

**MUHIMBILI UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH AND
ALLIED SCIENCES**



**ORIENTATION WEEK
7TH OCTOBER TO 11TH OCTOBER, 2013**

**ADDRESS TO THE 2013/2014 INCOMING
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS
BY
THE VICE CHANCELLOR
(PROF. EPHATA KAA YA)**

11TH OCTOBER, 2013

The Deputy Vice Chancellor - ARC, Prof. E.F. Lyamuya

The Deputy Vice Chancellor - PFA, Prof. M. Bakari

The Director of Undergraduate Education, Prof. D. Simba

The Director of Postgraduate, Prof. O. Ngassapa

The Dean, School of Medicine, Prof. S. Kaaya

The Dean, School of Pharmacy, Prof. V. Mugoyela

The Dean, School of Dentistry, Dr. E. Simon

The Dean, School of Public Health & Social Sciences, Dr. D. Urassa

The Dean, School of Nursing, Dr. S. Leshabari

The Director, Institute of Traditional Medicine, Dr. E. Innocent

The Director, Institute of Allied Health Sciences, Mr. L. Ndolele

The Director of Research and Publications, Prof. M. Moshi

The Director of Continuing Education and Professional Development, Dr. G. Kwesigabo

The Director of Development & Planning (Muhimbili) Dr. D. Gasarasi

The Director of Development & Planning (Mloganzila) Dr. A. Kamuhabwa

The Acting Director, ICT, Mr. E. Nyela

The Director, Library Services, Dr E. Lwoga

The Dean of Students, Dr. D. Kakoko

Heads of Departments

Members of Staff

Incoming students for the academic year 2013/2014

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to officially welcome you to Muhimbili University of Health and Social Sciences (MUHAS). Indeed I feel honored to stand before you today and welcome you to be part of MUHAS community. I would also like to extend very special welcome to those of you coming from outside Tanzania to study at this University.

On behalf of the University Academic, Technical and Administrative staff, I take this opportunity to congratulate you for being among the very few students who were to join Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences. I can assure that you are here because of your good performance among a large pool of applicants who had sought for admission to the various degree programs offered in this University. To be here therefore is a great privilege and it is my hope that you will treasure, cherish and make maximum use of this very special opportunity you have been given.

Incoming students Ladies and Gentlemen,

MUHAS is among the best health profession training institutions in Africa, because of its good track record and excellence of its scholars as well as devotion to professionalism. This is more evident in the recent 2012 University Ranking by Academic Performance (URAP) in which MUHAS ranked number one in the country. Since you also are among the best applicants we expect nothing else from you but to do well in all your courses and complete your programmes in the allocated time so that your accomplishments will benefit the society.

In addition we expect a high moral standard from each and every one of you. We also expect you to be respectful to other students and staff and show a high degree of integrity throughout the time of study at MUHAS. As the DVC-ARC and the DVC-PFA will convey it clearly to you today we do not condone plagiarism nor do we tolerate any form of dishonesty, harassment or violent behavior in or outside the University.

As a University our primary responsibility is to train you until you acquire the qualifications that you have registered for. I trust that you will use this rare opportunity as best as you can to ensure that you attain not only your own ambitions and goals but also, and equally important those of your family and the society.

Incoming students Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me give a little bit of history about MUHAS. MUHAS has come a long way since its establishment in 1963. It was established as the Dar es Salaam School of Medicine in order to address the severe shortage of trained medical staff which was present in the country at that time. In 1968 the Dar es Salaam School of Medicine was upgraded to a Faculty of Medicine of Dar es Salaam University College then part of the University of

East Africa, to start training Doctors. With the creation of the University of Dar es salaam in 1970 it was transformed to the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Dar es Salaam and located adjacent to what at that time was called Princess Margaret Hospital which is now Muhimbili National Hospital.

Later on, in 1977 the Faculty of Medicine was merged with Muhimbili Hospital and formed one Institution named Muhimbili Medical Centre (MMC) under the Ministry of Health. During its development, the Faculty of Medicine established divisions of Pharmacy and Dentistry in 1974 and 1979 respectively. Then in 1991 the Faculty of Medicine was reformed and upgraded to Muhimbili University College of Health Sciences (MUCHS), academically under the University of Dar es Salaam and administratively under the Muhimbili Medical Center.

In 2000 the Government disestablished the MMC and established two closely linked autonomous Public Institutions namely Muhimbili University College of Health Sciences (MUCHS) under the Ministry responsible for Higher Education and Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) under the Ministry responsible for Health.

In July, 2003, the Faculties at the College were upgraded to Schools. At that time there were four faculties which were Medicine, Pharmacy, Dentistry and Nursing. Also the then Institutes of Public Health and Development Studies were merged to form what is known today as the School of Public Health and Social Sciences.

Finally in 2007 MUCHS was granted its own charter and upgraded to a University and renamed Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS).

Currently MUHAS has five schools, seven directorates and two institutes. The five Schools are:-

1. School of Medicine which has eighteen (18) departments
2. School of Pharmacy which has four (4) departments
3. School of Dentistry has three (3) departments
4. School of Public Health has six (6) departments and
5. School of Nursing has three (3) departments

The seven directorates are those for:

1. Planning and Development
2. Postgraduate Studies
3. Undergraduate Education
4. Research and Publications
5. Continue Education and Professional Development
6. Information and Communication Technology

7. Directorate of Library Services.

The two Institutes are:-

1. Institute of Allied Health Sciences and
2. Institute of Traditional Medicine

Incoming students Ladies and Gentlemen

Until the mid 1990's MUHAS was the only place in Tanzania where people could be trained to acquire a degree in health sciences. The annual student enrolment into MUHAS in 1995/96 was 50 for MD, 30 for Pharmacy, 20 for DDS and a little less than 20 for the Nursing program. Environmental health program had not started at that time. Demand for highly qualified health professionals was apparent and increasing as exemplified by the case for doctors.

