

**SPEECH BY PROFESSOR ISAAC M. MBEICHE,
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AFFAIRS, UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI DURING
THE OFFICIAL SWEARING-IN CEREMONY
OF THE SONU 2013 OFFICIALS AT THE
CHANCELLOR’S COURT ON
SATURDAY APRIL 27, 2013**

Deputy Vice-Chancellors, Principals, Deans, Directors and Chairmen of Departments, staff, students, ladies and gentlemen.

Today marks the end of yet another intense election process which began with the dissolution of the SONU Parliament on 26th March 2013. The process has continued on schedule with no disruption in any way. This has been achieved because of the commitment and hard work of the Electoral Commission led by the Chairman, Prof. Mohamed Jama, his Deputy Prof. Kiama, the staff and student commissioners and the secretariat from the student affairs Division, guided by the registrar, Student Affairs, Ms. Mariam Lugonzo and Mr. Odera. I thank you all.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the University Management Board, Senate and Council are happy to note that our students have held peaceful campaigns and conducted themselves very well during the voting exercise. We therefore, take this opportunity to congratulate the winners and urge them to work together with their competitors who lost but put

up a spirited contest. Working together will ensure that you work successfully towards strengthening SONU as a body that meaningfully represents students in this University.

To the newly elected leaders, I advise you not to waste time concentrating on personal interests but to focus on activities that address issues that improve the welfare of fellow students. There are very many important issues which I wish to point out to the new SONU leadership and which together with the University Management should be given significant attention. The first is the use of drugs and substance abuse. This has become a menace in the University and particularly pronounced in the University Hostels. Several members of staff have reported to me that students and their leaders consume alcohol openly especially outside the SONU offices in broad day light. This is actually a shame to this great institution.

The second issue is about cheating in examinations. Very many of our students are being expelled from the University because of cheating in University examinations. The new leadership must sensitize the students to ensure that the number of students expelled is reduced significantly.

The third issue is about student harmony in this University. In the past one year or so, students have lived in constant disagreement and friction. The last SONU leadership was unable to hold their retreat because of the division among the student leaders. I would like to see a SONU leadership which is united as they start serving the rest of the students.

I wish to assure you that the University Management will give you all the support you require in order to discharge your duties in an exemplary manner. I encourage you to use dialogue and to give dialogue a chance as you engage management.

Finally, I take this opportunity to thank the SONU 2013 Electoral Commission and in particular the chairman, Prof. Mohamed Jama for a job well done. I also want to appreciate the wonderful support we received from the Vice-Chancellor in organizing these elections as well as the many departments of the University which supported the preparation of the elections such as transport section, security, the secretariat of Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Student Affairs), the Kenya Police, the Principals, Deans and Directors and Chairmen of Departments.

I wish you all the best as you embark on your new leadership roles.

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU.