

**ORIENTATION SPEECH
BY
PROF. LUCY IRUNGU
VICE-CHANCELLOR
MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY**

Deputy Vice Chancellors, Registrars, Deans and Directors, CODs, Members of Staff, Student Leaders, First Year Students of Machakos University,

Ladies and gentlemen

Good Morning!

I wish to take this opportunity to welcome the **first year students** to Machakos University. I congratulate you for your good KCSE performance that enabled you to be admitted to this University. We are delighted that you chose Machakos University.

Machakos University is a public University established and chartered under the University Act. As per the structure and governance, the university is headed by the chancellor, the university council, the university management board and the senate. Machakos University is the only public university in the greater Machakos County. It has a growing population of about 9000 students currently and more than 500 members of staff. Machakos University puts students at the center of everything it does; your experience here at Machakos University and your success is important to every member of staff of the university.

Machakos University prides itself as a multicultural institution with diverse cultures, beliefs and traditions. Machakos University is a community in which every individual is valued, supported and encouraged to be the best that they can be. It is a community in which our students achieve excellent academic *and* extra-curricular success. It is a community where individuals have free choices to be genuinely themselves and yet have strong sense of belonging.

Your coming here accorded you a new turn of events and a new chapter in your life. Your previous life chapters were mainly orchestrated by your parents, guardians, families, teachers and acquaintances. You are now going to be the principal author of the next chapter – the *new chapter of university life*. The good news is that you now have a chance to determine the destiny and the story of your life. This can be as challenging as it is exciting, and yet it is going to be turning point of your life. But the great thing is that Machakos University is here for you and these professors and administrative staff seated here will see you through. Machakos University will provide the opportunity to learn new things, acquire new knowledge, develop new skills and enhance your personal attributes in

profound ways to equip you in life. Apart from your academic life, we have several extra curriculum activities such as games, sports, music etc. At Machakos University, we nurture talent and value innovation.

Ladies and gentlemen, though University life will accord you a lot of freedom, there are consequences that go with it. You will be expected to attend lectures and tutorials, do assignments, sit for CATS and exams and participate in extra curriculum activities. Machakos University is an institution of very high academic standards and we expect that you will maintain the same. Discipline and integrity are akin to success and the University requires that you adhere to the stipulated rules and guidelines.

We expect and advocate for dialogue and negotiations wherever there are issues of concern. The University will not tolerate unruly behavior and any student who disrupts the normal academic business of the University or breaks the laws of the land will be treated like any other Kenyan and will be handed over to law enforcement agents. It is therefore important that you observe discipline and avoid any activities that will compromise your character and studies.

Again, the choice of who to associate with or the sort of company you keep is yours. A word of caution is that be wary of negative social risks such drug abuse, betting and joining dangerous groups, irresponsible sexual behaviors and bad association etc. Also note that the University expects you to dress decently. Remember, image is everything!

I wish also to bring to your attention as *first year fresher's* that:

One: The University has Chancellor's Scholarships only awarded to the very bright and needy students.

Two: Be conscious of security matters and in the hostels where you stay, respect your accommodation providers.

Three: We have the office of Dean of Students to take care of your welfare and also career services office where you get to know your careers paths.

As I end my remarks, I hope this orientation week served its purpose. The orientation serves to acquaint you with all the information you need to enable you adjust and settle down to University life. It is about knowing the University programs, rules, regulations, navigating your way to labs, lecture halls and library etc. It helps you to set your academic goals for the next four years. It prepares you for what could be the most rewarding experiences in your life as you embark on building your career at Machakos University.

With these few remarks, I wish you success and most fulfilling experience at Machakos University.

Thank you.