

SPEECH BY PROF. STEPHEN G. AGONG', PHD, FAAS, HOST AND VICE-CHANCELLOR, JARAMOGI OGINGA ODINGA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 5TH EDITION OF THE KENYA UNIVERSITIES GAMES HELD AT JARAMOGI OGINGA ODINGA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Our Chief Guest, Dr. Fred Matiang'i, Cabinet Secretary for Education,

Hon. Cornel Rasanga, the Governor Siaya County,

Prof. Freida Brown, the Patron, Kenya Universities Sports Association and Vice-Chancellor, United States International University,

Prof. Fred Otieno, Patron, Kenya Universities Sports Association - Western Conference, and Vice-Chancellor, Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology,

Mr. Mureithi Mbaabu, President, Kenya Universities Sports Association,

All Vice-Chancellors present,

Invited guests,

The Local Organizing Committee,

Sportsmen and women,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen.

Our Guest of Honor,

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to the 5th edition of the Kenya Universities Sports Association Games.

We are indeed honored to be the first time hosts of this national event in Western Kenya. This important event brings together both private and public institutions of Higher Learning in one arena to compete favorably. Thank you Kenya Universities Sports Association for settling on Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology as the host of this national event.

As an institution we have been in the forefront in promoting not just excellence in academics but also in sports that improves the well being of the student fraternity. There is no better way this can be stated than in the Kenya University Sports Association – Western Conference Games held last year where we were able to clinch various titles.

This event shows the strong commitment we have in promoting and upholding students well being.

To our sports men and women,

Let us shy away from mediocre sports that tend to divide us along ethnic lines. Let us stop using sports in our institutions of higher learning to spread negative ethnicity as it happened in one of our institutions. Let us shun practices that tend to demean this noble activity.

As institutions of Higher Learning it is our mandate to uphold integrity and promote unity through avenues that encourage growth and development.

Let us never lose focus on the virtues that sports have played; those of uniting, inspiring and motivating us to greater heights.

We have continued to provide a conducive environment favorable for both academic and physical growth. We hope that through these efforts we will be able to nurture great sports men and women in this region. We recognize the fact that sports acts as an integral part of a student's life.

We would like to take note of the important steps taken by the Ministry of Education towards ensuring that sports remains an integral part of the school program. This cooperation has seen Kenya being taunted globally as the “hot bed of champions”. We are greatly honored to have you support this event thereby making it a great success.

We want to recognize the tremendous growth of Kenya Universities Sports Association in terms of structure, competitions, events and institutional membership. KUSA has remained focused in its core functions which are to create, encourage and support student's sports activities.

This event will see public and private universities come together to compete for various titles. This speaks volumes to the fact that sports can and has been used as an avenue of bringing together inter-university co-operation and healthy competition.

As we begin this event we would like to encourage our youth to embrace sports as not only a hobby but as a means of livelihood and a way of encouraging both mental and physical health. Sports has been proven to be a great booster when it comes to giving important life skills learnt from accepting defeat and celebrating victory to promoting self discipline.

In closing, I wish to extend my appreciation to all the organizers of the Kenya Universities Sports Association Competitions that begins today. Without their dedication and tireless efforts behind the scene, our student sports men and women will never have a chance to do their best and shine

I am sure we are all eager to begin and cheer on our teams. Let me take this opportunity to welcome you once more to Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology. Feel at home and may the best teams win.

Thank you.