

**REMARKS BY PROFESSOR ISAAC M. MBECHÉ,
PRINCIPAL, COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND
SOCIAL SCIENCES DURING ORIENTATION OF
FIRST YEAR STUDENTS 2010/2011 ACADEMIC
YEAR ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2010-
BIASHARA HALL, SHERIA HALL AND 8-4-4
MULTI PURPOSE HALL**

Deputy Principal, CHSS
Deans,
Directors,
Associate Deans,
Chairmen of Departments,
Academic and Administrative staff,
Student Leaders
Fresh men and Women
Ladies and Gentlemen.

On behalf of the Vice-Chancellor and the entire University of Nairobi community, I welcome you warmly to the University, and especially to the College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

The University of Nairobi is organized into six College campuses namely:

- The College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences located at Upper Kabete Campus near Uthiru;
- The College of Architecture and Engineering located at the Main Campus and on State House Road;
- The College of Biological and Physical Sciences located at Chiromo Campus on Waiyaki Way;
- The College of Health Sciences located at Kenyatta National Hospital and in Chiromo Campus;
- The College of Education and External Studies located at Kikuyu and the Kenya Science Campus; and last and the biggest of all;
- The College of Humanities and Social Sciences located in:
 - Main Campus
 - National Museum Hill
 - Parklands Campus
 - Lower Kabete Campus
 - Kisumu Campus
 - Bandari Campus, and
 - Uni Plaza, Mombasa Campus

The University of Nairobi has two Constituent Colleges i.e.

- √The Kenya Polytechnic University College, and,
- √South Eastern University College, Kitui

CHSS as is fondly referred to is the largest among the six colleges of the University of Nairobi. Structurally, it is composed of one faculty, four schools and six institutes. These are:

1. Faculty of Arts with 10 academic Departments offers Arts related programmes and is located at the Main Campus.

These departments include:

- Literature,
- Sub-Department of French,
- Linguistics and Languages,
- History and Archaeology
- Geography and Environmental Studies
- Philosophy and Religious Studies
- Sociology
- Psychology,
- Political Science and Public Administration, and
- Communication Skills.

2. The School of Law is located at Parklands, Kisumu and Mombasa Campuses offers legal studies and comprise of:

- The Department of Public Law,
- The Department of Private Law, and
- The Department of Commercial Law.

3. The School of Business with three business related Departments is located at Lower Kabete, Mombasa and Kisumu Campuses. These departments are;

Business Administration, Accounting and Finance and Management Science.

4. The School of Journalism and Mass Communication is the regional leader in print and electronic journalism producer is located at the Main Campus, Education Building and at the Kenya Institute of Mass Communication.
5. The School of Economics located at the Main Campus, Gandhi Wing Building is charged with teaching and research in the field of Economics.
6. The College also has six institutes,
These are:
 - a) Institute of Anthropology, Gender and African Studies (IAGAS) located at the Museum Hill.
 - b) Institute for Development Studies (IDS) located on 5th floor of Gandhi Wing.
 - c) Institute of Diplomacy and International Studies (IDIS) located at 8.4.4. Building.
 - d) The Institute of Population Studies and Research located at Hyslop Building, Main campus.
 - e) The Centre for Advanced Studies in Environmental Law Policy (CASELAP) located in Parklands campus.
 - f) The College is also home to the Confucius

Institute located at Education Building and is a joint venture between the Government of Kenya and the Peoples Republic of China. This Institute offers Chinese language and culture to interested students and the college has benefited greatly through scholarships granted to our students to study in China.

You are joining a college with the highest number of students in the entire university with over 26,000 out of the total university student population of 49,000 representing a 52% of the total number of students in the University.

The University has various modes of delivery of its programmes, ranging from face to face, distance to E-learning. You are however, admitted for the regular face to face module I, unless you desire to transfer to the fee paying module II programme.

For all purposes, these programmes, be they regular or module II, are similar both in content and quality. The only difference is that they are taught at different times, the fees is different, and of course, there are more senior citizen students in the module II classes than in the regular classes!

To provide the much needed quality service to our students, the college has a strong team of 480 academic members of staff and over 400 members of administrative and support staff. Among them is a critical mass of over 80 professors. I would to assure you

that there are structures to make your live as a student a memorable experience. Please make use of them!

