

LAIKIPIA



UNIVERSITY

SPEECH BY

THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

PROF. KIBETT ROTICH, PhD

PROFESSOR OF BIOSTATISTICS AND INFORMATICS

DURING THE 9TH GRADUATION CEREMONY

HELD ON

29TH JULY, 2022

Vision: A University for Valued Transformation of Society

Mission: To serve students and society through research, education, scholarship, training, innovation, outreach and consultancy



Laikipia University is ISO 9001:2015 and ISO/IEC 27001:2013 Certified



- *Chancellor Sir*
- *Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education*
- *Principal Secretary, State Department of University Education and Research*
- *Chairperson, Laikipia University Council and Chairpersons of other University Councils Present*
- *Members of Laikipia University Council and representatives of other University Councils Present*
- *Chief Guest, Hon. Justice Isaac Lenaola, LLB, MBA, MSC, MBS, CBS*
- *Other Vice Chancellors Present*
- *Members of the University Management Board and Senate*
- *The Governor Laikipia County, Representatives of other County Governments Members present*
- *Graduands*
- *Laikipia University Staff and students*
- *Parents and Guardians*
- *Distinguished Guests*
- *Ladies and Gentlemen*

Good Morning

Ladies and Gentlemen

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

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esteems the Laikipia University fraternity. Well done on this accomplishment!

Ladies and Gentlemen

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.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Laikipia University has in the recent past continued to enhance efforts of internationalization of the University 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

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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.

Ladies and Gentlemen

The University continues to improve on its infrastructure and academic programmes. These improvements are focused on ensuring business continuity in case of global disruptions such as the recent pandemic that interfered with the university calendar. The establishment of an ODeI 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.

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Ladies and Gentlemen

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 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/Approach 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.

Ladies and Gentlemen

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

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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.

Ladies and Gentlemen

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.

Ladies and Gentlemen

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

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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 are privileged to have 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. The University Senate in proposing this award notes that 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. These activities have also had a positive impact on the economy of this country and beyond. Due to his exceptional social and philanthropic work, Dr. Jaffer has been recognized and honoured both nationally and internationally. 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.

Once again, congratulations to the class of 2021!

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