

**REMARKS BY THE TURKANA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE PRINCIPAL DURING THE
NURSING LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE ON 27TH APRIL, 2022**

The Turkana County Director of Nursing Services, Mr. James Mwangi;

Representatives from various organizations including:

1. The Ministry of Health & Sanitation-Turkana County Government;
2. Turkana Basin Institute;
3. National Nurses Association of Kenya;
4. Kenya National Union of Nurses;
5. Kenya Medical Training College-Lodwar led by the Principal;
6. Esteemed presenters/facilitators in today's conference;
7. All our dear nurses and
8. Participants from Turkana County who have attended this Nursing Leadership Conference.
9. My TUC colleagues;
10. I salute you all, Good morning

I take this opportunity to welcome you to Turkana University College, the Cradle of Knowledge. We are greatly honoured and privileged to host this conference, which I believe is the first of its kind in Turkana County.

The theme of this Conference, "Nurses; A Voice to Lead; Celebrating All Nurses of Turkana County" is a clarion call for us to recognize and support nurses in their endeavor to ensure a healthier and more prosperous population in this County and beyond. In response, we join hands in celebrating the nurses of this great County for their selfless service to our people.

Nurses are perhaps the most crucial professionals in patient care. Indeed, they are the only cadre of health professionals that provide continuous and direct caring service. In rural health centres, for example, a nurse plays the role of doctor, nurse, midwife, pharmacist, nutritionist, counselor, and so forth. We, therefore, celebrate the nurses in this vast County; nurses, thank you for the great work of caring for your patients, as you follow in the footsteps of the celebrated pioneer of modern nursing, Florence Nightingale.

In line with TUC's vision of being a globally esteemed University in teaching, research, and outreach, we will be at the forefront in building the capacity of different cadres of nurses in Turkana County. We recognize that the health care world is very dynamic. Approaches in patient care and procedures change often and nurses should be up-to-date on the latest developments and adopt evidence-based practices in order to provide their patients with quality care. Continuing Professional Development (CPD) is fundamental to the nurses' lifelong learning and is important component for keeping nurses' knowledge and skills up-to-date.

In an effort to promote nursing education in Turkana County, TUC has embarked on a rigorous process of establishing a Bsc Nursing upgrade programme with the kind assistance of Full Bright Scholar Prof. Deborah Lindell, who has been domiciled in TUC since September 2021 courtesy of the US Full Bright Scholarship Programme. Thank you Prof. Lindell.

I am pleased to inform you that some progress has been made towards this great endeavor. However, ladies and gentlemen; the efforts have been slowed by lack of a Level 5 Health Facility in Turkana County which is a mandatory requirement by the Nursing Council of Kenya for provision of clinical practical skills during training of nurses at degree level and above. To surmount this challenge, we are seeking collaborations with Health Facilities in the neighbouring counties such as Trans-Nzoia (Kitale County Referral Hospital), and Uasin

Gishu (Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital) to help us achieve our goal. I sincerely hope that our efforts to bring nursing training closer home will soon bear fruits.

Once established, the Bsc Nursing Programme will enhance access to nursing education in Turkana County and the nation at large. Further, our efforts will go a long way in reducing the Nurse to Patient ratio in the County, which is an imperative in delivering patient-focused medical care. This, I believe will be a valuable contribution to the advancement of humanity as entrenched in the University's philosophy and mission.

As I conclude, I call upon the Turkana County Government and other relevant stakeholders to join us in the efforts to promote nursing education in the County. We look forward to collaborate with the County Government, the Lodwar County Referral Hospital and all like-minded partners.

I wish you a fruitful and successful conference.

Thank you and God bless you.

Prof. George N. Chemining'wa, PhD

Principal

Turkana University College