

## VICE-CHANCELLOR'S ORIENTATION SPEECH

*Deputy Vice Chancellors, and other members of the University  
Management Board,  
Deans and Directors,  
CODs,  
Members of Staff,  
Student Leaders,  
2021 First Year Students of Machakos University,  
Ladies and gentlemen,  
Good morning,*

I take this opportunity to warmly welcome you all to Machakos University as *first-year students* and at the same time extend my congratulations to you for your good performance in the KCSE examination which qualified you for admission to this University. The University fraternity is indeed delighted to have you as part of the Machakos University family. As you embark on this new chapter of your life, I wish to assure you that you made the right choice in selecting Machakos University as the vehicle to sail you through this phase of the academic journey.

## **MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY**

Machakos University being the only public university in Machakos County, was founded in 1957 as a Technical Rural Training School initially and has since gone through various transformation before finally being chartered as a fully-fledged Public University on 7th October, 2016 when it was awarded a Charter. The University is situated along Wote-Konza road about one (1) km from Machakos CBD.

Machakos University is headed by a Chancellor, and has the following governance organs: The University Council, the University Management Board and the Senate. Programs are coordinated at the School level under the guidance of a Dean and are provided through the academic Departments. The student fraternity is led by a Student Governing Council under the umbrella of the Student Association of Machakos University, popularly known as SAMU.

Our vision is to be the preferred University of excellence in scholarship and service delivery. Our Mission is to provide scholarly education through training, research and innovation for industrial and socio-economic transformation of our communities while our core values include: Integrity, Accountability, Professionalism, Inclusivity, Teamwork and Equity.

The management and operations of the University are guided by the Charter which was awarded on establishment and Statutes, policies, guidelines, rules and regulations that have been developed. As students, you are expected to familiarize yourselves with the policies, guidelines, rules and regulations which will guide you stay at the university.

## **THE 2021 ADMISSION PROCESS**

This year's admission to the University is happening at a time when we are still grappling with the Covid 19 pandemic which has disrupted activities in all sectors of the society. Learning institutions have

embraced technology to leverage in the delivery of services.

The University has adopted blended mode of teaching and learning.

This means that a combination of both online and face to face sessions will entail your learning activities to which ICT infrastructure has been

put in place to facilitate this. Every student is, therefore, encouraged

to make good use of the online services provided by the University to

cater for both your learning and research needs. An appropriate

Learner Management System (LMS) has been installed to enhance

access to instructional materials and additional resources in the

library. It is important to mention that all our lecturers and technical

staff have been trained to teach and provide the necessary online

support. It is my hope that the introduction which was conducted

yesterday will enhance how you navigate the system. However, more

trainings on the same will be offered.

## **MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR TIME AT MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY**

One of the great things about university life is the range of new

experiences at your disposal including abundant opportunities to flourish in your academics which is core and on other aspects. You will learn that most of the programs have attachment or practical as an integral component this is to ensure your study is intertwined with the world of work. You are encouraged to undertake research and explore your innovative prowess, this will be enabled under the guidance of our Research, Innovations and Linkages division. In addition, there will also be opportunities where you will be engaged in giving back to the community, through our outreach programs not forgetting extra-curricular activities that such as sports and various clubs and societies, this I am aware you were taken through by SAMU under the coordination of the Dean of students.

## **EXPECTATIONS**

At Machakos University you will have the opportunity to acquire new knowledge and skills, new friends and expand your networks. All these will enhance your academic, professional and social life by the time you exit the University as a graduate, ready to contribute to

society.

Initially, you will be given a lot of information just as you have encountered during the admission process and the two days of orientation. This may confuse you at the beginning but things will eventually fall into place as you adjust to campus life with the assistance of the students ahead of you. You will be expected to take full responsibility for your life on campus. You will not hear any bells but you are required to attend lectures and tutorials, do assignments, sit for CATS and exams. In other words, learning is less structured but with more freedom, comes greater responsibility. It is therefore essential that you plan well for all your activities and maintain a high level of discipline.

We also expect you to comply with the COVID-19 Ministry of Health Protocols, to protect yourself, and those that you interact with on campus, in order to minimize infection and spread of the disease. In addition, we expect you not only to have the necessary ICT devices like laptops to facilitate your blended-learning but to develop and

enhance your ICT skills for greater navigation. You are also required to pay the requisite fees on time. This will result in better access to services availed by the university.

Machakos University is equipped to see you through your academic journey. Our academic and support staff will provide you with the opportunity to learn, acquire new knowledge, develop new skills and enhance your personal attributes in your academic journey. We also endeavor to enhance your academic life through extra-curricular activities such as games, sports, and music.

### **WORD OF CAUTION**

As you are aware, the world is now digital and social media permeates all sectors of society. There is therefore need to be cautious with what you post on these social media because they may come to haunt you later in life. Whenever there are issues of dispute we advise and prefer for dialogue and negotiations before you resort to strikes or social media. The University will not tolerate any student who runs to social

media or any other platform to seek redress outside the laid down procedures of solving issues at the University. As students, you have to abide by the law and if you infringe laws like cybercrimes or hacking etc., the long hand of the law will catch up with you. I also call upon you to desist from betting activities and drug abuse. I therefore advise you to obey the law and avoid any illegal activities in whatever form that can land you in trouble. The rules and regulations to guide your conduct and stay in the University were availed to you on admission and we expect you to abide by the regulations.

I wish also to bring to your attention that:

**One:** The Covid-19 Pandemic is still with us and you are expected to adhere to the Ministry of Health Protocols. The university has ensured that washing points and sanitizers are available at the Main University gate and at strategic locations within the institution.

**Two:** We have the office of Dean of Students to take care of your welfare matters supported by SAMU. The office also provides guidance and counseling services. In addition, the university has

established the Office of Career Services where you get advised on your career paths. Insurance matters and Health services are also coordinated under the office of the Dean of students.

**Three:** The office of the Registrar, Academic and Student Affairs (ASA) handles all registration matters on admission, at the beginning of every semester and for examinations; student IDs; and Certificates. The office also deals with deferments and transfers.

**Four:** The University has put in place some mechanisms to assist needy students. We have the Chancellor's Scholarship awarded to bright and needy students enrolled in Pure and Applied Science and Engineering programs. We also offer a limited number of bursaries and have initiated work study programs within the campus as a source of financial support.

**Five:** Be conscious of security matters and in the hostels where you stay, respect your accommodation providers and avoid getting

involved in situations and activities that may lead to conflicts with the public.

## **CONCLUSION**

I would like to conclude by emphasizing that at Machakos University, our services are focused on the student as the main stakeholder. We consider your experience and success here at the university as central to our core business of teaching, research and community service. You are beginning a new chapter in both your academic and social life and I therefore impress upon you to be responsible and accountable for all your actions. Always remember that actions have corresponding consequences.

Finally, I would like to assure you that the university has set up structures to support you in your academic journey. These include offices such as that of the Registrar ASA, Dean of Students, Schools, Departments, Career Services, Counseling, Security, Health Services and the Student Union (SAMU). The orientation serves to acquaint

you with all the information you need to enable you to 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 guides you to set your academic goals for the next four years. The orientation also 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 every success as you start your academic journey with us here. I am confident that you will have a fruitful experience at Machakos University and a solid foundation for your future.

**Thank you and God Bless you all**