in the Division that enabled us make this graduation a success story. Very special and singular thanks go to the Graduation Committee for its tireless effort.

GOD BLESS US ALL!





DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION, FINANCE AND PLANNING (AFP)

**PROF. ALBERT MUGAMBI RUTERE, PhD
AG. DEPUTY VICE CHANCELLOR, AFP**

The big day is here! What? The 9th Graduation in Laikipia University. Congratulations to students, staff, parents and other stakeholders for making this inspiring admirable day come to pass. Collectively, your efforts have immensely contributed to the evident success our students are celebrating today. Many accolades to the graduands for your milestone achievement and inclusion in the graduation list. Indeed, your hard work and focus to accomplish academic tasks was not in vain.

Today you will be given powers to read and to do all that appertains to the degree/diploma/certificate conferred to you. Now go to the world of work and prove yourself as worth the education and skills acquired at Laikipia University. Embrace good work ethics wherever and whenever you get engaged and do your best to make acceptable difference.

Remember to balance your work and professional growth. Consequently, maximize on the relevant and available opportunities for further training beyond the degree/diploma/certificate that will be granted to you today. Evidently, extra training is an added advantage to improve your performance, and a guarantee for reward from your employer.

As you work, be morally grounded in order to have good name. Truly, there is something in a name. Therefore, to your colleagues and members of the society, be a rose that smells as sweet, regardless of any other name given to it. Even further, be in the category of those individuals that steadfastly consecrate others in TRUTH. In and out of seasons, appreciate diversity in people and consistently advocate for an all-inclusive society. This is a just society that cherishes respect, equality and gender harmony in its social, political and economic domains.

Finally, on behalf of the division of Administration, Finance and Planning of Laikipia University, let me congratulate you for your academic success. It was our pleasure to facilitate your stay and studies in the University. Moreover, we shall remain committed to supporting you as alumnus of the University.

If by any omission, the division did not deliver good service to you, forgive us and move on. Nevertheless, we shall take note of the disservice, if any, for continual improvement and delivery of better services to our esteemed clients-who are you and others.

Good luck and God bless you!



OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

DR. RAPHAEL KIUGU, PhD
REGISTRAR

Laikipia University wishes to authenticate its product through the 9th graduation ceremony which for the second time is being done virtually. Despite the recent pandemic that affected learning in all institutions at all levels of the education sector, we proudly assure the labour market that the product we are releasing to the market today is of high quality, well-polished and guaranteed.

On behalf of the staff who work in the Office of the Registrar Academic Affairs, let me take the privilege, honour and opportunity to congratulate the graduating class of 2021 for their well-deserved success. Indeed, we have tirelessly walked with you along this journey that has culminated to this momentous crowning and mark of approval.

As the University gives you the approval through the pronouncement of the 'power to read and write', remember to exercise the power so granted with accountability, transparency, humility and integrity even as you transform yourself and those around you. We believe that you will validate this transformation by your actions. Do not allow academic arrogance and selfishness to destroy your career, relationships and life at large.

I encourage you to take every opportunity that knocks at your doorstep and run with it. Do not be discouraged by busybodies with negative energy and lethargy. Just be courageous to make the first step in the right direction and then everything else will be judged by history. In any race, no athlete is judged by how they start their individual race but rather by how well they finish it. The energy, focus, and commitment between the starting block and the finishing line determines the outcome. Therefore, as you graduate and begin the next phase of your life, look at the bigger picture about yourself, family, community and humanity at large. Make successive and successful focused incremental steps through which the bigger picture will eventually be actualized.

Laikipia University is proud of itself having a distinguished club of alumni association which you automatically become a member upon graduation. I urge you to be active in the activities of the association through physical participation as well as sharing ideas and resources in order to enhance the mission of the University.

In conclusion, let me once again extend my congratulations to you, the graduation class of 2021. A deserved salute to the entire Laikipia University fraternity for your contribution in making the 9th graduation ceremony possible notwithstanding the challenges brought about by Covid-19. To the parents, guardians and all other stakeholders, I say 'thank you'.





OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR

ADMINISTRATION AND HUMAN CAPITAL

DR. HEZRON NYAGAKA NYAMWEGA, PhD

REGISTRAR

It is my great pride and pleasure to congratulate the 2021 graduating class for successfully completing their respective programmes after a long journey spanning four years of hard work and sacrifice. These are the fruits of your hard work as well as the sacrifices you have made over the period of your studies. It is my conviction that the knowledge you have gained from this institution will be a great pillar to your future endeavours as you enter the job market both nationally and internationally. We expect you to carry the Laikipia University brand wherever you go and grow to greater heights. As you celebrate your success, always remember those who have supported you this far; your parents and guardians, teachers, and other members of the society.

As a department, we feel proud of having been part of your success by ensuring that

adequate and well-trained staff are in place to ensure proper delivery of service and the curriculum. More employees will continue being empowered through trainings to build capacity in leadership and mentorship. The department also ensures that all staff have an enabling environment to deliver both teaching and support services to academic staff and students. Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, the department has been able to provide internship and attachment to 123 youths; undertaken a staff training needs assessment and skills gap audit analysis; developed reward and recognition policy which will assist staff motivation and enhance employee welfare. The department is also in the process of digitizing human resource records which is part of information security transformation.

Once again, I wish all graduands success in all their future undertakings



Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, the department has been able to provide internship and attachment to 123 youths; undertaken a staff training needs assessment and skills gap audit analysis; developed reward and recognition policy which will assist staff motivation and enhance employee welfare.

THE FINANCE OFFICE

CPA GEOFFREY K. LANGAT

THE FINANCE OFFICER



On my own behalf and that of the entire finance department, I would like to congratulate the class of 2021 on this joyous occasion that is

the culmination of hard work, resilience, and unwavering determination, notwithstanding the global pandemic, uncertainty in the job market and the transition to a virtual reality.

Despite the shifts in your academic and individual lives, you all have managed to complete your programmes. As you go to the world of work, please recognize the core values of integrity, respect and quality that

have been inculcated in you so that you can transform the society. I truly wish you the very best in your future endeavours and remember to always be critical in your thinking and always to bring your authentic self to every conversation. Go out and transform the world but never let the world change you. Let me give a quote by one of our greatest presidents, Abraham Lincoln: 'And in the end it's not the years in your life that counts; it's the life in your years'.

I wish to thank the parents, guardians, sponsors, and the Higher Education Loans Board (HELB), all who ensured that your financial obligations were met.

The Finance Department's responsibilities include: collection and management of University fees, payment for goods supplied and services rendered and preparation of budgets and annual financial statements.

Finance Department is glad to be associated with you; the graduands.

May God bless you all.



SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

DR. ENOS BARASA, PhD

DEAN

The School of Education is delighted to share with the graduands, parents, guardians and invited guests the joy of celebrating our 9th graduation ceremony. The graduands in particular deserve special commendation for their hard work, resilience, self-discipline and unwavering determination to complete their studies. The School of Education also wishes to

thank the parents, guardians, sponsors and Higher Education Loans Boards for ensuring that the graduands financial obligations have been met in their quest for quality education at Laikipia University.

The vision of the school is to be a globally competitive hub in the preparation of professional educationalists, educational counsellors, agricultural extension officers and researchers for enhancement of the welfare of humanity. The School offers four programmes, which prepare students for a career in Teaching, Education and Management, Curriculum Development, Guidance and Counselling and Agricultural Extension Education.

