

Address to students and staff
Vice Chancellor, University of Nairobi
8th May 2019

To all staff and Students of the University of Nairobi

I extend warm greetings to you all and thank GOD for keeping you safe wherever you are.

Today is the 55th day since we suspended learning from our lecture halls and theatres. I am happy to note that the University has since made progressive steps to ensure business continuity even as we grapple with the challenges of Covid-19 pandemic.

I note with appreciation that our faculty, guided by our philosophy for community service, have developed more than 80 concept proposals and more than 60 interventions for covid-19 response since February 2020.

These include vaccine Development, community outreach, food security, ventilator fabrication, Sustainable urban mobility, Humanitarian and development interventions, Education and rapid response, rapid response to Fiscal and Economic implications, Poverty, psychosocial support, victims and conflicts among others.

About 10 of those interventions have been adopted for implementation by the national agencies – these include Surveillance, Quarantine, sensitization, community outreach and economic interventions.

Our researchers will continue to collaborate with global partners and the government of Kenya in search for long term solutions to the vagaries of covid-19 pandemic.

Colleagues and dear students,

You recall that the University Senate approved online teaching and learning; and online supervision and examination of post-graduate projects and theses.

All these have proceeded with great success and I thank both staff and students for their cooperation.

We subsequently engaged the mobile service providers to support connectivity for remote teaching and learning and I am glad to note that 5,564 virtual classes have been conducted successfully.

I am glad to announce further that the Senate has on 8th May 2020 approved guidelines and procedures for online examinations in accordance with the relevant regulatory framework that mandate senate to be in charge of all academic matters in the university.

Faculties and departments shall use the guidelines to administer examinations using appropriate technologies and platforms.

We acknowledge that students with special needs and other disadvantaged groups will face some difficulties in undertaking online exams. The Senate has made provisions on how such cases shall be dealt with at faculty and departmental level on case to case basis.

In a special way, let me thank all staff and students who have adopted remote teaching and learning. I am aware many of you have made a lot of sacrifices and endured some inconveniences here and there in the use of technology. The skills you have learnt are very relevant and you will find use for them beyond teaching and learning.

As a World Class university all our examination guidelines and procedures have been benchmarked against the global best practice and we shall continue to ensure that they are reliable, consistent and of integrity.

We have also made consultations with the stakeholders including Professional bodies and regulators. I would wish to applaud the Council for legal Education and Commission for University Education who in recognition of the prevailing circumstances and formidable effects of Covid-19, acknowledge the need to continue teaching and learning using technology and maintaining standards and quality.

With the remote teaching and learning now on course, I want to share a message of hope to our students in their final year that we look forwarding to their graduation as scheduled on 25th September 2020.

The University has henceforth embarked on preparations for the September graduation. This will ensure that those who were due to join the market place this year do so without fail. Their skills are needed.

The University of Nairobi shall always remain committed to developing holistic, market ready and globally competitive graduates.

Indeed, a recent highly publicized graduate employability survey carried out by CPS International confirmed that the University of Nairobi graduates are the most preferred in the job market.

I want to appreciate with pride all staff and students who continue to labor and to serve as good brand ambassadors through their various forms of engagement.

Our commitment to produce quality graduates shall not waver even during this period of COVID-19. We shall continue to provide mentorship and career guidance to our students. The office of career services will in collaboration with partners hold a virtual career fair 2020 soon. The office also continues to facilitate students with opportunities for internship and employment using online platforms.

Colleagues and students

I want to wish you God's blessings as you continue to engage in preparing for a better tomorrow. There is hope. The investment you make today is not in vain.

Thank you and God bless you.

Prof. S. G. Kiama