

**SPEECH DELIVERED BY PROF. WILSON KIPNG'ENO;
PhD. MBS, VICE-CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY
OF KABIANGA TO THE FIRST YEAR STUDENTS OF
KAPAKTET CAMPUS ON MONDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER,
2018.**

The Deputy Vice-Chancellors,

Deans of Schools,

Directors,

Dean of Students,

Registrars,

Heads of Departments,

Members of Staff,

Student leaders,

Students,

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning.

On behalf of the University of Kabianga Council,
Senate, Management Board, entire staff and
students, I warmly welcome you to the University
of Kabianga.

Let me also congratulate you for having been admitted to the University of Kabianga after successfully completing your Secondary Education and attaining the minimum cluster requirements for the course you have been admitted to. University of Kabianga puts students at the centre of everything it does. Your experience and success at UoK is important to all of us.

Education is a lifelong and your academic journey has just begun. This is a new chapter in your life and you are the principal author of the next chapter. While you are here at UoK you have the opportunity to learn new things, acquire new knowledge, and develop new skills that will equip you for life after university. You will be with us for four years and your graduation will definitely be a big milestone in this lifelong journey.

My appeal to you as the first year students is to maximize the opportunity and utilize the enabling environment avail to you to be innovative in pursuit of knowledge.

The University was chartered as a fully-fledged Public University on 1st March, 2013.

The University of Kabianga, Kapkatet Campus; adjacent to Kapkatet Town was launched in September, 2011. Since inception, the Campus has expanded as evidenced by increased student enrolment.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is worth noting that the programs we offer here have been accredited by the respective regulatory bodies; Nursing Council of Kenya (NCK), Clinical Officers Council of Kenya (CoCK) and Public Health Officers & Technicians

Council (PHOTC); which is yet to give full accreditation.

The University has signed Memorandum of Understanding with various health institutions to ensure that students get quality training and competencies.

Besides Main Campus at Kabianga and Kapkatet, the University has two other Campuses at Kericho Town and Sotik.

The University strives to create an enabling environment through provision of essential services and facilities to meet the diverse academic needs of its customers. New infrastructural facilities are being developed to ensure that quality education is rendered.

Procedures regarding correspondences by the students are clearly spelt out in the Rules and

Regulations; copies of which were circulated to you.

The office of the Dean of students has given you procedures on how to join/form clubs and societies. Tribal and County clubs have been banned in the University and only professional clubs are allowed in the university. This is to promote national integration and cohesion.

At the University of Kabianga, dialogue is the only avenue towards a mutual understanding within the University. Over the years, the University has inculcated a culture of dialogue and tolerance to divergent ideas.

During your stay in the University you are expected to note the following:

1. Drug and substance abuse

Drug and substance abuse among the young people in learning institutions has endangered their lives. A report by the National Agency for

Campaign against Drug Abuse (NACADA, 2012); indicates that the majority of students in all levels of education still abuse substances and are likely to destroy their lives before they become adults or even drop out of school. This is causing a lot of concern as the vice, indeed, has been identified as a major cause of some of the problems experienced in learning institutions in Kenya in the recent past. Please take care!

2. HIV and Aids

HIV & Aids is still a big problem among the youth in this country. Daily Nation of Friday 1st December 2017 reported: “Kenya has been ranked third in the highest new HIV infections among young people in the East and Central African region. Kenya also has the second highest population of young people living with HIV/Aids. According to statistics from the National Aids Control Council (NACC), there are 238,987 young people between the ages of 15 to 24

years living with HIV". A number of factors contribute to the increasing rate of HIV infection among young people which includes incorrect perception of HIV risk; and having unprotected sexual intercourse under influence of alcohol or drugs.

3. Radicalization

Radicalization is the action or process of causing someone to adopt radical positions on political or social issues. Radicalization in Kenya is a real threat to an extent that even medics have been known to have fallen prey. Keep watch as you progress on your studies.

4. Betting – Sport pesa

In a survey which was carried out in March 2017 among 3,879 youth in Kenya, Uganda, South Africa, Ghana, Nigeria and Tanzania using the GeoPoll mobile App, Kenya has the highest number of betting youth in Sub-Saharan Africa. The GeoPoll rapid survey established that more

than half (54 per cent) of youth in the region have tried their hand at gambling with Kenya having the highest number of betters at 76 per cent.

The survey also shows that Kenyans spend the highest amount of money in gambling. Most Kenyan youth bet once a week spending about Sh5,000 (\$50) per month mostly on football bets, compared to youth in other countries who spend less than that amount per month. Please exercise restraint if you must bet.

5. Social media

Today Social media is the most used mode of communication. The tools of social networking such as Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube, personal blogs, Instagram and WhatsApp that have previously had a reputation strictly for socializing, are now being used as sources for information and play a big role in contemporary social and political mobilization in the world.

Social media can be very inflammatory. Kindly use social media responsibly.

6. Examinations

Examinations at the University are very important mode of assessment. Cheating in examination of any kind is not allowed. You are advised to be self-disciplined and cultivate a culture of honesty.

Dear students, your coming to the University is to primarily study and it forms the base of whatever you do. I challenge you to exhibit the spirit of hardworking as the areas of your study deals with human life; and calls for no cheating in the examinations.

In this endeavor, be responsible not to loose your track, but remain the kind of person your parents and sponsors wish you to be. As upcoming medics, fasten up your shoe laces and buckle up your belts for the journey ahead, because the best part of your life is waiting for you.

In this respect Ladies and gentlemen, let me once again remind you that you:

- a) To use the social media responsibly while using the internet services provided in the Campus. The University website has Sentinel Page for you to interact as fellow students.
- b) To be very responsible pedestrians while walking up and down the tarmac high way
- c) To take care of your property
- d) To adhere to the guidelines stipulated in the Students' Handbook
- e) To be consulting with your respective Heads of Departments and Deans
- f) Take security issue seriously. Security begins with you.
- g) Finally be cautious while visiting some of the sceneries.

Let me now take this opportunity to thank the present and past student leadership and student community who have worked with University Management in building a reputable institution of higher learning

Once again, I welcome you to this Institution which will be your home for the next four years. I wish you well and God's abounding protection.

Thank you and God bless you all.

PROF. WILSON KIPNGENO
VICE-CHANCELLOR