

UEAB ASSEMBLY SPEECH 2024

Msafiri Jackson

Dr. Jackson Ong'eta, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Finance & Administration

Dr. Shadrack Kamundi– Deputy Vice Chancellor, Students Affairs Services;

Prof. Moses Kibirango, Ag. Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academics

Dr. Duncan Mumbo – Chaplain, UEAB Church

Dr. Elizabeth Metto - Registrar

School Deans, Directors, Managers, Head of Independent Units

Heads of Departments

University Faculties and Staff

SABU Leaders

Students

Ladies and Gentlemen, allow me, first and foremost, to thank the Almighty God for granting us an opportunity

to be here today, and may I welcome all of you to this first Assembly in the 2024/2025 academic year, involving Faculty, Staff, and Students.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome the 1st Year students to UEAB Community, as we begin new Semester that marks the beginning of the 2024/20125 academic year.

Ladies and Gentlemen, while, I would like to wish each one of you, success in everything you do in 2024/2025; I would also wish to tell you that Success is having a plan and following it. In **Ephesians 2:10**, the Bible tells us that God has created everyone for a purpose. There is no purpose without goals. What goals do you have for 2024/2025? What goals does the School / Unit have for 2024/2025? The way a person undertakes his or her affairs is largely determined by the way the person sees his or her goals. Are you excited as you pursue the goals you have set? Are those goals in line with God's purpose for you? The UEAB administration expect that going forward and inline with University Strategic Plan for 2020-2025; our thrust, among other things will be:

(1) to uphold spiritual matters in line with Adventist Education Philosophy;

(2) ***Creation of more academic space through infrastructure development and renovation;***

(3) Developing and introduction of new strategic and market driven programs starting with clinical medicine,

law, and aviation management with a focus on producing graduates who are both employable and self-employed. Conducting of tracer studies and needs assessment prior to revision of existing and new program respectively prior to review or development of any new program, respectively;

(4) *Enhancement of production for income generation, and more involvement of faculty and students in the production and business ventures, with a purpose of developing their practical and entrepreneurial skills;*

(5) *enhancement of resource mobilization initiatives; and financial management*

(6) *To* enhance the use of digital technology in the running of online and blended programs and university administration; for the purpose of increasing access and students enrolment

(7) Continued internationalization of the university;

(8) Enhancement of industrial linkage with the university, and

(9) Increasing of the volume of ***Research, Publication, Innovation, outreach and public services.***

In the quest for developing planning culture, various university Units are now finalizing the development of

Action Plan for 2024/2025 based on the University Strategic Plan for 2020 – 2025, but also the Triple A draft report which has just been received.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the university will further uphold effective governance practices through participation of Faculty, Staff and/or Students with:

- openness,
- equality,
- integrity
- dedication to the provision of quality service.
- transparent decision making
- Participation of stakeholders in the development of the institution policies.

Ladies and Gentlemen, in its operation; the university staff, faculty, and students are expected to uphold the Values of the university, which are: Excellence, Teamwork, Integrity, and Professionalism.

1.0 INTEGRITY

This is the steadfast adherence to moral and ethical principles. **Integrity** implies honesty, fairness, ethics, and moral character. Ten key words describe in part the character of someone who has integrity are:

Principled

Honest

Fair

Truthful

Faithful

Consistent

Open

Trustworthy

An important element of integrity is consistency - if we are unpredictable, if our decisions are dependent upon the way we are feeling, others are unlikely to see us as maintaining integrity. ***Consider the story of Job in the Bible:*** It illustrates the need to focus on God, and on His character rather than our own experience. Consistency in the face of difficult circumstances can only come with God's help.

2. TEAMWORK

A group of individuals who are committed and have a common goal is what **teamwork** is all about. In teamwork, work is done by several associates with each doing a part but all **void of personal prominence** to the efficiency of the whole. If any one of us wants to be prominent, we shall destroy the organization because we will end up pulling in different directions and get nothing done at the end of the day. **Let not our personal ambitions compromise UEAB.** Let each one of us Uphold Unit which will result in a "shared vision" and rapid development.

3. PROFESSIONALISM

You may be a brilliant developer, a highly skilled accountant or teacher — but if you are unprofessional, your career is likely to fall short. Alan Norton lists ten things that define professionalism as follows:

- a). Put customer satisfaction first
- b). Make expertise your specialty: The very word *professional* implies that you are an Expert. Professionals know their trade quite well. Strive to become an expert in the skills and tools necessary to do your job and always perform to the best of Your ability to ensure that you keep your knowledge up to date
- c). Do more than expected: Quit when the job is done, not when you are tired.
- d.) Do what you say and say what you can do.
- e.) Communicate effectively
- f.0 Follow exceptional guiding principles
- g. Praise your peers not yourself
- h. Share your knowledge
- i. Say thank you
- j. Keep a smile on your face and the right attitude in your heart

SUCCESS TIPS:

Ladies and gentlemen, success or failure in the academic, is determined by you, yourself; your attitudes; your commitment to hard work; your determination to accept nothing but standards of excellence; and **your trust in God** . But, of course, *success is relative*. If the pass mark is set at the grade of C+, to some people, the score of C+ is a good level of attainment, and is conceived to be a success. But to others, if an A grade is possible, then even a B is not good enough, and is not conceived as a success. With those brief remarks, let me now share with you some success tips:

1. AIM HIGH, SET YOURSELF HIGH GOALS, AND FLY TOWARDS 'A GRADES':

On this, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. wrote:

"If you can't fly, run; if you can't run, walk; if you can't walk, then crawl. But whatever you do, you have to keep moving forward".