At independence in 1961 there was one (1) Doctor for every 25,000 people in Tanganyika. In 2004 the situation had deteriorated to 1:36,000 people and this situation has remained the same to date. In other words, Tanzania is worse off today than at the time of independence over 50 years ago. During the same period, none of the district hospitals in Tanzania mainland had a Pharmacist or a Dental Surgeon.

It is against this background that from the academic year 1996/97 the University started a student enrollment expansion program to address the problem of shortage of skilled human resource for health. In addition there is a large number of young women and men like you who are qualifying to enter the University but cannot do so because of limited places.

Between the academic year 1995/96 and 2004/05 total undergraduate students enrollment in all programs at the University increased from less than 150 to over 400 per year. Since then the total student population has gradually risen to about 3100 today.

Incoming students for the academic year 2013/2014, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me say here that if it were not for the ongoing student expansion program every 3 out of 4 of you in here today will not have been admitted to MUHAS.

As a consequence of the student expansion program, all the stakeholders at the University including the teachers, technical, administrative and support staff and of course the students started experiencing a number of challenges including overcrowding of students in current teaching hospital and inadequate of hostel facilities.

However, the completion of the two new lecture theatres created more teaching space and completely removed the bother of conducting lectures in hired halls outside the Muhimbili Campus. Equally significant is the completion of the construction of additional floor to the Library building coupled with modernization of its facilities which made the MUHAS Library to be among the best medical libraries in the region.

In order to address accommodation challenges, in 2007 we commissioned new hostel facilities for 600 Muhimbili Students along Chole Road in Oyster-bay, Masaki which have further reduced the problem of accommodation to students although it has not been completely solved.

Incoming students Ladies and Gentlemen,

As a long term solution to space constraints, the University acquired 3,800 acres of land at Mloganzila, Kibamba area to be developed to another campus with modern student hostels, teaching halls, a state of the art University Teaching Hospital and indeed a University town.

The government has received a soft loan from the Republic of South Korea for the construction and equipping of the University Teaching Hospital at Mloganzila. We are expecting the construction to begin early January next year and completed within two years.

At the same time the Government has started a process of building other teaching and administrative facilities, which will also be ready within two years. Completion of this project will gradually increase enrollment from the current 3,100 to 15,000 students. This to a large extent will start the process of reversal of the Human Resources for Health scarcity which is facing the nation.

Incoming students Ladies and Gentlemen,

The fact that MUHAS survive, do well and continue to build a name for itself in the midst of all these challenges shows the spirit and the determination of MUHAS staff and students to maintain the environment which will be your immediate home for the next 3-5 years. We still have to overcome a lot of problems but after you understand the reasons behind some of the temporary and unusual situations at MUHAS we trust that you will endeavor to join hands with others in getting solutions to some of these challenges. Now that you are part of this community your support and contribution will be instrumental in the success of this institution. But also we expect you to be proactive and interact with teachers, and other staff to discuss your problems and challenges openly so that solutions can be found. ***We expect you to be part of the solution and NOT part of the problem.***

Incoming students Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to move to a subject which is very close to our hearts at Muhimbili, and that is HIV/AIDS. Although HIV/AIDS has been around for quite sometime now, it remains a problem whose solution continues to elude us all. We are making some progress in understanding this challenge, but we still have a long way to go in containing its spread.

I am sure that all of you are aware of HIV/AIDS pandemic and in one way or another it might have affected you may be through loss of your loved ones or someone you know. Therefore, since you are new members of the Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences, I would request all of you to be role models in the fight against HIV/AIDS. You are therefore urged to take all precautions and make sure you do not get infected.

Unsafe sex is by and large the major mode of HIV transmission among young people like you and you have the obligation and duty to protect yourself and your loved ones. We urge all of you to remain in good health during your stay at MUHAS and at the end of studies you graduate free of HIV/AIDS. It will be most unfortunate and indeed a tragedy if we were to lose any one of you to HIV/AIDS.

However, in the unlikely event you get infected we will endeavour to take care of you and we hope no one should be stigmatized or discriminated because they have HIV/AIDS. Let the community learn from us to correct the stigma and practice humane ways of caring for people affected or infected with HIV/AIDS.

I am informed that you have had special sessions on HIV/AIDS, from experts and fellow students during this orientation period, that I trust you found informative and useful. More information and training on HIV/AIDS will be provided during your stay at MUHAS.

Incoming students Ladies and Gentlemen,

In conclusion I would like to tell you that while you are here you must try your best to achieve academic excellence. In order to achieve academic excellence you must observe By-Laws, Rules and Regulations in the Student By-Laws and the Prospectus. All this can be accessed through the website and the some in hard copies as well. At the end of the day when you graduate it will all depend on how well you can apply what you have learned at the University and not what you have memorized. For this reason you have to understand the concept of Competence Based Curriculum which is used in this University. This curriculum put emphasis on mastering of the skills or performance. The skills that you will acquire here through the new curriculum are very important for your future career. You need to become competent in your work as a health professional

therefore don't waste your time on unnecessary engagements or activities. When you have problems, discuss with your teachers, the Heads of Department and if need be the Dean of Schools and Directors of Institutes for guidance.

Let me remind you that you are the chosen few therefore work diligently, consistently and hard because your family, community and the country expects a lot from you in the days to come.

Soon after completion of your studies you are expected to join the Health teams that are working hard to solve and improve health challenges in the society. So make GOOD use of your time while you are here in order to achieve, not only your own goals but also to achieve the goals set by the society and the nation.

I thank you for your attention and once again, I very warmly welcome you to MUHAS and I wish you success in your studies.