



KAIMOSI FRIENDS UNIVERSITY

WELCOME SPEECH BY PROF. OGODO M. J. NANDI, ACTING VICE CHANCELLOR KAIMOSI FRIENDS UNIVERSITY TO FIRST YEAR STUDENTS ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2023 AT 10 A.M ON UNIVERSITY GROUNDS

- My Acting Deputy Vice Chancellors
- Other Management Board Members Present
- Deans and Directors
- Heads of Departments
- Heads of Sections
- Staff
- Student Leaders Present
- Our esteemed First Year Students of 2023/2024 academic year

1. Ladies and Gentlemen, greetings and a warm welcome to each one of you as you embark on this exciting journey of higher education at our esteemed institution, Kaimosi Friends University (KAFU), *the spring of knowledge*.
2. On behalf of the entire university community, I am delighted to extend my heartfelt congratulations to each one of you for securing a place at our young but the fastest-growing university in the country.

3. This week has marked the beginning of a new chapter in your lives, a chapter filled with endless possibilities, growth, and transformative experiences.
4. Ladies and gentlemen, Kaimosi Friends University (KAFU) is a rapidly growing public university, serving as the sole institution of its kind in Vihiga County. Initially established in 2014 as a campus of Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology (MMUST), it was designated as a constituent college in May 2015. Finally, on August 2, 2022, KAFU was granted a university charter, solidifying its status as a full-fledged university.
5. My Dear Freshmen, I would like to inform you that KAFU, like other universities, has various organs that ensure the efficient delivery of services to our clients. We have the University Council, which serves as our employer; the Management Board, responsible for overseeing the university's day-to-day operations; the Senate, which handles all academic matters; Deans who lead different schools; Directors in charge of directorates; Department Heads who oversee different departments; Section Heads responsible for various sections; and both academic and non-academic staff.

6. Ladies and Gentlemen, Kaimosi Friends University has made remarkable progress in developing academic programs, directorates, departments, and the necessary infrastructure. Starting with just two undergraduate programs, we have expanded to forty-three market-driven programs aligned with our strategic plan. Additionally, our student population has grown significantly, increasing from around 300 students in 2014 to over 4,000 students in the 2023/2024 academic year.
7. Our esteemed fresh men and women, as a public institution, we are fully committed to advancing the government's pillars for education: access, equity, quality, and relevance. With a strategic focus on Health Sciences as our niche, we also offer complementary market-driven programs in the Schools of Education and Social Sciences, Business and Economics, Computing and Information Technology, and Science.
8. Ladies and Gentlemen, at Kaimosi Friends University, we take immense pride in being a young and dynamic institution that has been making great strides in the world of education. Our students normally complete their degree programs in four years, take your studies serious. Our commitment to academic excellence, holistic development, and fostering a nurturing environment sets us apart as a center of excellence for higher learning.

9. Ladies and gentlemen, I wish to inform you that we are in the process of reviewing our curriculum and aligning our programs with the newly introduced Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC), as we anticipate the first cohort to be enrolled in 2029.

10. Furthermore, as you have been informed, the global landscape has undergone significant changes since the advent of COVID-19. The world has embraced technology, and we have also integrated ICT into our teaching. Some of our programs will be taught virtually, especially common courses.

11. Ladies and gentlemen, one of the hallmarks of our university is our ISO certification that was approved in July of this year, which attests to the high standards of quality and excellence we adhere to in all our academic and administrative endeavors. This certification underscores our dedication to providing you with a world-class education and a conducive learning environment.

12. Young Scholars, as you begin your academic journey with us, you will have the privilege of learning from our highly qualified and dedicated lecturers. Our faculty members are experts in their respective fields, and they are not only here to impart knowledge but also to mentor and guide you to reach

your full potential. We believe that nurturing the minds of our students is fundamental to shaping future leaders and change-makers.

13.KAFU is equipped with state-of-the-art facilities that cater to the diverse needs of our students. From well-stocked libraries and advanced laboratories to modern classrooms and recreational spaces, we have invested in creating an environment that promotes effective learning and overall well-being.

14.Ladies and Gentlemen, the prudent management of resources is a key aspect of our institution's success. We believe in utilizing our resources wisely to ensure that every student receives the best possible education and support throughout their academic journey. Contribute to the smooth operation of our institution by ensuring timely fee payments and adherence to the fee payment policy. Failure to comply with these guidelines may result in the unfortunate consequence of deferring your studies for an entire academic year

15.You Scholars, I am pleased to inform you that the government has introduced an exceptional funding model. KAFU will refrain from expelling students due to fee-related issues until the full implementation of this model, which is anticipated to be completed by October of this year.

16. Ladies and Gentlemen, as a university, we strongly believe in encouraging a healthy balance between academics and extracurricular activities. We recognize that true growth comes not only from books but also from participation in drama, sports, arts, cultural events, clubs, societies and other activities that enrich your overall personality. We offer numerous opportunities for you to explore your passions, discover new talents, and build lasting friendships outside the classroom.

17. Students, discipline are the foundation of success, and we urge each one of you to uphold the highest standards of discipline during your time at KAFU. Respect for others, adherence to university regulations, and a sense of responsibility will not only contribute to your personal growth but also create a harmonious and thriving campus community.

18. Future Leaders, I wish to remind you that in university, there is a lot of freedom. Please do not misuse it by succumbing to peer pressure and bad company. Avoid drug abuse, illicit sex, binge drinking, addiction, and other negative behaviors that may lead to HIV/AIDS and have a lasting impact on your lives.

19. Moreover, we strongly encourage an open culture of dialogue. If you encounter any challenges or have any concerns, we urge you to

communicate openly with your lecturers, administrators, or the student body. Together, we can find solutions and make KAFU an even better place for learning and personal development.

20. Young Scholars, the path ahead will undoubtedly be filled with challenges, but I am confident that you have the determination, intellect, and resilience to overcome them. Our dedicated faculty and staff are here to guide you, mentor you, and provide you with the tools and knowledge you need to succeed. I encourage you to actively engage with your professors, participate in extracurricular activities, and make the most of the resources available to you. Your time at Kaimosi Friends University is an opportunity to discover your passions, broaden your horizons, and make lifelong friendships.

21. Ladies and Gentlemen, as you settle into your new home away from home, I encourage you to explore the beauty of our campus, the richness of our academic programs, and the warmth of our community. Make the most of your time here, for your university years are a unique and transformative period in your life. Cherish the memories you create, the friendships you form, and the knowledge you gain.

22. Finally, Freshmen, let me emphasize the importance of hard work and dedication to your studies. Your academic journey may pose challenges, but

with determination and perseverance, you can overcome them and achieve remarkable success. Your efforts will not only reflect in your personal growth but also contribute to making KAFU an institution known for producing brilliant minds and future leaders.

23.As you set forth on this educational voyage, know that KAFU is not just a university; it is a community that embraces diversity, nurtures talent, and empowers individuals to create a positive impact in society.

24.Once again, I extend my heartfelt welcome to all of you, the bright minds and promising leaders of tomorrow. Embrace this wonderful opportunity to learn, grow, and make cherished memories that will last a lifetime.

Thank you, and may your journey at Kaimosi Friends University be nothing short of extraordinary!

PROF. OGODO M.J. NANDI

Ag. Vice Chancellor, Kaimosi Friends University (KAFU)