Vision

The vision of the University of Nairobi is to be “*A world-class University committed to scholarly excellence.*”

This vision is cascaded to the college, whose vision is “*A leading College that promotes excellence in teaching, training, research and consultancy.*”

Mission

The mission of the University which, inter alia, is the mission of the College is *to provide quality University Education and Training and to embody the aspirations of the Kenyan People and the Global Community through Creation, Preservation, Integration, Transmission and Utilization of Knowledge.*

In pursuing this mission, the College, through the relevant organs, namely the College Management Board and the College Academic Board, has been focussing on the following areas of development:

1. The development of ICT
2. Improved living conditions in the halls of residence
3. A conducive environment in the classrooms and laboratories.

4. Increased library materials and diversification of learning resources.
5. The development of sports infrastructure.
6. Expansion of educational opportunities through the opening of satellite campuses e.g. Kisumu and Mombasa.

The College will continue to improve these facilities to ensure we achieve high standards in line with the stated vision of the University of being a **World Class University**.

To provide increased higher education access to Kenyans, the college has continued to expand its academic programmes. The college has satellite campuses in Mombasa, Bandari, Kisumu and recently partnered with Kenya Utalii College, where a number of our programmes are offered.

As the University celebrates its over 117,000 alumni since inception, the college is proud to be part of this achievement. Many of our graduates hold key jobs in the public and private sectors of our economy, and even beyond. You are therefore being prepared for greater things, only if you work hard and live responsibly!

It is my belief and prayer that in four years' time, you will enlarge the list of our college astute alumni. To achieve this goal however, you must take a number of positive actions. A few of these include:

1. Conducting yourselves responsibly, with maturity and integrity, personal discipline and morality, refraining from acts of indiscipline, thuggery, hooliganism, disorderly behaviour and violence.
2. You should also desist from misuse, malicious or wilful damage of University Property and further avoid disturbing, assaulting or injuring fellow students, staff and members of the Public. Commission of any acts of indiscipline will lead not only to disciplinary action by the University but also the laws of the land in line with newly promulgated Constitution of the Republic of Kenya.
3. You need to work hard and follow the guidance of your lecturers. You will soon realise that there are no assemblies or bells to wake you up and yet you must attend to all academic requirements!
4. Develop a culture of interacting with your lecturers and fellow students to share knowledge and skills.

In whatever you do, I implore you to be guided by the **4 Ps**; **P**atriotism, **P**rofessionalism, **P**assion and doing everything within a **P**ace.

In addition, you must realize that University education is expected to equip you with skills to interact more

meaningfully with your environment. Further, the education prepares you to live and work in a very competitive local and international environment. This can only be achieved through discipline, hard work and commitment. Choose your goals from the very start and stick to them at any cost.

Therefore, to fully achieve your academic and life-long goals, you must efficiently manage your resources which include money, material possessions, time, and most important of all, yourself.

Avoid situations that will compromise or put your academic work in jeopardy. Do not allow the dream killers such as irresponsible sexual behaviour that may lead to being infected and affected by STDs including HIV/AIDS, Drug, alcohol and substance abuse, among others. Remember, help is always at hand.

Your parents, guardians and the Kenyan society at large, have invested a lot in you. It is therefore always a sad affair to see many young people waste away because of drugs, alcohol and AIDS! You must therefore take care before it is too late.

Nothing, and I repeat nothing, should come between you and all that you have worked this hard for- i.e. getting good grades and finally, graduating on schedule.

Please remember that in this big city of Nairobi different kinds of people are likely to entice, lure, cajole, and even

try to force you to do things which you may regret for the rest of your life.

Seek guidance from your lecturers and the Dean of Students whenever you find challenging situations in your campus life.

- Whenever your plans do not work out as expected; find out what is wrong, correct it and move forward with a new set of plans for accomplishing your ultimate goals.
- If you give up before your goals are reached, you are a quitter; and
- Remember quitters never win and winners never quit.
- Unfortunately life itself is a complex puzzle because success today does not guarantee success tomorrow. Remember that from those to whom much has been given, more is expected in return. So if you are not careful, your big success in KCSE may turn out to be failure at the University.

Therefore, I would like you:

- To learn from the mistakes of others for you cannot possibly live long enough to make all those mistakes yourself;

- To live with discipline for those who live without discipline die without honour; and
- To remember that success comes from hard work and discipline.
- Finally, I wish you a fruitful four years stay in the University with the hope that the four important dimensions of your life will be shaped for a productive working life, namely; Intellectual, social, physical and spiritual development.

Congratulations once again for being admitted to the only college that produces Human and Social Scientists.

God bless you all.

End

October 13, 2010