If in the first test you scored a B grade, MOVE FORWARD, and score an A next time. You will sustain success if you keep on moving forward. **Your grade scores will always be A's, if your attitude is to fly!**

2. COMMIT YOURSELF TO STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE, IN ALL YOU DO:

On this, for some of you, your goal in life is to become a teachers, investor in agribusiness, computer expert etc. Listen to Dr. King again: ***"If a man is called to be a street sweeper, he should sweep streets even as Michelangelo painted, or as Bethoven composed music, or as Shakespeare wrote poetry. If you're called to be a sweeper, you should sweep streets so well, that all the hosts in heaven and earth will pause and say, 'Here lived a great street sweeper, who did his job well'".***

Yes, commit yourself to standards of excellence, in whatever duty you have been called upon to do.

3. LEARN TO DISCOVER YOURSELF, AND YOUR INNER TALENTS:

On this, what I want to emphasize is that every one of us is different from others. Every one of us is unique. Every one of us has special talents others do not possess. Therefore take time to discover your special inner talents fully, and develop them to your full potential, for the benefit of society. Are you gifted in writing? In linguistic

skills? In singing? In creativity? Are you dexterous with your hands, etc.? Discover yourself fully. Yes, you may even lack eloquence, but don't forget the other talents you are blessed with. Harness them.

4. COMMIT YOURSELF TOWARDS SUSTAINED CHANGE FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE:

Look into the future with optimism, with hope for the best, with determination to change your current circumstances. On this, John F. Kennedy, America's 35th President once said: "***Change is the law of life. Those who only look to the past, or to the present, are certain to miss the future***". The education you will attain during your study at UEAB will be a means for developing your inner talents, your inner abilities, your inner hope, and your inner dreams which, when fulfilled, will change you into a dignified person with a brighter future, for the benefit of society as a whole. This change demands that you cultivate an intensive reading culture, to expand your knowledge catchment horizon.

The sustained change with respect to education is a life-long phenomenon. As such the peak of education is very elusive: A famous American Educationist John Dewey

once said ***"Education is not a preparation for life, but life itself"*** A life of continuous learning and change.

5 LEARN FROM OTHERS

The world we live in today, require professionals who are broad minded. The job market requires people who are diverse in their orientation, and able to function in multi-disciplinary teams. Do not become too much of a "economist or physicist". Respect other professions. A university by its very definition is a place where diverse fields of learning are transmitted. On this, in the 1960s an unknown Makerere University College Professor said ***"An educated man is a person who has not only travelled an appreciable distance in his own field of leaning, but who can also demonstrate a respectable familiarity with some intellectual highways of other people"*** You've come here to study **Public Health?** – Make sure by the time you graduate you have learned **some** "business management" or some "economics" as well, from friends that you will create.

6. CHERISH THE VIRTUE OF HUMILITY:

I want you to remember that we are all where we stand today, not because we are brighter than all the others, or because our parents are wealthier than others; but because of unique enabling factors, which is God's love, that pulled us, or pushed us to where we now are. Some of those we left at Primary School level, could also have

made it. Most of the village elders where we grew as children, who have little formal education, may not understand fully the statistics, the auto technology, the chemistry, the mathematics, or the english language we know. But you must be humble enough to know, that there are many things they know much better than you. Be curious enough to learn those things from them. After all curiosity is the mother of science; and humility is a sign of greatness. On this, one of the greatest scientists who ever lived, Sir Isaac Newton, once wrote, ***"If I have seen farther, it was by standing on the shoulders of giants"***. Therefore, if you had elements of arrogance, uproot them. In their place plant seeds of humility. You will enjoy your studies at UEAB, and you will attain success.

7. BE RESPONSIBLE:

I want you to remember also that most of you, perhaps all of you, are here, because your parents and guardians supported you, and paid for your school fees at various levels. For some, you are even now supported by your families. Remember also the Government of Republic of Kenya, and other supporters, that enabled you to secure grants or loans, and to enrol as University students at UEAB. Remember also your teachers, and their expectations on you. They expect that you will study hard, and behave yourselves well, and accomplish your study goals. Please be responsible, study very hard

indeed, and prove to be exemplary students. ***Yes, your responsibilities are heavy, your challenges are many, and your tasks are noble. These call for courage. The courage to dream; the courage to believe that you will score A's; the courage to dare; the courage to ask questions, when in doubt; and the courage to declare that nothing will stop you from achieving highest levels of excellence.***

8. TIME MANAGEMENT:

We want you to remember that time is precious, time is money, and that time wasted is time lost forever. Therefore plan each new day carefully, thoughtfully, and pragmatically. Start each day early; attend every class punctually; submit each assignment on time; allow yourself time for reading good books for broadening your mind and your thinking.

9. SOCIABILITY:

Man is a social animal. Therefore create time for friends. Respect other students, and respect yourself. Discuss your new ideas with them. Select a good friend with whom you can develop mutual trust, and with whom you can discuss inner matters in case of problems (rather than keeping problems to yourself). I still remember some of my close friends at various levels of my education. It is beautiful to reflect on each one of them. Someone I put it this way: ***"Life is like arithmetic; with FRIENDS to***

add and ENEMIES to subtract; JOYS to multiply, and SORROWS to divide and share (to lessen the burden)”.

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is impossible for me to touch on all key aspects that concern you as a student at our university. In the course of this orientation days you shall be learning more from other speakers, but also you shall learn more from your colleagues as well from the authorities as days pass by.

CONCLUDING REMARKS:

With those brief remarks, please allow me now to conclude my address. Once again, CONGRATULATIONS to staff, faculty, students for coming out, and let us FLY together to EXCELLENCE.

Good Bless You, and Thank you for your kind attention!