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TURKANA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
(A Constituent College of Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology)

Office of the Principal

**WELCOMING ADDRESS BY PROFESSOR GEORGE N. CHEMINING'WA,
PRINCIPAL, TURKANA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, TO FIRST YEAR STUDENTS
ON FRIDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER, 2022 AT 9.00 AM**

Salutation

The Deputy Principal, Academic and Student Affairs, Prof Clifford Machogu;

Deputy Principal, Administration, Planning and Development, Prof George Muthaa;

Registrars, Deans of Schools, Directors, Dean of Students, Chairpersons of Departments, academic and administrative staff, Student leaders, continuing students;

Our esteemed First Year Students,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Good morning.

On behalf of the Council, Management, Academic Board, staff and students, I am delighted to warmly welcome you, our esteemed 2022

first-year students, to Turkana University College (TUC). Thank you for choosing TUC. I can assure you; you made a wise decision, which will bear good fruits in future.

Allow me to take this earliest opportunity to congratulate you for passing your Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education which enabled you to secure admission to TUC. Your brilliance, hard work, resilience, and the support of your family, and, of course, the Almighty God made this possible. You are the *crème de crème* in academics in your society. Congratulations once more.

Turkana University College was established in January 2017 as a constituent College of Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology. We are mentored by MMUST particularly in academics until we get our own charter to become a fully-fledged University.

TUC's vision is "To be a globally esteemed University in teaching, research and outreach", in addition we embrace innovation and entrepreneurship. Our Motto is: The cradle of knowledge, in Kiswahili sanifu it is Chimbuko la maarifa; our Slogan is "Scanning the Horizons". Our mission is to generate, preserve, utilize and disseminate quality knowledge for advancement of Humanity.

Our institutional core values are: customer focus (quality products and services), sustainability (thrive now and in the future), Excellence (outstanding) integrity (honesty, transparency, and accountability, ethical) and Teamwork (working together to achieve our collective goals). These values drive our behaviour and form our beliefs. All of us, including you, are to embrace and espouse these attributes.

According to the Webometrics ranking system, which ranks world universities, our University is currently ranked at position twenty-eight

(28) in Kenya, beating many established universities in Kenya. We are living up to our vision of being esteemed.

TUC offers Certificate, Diploma, degree, Masters and PhD academic programmes in three (3) Schools:

1. School of Education and Social Sciences,
2. School of Science and Technology
3. School of Business and Economics

The schools are headed by Deans and the Departments under them are headed by Chairpersons. These are the nerve centres of academics- they handle all the issues related academics. You need to know your Dean and Chairperson.

TUC is endowed with experienced, competent and committed academic staff that will support and guide you in your academic pursuits. Get to interact with your lecturers, professionally.

In pursuit of our vision, TUC has adopted various modes of delivery of its programmes, ranging from face-to-face to electronic-learning. We are promoting blended learning.

We are committed to providing suitable facilities and environment for learning and recreation. With Government support, construction of a 3 km tarmac road network is almost complete and sports fields have been levelled. In addition, TUC has invested in ICT and Internet connectivity, diversified and increased library materials, chairs and tables under the neem trees across the University grounds.

Further, plans are underway to establish a mess, a health clinic and a tuition block to cater for the needs of our students.

Though the University does not have adequate on-campus accommodation, we have made sure that you, our esteemed First-year students are given first priority in room allocation in the on campus hostels. We also look forward to the completion of the stalled 2 No. hostels in the near future.

Use University property well and 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 in accordance with the laws of the Republic of Kenya.

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. I urge you to conduct yourselves responsibly, with maturity, integrity, personal discipline and morality.

Your parents, guardians, and the Kenyan society at large have invested a lot in you. Therefore, avoid destructive behaviour and habits. Avoid drugs, overindulgence in alcohol, and risky sexual behaviour. You must, love and take care of yourself.

I also would encourage you to take advantage of TUC's position as the only public university in North West Kenya. Our location is in a unique place with its rich history and fond traditions; we derive our sense of who we are in this place from a long history as the cradle of mankind. TUC offers an immense array of opportunities to create truly global citizens who will be resourceful in developing our country and region.

As you may have noted, in the university there is no parade, no bells. Cherish your newfound freedom and use it productively.

Work closely with the TUCSO leadership to resolve issues that may arise once in a while. They are the bridge between you and management. We believe in constant dialogue, tolerance, and staying as brothers and sisters at all times. Let us espouse these virtues.

The University has put measures in place to ensure your stay here is safe. Play your part in ensuring that you remain safe and report any activity that may disturb our peace and security.

TUC believes in integration, national cohesion, and national values as espoused in Kenya's 2010 constitution. We are all Kenyans regardless of our ethnicity, culture, religion and political affiliation. Let us respect the culture of the community in which the University is located.

While at TUC, take advantage of the opportunities that the University offers including training of peer counsellors, academic trips, clubs, motivational talks, career talks, sports, counselling and chaplaincy. Also, make friends, learn new skills, and interact within and outside the university. This will make you a holistic graduate with the 21st century skills required by the job market

Let us develop a culture of care for each other. For example, mental health is a major challenge in the 21st century especially among the youth. Let us identify cases of students with mental challenges for treatment and counselling. We have a students' counsellor to assist in this.

In conclusion, I wish to remind you to focus on the purpose for which you are here; that is to learn, grow, successfully complete your studies within the next few years and ready to give back to your motherland

and the world. I am very optimistic that you will succeed, if you keep your eyes on the ball.

Thank you; God bless you all.

Prof. George Chemining'wa
Principal