

Mount Kenya  **University**

REMARKS

BY

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MEMBER, UNIVERSITY COUNCIL

DURING THE

**LAUNCH OF THE NAIROBI CAMPUS
POSTGRADUATE CENTRE**

ON

7TH JUNE, 2019

Salutation

- Deputy Vice-Chancellors present,
- Director, Nairobi Campus and other Directors present,
- Dean, School of Postgraduate Studies and other Deans present,
- Deputy Director, Nairobi Campus,
- Members of the Nairobi Campus Management Committee present,
- Distinguished Guests,
- Staff,
- Students,
- Ladies and Gentlemen.

Good afternoon.

Please accept greetings from the University Council.

I am pleased to attend this important occasion organized by the School of Postgraduate Studies and which underscores the emphasis Mount Kenya University has given to Postgraduate training. Over the years, the University has invested in infrastructure and systems that promote postgraduate training in order to make it abreast with the training needs Locally, Nationally and Globally.

In 2016, the University committed resources to purchase the originality checker (Turnitin) software and whose licence the University renews annually. The licence has allowed members of staff and students to subject their work to similarity index check before publishing and ensure that it conforms to the University's anti-plagiarism policy set levels. I am glad to note that all theses are subjected to an originality check before they are dispatched out for examination. This has helped the University to eradicate plagiarism and to enhance quality of publications from our members of staff and postgraduate students.

Furthermore, the University has procured data analysis software for use by researchers.

Ladies and gentlemen, in 2018, the University established the office of the Editorial Officer whose work is to ensure that documents submitted to the School of Postgraduate Studies meet the University's requirement in formatting and similarity index. Since its establishment, the office of the Editorial Officer schedules appointments with postgraduate students and takes them through the formatting requirements of the School. This has greatly enhanced the quality of documents that have been submitted to the School of Postgraduate Studies.

In the 2017/2018 financial year, the University was ranked number four nationally in attracting Postgraduate Research Grants from the National Research Fund. Four (4) of our Ph.D. students were awarded research grants amounting to five million, six hundred and ninety-three thousand, eight hundred and ninety-four (5,693,894) Kenya Shillings. This is an indication that Mount Kenya University continues to excel in all areas and research excellence is no exception.

Ladies and gentlemen, as a University Council, we are cognizant of the fact that globally, timely completion of

postgraduate studies has greatly been hindered by delayed academic progression of postgraduate students. The School of Postgraduate Studies and the Directorate of ICT have already started the full automation of postgraduate procedures that will ensure students and supervisors alike are prompted through their student portals on pending or delayed postgraduate milestones for their action. I am told that this automation is at an advanced stage and piloting will start in a matter of weeks

Ladies and gentlemen, as you are aware, we are gathered here today to witness the launch of the Postgraduate Centre, Nairobi Campus. Whereas, the University plans to start similar centers in its campuses and ODEL centres across the region, I am glad to officiate over the launch of to be the mother of these other postgraduate Centres.

Ladies and gentlemen, allow me at this point to give you a bird's eye preview of what is in the postgraduate centre.

Our state-of-the-art postgraduate centre provides for seminar rooms, a resource centre, consultation rooms and a state-of-the-art Video Conferencing room, dubbed the Zoom room. As we speak, this room is equipped with

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infrastructure that will allow our postgraduate students and especially those in the diaspora to meet and consult with their supervisors via web technologies. This technology is particularly convenient for our postgraduate students who may wish to make presentations from their locations because it saves time, expense, and hassle associated with travelling.

The resource centre incorporates a library with latest editions of research text books and an e-learning section with computers equipped with statistical software to aid in data analysis. The resource centre also has the originality checker software that postgraduate students can use to check originality of their work before submitting it for examination.

The centre has seminar rooms with a combined capacity of over 100 people and which are convenient for seminar presentations, interviews and meetings. In addition, the centre has consultation rooms which shall enable supervisors to meet with their students at a convenient, well aerated and well-lit room to promote a conducive atmosphere for study and discussion. For those who

prefer complete privacy, the centre has private rooms for use by students.

Ladies and gentlemen, also allow me to give some highlights on doctoral degrees.

The Objectives of doctoral degrees are:

- i) To enhance knowledge in the field of study.
- ii) To impart to students skills and techniques to solve problems and redefine existing knowledge.

The Types of Doctoral Degrees are:

i) Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) Degrees

A Ph.D degree is the highest academic degree. It is geared towards understanding academic concepts that provide the theoretical groundwork for research and is awarded based on extensive and original research.

Philosophy

What is the origin of philosophy?

- “Philosophy is the Ancient Greek “philosophia” literally translated as love of wisdom”
- “Originally it signified an individual who had achieved a comprehensive general education in the fundamental issues of the present world”.
- “Today, the Doctor of Philosophy still requires a love of wisdom, but applies to individuals who have pursued knowledge in a much more specialized field”. ([https: www.topuniversities.com](https://www.topuniversities.com)).

ii) Other Doctoral Degrees

- Examples of other doctoral degrees are:
 - Juris Doctor (US, Canada, Australia, Mexico, Asia)
 - Doctor of Pharmacy (US and Canada)
 - Doctor of Medicine (MD)

- Doctoral degrees lack vital components that define Ph.D academic research.
- They do not require students to complete a specified academic component.
- They are referred to as entry-level doctorate degrees to post-professional doctorate degree.
- Holders are practice-oriented engaged in consuming knowledge, practice and active research.

Master of Philosophy (M.Phil) Degree

- An M.Phil degree is advanced master's degree awarded for research to candidates who do not have a strong research background or do not complete the required period of study for Ph.D degree without defense of thesis.

Ladies and gentlemen, moving forward, the University will continue to commit resources to promote postgraduate training and Research. In so doing, the University will make its graduates more globally competitive, more innovative and more enterprising.

I call upon all of you who are gathered here today to join us in this noble effort to make Mount Kenya University a Research hub accessible not only to our students and members of staff but also to external researchers.

MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL, MAY GOD BLESS MOUNT
KENYA UNIVERSITY.

THANK YOU