



KEYNOTE SPEECH BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR  
ON

THE 6<sup>TH</sup> SC INDUCTION AND TEAM BUILDING  
WORKSHOP

20<sup>TH</sup> - 24<sup>TH</sup> AUG 2018

AT ST. PATRICK'S CONFERENCE CENTRE, KABULA-  
BUNGOMA COUNTY

Facilitators from the Kenya School of Government, the Deputy Vice Chancellor - Academic & Students' Affairs,' Deputy Vice Chancellor, Administration and Finance, Deputy Vice Chancellor Planning Research and Extension, Dean of Students', other internal facilitators, staff, Student Leaders, ladies and gentlemen, good morning. Today I am happy to join all of you and to officiate in the opening of this important event of inducting our newly elected leaders and also creating synergy by way of team building in order to facilitate the smooth running of all our operations in our University.

And before I continue let me first of all, congratulate all of you newly elected student leaders for being bestowed this important responsibility by your colleagues. Indeed, they have demonstrated the trust and confidence that they have by electing you to the positions that you contested for. Please do not take this for granted for leadership comes from God through his people.

Dear student leaders, we as a university and especially the management, deeply appreciate the crucial role that you as the

representatives of our critical stakeholders - 'the students' - play in many ways which lead to the realization of our vision, mission and goals. First you are a link between the administration and the students. As such, you need to understand the challenges experienced by all the stakeholders. In so doing you have to tactfully inculcate a sense of appreciation and understanding among all the players in such a way that the mission of the University is at all times kept on focus and not derailed. It is important to ensure that there is constant, effective and accurate communication that does not

elicit emotive reaction over ordinary day to day issues. This way, our objectives will be achieved.

Secondly, you being student leaders, you understand and represent the views of the students' population with regard to the numerous issues that affect their day to day academic and welfare matters. To achieve this, you need to be tactful and diplomatic in order to ensure that all matters are addressed soberly and with the appreciation of constraints of resources.

At all times you need to tame emotions and do understand that you have transited from activism to leadership.

Thirdly, as leaders you play a crucial role in the management of the University. As such, your well thought out input is critical in decision making organs such as the senate, school and departmental boards. You will also participate in many other committees that you may from time to time be appointed to. For example, two of you have already been appointed members of a committee to revise the Rules and Regulations

Governing the Conduct and the Discipline of the Students' of the University of Eldoret. For you to be effective in this regard you not only have to deeply reflect and be rational, but you also have to consult widely in such a way that your opinions reflect maturity, diligence and integrity.

Fourthly, you play an important role in providing accurate information to the University at large. Here, you need to be sensitive about the accuracy of the information you handle and above all the manner in which the information is delivered.

You have several platforms, one of which is the UESO Newsletter. Be very cautious though about the impact of social media and how it can have negative impact if not handled carefully.

Dear leaders, the list of your responsibilities is long, I only needed to highlight these few in order to demonstrate how crucial this training and team building is. It would not be fair to just let you undertake these responsibilities without giving you some few crucial tips. These few days are therefore important.



Please learn from the facilitators'. Also note that the training may not exhaust all that you need to know as leaders. Therefore, take your responsibilities as a learning experience through which you can build on your leadership career in the future. We will support you in this endeavour. As a University we encourage dialogue and interactive leadership. Feel free to approach the right offices in handling the day to day issues that affect your day to day academic and welfare matters. Your lecturers, Heads of Departments/Sections Dean and the members of the Management Board are your friends and

partners in nurturing your leadership skills. They are not your enemies, so tap on their inputs and advices at all time.

And as you build on your career in leadership please understand that this Country needs visionary leadership. Focus on the future and the socio-economic and political challenges that we as a nation face, with view to providing lasting solutions to future generations. Let us not focus on short term gains that come with our privileged postilions lest we be

judged harshly by history. Always endeavour to be selfless, servant leaders of integrity.

May I conclude by wishing you a productive training and team building session as well as a fruitful term in office with Gods' blessings.

I therefore declare the 6<sup>th</sup> Students' Councils/Leadership Induction and team building workshop officially opened.

Thank You.

**Prof. Teresa A. O. Akenga**

**Vice-Chancellor**