The school offers the following educational courses:

Diploma in Education (Arts) programme

The Bachelor of Education programmes are:

1. Bachelor of Education (Arts)
2. Bachelor of Education (Science)
3. Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Education and Extension (AGED)
4. Bachelor of Education in Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE)

The Post graduate degree programme is meant to provide further education and training to those aspiring to be senior educators.

Post graduate Diploma in Education (PGDE)

The Master of Education programmes are:

1. Master of education in Educational Management
2. Master of Education in Guidance and Counselling

The Doctor of Philosophy programmes are:

1. Doctor of Philosophy in Education Management
2. Doctor of Philosophy in Guidance and Counselling

As Dean School of Education, my most important duty on this special day is to offer a warm welcome to our honoured guests, family members, graduating students and colleagues.

The School of Education is committed to providing our students with the best possible education to prepare them for their future careers in high school teaching. Education is one of the largest and most dynamic sectors of our economy, providing not only jobs but numerous other opportunities. In order to prosper in this fast moving job

market, Laikipia University students from the School of Education are practically grounded to work in their field; they are also trained to be flexible and creative, and to have the ability to think critically.

To meet the needs of both our students and future employers, the members of the School are continually reviewing their programmes and courses to meet the changing demands of their clients. Employability being central to our programmes pushes us to equip our students with skills to meet the challenges of the teaching industry. In this respect, we provide students with appropriate practical lessons to enhance their understanding through experiential learning. In order to support these aims, we strive to examine and recreate the knowledge base that informs our teaching. In this respect, research is increasingly becoming an essential part of our programmes. The School has grown tremendously in terms of student enrolment. The enormous growth in student population is based on the School's popularity that is attributed to the tradition of quality Education programmes offered through its two (2) professional departments; namely, Curriculum and Educational Management, and Psychology, Counselling and Educational Foundations.

The School has highly qualified and experienced academic and support staff, headed by the Dean whose role is to operationalize activities of the School. Besides these, the staff are involved in educational research in partnership with global partners, attending and hosting international conferences, publishing research papers and books.

As a School, we continue to embrace the principles of governance and endeavour to always demonstrate professionalism while enthusiastically advancing our vision and mission in the service of humanity.



SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

DR. SHEILA PAMELA WANDERA-SIMWA, PhD
DEAN

On behalf of the School of Humanities and Development Studies and on my own behalf, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to all our esteemed graduands upon their successful completion of studies. The School is proud of their achievements and we are glad to have been part of it. We pledge to continue supporting them in their endeavours and will be available to see them further their studies and/or proceed to employment and entrepreneurship.

Vision

A School for valued transformation of society in Humanities and Development Studies.

Mission

The School will contribute to the generation and dissemination of relevant knowledge in the Humanities and Development studies through education, training, research, innovation, consultancy and outreach, for prosperity and sustainable development.

Aim

To provide education and training in the areas of Humanities and Development studies.

General Objectives

1. To bi-annually develop and offer demand-driven programmes that address market needs.

2. To conduct research and develop outreach programmes to enhance capacity of local communities in resource utilization, management and conservation for wealth creation and sustainable livelihoods, as and when the need arises.
3. To provide opportunities for academic advancement and skills development when the need arises.
4. To provide opportunities for local and international linkages.
5. To conduct seminars, workshops and conferences in the areas of Humanities and Development Studies and other related areas.

The School was founded in November 2008 as the then second Faculty at Laikipia University. It has two academic departments; Department of Literary and Communication Studies and Department of Peace and Social Studies.

At the moment, the School has got twenty-four (24) degree programmes and one postgraduate diploma programme. These are;

1. Bachelor of Arts in Peace and Conflict Studies
2. Bachelor of Arts in Criminology and Security Studies
3. Bachelor of Arts in Community Development

4. Bachelor of Arts in Psychology
5. Bachelor of Arts in Kiswahili and Communication
6. Bachelor of Arts in Communication and English Language
7. Bachelor of Arts in Communication and Media
8. Bachelor of Arts in Library and Information Studies
9. Bachelor of Arts in Sports Science and Sports Management
10. Master of Arts in Kiswahili and Communication
11. Master of Arts in Applied Linguistics
12. Master of Arts in Communication and Media
13. Master of Arts in Literature
14. Master of Arts in Religion
15. Master of Arts in History
16. Master of Arts in Community Development
17. Doctor of Philosophy in Applied Linguistics
18. Doctor of Philosophy in Literature
19. Doctor of Philosophy in Communication and Media
20. Doctor of Philosophy in Religion
21. Doctor of Philosophy in History
22. Doctor of Philosophy in Kiswahili and Communication
23. Doctor of Philosophy in Community Development
24. Postgraduate Diploma in Sports Science and Management

The School offers two common core courses to all first year students. These are:

1. Human Rights
2. Communication Skills

Common core courses are offered to various departments in the University by the School:

1. Government and Society
2. Law and Society

3. Critical and Creative Thinking
4. Introduction to Sociology

There are various diploma and certificate programmes offered by the School. These are as follows:

Diploma Courses

1. Diploma in Police Science
2. Diploma in Sports Science and Management
3. Diploma in Library and Information Studies
4. Diploma in Community Development
5. Diploma in Criminology and Security Studies

Certificate Courses

1. Short Certificate Courses (modules) for Sports Sciences
2. Certificate in Sports Science and Management
3. Certificate in Police Science
4. Certificate in Public Administration and County Governance
5. Certificate in Community Development
6. Certificate in Library and Information Studies
7. Certificate in French
8. Certificate in Communication Skills for Community Leaders

Proposed Certificate Courses

1. Certificate in Kiswahili & Cultural Studies
2. Certificate in Functional Writing in English

The School also offers service courses to the School of Education in various teaching subjects namely; English, Literature in English, Kiswahili, History, Geography and Religious Studies.

At the moment, the School has a growing

student population taking various degree courses, as we strive to offer market oriented courses.

Collaborations

There is a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between Laikipia University and Administration Police Department of the National Police Service. Under this agreement, the School on behalf of Laikipia University is offering the following courses to Administration Police Officers, Certificate in Leadership and Management, Postgraduate Certificate in Leadership and Management, Certificate in Police Science, and Diploma in Police Science. Additionally, the School is developing the Bachelor of Police Science and a Master of Police Science to be offered to the Police Officers in due course.

A First in the World

The School on behalf of the University offers a course on Human Rights as a Common Core Course for all first year students. This initiative was sponsored by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), United Nations. In this respect, seven members of the School went to University of Cape Town in South Africa for training on Human Rights in August 2013. Thereafter, forty (40) more members of staff were also trained on the same. Laikipia University therefore becomes the first University in Kenya, in Africa and also in the whole world to offer a Human Rights course to all undergraduate students regardless of their academic disciplines (non-law undergraduate Students). This is a milestone in the history of Laikipia University.



SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS

DR PETER MWAURA, PhD

DEAN

I take this opportunity to congratulate all graduands of 2021 for the completion of their studies. Your commitment and desire to continuously learn during this pivotal time in your lives has been invaluable to us. Graduation is the culmination of hard work and sacrifices by graduands, parents, sponsors, faculty and other stakeholders. It is also a special moment for our School in celebrating the churning out of new talent into the job market in the following programmes;

1. Department of Commerce

- a. Doctor of Philosophy in Business Administration
- b. Master of Business Administration
- c. Bachelor of Commerce
- d. Bachelor of Agribusiness Management
- e. Diploma in Business Management

f. Diploma in Procurement and Logistics Management

2. Department of Economics

- a. Bachelor of Science in Economics and Statistics
- b. Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Economics
- c. Bachelor of Arts in Economics and History
- d. Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Sociology

3. Newly Developed Academic Programmes

- a. Bachelor of Science in Economics
- b. Master of Science in Economics
- c. Master of Science in Agricultural Economics
- d. Doctor of Philosophy in Economics

Once again, I applaud your achievement and you should feel proud. Your time here in Laikipia University was a stepping stone towards your tomorrow. May you participate in transformation of the society in all your future engagements. God Bless you all!



SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND APPLIED TECHNOLOGY

DR. POTI OWILI ABAJA, PhD
DEAN

The School of Science and Applied Technology welcomes all graduands, invited guests, parents, and guardians to the 9th graduation ceremony of Laikipia University. This is a great moment to celebrate the feat achieved by the graduands. Actually, it requires a lot of effort, hard work and sacrifice to excel! The graduands have acquired skills that will make them very competitive in the market. A state-of-the-Art Science Complex is almost complete and will provide opportunities for more research work by staff and students.

The school offers the following programmes:

1. PhD Programme

PhD in Environmental Science

2. Master's Programme

Master of Science in Environmental Science

3. Degree Programmes

- a. Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Sciences and Technology
- b. Bachelor of Science in Computer Science
- c. Bachelor of Science in Statistics
- d. Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry
- e. Bachelor of Science in Natural Resource Management
- f. Bachelor of Science in Geography
- g. Bachelor of Science in Information and Communication Technology
- h. Bachelor of Science (Physics, Chemistry, Biology, mathematics)

4. Diploma Programmes

- a. Diploma in Information Communication Technology
- b. Diploma in Analytical Chemistry (KNEC)

- c. Diploma in Community Health and Nutrition
- d. Diploma in Applied Statistics
- e. Diploma in Modern Chemistry Laboratory Technology

5. Certificate Courses

- a. Certificate in Environmental Impact Assessment

- b. Certificate in Computer Application
- c. Certificate in Yogurt Production
- d. Certificate in Science Laboratory Technology
- e. Certificate in GIS
- f. Certificate in Statistical Package (Advanced Excel/TATA/SPSS/Python Programming)



GRADUATE SCHOOL
PROF. WENDO NABEA, PhD
DIRECTOR

Dear Graduands,

On behalf of Graduate School and myself, I would like to extend my congratulations to all of you on the successful completion of your studies. We acknowledge the fact that you invested a lot of effort and dedication to realise your great achievement today. We are proud of you and feel greatly honoured to join you to celebrate your graduation.

The School is proud of your achievements and we are glad to have been part of them. May your graduation unlock more doors to the opportunities that you desire.

We acknowledge with a lot of grandeur the burgeoning of international postgraduate students at our institution. The students have helped the University to foster a diverse campus environment, while enriching it with a variety of cultural perspectives for both students and staff. We also laud the Graduate School Board for striving to remain accountable to the University Senate through monitoring and making crucial decisions on graduate

studies in the University. We would also like to express our gratitude to our cyclic boards of examiners, local and external, for guaranteeing quality in graduate examinations. We are also indebted to the University's Institutional Scientific Ethics Committee for partnering with us in the advisory role on ethical values especially in the conducting research.

About the School

Graduate School is focussed on offering opportunities to graduate students to earn postgraduate diploma, Master's and Doctor of Philosophy degrees. We work with other units in the University to provide research and service to the community around, the country and the world at large. Graduate programmes at Laikipia University arise from a combination of departmental and school strengths, credentialed lecturers and students' interests. Our graduate students are expected to develop an excellent grasp understanding of literature in their fields of study, cultivate critical thinking and

analytical approaches to knowledge, for application in a professional arena. Our endeavour is to meet the market demands for postgraduates with the requisite skills and abilities to address needs that are critical to the country and the world, thereby transforming society in a desirable manner. Graduate School is operationalized through a Postgraduate Studies Policy that sets the guidelines and the standards of service rendered to our postgraduate students, staff and stakeholders. It sets out the principles underpinning the management of admissions, course durations, examinations, proposal evaluations and examination of theses and projects. Through this policy, Graduate School is committed to the provision of quality service to all our clients and stakeholders. This commitment is made possible through the Board of Graduate School whose members are appointed, in accordance with Laikipia University Statute XXI, on very specific terms with the running of the School.

The Board of Graduate School has responsibility over the following matters:

1. Promote graduate education at local, national and international levels;
2. Provide quality control for all aspects of graduate education and establish policies and standards that define good practice in all graduate programmes;
3. Represent the interests of graduate students in the University;
4. Provide strategic planning and vision for graduate education at Laikipia University;
5. Fundraise for graduate programmes and education;
6. Promote internationalisation of the Laikipia University graduate studies;
7. Take lead in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of graduate school curriculum; and
8. Exercise such other powers or perform such other functions as may be assigned or delegated to it by Senate.

Beloved graduates, once again receive our special kudos on your big day. We look forward to welcoming you to the Laikipia University Graduate School all the time, especially as you plan your new beginnings.



OFFICE OF THE DEAN OF STUDENTS

MS. BEATRICE YOGO

DEAN

The Students Affairs Department wishes to welcome you to the 9th Graduation Ceremony. Congratulation on your achievement. Today is a culmination of four (4) years of intense training and moulding. As a non-academic department, we are proud to have been part of your journey by having nurtured you

spiritually, physically through sports, psychologically, and even economically.

We are confident of the product being churned out in this graduation ceremony. As you venture out into the world, remember to be good ambassadors of Laikipia University. The greatest gift you can give to humanity is to give back to the society in whichever way you can.

Congratulations again and may your future be bright with God's blessing.



UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

DR. PERIS KIILU, PhD

SENIOR ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN

The entire library staff congratulates you for the success you have attained in spite of the difficult season that we have undergone occasioned by Covid-19. You have come through and have emerged a sure winner. CONGRATULATIONS!

You have benefited from the remote access to our e-resources mainly accessible through the Digital Library platform. Indeed, we are expanding the coverage of content accessibility remotely to include the institutional repository and information resources housed by the University through the online public access catalogue (OPAC). We expect to have more space to cater for diverse services in the near future as we shift to the new ultra-modern library complex. Majorly, our Resource centre and reading space will be enhanced.

Those of you graduating for your first degrees and diplomas, we welcome you back to the university to pursue further studies. We wish to assure you that your information needs are catered for through the diverse databases that you can access through the Digital Library, the physical collection as well as the rich presence of professionals.

Congratulations once again!

Thank you.



DIRECTORATE OF EXAMINATIONS AND TIME-TABLING

DR. JOHN WAHOME, PhD

DIRECTOR

Without a doubt, graduation day ranks right up there alongside other momentous and joyous days in one's life. Therefore, on behalf of the staff at the Directorate of Examinations and Time-tabling, I take this opportunity to sincerely congratulate our

9th Laikipia University graduands for their truly remarkable achievement.

The Directorate of Examinations and Time-tabling (ETT) is one of the true nerve centres of the University, and an integral player in the academic transformation of our students from freshmen to decorated graduands.

Under the direction of the office of the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academic Research and Student Affairs (ARSA), our general mandate is to produce university examinations in strict conformity to the standard operating procedures of the University. This long process involves: desk-top publishing; mass duplication; safe-keeping; publishing; disbursing; and archiving of all university examinations. Additionally, we create the teaching and

examination timetables for the University and organize the periodic Examination External Moderation exercise, among other responsibilities. The Directorate neither handles students' examination booklets nor their examination marks after the day of the examination.

Congratulations, once more!



