

Colleagues and Students

Since taking over as Vice Chancellor at MMUST some 22 months ago, the University, which in my opinion and that of many others within and outside the University was in poor state, we have continued on what we believe to be a recovery path towards restoring academic excellence and financial stability and sustainability.

At the end of 24 months of my leadership and indeed that of my three DVCs, we intend to give some highlights of what we consider to be the successes and challenges faced and how, within resource constraints we have performed. We will do this through two separate meetings - for staff and students respectively. We will also send out a detailed memo of these.

For today, however, allow me to point out that we are of the view that many of the challenges we faced had to do with restoring financial health of MMUST. This entailed making tough decisions to dismantle and break cartels whose only interest was to milk MMUST to the bone. They did this through various methods, some via outright theft, others via indirect methods disguised as offering services when, in essence, they were stealing. We are of the view that over 80% of the unhappiness or challenges faced over the past 22 months were money related. Sadly, a number of colleagues and a few students joined the bandwagon of dissents, completely oblivious to the web of deceit that operated at the University. We will, one day, provide details of some of these for the long term benefit and prosperity of MMUST. We hope such will never be repeated at MMUST. For an academic institution that was on the brink of collapse, such is not surprising.

Academically, we believe we have made significant steps towards excellence. Such a journey takes time and only time will hopefully vindicate our efforts. If this does not happen, it will certainly not be due to lack of trying but other reasons. Financially, we need to tighten our belts and support the financial discipline measures put in place to sustain the gains of the past few months. Each one of us must be vigilant and report all attempts at misuse of and/or theft of University resources. We are not yet out of the woods and our collective effort to cement the gains made is crucial in the fight against corrupt practices.

As we continue with the struggle of restoring academic excellence and financial stability and sustainability; and indeed my core message of 22 months ago and which still governs our operations - namely creating a student-centred University, we take this opportunity to thank all staff and students for their various roles in achieving these and in particular a number of compatriots, union and student leaders who were and are always at the forefront as voices of reason in raising pertinent and thought provoking questions and issues at the University. These have, in most probability, assisted us perform a notch higher. A large part of our staff and student population have offered advice and support, quietly in the background, and to them we say Ahsante sana.

Such colleagues and students remain critical opinion makers on how we should face internal and external challenges and govern our University. We salute and thank them.

As we prepare for three major events at the University in the next 6 weeks; launch of the MMUST 2015-2020 Strategic Plan on the 3rd December; 10th MMUST Graduation on the 4th December and our first Gala Dinner to honour a number of our staff and students on the 18th December, we take this opportunity to appeal to all of us for support in ensuring the success of these and to wish each one of us all the best in 2015 and beyond. Please do your best to support MMUST towards excellence.

God bless MMUST, God bless us all, God bless our Country Kenya.

Kind regards

Prof. Eng. Fred Otieno, FAAS

Vice Chancellor

MMUST

3rd November 2015