

**ADDRESS BY THE CHANCELLOR OF HUBERT KAIRUKI
MEMORIAL HOSPITAL DR. SALIM AHMED SALIM
JANUARY 28TH 2002**

Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Hubert Kairuki Memorial Hospital,
Mrs. Kokushubila Kairuki,
Vice Chancellor, Professor Esther Mwaikambo,
Distinguished Representatives of the Government here present
Mama Salma Omar Ali, Spouse of the Late Dr. Omar Ali Juma
Mama Angelika Kairuki
Members of the Council and Senate
Professor Mmari, Vice Chancellor of the Open University
Invited Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
(All other Protocols observed)

One year ago this month, the founding Chancellor of the University and Vice President of the United Republic of Tanzania, the late Dr. Omar Ali Juma, made an inaugural visit at the University. Next month, it would be two years since the founder and first Vice Chancellor of the University, the late Dr. Hubert Kairuki passed away. May I therefore request you to stand up and observe a minute of silence in their memory...

Vice Chancellor,

Allow me at the outset to reiterate my appreciation and gratitude for the honour accorded me to follow the footsteps of the late Dr. Omar and become the Chancellor of this young and promising University. I request all those who have been responsible for making this decision to accept my thanks and my assurances that I would endeavour to do my utmost to live up to the challenge

and enormous responsibility entailed in this assignment. In this connection I want to thank the Vice Chancellor and the Council Deputy Chairman, Professor Yadon Kohi for their generous remarks about my person.

Let me be frank. I reflected a lot before accepting the request of the Board of Trustees to become the second Chancellor of this University. My initial hesitation had nothing to do with my evaluation of the importance and significance of this high Institution of Learning for that is self-evident. Rather, I am aware of my own limitations and wanted to be clear whether I would be able to be of some assistance to the University.

While the process of reflection has not been concluded, the initial hesitation has been completely overcome by inter alia two principal factors. First, I have been inspired by the vision and dedication of the founding Chancellor, who, despite his many state responsibilities agreed to serve as a Chancellor. I was equally inspired by the vision, commitment and contribution of the founder and first Chancellor of the University. These two departed distinguished Tanzanians – the late Dr. Omar Ali Juma and the late Professor Hubert Kairuki – have set an example for the importance they attached to the development and promotion of higher education in our society and the imperative need of providing the much needed medical and health services to our communities.

The second factor is my unambiguous recognition of the paramount importance of promoting human resource development in our country and in our continent. For, there is no doubt, this is a key to the development of any country. It is particularly so in the case of developing countries like Tanzania. In this, I am indeed encouraged to take cognisance of the fact that this is one of the central objectives of the Hubert Kairuki Memorial Hospital.

Ladies and Gentlemen, am gratified by the opportunity to visit the University and see for myself its different facilities and areas of activities. This visit has given me a deeper insight of how things are, the immense progress made and the enormous challenges that still lie ahead. I want to thank the Vice Chancellor and the entire University Administration for the excellent preparations made to facilitate this tour. More importantly, however, I want to pay tribute to them for living up to the vision of this important institution. My visit here and the discussions we have had have reinforced my conviction of the tremendous potential that lie ahead in building upon the vision of the founders of the university. I believe that all of us who are connected with this university should build on that vision. We should continue where the founders have left. I, on my part, will endeavour not only to provide my full support in your efforts, but also my active involvement in the development of this institution.

Vice Chancellor, from what I have heard and seen today, I am convinced that the students who pass through this institution will gain more than simple academic qualifications. Here they will be trained for real community service.

As the Chancellor, I wish to avail myself of this occasion to formally welcome the students to the Hubert Kairuki Memorial University. I urge them to make full use of the facilities and environment here in order to create a reliable cadre of medical and health workers both here in Tanzania and in the countries where some of you and others come or will come from.

I urge the University administration to ensure that the students continue to enjoy the atmosphere of fraternity, understanding and cooperation. The University should be in constant touch with the students and familiarize with their day to day needs as well as with their general welfare.

I have seen the physical facilities available to the students and I am impressed by the University's efforts to provide comfortable atmosphere as your material situation permits. It is also gratifying that you have included the use of Information Communication Technologies (ICT) in your daily activities. I urge you to explore their use to the maximum so that faculty and students can fully benefit to the unparalleled opportunities provided by modern technology.

Vice Chancellor, I have listened carefully to your review of the history, development and current status of the Hubert Kairuki Memorial University.

Anyone who had an opportunity to visit the University will not be surprised that the technical evaluation committee was impressed by the progress made by the University. It would seem to me that the Hubert Kairuki Memorial University is a model private institution. It can and should aim to serve as a source of inspiration. As your Chancellor, I will leave no stone unturned in efforts aimed at helping to improve the quality of this institution.

I commend the University for being able to offer a wide spectrum of health related courses, including post-graduate degrees, from the start and for having foreign students intake. In particular, the presence of students from different parts of Africa enriches the University itself and at the same time contributes to the larger goal of bringing Africa together in our lofty objective of a more cohesive and united continent. I urge you to attain and maintain high standards so that you become more marketable. I also commend your initiatives to collaborate with internal and external institutions.

Vice Chancellor, in your report you have stated some of the shortcomings which are inevitable for a new establishment. I urge you and all members of the University staff to explore different avenues to overcome these shortcomings. As

your Chancellor, we shall work together in this undertaking. The University's inborn spirit of self reliance, should be the first and foremost remedy in overcoming the shortcomings.

The Government of Tanzania has always stated its policy of supporting any organization, which has shown a determination to contribute to the development of the nation. The Hubert Kairuki Memorial University and its sister organization, the Mission Mikocheni Hospital, certainly fall in that category of positive initiative. I am confident that the Government will see how best to support the initiatives of these institutions.

I also wish to take this opportunity to appeal to the donor community, both national and international, to support private institutions like these which will enable Tanzania to acquire better and more extended services to the people. I would like in this respect to commend the Ford Foundation for their assistance in the strategic planning process. Indeed the Mission Mikocheni Health and Education Network is a good example of how private institutions can help in national development.

The Vice Chancellor has made it clear that the University at present relies almost solely on the tuition fee paid by students. I urge you to devise various strategies to ensure steady liquidity of the University.

Vice Chancellor,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

This University is less than four years old. Yet it has accomplished a lot. Nonetheless the Tasks and Challenges ahead are enormous and in some cases quite daunting. But given that determination of the administration, faculty and

student alike, all the teething problems which are inherent in any young institution will be overcome. Furthermore, the potential for growth is almost unlimited. This however, takes time, patience and resources. It also requires resolve. I believe that most of these basic requirements are to be found in the University itself from the Board of Trustees down to the ordinary employees. Together we can succeed in moving to even higher levels, the vision of the founders of this University. Together we can make a contribution in the national effort for economic and social development.

I remain confident that in the fulfilment of its mission of inter alia improving the general quality of education in the country as well as providing valuable service to the community, this University will work very closely with other national institutions - both public and private. Such cooperation is particularly vital in such areas as Research and Development (R & D) - an area which HKMU attaches considerable importance. This is how it should be. For the task of developing our country is a collective responsibility. By encouraging and supporting the growth and development of private institutions of higher learning like this University, our Government has opened new vistas for effective promotion for overall development. This is a challenge which the Hubert Kairuki Memorial University has taken up in earnest. It is a challenge which we can and should overcome for the benefit of all Tanzanians.

We all have a role to play. For my part, I can assure you that you will not find me wanting.

I wish you all a Happy New Year and success in the coming years.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.