DIRECTORATE OF RESEARCH, HUMAN RIGHTS AND GENDER

PROF. NICHOLAS KAMAU-GORO, PhD
DIRECTOR

Congratulations on your graduation! One of the best parts of being in academics is seeing students achieve one of their goals in life. You are well prepared to face the world and to carry forward the University's mission as an agent of positive social transformation in your communities and in the larger society. We send you out confidently knowing that you are well prepared for the opportunities as well as the challenges ahead. That you are on the graduation list today is testimony of your hard work and ability to learn and as you go out into the world, I urge you to never lose grip of these virtues. Best wishes in all your future endeavours.

An Overview of the Directorate and its Activities

As a crucial and core mission of Laikipia University, research is one of the most important duties undertaken by the academic staff. The University is committed to the pursuit of quality and excellence in research because this is central to the realization of the University's vision of being a catalyst of social transformation. This is in line with the University stated mission to serve students and society through research, education, scholarship, innovation, outreach, and consultancy.

Established in 2010, the Directorate of Research coordinates research activities in the University with the aim of creating a stimulating environment for students and staff to conduct research, extension and consultancy services that impact positively on the society. The Directorate is charged with among others:

1. Strengthening the capacity of staff to conduct research;
2. Facilitating Funding for research;
3. Disbursement of research and innovation funds to staff on a competitive basis;
4. Organizing conferences, seminars and workshops for the dissemination of research findings and seminar outputs;
5. Promoting grant writing for resource mobilization;
6. Promote University-Community-Industry linkages and community outreach;
7. Promoting quality publications in the University supported journals; and
8. Human Rights and Gender Mainstreaming

On-Going Research Projects

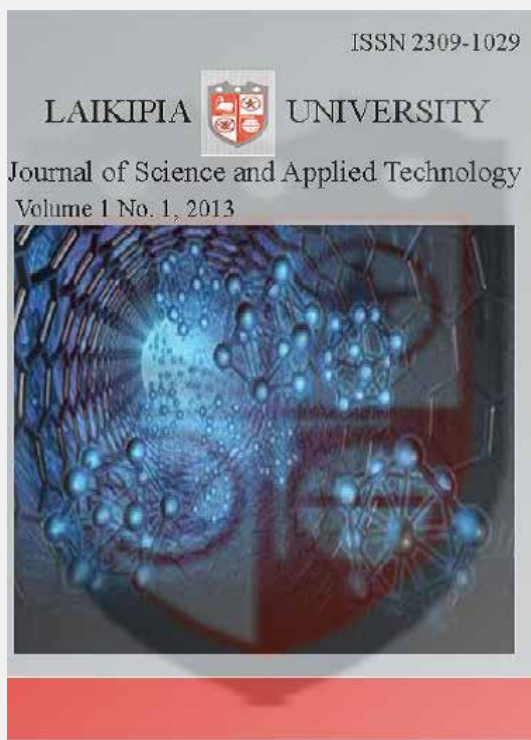
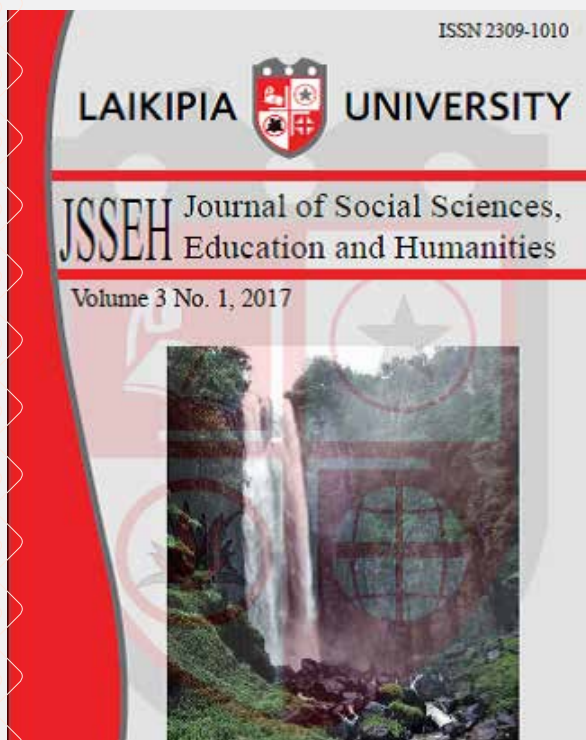
University funded research programmes are designed to foster excellence in research and creative scholarship at Laikipia University. These internal grants also aim to build capacity and to give staff the confidence to venture into the field of grant writing and hopefully raise funds for their research and for the University. The Directorate of Research, Human Rights and Gender through the Research Advisory Committee, award the grants based on merit and on a competitive basis. Each year, the Directorate makes a call for concept notes which are peer reviewed, then evaluated and approved by the committee for funding.

The following projects were funded internally by the University in 2021-2022:

S/N	TITLE	Principal Investigator	School
1	E-Peer Mentorship for Improved Mental Health among University Students Engaging in Transactional Sex (USET) amid COVID-19 in Laikipia University, Kenya	Enos M. Barasa	Education
2	Transitioning to E-Learning: An Appraisal of Technology Enabled Instruction	Prisca Kiptoo-Tarus	Education
3	Enhancing Resilient Food Systems Among Smallholder Farmers in Laikipia County Through Inclusive Social Networks	Florence Achieng' Opondo	Business
4	Evaluation of Durability of Women Land Ownership in Kenya: Case from Laikipia and Nyandarua Counties	Kenneth O. Nyangena	Humanities and Development
5	Management of Dodder (Cuscuta) Weed in Laikipia County	Emily Ngetich	Science
6	An Automated Hydroponics Showcase for Sustainable Farming in Laikipia County	Kirori Mindo	Science / Computing & Informatics

Laikipia University Journals

The Laikipia University Journal of Social Sciences, Education and Humanities (JSSEH) and Journal of Science and Applied Technology (JSAT) are peer reviewed scholarly journals published by the Directorate of Research, Human Rights and Gender. The journals provide platforms for original and multidisciplinary research. Previously, the journals were published in print form but in the recent past, the Directorate has been working to turn them into online journals which will make them more regular. The inaugural volumes of the journals were published on 23rd May 2022 and are accessible online on the *Journal portal* at www.laikipia.ac.ke.



The online journals use *Open Journal Systems* (OJS) 3.3.0.10, which is an open source journal management and publishing software developed, supported, and freely distributed by the Public Knowledge Project under the General Public License. The University has established an *Online Journals Publishing Committee* to oversee the development of the platform and journal publication management. Some of its members participated in awareness creation workshops hosted at Kenyatta University (February 2022) and Moi University (12th May, 2022) on open access online journals publishing. The Directorate continues to work to ensure that the journals meet the required standards for accreditation.

Capacity Building and Information Dissemination



Under capacity building and information dissemination, the Directorate carries out various trainings like hosting the International Women's Day and training on science, technology and innovation (ST&I) mainstreaming.

The International Women's Day is globally celebrated on 8th March with the aim of recognizing the social, economic, cultural and political achievement of women. This year's theme focused on raising awareness against bias in the work place with the aim of creating an environment in which women can thrive and realize their full potential. In recognition of this day, the Directorate of Research, Human

Rights and Gender hosted International Women's Day on **8th March 2022** at Mandela Hall. During the forum important issues related to women empowerment were shared through inputs and discussions led by invited resource persons.



A section of the participants at the Women's day celebration

Training on Science, Technology and Innovation (ST&I) Mainstreaming

The University held a two-day Science, Technology and Innovation (ST&I) mainstreaming training on **16th and 17th June, 2022**. The training was facilitated by the National Commission on Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI). The training targeted the members of the University Management Board, members of the newly appointed Science, Technology and Innovation Committee, Deans, Directors and Chairpersons of Departments.



