

## **Ag. Vice Chancellor's 2019 Message to Staff and Students**

### **There is Strength in Diversity**

Dear MMUST Community,

I take this opportunity to welcome you all to 2019. I commend all staff and students for the great strides we have concertedly made and which have enabled us uphold our vision of being the premier University in science, technology and innovation. Let us keep pushing and striving towards excellence bearing in mind that our collective efforts will definitely yield good results.

As I mentioned during the 13<sup>th</sup> Graduation Ceremony in December 2018, I am grateful to the Ministry of Education, and to Council, for giving me this opportunity to serve as the Acting Vice Chancellor of this great University. I offer myself to provide exemplary, humane, humble, honest, skilful, diligent and fair but firm leadership. I, therefore, urge you all to join me in our resolve to move on a new trajectory that will raise the image of the University and make us relevant to the society that invests so much in us. Let us strive to understand our differences/diversities and optimize the strength that comes with them. That is the essence of a University.

As we start off 2019, you may be aware that, in the 2018 Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE), only 13.77% candidates met the university minimum academic entry requirement of a mean grade of C+. This is likely to have a direct effect on enrollments in all universities, both public and private. While the KCSE results pose a significant challenge to our student recruitment efforts, they present an opportunity to sharpen and position MMUST to attract the best students. As such, let us endeavor to offer the best education so that when students join the University, they know that they will receive services that are second to none. Even as we do this, it is important that we deliver on the core mandate without compromising on quality. We need to maximize our gains and make inroads into areas that will further boost our efforts at achieving our mandate and ensuring excellence in providing quality education.

Just as the quality of our education provision will be measured in 2019, so will our research quality. The excellence and diversity of our research across all disciplines mean that, in addition to our achievements in fundamental research, we should continue to make significant contributions to innovation that will help drive growth that is vital to Kenya and to the society. What will mark us out as a great University are the advances we make in our borderless core mandate of teaching, research and community service. We should work hard towards an inventive and productive University. Therefore, let us commit ourselves to strengthen the research, innovation and development agenda in line with the Presidential Big Four Agenda. We urge our academic staff to bid competitively in research funding to the National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI) and other entities in order for the University to positively contribute to building Kenya into a middle income economy.

Let us also make extra effort to enhance partnerships with various institutions and organizations. The County Government of Kakamega has been a particularly formidable partner in the growth of the University over the years. In 2019, we look forward to more successful collaborative ventures not only with Kakamega County but other counties as well.

To our students, I urge you to be law abiding, more studious and less adventurous. With love, diligence and respect for one another, and the rule of law, a great university is possible, and our best will certainly come, even sooner. It is important that we all work collectively while exhibiting professionalism in our various duty stations, to deliver on the academic, operational and service excellence expected of the premier university that we are.

Finally, I humbly submit to the Good Lord and pray that He grants us the strength, humility and wisdom to project the image of the University to higher standards as we endeavor to make the University of Choice a better place for us all. I call upon you to join me in prayer for a prosperous 2019; a year of new hope and expectations as well as a committed resolve for dedication to our duties and service throughout the year.

**Prof. Joseph Bosire**

**Ag. Vice Chancellor**

**In this 2019 kick start edition of the MMUST NewsPost, we pay tribute to our fallen heroes who took a bow and exited the stage of life towards the end of 2018. We remember, with fondness, their immense and important role they played and the gap they have left with their demise.**