

SPEECH

BY

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**Official Opening of the Alcohol and Drug
Abuse Prevention Campaign Week**

Tuesday, 16th June, 2015

**+ Our Chief Guest, Chairman
of the National Authority
for the Campaign Against
Alcohol and Drug Abuse
Board (NACADA) - Hon.
John Mututho;**

**+ Members of Kenyatta
University Management;**

+ Deans of Schools Present;

**+ Director Student Affairs
and other Directors
Present;**

+ Chairmen of Departments;

+ Kenyatta University Staff;

+ Students;

+ Invited Guests;

+ Ladies and Gentlemen;

Good Afternoon.

I am happy that we are able to launch this inaugural Kenyatta University Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Week. I would like to start by recognizing the Chief Guest, Hon. John Mututho for taking time out of his busy schedule to preside over the opening of the Kenyatta University Alcohol and Drug Abuse

Prevention Week. May I thank the Chief Guest for his passion and commitment towards the fight against alcohol and drug abuse.

At this juncture, I want to share a number of aspects concerning this important University campaign being launched today;

**1) The Dangers of Alcohol
and Drug Abuse (ADA)**

Ladies and Gentlemen, you will agree with me that one of the biggest challenges to Kenyan youths today is the enticement to abuse alcohol and drugs. It is a danger that all of us must confront and collectively act in order to stop it and hopefully eliminate it. To our students, I

would like to advise you to take the information that will be shared during this week seriously. This will be one great way for every one of you to contribute towards the fight against alcohol and other substance abuse. The idea is that those who have not been trapped should have a firm resolve to say 'No' to this habit

which ultimately enslaves an individual. On the other hand, I encourage those who are already involved to come out and seek help.

2) The Commitment by Management.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the University Management has committed itself towards a

drug free campus by among other ways creating supportive environment and educating staff and students against the consequences of alcohol and drug abuse. Towards this end, the University established the University Wellness Centre to spearhead initiatives that will enable the University achieve this goal. I am happy to note

that our Wellness Centre is fully functional with professional counselors, who are ready to assist staff and students who are affected by drugs and alcohol. I would like to urge the Director, Wellness Centre, and his team to build on the gains of this week to especially assist the students

who are already entangled in this problem.

Our Chief Guest, as you are already aware, the University has a Drug and Substance Abuse Policy. I further challenge all students and staff to continue to read and follow the guidelines in the policy. This policy is clear in describing the situations

associated with substance abuse, responsibility of the University, guidelines and responsibility of students and staff, intervention initiatives, and sanctions of the violation of the policy. I request the Director, Students Affairs and the Director, Wellness Centre to ensure that all students and

staff have access to this policy.

3) The Role of KUSA

Our Chief Guest, I am also happy to state that the leadership of Kenyatta University Students Association (KUSA) in the recent past has been visionary and supportive to the

achievement of the University mission in various ways. Of special note is the fact that KUSA leadership bought into the idea of having an Alcohol and Drug Abuse (ADA) Week and has supported the University Management in the preparations of various activities. Most of the costs for this week have been met by

KUSA. I am thankful to the KUSA leadership, and hope that this week will become one of the KUSA's annual flagship activities.

I also commend the team that came up with the motto of this week's campaign "I Choose Life, I Reject Drug and Alcohol Abuse." This motto

appropriately captures our collective aspirations to have a drug free University.

4. Partnership with NACADA

Last but not least, Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to sincerely thank NACADA in general, and Hon. John Mututho in particular, for being a great partner of Kenyatta

University. This is not the first time that Hon. Mututho has been here. I am delighted that he accepts our requests to grace our events and educate us on these very important matters of substance abuse.

Our Chief Guest, I would like to also request you to advise us on how our Security

Directorate and NACADA can partner in tracking suspected drug peddlers in the environs of the University. The University is keen to keep off these people whose mission is to ruin the future of our students through drugs.

Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, with those few

remarks, It is now my pleasure to invite our Chief Guest to make his remarks and officially launch the Kenyatta University Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Week.

Thank you.