A section of the participants at the ST& I Workshop outside Mandela Hall

Innovation, Consultancy and Outreach Activities

Under the docket of Innovation, consultancy and outreach activities within the Directorate, various events were carried out. These included hosting the Innovation and Research Day, strengthening Partnership and Collaboration for Research, and specifically signing an MoU with St. Martin Catholic Social Apostolate (CSA).

1. Innovation and Research Day

The Directorate of Research, Human Rights and Gender organized the **2nd LU Research and Innovation Day** on Thursday, **17th May, 2022**. The forum provided an opportunity to Laikipia University researchers to present their research, and for innovators to exhibit the products their creativity and innovation. The purpose of the day was to encourage Laikipia University community to use creativity to transform the society. Over 15 exhibitors drawn from academic and non-academic staff, students and guest exhibitors showcased their work. More than 200 people attended the exhibition.



In line with the University Science, Technology and Innovation (ST&I) Strategy which seeks to mainstream research and innovation within the University, Laikipia University is set to promote the patenting and commercialization of innovations show cased at the exhibition. This will go a long way in addressing societal needs and challenges.

2. Partnership and Collaboration for Research Mandate

Laikipia University led by the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Kibett Rotich signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Garissa University on **10th May, 2022**, in an event that was held at Laikipia University. Garissa University was represented by Prof. Julius M. Huho, Director Research, Post Graduate, Linkages and Community Outreach. The objective of the MoU is to establish a framework for cooperation between the two parties for use of the Laikipia University Institutional Ethics Research Committee services in vetting and reviewing research proposals from Garissa University for fulfilment of ethical requirements research especially involving human subjects. The MoU will be implemented by the Laikipia University Institutional Scientific Ethics Research Committee (LU-ISERC) and the Garissa University Directorate of Research, Post Graduate, Linkages and Community Outreach.



The VC Prof. Joseph Kibett Rotich and Prof. Julius M. Huho of Garissa signing the MoU

3. Signing of an MoU with St. Martin Catholic Social Apostolate (CSA)

Laikipia University led by the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Kibett Rotich, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with St. Martin Catholic Social Apostolate on 24th February, 2022; an event that was held at St. Martin CSA offices in Nyahururu.



The signing of the MoU with St. Martin Catholic Social Apostolate on 24th February, 2022

The two institutions made a commitment to implement the MoU with an aim of serving the community and giving hope to vulnerable members of the society. The terms of the agreement are in line with the University's Vision of Valued Transformation of Society and its Mission to Serve students and society through Research, Education, Scholarship, Innovation, Outreach and Consultancy. The Directorate of Research, Human Rights and Gender and the St. Martin Catholic Social Apostolate will explore ways of working together in research and community outreach programmes.



LAIKIPIA UNIVERSITY INSTITUTIONAL SCIENTIFIC ETHICS REVIEW

COMMITTEE (LU-ISERC)

PROF. CHARLES NGUTA, PhD

CHAIRMAN

On behalf of the Laikipia University Institutional Scientific Ethics Review Committee (LU-ISERC), and on my own behalf, I take this opportunity to congratulate all graduands during the 9th graduation ceremony graduands for the successful completion of their academic programmes.

Laikipia University Institutional Scientific Ethics Review Committee (LU-ISERC) is accredited to operate and conduct ethics review of research proposals in Social, Biomedical and Environmental Sciences being undertaken by members of Laikipia University who include undergraduate and postgraduate students, the staff, and also the community within the surroundings of the University. Through LU-ISERC, the University has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Garissa University for affiliation. The University is committed to being in the forefront in ensuring that the country realizes its dream of having research of high ethical standards and seeing to it that all research is conducted in a manner that respects the dignity, rights, and welfare of all participants.

LU-ISERC operates under the umbrella of the National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI). It is charged with ensuring compliance with all regulations, policies, and standards that concern animal and human welfare. It also engages in monitoring the implementation of approved research, as well as preparing and submitting annual reports to NACOSTI. The Committee at all times safeguards the dignity, rights, safety, and wellbeing of all study participants and communities while paying special attention to investigations that may involve vulnerable groups. In this regard, the Committee reviews all submitted applications in accordance with the procedures established by LU-ISERC. It reviews every research proposal before actual research is initiated. The Committee evaluates, with proper justification, all possible risks to participants and subjects, as well as the expected benefits and adequacy of documentation for ensuring privacy, confidentiality and justice issues. It is expected that in the future, the Committee shall develop mechanisms of networking with other Institutional Scientific Ethics Review Committees (ISERCs) within the region and internationally.

We are glad to inform the general public that the LU-ISERC is now fully operational and proposals from our students and staff are being reviewed. The committee sits on the first Wednesday of every month. Applicants are requested to hand in their documents before the 15th day of every month in order to give the secretariat enough time for processing.

Once again, congratulations to the class of 2021!!!



THE DIRECTORATE OF TVET, CAREER PLACEMENT, ALUMNI AND EXTERNAL LINKAGES

DR. NAFTAL MICHIRA NYANG'ARA, PhD
DIRECTOR

Graduands, congratulations! As you enter into the new world of networking, collaborations and linkages in search of opportunities during this time when the world is talking about the new normal due to COVID-19 pandemic, the office of external linkages and collaborations welcomes you to utilize the Laikipia University alumni platform as your first launch pad opportunity to easily connect and network to any new opportunities available during this time when the world is quickly moving to working virtually.

In order to better operationalize and sustain the university's vision for valued transformation of society, Laikipia University established the Directorate of TVET, Career Placement, Alumni and External Linkages with the core functions of initiating, promoting, facilitating and coordinating international programmes and links, staff and student exchanges and mobility, collaborative research projects and worldwide networking in order to enable our students to be positive change agents in the society. Through this, the University has been able to benchmark with the best institutions in the world of academia and industry on matters of placement career and technical vocational training. Consequently, we are proud that our students have received various accolades in recognition of their exemplary performance in their areas

of training.

The Directorate of TVET, Career Placement, Alumni and External Linkages therefore, recognizes you as one of our very important ambassadors; surely you will be our ears, eyes, hands and advocates to every corner of our planet where opportunities for work or study may arise. As a Directorate, we shall truly remain committed to networking as we have always done during your period of study at Laikipia University. Likewise, we expect you to portray a positive image of our university in various fields of your endeavours.

The office has established academic collaboration with local and foreign universities in form of student exchange programmes and joint research. Additionally, the office has enabled the University develop strong links with industry, government, universities and research institutions locally, regionally and internationally. Most of these links and collaborative activities are in the form of institutional capacity building, research, book donations, joint publications, journals, international and local conferences, workshops, seminars, students and staff exchange and scholarships among others. Hongera!

The Laikipia University Alumni Association

The Laikipia University Alumni Association appreciates the need for mentoring students



by sharing their reservoir of knowledge and experiences that they have accumulated in their respective industries. In this way, the association is able to create significant and lasting impact on current students. The Alumni Association has created conducive and relaxed learning areas by constructing reading sheds (green library). This has been very instrumental in ensuring that students appreciate their green learning environments thus making Laikipia University to be the university of choice for knowledge creation and creativity.

The Laikipia University Alumni Mentoring Programme provides Student Mentees

access to experienced Alumni Mentors who have contributed to students' professional and personal development. The programme has provided a platform for mentees to realize their potential by enabling personal and professional relationships with mentors, who act as role models and provide guidance to them. The programme has also offered opportunities for developing business contacts, access to industry information, and consequently gaining valuable insights from experienced and successful professionals. Additionally, career placement through student mentorship programmes is a very important activity championed by the directorate.



