

# LAIKIPIA

P.O. Box 1100-20300  
NYAHURURU  
KENYA



# UNIVERSITY

TEL: +254 (0) 20 2331509  
Cell: +254 713 552761  
vc@laikipia.ac.ke; [www.laikipia.ac.ke](http://www.laikipia.ac.ke)

## OFFICE OF THE VICE CHANCELLOR

### **SPEECH BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR, PROF. JOSEPH K. ROTICH, PhD *Professor of Biostatistics and Informatics*, TO THE FIRST YEAR STUDENTS 2021/2022 COHORT ON FRIDAY, 29<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2021 AT VISION 2030 HALL, LAIKIPIA UNIVERSITY**

---

Our Chief Guests today, our freshmen and women, Ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the entire Laikipia University fraternity, I heartily welcome you to this great University. I would like to echo three words: **Innovate**, **Create** and **Inspire**. Securing your place at Laikipia University showed that you have the dedication and power to achieve what you have set your mind to. As your university of choice for the next four years, we strive to mould and transform you into a well-equipped scholar to fit in a rapid developing global system. We shall endeavour to train you to innovate and create new knowledge. This is well inscribed in our vision of being a *“University for Valued transformation of Society”*. Albert Einstein said *“try not to become a man of success, rather become a man of value”*. Furthermore, the university’s goal is to build you into a hardworking, disciplined and responsible citizen.

Laikipia University prides itself as having a conducive learning atmosphere, characterized by serene, noise-free surrounding. This should inspire and help you in achieving your desired dreams as a scholar. In the spirit of continual improvement for better service delivery (ISO dictates), the university is engaged in major construction works as you may have noticed as you walk around. With this kind of activities going on, some inconveniences may be encountered. I urge you to be understanding as we work on the new buildings. I am sure within a reasonable period, you will be able to enjoy a new look of Laikipia University.

The Covid-19 Pandemic has disrupted a lot of activities in the world, the entire country and in the education sector specifically. However, the University has made efforts in trying to curb the effects of the pandemic on the University activities. Amidst the problems brought



about by the pandemic, the University has taken advantage of the situation to improve on the digital space in an effort to ensuring that the University operations do not get disrupted further.

**With the Covid-19 pandemic still with us, despite the lifting of the curfew hours, I urge you to observe guidelines by the Ministry of Health so that you do not get infected or infect others, thus affecting others. At all times wear your mask, keep social distance of 1.5M, and wash your hands regularly with soap and running water or at least use an alcohol-based sanitizer. Let us be our brother's or sister's keeper. Please get vaccinated.**

Please report to the medical department in case you feel unwell at any time. While our infrastructure is steadily growing, we are proud of our Human Resource, which has enabled us to compete favourably and to host great scholars in our university. The members of staff in all cadres will soon be your closest and trusted allies. The lecturers and other teaching staff are committed to preparing their students to work, acquire skills and enlarge their capacities, which equip them adequately.

For your information, Laikipia University has produced the best graduates over the years; we have had the Teacher of the year awards given to two (2) of our former students. We have also had the best runner up as the teacher of the year in 2019. Laikipia has also produced the best graduates who have dominated the media industry, one being the Editor of the Parents Magazine and another, as a top news anchor at one of Kenya's news rooms.

Recently, six (6) students competed in "Huawei ICT Competition 2020 Global" and out of the six, two ranked in the top 10 participants. In fact, they were the top two (2).

A number of our students have also benefited from grants in agrip-reneurship.

Whatever you do therefore in your next four years in the University, do it diligently as it will determine the outcome of your stay in this University.

We are an internationally recognized University and we have collaborations with other Universities and exchange programmes for both staff and students. We have also been privileged to host international conferences where staff and students participate.

The battle therefore is in your mind as to what you want to achieve. Remember, University life is about challenging, questioning, discovering, enjoying good people and good friends



and finally pushing yourself and minds to the limits. Whatever you do, therefore, in your next four (4) years in the University, do it diligently as it will determine the outcome of your stay in this University.

Involve yourself and participate in university activities that will enlarge your knowledge and skills.

Laikipia University has got structured communication channels through which various issues are channelled. You are encouraged to follow the right channels, to enable your issues resolved and solved within the shortest time possible. Through your orientation process you have learned that Laikipia university is a **student-centred** institution, where several facilities are set up to meet student goals and be able to solve student related issues as quickly as possible.

We have the Academic and Administration divisions which offer complementary services to one another, all for your well-being. We expect you to be of high moral standards and intellectually honest while respecting the views of others.

The first link to this is the **School Dean**, the closest and reliable link for you to pursue your academic endeavour. All issues related to your academic issues can be addressed to your deans because they are the best person to reach out to. Apart from that we also have the **Dean of Students**; a vital link between you and the life in a university. This department aims to provide complementary services to enhance your academic and personal accomplishments. This may include extra-curricular activities such as sports, counselling, welfare and spiritual matters. The **Security Office** is also another department that all students enrolled at Laikipia University should be aware of. Take your time and know the location of its offices because they ensure your security throughout your academic journey. All security related cases can be addressed to them directly or through the Dean of Students.

Being in University creates a ripple effect. You are here to make a legacy, to make an impact to future generations, to inspire them and also ensure that you innovate because your future judges you on the effort and the success you achieve today. University life is known for its freedom of expression; be free but remember freedom comes with responsibility. You will meet your fellow students from all aspects of life, religion and background and attributed difference of opinion and we all humbly request you to respect their ideals and way of life.



We are indeed delighted to welcome you as a new member of the family. We trust that you will be ready to play your role and take full responsibility for whatever you do. This is the place to unleash your potential. Your success in your academic pursuit depends on your observance of the laws, regulations, Rules of the University, hard work, respect and discipline. Make the Students Handbook part of your Library to remind you of what is expected of you as a student.

Please take note that as you registered to learn in this university, you recorded your name. This is the name you will consistently use during your stay here. This is that same name you will graduate with.

Challenges are bound to come, one way or another but we expect that you will overcome them through the right channels. As we continue to grow, we expect to develop more together by having more innovations from you students particularly through these challenging times.

Where things are not clear to you, seek assistance anytime. All University officers irrespective of their status and cadre are there to serve you. Do not allow ignorance or bad company to harm your future prospects. Many students have lost their opportunity to complete their studies due to engagement with bad company, alcohol and drugs abuse, or engaging in illegal activities. Stand firm and focus on the business that brought you to Laikipia University; to study, graduate and go and serve the society.

Be a Laikipia University Ambassador at all times.

Once again, welcome to Laikipia University “*The Seed of Wisdom*”. Thank You and God bless you.

