

LAIKIPIA

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SPEECH TO THE FIRST YEAR STUDENTS 2018/19 COHORT

BY THE VC – JOSEPH K ROTICH, PhD, Professor of Biostatistics and Informatics

On 13th September 2018, Laikipia University

Ladies and gentlemen, I wish to welcome you to Laikipia University. On behalf of the entire Laikipia University Council, Senate, University Management Board, Staff and Students, I heartily welcome and congratulate you for having been admitted to this great University. Before I begin, 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 mold and transform you into a well-equipped scholar to fit in a rapid developing global system. This is well indicted in our vision of being a university of 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 also to build you into a hardworking and responsible citizen.

Those who don’t know where they are going, anywhere is their destination!

Vision: A University for Valued Transformation of Society

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

Laikipia University is ISO 9001:2008 Certified



Laikipia University prides itself as having a conducive learning atmosphere, characterized by serene, noise - free surrounding. This will help you in achieving your desired dreams as a scholar. As you may have noticed we are undergoing major construction to modernize facilities on campus. 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. And therefore, we are sorry for any inconveniences that you may encounter.

While our infrastructure is steadily growing, we are proud of our Human Resource, which has enabled us to compete favorably and to host great scholars in our university. The members of staff and soon to be your closest and trusted allies 'the lecturers' are committed to preparing their students to work, acquire skills and enlarge their capacities, which equip them adequately.

Laikipia University has produced the best graduates and to mention but a few, we have had the Teacher of the year awards given to two of our former students. 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.

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 up to 2022 December,

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in the University, do it diligently as it will determine the outcome of your stay in this University.

Do not allow unnecessary and irrelevant issues distract your vision.

Laikipia University has got structured communication channels through which various issues are channeled.

You are encouraged to follow the right channels, to enable your issues solved within the shortest time possible. Through your orientation process you learned that Laikipia University is a **student-centered** institution, where several facilities are set up to meet student goals and be able to solve student related issues as quickly as possible. The first link to this is the **School Dean**, the closest and reliable link for you to pursue your academic endeavor. All issues related to your academic issue can be addressed to your deans because they are best persons 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 actives such as sports, counseling, 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. Be your brother's/sister's keeper.

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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 also remember freedom comes with responsibility. You will meet your fellow students from all aspects of life, religion, 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.

Where things are not clear to you be ready to seek assistance anytime. All University officers are there to serve you. Do not allow ignorance or bad company to harm your future prospects. Stand firm and focus on the business that brought you to Laikipia University; to study, graduate and go and serve the society. You are one of the **bricks** for building our Nation – Kenya.

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Once again, welcome to Laikipia University “The seed of Wisdom”. Thank You

Signed

Prof J K Rotich

VC and Professor of Biostatistics and Informatics

13th September 2018

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