Students listening during the University Career Week at Mandela Hall



Laikipia University participants during one of the first ever PAN African CO2 Certification Compensation Conference held at Laikipia university from 23rd to 25th June 2021

Technical Vocational Education Training (TVET)

In response to the needs of industry, Laikipia University commences the training of TVET students from the month of September 2021. This is in cognizant of TVET institutions being well placed in training skilled and entrepreneurial workforce that Kenya needs in order to implement the Big Four Agenda, create wealth and attain Vision 2030.

The University has successfully gone through an assessment for accreditation by TVET Authority. This culminated into the official Registration and Licensing to commence TVET CDACC, TVET KASNEB and TVET KNEC Programmes, the entry requirements for these programmes is C Minus and above. Laikipia University is your number one TVET centre of Excellence

The following approved and accredited CDACC Programmes will be offered soon.

1. Corporate Governance
2. Social work

3. Library and Information Science
4. Conflict management
5. Counselling Psychology
6. Horticultural production
7. ICT Technician
8. Cyber security
9. Medical Laboratory Technology
10. Business Management
11. Human resources Management
12. Credit Management
13. Applied statistics
14. Technical Trainer

Similarly, the following approved and accredited TVET KNEC and KASNEB Programmes will be offered soon.

TVET KNEC

1. Journalism and Mass Communication
2. Public Relations
3. Forensic and Criminal Investigation
4. Christian Ministry
5. Analytical Chemistry
6. Applied Statistics

7. General Agriculture
8. Community Health and Nutrition
9. Supply Chain Management Craft

KASNEB

1. Certified Investment and Financial Analysis
2. Certificate in Accounting Management Skills
3. Certified Public Accountants
4. Certified Credit Professionals
5. Certified Secretaries
6. Accounting Technicians Diploma



Laikipia University TVET Board Members



DIRECTORATE OF PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

DR. SAMUEL O. ONYUMA, PhD
DIRECTOR

On behalf of the Directorate, I take this opportunity to congratulate all Laikipia University graduands on this great achievement. The Directorate has continued to play its vital role of coordinating Planning and Performance Management activities in the University as expounded in the Laikipia University Statutes, University Strategic Plan and other Government of Kenya development Blue Prints such as Vision 2030, the Big Four Agenda and MDAs Priority Projects and Programmes, whose outcomes are aligned to the Core Mandate, Sustainable Development Goals, Sector Performance Standards and Post Covid-19 Recovery Strategies.

The Performance Contracting System has been fully mainstreamed within the University

to enhance coordinated development, transparency and accountability. Additionally, the Directorate is actively involved in the customizing and mainstreaming of National Cohesion, National Values, Disability Mainstreaming, Road Transport Safety, Gender Mainstreaming, Alcohol and Drug Abuse prevention and HIV/AIDS Prevention activities in the University and submitting status reports to respective Government Agencies.

The Directorate is proud to be associated with your achievement, and it is indeed our honour to celebrate this occasion with you. As you get empowered and embark on your journey of serving the nation, we encourage you to cherish and uphold integrity, excellence, professionalism, patriotism, innovativeness, and creativity as you manoeuvre through your profession. The Directorate would like to challenge you to be good ambassadors of the University and actualize the University's Vision – A University for Valued Transformation of Society.

Once again, congratulations for realizing your dreams. Bravo!!!



**DIRECTORATE OF RESOURCE
MOBILIZATION AND INVESTMENT**
MS. SOPHIA MUCHIRI
DIRECTOR

On behalf of the Resource Mobilization and Investments Board, I congratulate the 2021 class for this exceptional achievement. I want to believe that Laikipia University has trained you to become extraordinary professionals who will contribute to sustainable development of this country.

As a Directorate, we endeavour to undertake activities geared towards securing new and additional financial, human and material resources essential for valued transformation of society. The Directorate of Resource Mobilization and Investment was established to steer, coordinate and consolidate Laikipia University's resource mobilization efforts. Our immediate objectives according the 2019-2022 work plan are to:

1. Expand University's Revenue base
2. Optimize returns from Income Generating Units (IGUs)
3. Enhance capacity for raising revenue

Resource mobilization is every stakeholder's responsibility and as you join the Alumni, I wish to call upon you to be good ambassadors of this great University.

I wish you the very best as you leverage on your achievements to impact the world.



DIRECTORATE OF QUALITY ASSURANCE AND STANDARDS

DR. ROBERT BIONGA MWEBI, PhD

DIRECTOR

On behalf of the Directorate of Quality Assurance and Standards (DQAS), I wish to convey our hearty congratulations to the class of 2021 for achieving this fete. Today's convocation ceremony marks the beginning of another phase in your life as you join the world of work. I believe that the university has fully transformed your world view through the academic discourses and interactions over the past four years of your academic journey. I am glad to have been part of the transformative journey as your lecturer and also director in charge of Quality Assurance and Standards.

As a directorate, our role is to ensure that the education you get at the University is of quality. Towards this end, the directorate works closely with quality assurance and standards bodies both nationally and internationally to ensure that the teaching and curriculum offered at the university is relevant and conforms to the requirements of these bodies. As a University, we will continue to review the curriculum to address societal needs in order to meet the demands of the labour market. As such, the directorate

will continue to work closely with the Commission for University Education (CUE) in ensuring that all university programmes are accredited and that they conform to set standards and comply with the applicable laws.

Finally, the directorate will keep engaging all stakeholders from time to time through the various audits and surveys as a way of improving service delivery with the aim of enhancing customer satisfaction and achieving continual improvement. As an ISO Certified University, the directorate undertakes to continuously monitor and oversee the implementation of policies, procedures and guidelines that have been developed for both compliance and conformance. I am therefore confident that having gone through this University, you have been effectively equipped with the tools necessary to face the challenges in the market place and conquer the world.

Once again, Congratulations on your graduation and best wishes in your future endeavours.



Finally, the directorate will keep engaging all stakeholders from time to time through the various audits and surveys as a way of improving service delivery with the aim of enhancing customer satisfaction and achieving continual improvement.



ODEL CENTRE GRADUATION MESSAGE

DR. ISAAC GITOGO, PhD

COORDINATOR

On behalf of the Center for Open, Distance, and e-Learning, I take this opportunity to congratulate the graduands for their hard work that has enabled them qualify for the respective degrees and diplomas.

The Centre's main goal is to provide a platform that assists the University to achieve its mission of serving students and society through research, education, scholarship, training, innovation, outreach and consultancy. This is achieved through aiding effective delivery of student-centered learning experiences that are flexible, receptive and meets the needs of all learners. Through our customized Moodle Learning Management System, students are able to effectively learn anything, anytime and anywhere within or outside the campus. Our flexible modes of delivery that include blended, Open Distance, and e-Learning enable offering our students a combination of learning experiences that are offered both synchronously and asynchronously to meet the individual needs of both our on-campus and off-campus students. The integration of the Laikipia University e-library resources to the Learning Management system guarantee students' access to the library learning resources at any time of day or night.

We ensure quality education is provided to students from diverse educational backgrounds whilst allowing our students access to facilities, teaching faculty, and efficient learners' support.

Once again congratulations to our graduands. Face the world of work with confidence!



Laikipia University students during the 2021/2022 Huawei ICT Competitions



DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTING AND INFORMATICS

MR. GEORGE N. NYAKUNDI, MSc, MBA
AG. CHAIR OF DEPARTMENT

May I take this early opportunity on behalf of the Department to congratulate all the graduands for successfully completing their academic programmes.

