



THE NYANDARUA NATIONAL POLYTECHNIC

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PRINCIPALS SPEECH TO NEW STUDENTS – JANUARY 2022 INTAKE ON 26TH

JANUARY 2022

On behalf of NyNP Community, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to this great TVET institution as you embark on your training journey that will define your career in the years ahead.

Since the last one week, I believe you had the opportunity to be introduced to officers in charge of the various sections/departments /divisions you may require services from. Today, I am here together with my Senior Officers to officially welcome and inspire you to approach your chosen careers with confidence.

You are a unique and talented mix of students who have come to join us from every corner of the country. We are all happy and excited to receive you as newly born members of this great family called NyNP.

The NyNP community consists of lecturers, and support staff all of whom are dedicated to ensure that you achieve your goals.

This polytechnic that you have joined is the youngest National polytechnic in the country and as the saying goes ‘the new broom sweeps clean’ we expect to give you first class services geared towards 100% exam passage coupled with acquisition of appropriate skills to enable you function and claim your rightful share in our fast growing economy.

I expect you to be among the first people to write history about this polytechnic

and as it were we expect in the near future to be talking about many personalities with high repute who passed through this institution and left a mark. I believe that you have also embarked on a mission that will definitely leave a mark of Excellency.

Brief overview of TVET in Kenya

Vision/Motto

The Polytechnic Vision and mission and the motto “Skills for Empowerment” shall be achieved through training and producing disciplined and qualified people in Technological, Vocational, Science and Business fields. We are committed to quality delivery of service by being prompt, transparent and accountable in all our undertakings in line with Good Corporate Governance.

Today is orientation day whose purpose apart from welcoming you is to enable you to get to know the place, the people and our expectation is that you will have the opportunity if you have not done so to meet your lecturers, to appreciate what is in place before embarking on your training.

We appreciate the fact that although you come from different social, economic, and religious backgrounds, you will surely fit in this community and relate well with everybody as you pursue your career. Kindly appreciate everybody and strive the best aspect of every situation.

Expectations

Your joining NyNP comes with a lot of expectations on your part, your parents, colleagues and lecturers. All of us have one thing in common, and that is to see you succeed in your training, failure to do so will lead to disappointments and frustrations. I expect that in the coming days and weeks, you will start lifelong friendships, you have begun classes and you have started to explore ways to fill out your days and evenings and the less tangible part of your education here – the

student experience.

Resources

The college has put in place various resources to enable trainees accomplish their dream in line with vision 2030 which aims at making Kenya a newly industrialized country by 2030. We have endeavored and we shall continue to provide facilities in the form of books, workshops/ laboratories to facilitate the programmes.

ICT has been integrated in all the programmes to enable students access the internet for research and get the latest information. We are trying to increase facilities that are of quality but affordable. We have already increased the internet bandwidth for enhanced connectivity and also the number of computers in our laboratories.

We expect you to use these facilities to read and develop a culture of reading. Those who read passionately end up being read. You cannot separate readership from leadership as John Maxwell says “If you stop learning you stop leading.” We are therefore encouraging you to develop a reading culture.

Accommodation Facilities

Although we have limited accommodation facilities given on first come, first serve basis, we are exploring possibilities of increasing our partnership with other stakeholders to offer affordable accommodation to all students without compromising quality.

You therefore have a responsibility as an individual to take care of these facilities which have served us well over the past many years.

College Rules and Regulations

Every organized society/community requires rules to regulate its relationships and NyNP is no exception.

Am sure each one of you has received a copy of rules and regulations. We have tried to make them as simple as possible in order to create harmony in the polytechnic. The key highlights in the document includes Programme and Course requirements, academic advancement, examinations issues as well as general rules and regulations governing students' code of conduct and discipline.

Every trainee is expected to read and understand the contents of this document so as to avoid pitfalls in life which can be very costly at times.

It is important to note that rowdy and inappropriate behavior of a few can affect the reputation of the polytechnic, locally and beyond and potentially tarnish the value of your certificate. We urge you to be our ambassadors wherever you are in dressing and behavior, for the good name of our polytechnic will be of great benefit to all of us as a family.

Academic/Training programmes

Our training programmes are of high quality, competency based geared towards the labour market. Most of our programmes are examined by KNEC, NITA, KASNEB, and CDACC and are competitive and industry driven. Being a qualification awarding institution the polytechnic is also coming up with her own programs which will be examined and certified internally. Ensure that you pass your exams and attain what you have come for.

Industrial Attachment

As part of the course requirements, it is mandatory that you undergo Industrial attachment/Internship to acquire practical knowledge/experience relevant to your training. During this period you are expected to adhere to the company/organization rules, and exhibit a high degree of discipline and

professionalism. The industrial experience should form a valuable part of your CV and give you a competitive advantage over others when it comes to looking for employment.

Communication Channels

While pursuing your studies, we have channels of communication to facilitate basic communication within the College. We as management are not only transparent but also encourage open door policy. Apart from the laid down procedures we communicate through notices and meetings. From time to time we will call assembly and please do attend these meetings because valuable information is always communicated.

Students Governance

We have a strong students' governing body that represent students' views to management. All of you will have an opportunity to be members of this important organization either as leaders or simply members. Learn to respect your leaders for leaders are not born but they are made.

For those who will have an opportunity to serve as leaders should remember that leadership requires humility and sacrifice. Leadership at whatever level accords you the opportunity to serve others. Always take the first line when there is danger and then people will appreciate your leadership. As General Collins Powell said, and I quote "Leaders are almost great simplifiers who can cut through arguments, debate and no doubt to offer a solution anybody can understand" We hope you will be those leaders who are solution providers rather than negative critics through and through.

