

Mount Kenya University

ADDRESS

BY

Prof. Deogratius JAGANYI
VICE-CHANCELLOR

ON

ROAD TO SUCCESS

TO

NEW STUDENTS: JANUARY, 2023 INTAKE

ON

13TH JANUARY, 2023

AT

MWAI KIBAKI CONVENTION CENTRE

1.0 Salutation

- ❖ Registrar, Academic Administration,
- ❖ Principals present,
- ❖ Dean of Students,
- ❖ Directors present,
- ❖ Staff,
- ❖ Student Leaders,
- ❖ Students,
- ❖ Ladies and Gentlemen

2.0 Preliminary

Happy New Year!

It gives me great pleasure to join my colleagues to welcome you to Mount Kenya University. *Karibuni sana katika Chuo Kikuu cha Mount Kenya.* I congratulate you for qualifying for various programmes at the University. I am aware that you have gone through various levels of orientation and that you now understand your academic environment. I thank the Divisional Unit of Students Welfare for making all the necessary arrangements to make you feel at home.

As you may be aware, before a flight takes off, the flight attendants takes the passengers through safety procedures when at the aircraft. Similar to your case, before you take off we are taking you through student orientation to create awareness of the University Governance and Management structures, regulations, procedures, support systems and teaching facilities that are in your environment. I urge you to take time and understand systems, regulations and procedures. Just the other day FIFA World Cup 2022 ended and I believe quite a number of you are fans. Those who understand football know that there are operational guidelines and there are rules of the game. As you go through the process of orientation, please ensure that you

understand the operational guidelines and regulations of your academic environment.

Today, my address is on the road to success.

2.0 Road to Success

Ladies and Gentlemen, as you all know, success is a journey and not a destination. I pose a question to you, “considering the level that you are right now, what is your biggest success?”

When I was young like you, my biggest success was to earn my Bachelor’s Degree, then, I realized that I am not yet there, I needed a Masters Degree. After attaining a Masters Degree, I realized that I needed to pursue a Doctorate Degree and even after attaining Doctorate, I felt the need to attain professorship. I did not attain these achievements in a day, it was a journey and of course not an easy one. It is interesting that on the road to success you will always find a bend up ahead for you to travel on. The idea of success always shifts as you move on and as time passes.

As you commence your studies at MKU, this marks the first step of a thousand-mile journey through the academia. I assure you that MKU will provide the support you require to succeed but on the other hand, you must play your role. In pursuit of the path to success, there are various factors that you will need to consider:

i. Having aspirations

Aspiration is a strong desire to achieve something that you value. I will pose questions that you need to answer not necessarily now.

- ✓ Why are you here?
- ✓ What is that you desire to achieve in MKU?
- ✓ Do you have a big picture of your life?

You cannot begin this journey of studentship in MKU without knowing what it is you are pursuing.

ii. Setting Goals

It is always important to define your plan of action that guides you on how you will achieve your goals. Always monitor progress of your achievements as this motivates you and keep you committed to your goal. Remember that goals are backed by actions.

iii. Determination

Determination is essential part of success. It inspires someone to dream big and achieve more of yourself. During your studentship in MKU, take a determined action and you will achieve your career aspirations.

iv. Hard Work

You must work hard to become the absolute best you can be. University education requires a lot of hard work and one must be self-driven. No one will follow up if you are attending lectures, but at the end of the day, as the Registrar, Academic Administration mentioned, the University Administration will check if you attained 75% to be allowed to sit for examinations. No one will follow up if you visit the Library to study but at the end of the day it will show on your end term examination results. I urge you to roll-up your sleeves now and get down to work. I echo the words of Ann Landers who said that:

“Nobody ever drowned in his own sweat”.

v. Prudent Management of Resources

This requires management of your resources including time. You have a lot of time at Campus but you must avoid involvement in activities that do not add value to you and those that do not support your aspirations. Remember that you are here on a specified period of time depending on your respective programmes. The University has provided all the academic resources that you need, state-of-the-art Library, lecture rooms, Research and Innovation Centre, wide-range of laboratories etc, please make use of them.

vi. Courage

The dictionary defines courage as *“The quality of mind or spirit that enables a person to face difficulty, danger, pain etc. without fear”*

The road to success is paved with failure, difficulty, pain etc. James Gitau says that expecting to go through life without downs is unrealistic and of course it sets you to fall harder when failure occurs. On the other hand, if you avoid failure, it prevents

you from focusing on gaining the resilience needed to cope with it, a vital element of bouncing back.

I urge you to be persistent and consistent as these are key elements to achieving success. Whenever you face failure, be courageous enough to bounce back but let it be an effective lesson to you to contribute to your next milestone.

As a student pursuing to succeed in your career aspirations, keep your goal in mind. The moment you lose sight of that pursuit of success your dream will start dying. Always stay in motion. Never fail to ask for help when you need it. Do not walk alone. Sometimes school conditions us to work alone but I urge you to learn to relate with your colleagues, mentors, teaching staff etc to help you achieve your goals. The Road to Success requires one to change their mindset and decide to change. Success has nothing to do with skillset or financial backing, it is all in the mind.

3.0 Conclusion

Ladies and gentlemen, as I conclude, I emphasize that you pursue the road of success and keep in mind that there is no ceiling on success, decide how far you want to go in life. You must also take time and enjoy the journey, enjoy being

in MKU, explore opportunities in MKU. Colton Black said that:

“Getting there is more than half the battle and if you are miserable or unwilling to appreciate the pursuit, then you will find a hollow joy in finally reaching your destination”

I wish you all an endearing experience while studying at MKU.

Thank you and I wish you a prosperous 2023.

**Prof. Deogratius JAGANYI
VICE-CHANCELLOR,
MOUNT KENYA UNIVERSITY**