The Department of Computing and Informatics is a Centre of Excellence in learning, research and innovation. It is divided into two sections; The Academic Section and The ICT support Section. The academic section of the department offers various competitive academic programmes as well as industry certifications through academies. The programmes offered include; BSc. Computer Science (CS), BSc. Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and Diploma in Information and Communication Technology (DICT).

The Academies include the CISCO Academy and the Huawei Academy, all offering various industry competitive certifications.

In its rapid expansion plans, the department is in the process of developing additional

programmes. The proposed programmes include; PhD in Information Communication Technology, MSc. in Information Communication Technology, and the BSc. in Computer Security Forensics and Audit (BSc. CSFA).

The ICT support section offers various services; namely, **Student Portal, the University Website, ERP Support, LMS Support and Internet.** These services are all aimed at supporting learning and research activities of the university.

The Department comprises young, passionate and enthusiastic staff with a wealth of experience who diligently perform their duties which in turn provides an ideal centre of excellence in ICT training and research.

Once again, congratulations for the great achievement. Always remain ambitious in the pursuit of excellence and may God bless you.

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The Department of Computing and Informatics is a Centre of Excellence in learning, research and innovation.



UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTRE

DR. KENNEDY K. MARU

MEDICAL OFFICER

To the graduating class of 2021, hearty congratulations to you! Your Journey of success is steadily taking shape; with continued determination and discipline, your dreams will take you to the corners of your smiles and to the highest level of your hopes. You are all a star in the making. Shine on!

The Medical staff fraternity takes this opportunity to wish all our graduands the best in their careers ahead. As you graduate from Laikipia University this season, may it mark the beginning of a bright future and a lifetime of fulfilment.

Laikipia University Medical Centre is glad to have contributed to your academic endeavors and ultimate success. As a Level 3 and NHIF accredited facility, the University clinic will always strive to provide quality in-patient, out-patient, and emergency medical services to Laikipia University fraternity and the members of the surrounding community.



The 2022 Laikipia University Health Week Committee and partners.



THE LAIKIPIA UNIVERSITY ALUMNI

DR. FRANCIS KANGURE, PhD, MBA, SHRM-SCP CHAIRMAN

Everything that has a beginning has an ending, and today marks the end of an era for the graduating class of 2020. We recognize the fact that you have studied under a very difficult situation occasioned by the Covid-19 pandemic. So, as we tip our hats for you, we do so in full cognizance of the work it has taken to make this day a success. We thus celebrate you, your lecturers, parents and guardians, and university staff for overcoming the uncertainty, anxiety, and disruption brought about by the pandemic.

You will be entering a job market that has undergone a drastic shift in the last one year. It is no longer business as usual, and we have to contend with the 'new normal'. Nevertheless, step out confidently because you have been equipped with knowledge and skills to help you thrive in the workplace and make an impact.

Laikipia University alumni, who once sat in the same classes as you, walked these streets as you did and slept in the hostels just as you did, are making waves in their respective industries. They wear the tag 'Laikipia University Alumni' with pride, and are raising the flag of the University high. Through their actions, etiquette, and good deeds, they have built an outstanding name for Laikipia University: so, know that the world is receptive to you. Go ye and conquer!

It is with immense pleasure that I welcome you to the Laikipia University Alumni Association, a network of former Laikipia University students doing incredible things in the society. By becoming an active member of the association, you willingly give back to the Alma Mater; the community that has moulded you in the past few years.

From the alumni, you also get access to a pool of graduates who may provide information on opportunities for business, employment, and further studies. In the past, we have helped our alumni secure internships and work opportunities. To ensure you do not miss out on these opportunities, kindly register on our online alumni platform: <https://alumni.laikipia.ac.ke/register>. Also, feel free to write to us at: alumni@laikipia.ac.ke.

Each year, the association runs several projects geared towards making the University better for current and future students. For example, we take part in the annual tree-planting activities; support university-industry linkages through student mentorship; provide information on job opportunities and internships among others. This year, we planted more than 500 trees, an activity that we shall continue doing every year. We also supported and participated in the first-ever Pan-African CO2 Certification Compensation Conference

that was hosted by the University in June last year.

We have also lined up great projects such as the Alumni Scholarship Fund to support students from impoverished backgrounds. Applications for this Fund, once approved, will open in September 2022 and should close towards the end of November of this year. We will be reaching out to you all in due course to request for your support of this noble initiative. In addition, we plan to add more reading sheds to ensure that

students get conducive areas for carrying out their studies, even as we reiterate our commitment to support the University in all its endeavours.

We thank the University Management Board led by our able Vice Chancellor, Prof Kibett Rotich, for its continuous and unwavering support to the association as we work towards making Laikipia University 'The University of Choice'.

Congratulations once again, and welcome to the Alumni Family!



LAIKIPIA UNIVERSITY STUDENT ASSOCIATION (LUSA)

SIMON MAINA
CHAIRMAN

Congratulations, Class of 2021. As you cherish the fruits of your hard work, it is my hope that success keeps following you in everything that you do. Have new dreams, embark on who you are, embrace life with passion, and aim for the stars.

I wish you sustained success and happiness in all that you do. I know how hard you have worked throughout your time at Laikipia University. I am proud of you. Your accomplishments are more impressive as you carried them out during a worldwide pandemic. Believe in yourself as I believe in you.

The journey to graduation is not an easy road. Since year one when the journey commenced, it has been like waves during the high seas, but like submarines you have

cruised through and today you are all here happy to celebrate your achievements. The perseverance and the patience has indeed paid-off, needless to say your individual efforts towards success: Beating deadlines for assignments, extreme weather conditions of our area, parental pressure, the corona pandemic, skipping meals and being broke at times are just but a few to mention, but you have surpassed them all.

Finally, I would like to wish you graduands prosperity in life, good health, and financial stability. Be positive in the outside world as you now acquire a new title of 'Alumni'. We hope that you will share with others the good values that you have attained from Laikipia. God bless You! God Bless Laikipia University!

MESSAGE FROM ONE OF OUR GRADUATES

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

SAMUEL GITONGA MAINA, PhD GRADUAND



I would like to share with all of us my academic journey. It is with a contrite heart that I thank God for having found a slot in this hallowed ground

of academicians' newsletter!

It has been a long journey since I registered as a PhD student. I was the **first PhD student** to register in Laikipia University when it was still a constituent college of Egerton University. After a journey spanning four (4) years, I gave up due to the demands of my normal duties as a high school principal. During the moments of giving up, I still nurtured a strong desire to start all over again one day.

One afternoon, a Don from Laikipia University, Professor Eliud Kirigia met me in the corridors of Utumishi Boys Academy where I still serve as the Chief Principal and I believe he had an assumption that I had completed my PhD studies since he addressed me as 'Dr. Maina'. When he learnt that I had given up, he immediately called the then Chairperson of the Psychology, Counselling and Educational Foundations Department, Dr. Enos Barasa, who is currently the Dean of the School of Education.

I am sorry to report that I did not keep my word of coming to the university for a discussion as we had agreed due to the unknown fear of 'PhD'. How can I forget this one afternoon when Dr. Barasa travelled

all the way to see me? I had never met him before. He promised to guide me. After attending a number of postgraduate students' workshops and defences as a guest, my 'Aha' moment came and the passion was rekindled.

This is my 5th year since, and I not only completed the PhD programme, but I have also thoroughly enjoyed the scholarly journey. I wish to sincerely appreciate Dr. Enos Barasa and Dr. Prisca Tarus for being there for me! I take this opportunity to appreciate my family for the great support and prayers.