Fees

You are expected to pay all your fees to access essential services. Those who are

sponsored remember it is your responsibility to pester your sponsors to pay fees for you. As a rule no student can be allowed to sit for examinations without clearing fees. You are therefore advised to make prior arrangements to clear your fees before examination time to avoid last minute rush and or disappointment.

A student is defined as that who has paid all fees. Adequate reminders shall be given by the administration, please take them seriously.

Co-curricular activities

We encourage you to take time-off from your busy academic schedule to participate in co-curricular activities. We have excelled at various levels in exhibitions e.g. TVET science fair, games and sports and I expect you to venture into other areas like music, drama etc., and your participation will promote our presence in the national image.

Trainees are particularly encouraged to be innovative and come up with viable projects which can attract funding through the National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI) have them patented.

If you have talent you will have the opportunity to use it and who knows you can make a living out of it, as many other Kenyans have done!

Culture

For most of you from other parts of this country and first timers in Nyandarua you will be able to sample the rich cultural heritage that the region is well known for. The residents of Nyandarua and the surrounding community can benefit so much from your enthusiasm and your compassion and as you know it is gratifying to help and support a fellow human being and make their lives better.

Recreation

Nyandarua is a good county endowed with a lot of resources . Try to venture but

don't forget the main aim and objective of being here, that of Education/Training and Excellence.

Security

Just like in any other part of the country take great care of your personal security; watch out what you say, where you go and what you do; us we shall play our part. This being an electioneering year I would urge you to be very careful and to avoid any engagement that the derail your focus in life. Young people are known to be misused by politicians so watch out.

Friends

In the course of your stay, you will make friends. Man is not an Island, hence you are bound to make friends as you pursue your training career. The people you associate with will influence and shape your destiny. A conversation with the right person can be more valuable than many years of study.

Study your social environment and surround yourself with people who will inspire, mentor you positively and eventually make you a better being!

Challenges

As you pursue your training, you will meet many challenges/opportunities that cause some men to break down and others to break records, so the ball is in your court, will you break down or will you break records?

Martin Luther King Jr once said and I quote "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in times of joy and comfort but where he stands in times of challenges and controversy." The great men must go through challenges to become who they are in history e.g., (Jomo Kenyatta, Mahatma Gandhi, Nelson Mandela among others).

To become great requires self-sacrifice and persistence as the saying goes, never,

ever give up. Even when faced with insurmountable challenges, soldier on though the going might be tough at times.

Time Management

One of a students' greatest challenge is time management. We are living in a complex world with too many activities competing for attention at the same time. Remember time is the only resource equally given to all men and women, so ask yourself where do differences in life come from even when given the same operating platform?

Your success in life is determined on how well you spend your time. Poor time management could be a major source of stress, frustrations, conflicts and regrets in life.

Always prepare a time budget on how to spend your time.

1. Have a time schedule
2. Get rid of unnecessary friends
3. Stick to your routine
4. Do not delay an action/procrastinate

Make the most out of the time you have, because there will be no time.

Note: This being a college nobody will police you around. But 75% class attendance is a **MUST**.

Peer Pressure – Drugs/HIV/other Diseases

Many young people are confronted by many social challenges that derail them from their core goal(s). Many are swept away and fall by the way side and never reach their goals. Even mature men and ladies fall victims.

If you don't stand on something you will fall for anything. There is a Chinese proverb that says and I quote "A wise man makes his own decisions; an ignorant man

follows the public opinion.” There are many ways to kill a rat and hence many ways to terminate your studies. And as you all know AIDS and Drugs kill and I would like us to uphold good morals.

Dreams

You are here for a reason and a season to pursue your dreams. It is said that the poorest man on earth is a man without a dream and the most frustrated man on earth is a man with a dream that never becomes a reality. When the passion for your dream is unquenched then quitting is unthinkable and that makes victory inevitable.

Do not lose focus of your dream even though the going may be tough. Remain focused and committed at all times. Please DON'T let your attention to be diverted by a dashing squirrel and you lose focus on the antelope.

Freedom

As you have joined the college, some of you have started experiencing a lot of freedom which they have not had before. Especially those direct from high school. We should all keep in mind that freedom comes with responsibilities. Bryan Tracy says, “The acceptance of personal responsibility is when you separate a superior person and the average person”.

Personal responsibility is the premium trait of leadership and the well spring of high persistence in every person in every situation.” Accepting responsibility is the freedom of high self-esteem, self-respect and personal pride.

Accepting personal responsibilities is the core of the personality of every outstanding man or woman. If we approach life casually, we end up as casualties. Life is not a rehearsal and so do not learn safety by accident. We therefore expect

you not to engage in risky behaviour.

Future Assurance

We pledge to create a conducive environment, provide the resources, focused leadership for you to achieve your dreams. When I look in front of me I see vibrant young men and women with a lot of energy and enthusiasm. I hope that the energy you have you shall use it to your best for the benefit of yourselves and others. We want you to thrive and succeed here, academically, socially and personally.

I want to thank you for choosing NyNP as your choice TVET institution of training and we are happy and privileged you are here.

Conclusion

Before I conclude my remarks, I would like to reiterate that people who see their dreams come to pass are people who have resolve, some back-bone; people who refuse to settle for somewhere along the way.

Finally, I wish you all the best, an exciting, rewarding, challenging and stimulating time in this polytechnic, which will be the start of what I hope will be a lifelong experience as members of the NyNP.

Once again, Welcome and God Bless You!

GOD BLESS NyNP, GOD BLESS KENYA

FELIX K. MUNG'ATU

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