A few lessons that I have picked as a teacher is that I have a lot of influence on my high school students. I guess the greatest thing that happened to me was to have encouraging supervisors. My initial interaction was not as encouraging. No wonder the saying that the end of a matter is more important than its start. A lot must have changed between my first attempt, my second and the final one. Things have evolved over the years and I confirm that the experience is much favourable now.

Allow me to appreciate Laikipia University for, among other things, reaching out to its students, organizing workshops for non-resident students, having a user friendly online platform and ensuring that there is warm interaction between supervisors and students. May I conclude by saying that I would not hesitate to rate Laikipia University very highly, and passionately recommend it to those still feeling 'lost' and not sure on how to jumpstart their academic safari.



MESSAGE FROM ONE OF OUR GRADUATING STUDENTS

SALINE AUMA MAURICE
BED. GRADUAND

M**BELE DAIMA!** My eight-year journey in the University started with a lot of hurdles. The first fundraising made me secure my admission as a self-sponsored student at Embu college which was then a campus of Laikipia University. This beginning was uniquely characterized by hardship like 'msoto', hunger just to mention a few. The hardship did not deter my determination. Armed with my motto, 'Mbele Daima', I had to press on to see a successful completion of the first year.

On the reporting day of the second year, I did not leave home because the promise I had been given by a financial well-wisher never materialized. I reluctantly reported in the third week of the semester with very little money for upkeep. The matron had to take all my beddings because I had not paid money for the accommodation. I slept on an empty bed without a mattress for one week as I sought the next survival technique. For food, I survived on 'kangumu' and hot water from the shower. I resorted to looking for any work around and was blessed with an opportunity to peel potatoes in a nearby 'kibanda' for a daily wage of 200 Kenya Shillings. With these earnings together with the loan from HELB, I successfully completed my second year.

At the start of the third year, all Education students were transferred to Laikipia University Main Campus where life became extremely hard once again. I had to halt my studies so that I could look for money. It took me four years before I could resume my studies.

Still determined as before, I came back to campus in 2020, and resided at 'kwa Ndoro's' hostel surviving on the little I had saved. Just as I was getting settled in, the Covid-19 pandemic hit. I tell you my hope diminished as I thought of losing the tuition and the rental fee I had managed to pay. When we resumed from the longest holiday in history, I was faced with an emerging problem of missing marks as a result of my long hiatus from campus and being placed with different cohorts because my cohort had long graduated. To cut the story short, after numerous follow ups, the problem was eventually sorted out. In the fourth year, well-wishers, RATTANSI bursary and CDF bursaries made me clear all the tuition fee. Thanks to the well-wishers, CDF, and Laikipia University for the support. I am happily graduating today with a second class honours (Upper Division) and fully longing and determined to begin my Master's degree as soon as possible. There is hope.

To the continuing students and fellow graduands, I have decided to give my own story so as to reignite your determinations and hope. If I decided to keep the story to myself, some of us would not make even a single step. The hurdles we meet in life are simply meant to strengthen us. Your family background should not determine your destiny. Take time, think critically, stop crying since tears will not let you see the light at the end of the tunnel. Press On! **'Mbele Daima'!**

'A dream doesn't become a reality through magic, it takes sweat, determination and hard work'. Colin Powell



MESSAGE FROM ONE OF OUR GRADUATING STUDENTS

AUGUSTINA AKAEZE

MASTER OF ARTS IN APPLIED LINGUISTICS GRADUAND

The study for the Master's degree in Applied Linguistics sent me on an academic journey to Kenya and to Laikipia University in particular. As a Missionary of the Congregation of Missionary Sisters of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, in Nigeria, I set out in 2019 to fulfil this laudable desire to acquire more knowledge for the service of humanity. Providence sent me to Laikipia University, citadel of learning. The site where the university is located is awesome. The environment of the school accords the school unique aura that is very conducive for study. I was enriched by the programme I undertook in Laikipia University.

Though I have travelled to many countries both in Africa, Europe and America as a missionary, I was not without the fear of the unknown as I stepped on the soil of Laikipia University. The fear of studying in a country I had not visited before slowly dissipated as I met my soon to be friends and colleagues. On my arrival at the university, I went straight to Graduate School to register my presence. I was told by one of the office staff, Margaret Gitonga, that the then Director of Graduate School, Professor Felicia Yieke, was in class.

On learning that I was supposed to be part of the ongoing class, Margaret directed me to the class where the Director was busy delivering her lecture. On getting to there,

I became more frightened because I was late, having arrived in Kenya much later than expected. The director looked at me and I felt that I was like fish out of water. However, she did her best in making me feel relaxed. The warm welcome I received from the director and the students gave me some sort of relief from my anxiety.

In the director's wisdom, she suspended the lecture that was on and focused on how she would get me integrated with the rest of the class members. I can still hear the voice of the director saying to me, '*Sister, never mind, we will make sure that you catch up with all we have done so far*'. That assurance came as a soothing ointment to my fearful disposition and I will not be in a hurry to forget that humane gesture from the director. The director ensured that I was properly integrated into the school programme. Within a few days, I got to know the other lecturers and I saw myself settled into the system because the lecturers were all very friendly.

Laikipia University became a home far away from home for me. All staff in the Department of Literary and Communication Studies made my stay in Laikipia University an enjoyable one. Indeed, the lecturers have the interest of the students at heart. They do their best to inculcate sound teaching on the students. They are ever ready to assist

the students both in the lecture room and outside the stipulated lecture periods. Every staff of the university sacrifices a lot for the success of every student, who is ready to study.

The experience I had during my research was fabulous. Right from the picking of the topic of my thesis, my supervisors; Professor Felicia Yieke and Professor Eliud Kirigia guided me with the wealth of their academic experiences. They were ever ready to attend to my questions not minding the time or situation I called on them. When my thesis topic was approved, I faced the challenge of language barrier since I am not a Kenyan and cannot speak the national language, Swahili, or any of the local languages fluently.

In the midst of the language barrier quagmire, Dr. Evelyn Mahero appeared like a guiding star who led me out of my language barrier challenge to a lady who was my research assistant. Dr. Mahero said a lot to me by way of encouragement. I will never forget what she said to me many times, *'Sister, it is a blessing helping a foreigner and I'm glad that I can render my assistance to you.'* Many a time, I had lunch in Dr. Mahero's house in Nakuru city during the time I was in the field for data collection. I am overwhelmed with gratitude for the warm reception I always got from Dr.

Mahero's family.

Time without number, I called upon Prof. Wendo Nabea, Director Graduate School. His willingness to assist me spoke volumes to me. Dr. Sheila Wandera, Dean of the School of Humanities and Development Studies, played an important part in seeing me succeed in my Master's degree studies.

As a novelist, I combined the workload of my Master's degree study with my creative writing and wrote a novel, *Caught in the Web*, which will soon be available to the general public. The writing of this novel alongside my study was possible because Laikipia University offered me a friendly and conducive environment. Prof. Nicholas Irungu Kamau-Goro, who is an accomplished novelist and a member of the Department of Literary and Communication Studies helped me to bring the novel to reality.

Anyone seeking sound graduate or postgraduate study will not regret attending Laikipia University. Indeed, Laikipia University is the Citadel of Learning. I came into this noble university as a foreigner but I am leaving the school as a full member of the university because it offered me all I needed. The overwhelming love and acceptance I received from everyone in the school makes me feel a member of the Laikipia University Family.

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'Sister, never mind, we will make sure that you catch up with all we have done so far'.

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