

**VICE CHANCELLORS SPEECH DURING CUEA'S 2022 – 2023 ACADEMIC
CONVOCATION ON 22ND SEPTEMBER 2022**

- i. Most Rev. Philip Anyolo, Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Nairobi
and Pro-Chancellor of The Catholic University of Eastern Africa*
- ii. Mrs. Prof. Rachel Gesami, Deputy Vice Chancellor - Academic
Affairs and Research*
- iii. Mr. James Theuri, Special Advisor to the Vice Chancellor, In
Charge - Administration, Finance and Planning*
- iv. All Deans, Directors and Heads of Department Present*
- v. The Vice Chancellors-Designate, and Principals of our Constituent
Colleges*
- vi. Principals of our Affiliate Colleges*
- vii. University Faculty and staff*
- viii. Our esteemed student leaders and student fraternity*
- ix. Ladies and gentlemen*

Good morning.

1. I welcome you all to the 2022-2023 Academic year. I would like to welcome our new students and staff who joined us this September, to CUEA. As many of us told you during your orientation into the University a few weeks ago, you have made a wise decision in joining The Catholic University of Eastern Africa and we are here to ensure that you get quality education.
2. Your Grace, ladies and gentlemen, we are a value-based University. As our newly approved University Vision states, we aspire to be a University that produces ethical leaders for Church and society. As a

Catholic University under oversight of the Vatican, we are required to offer strong, value based education. Our students have to subscribe to our values. CUEA offers ethical education which is a plus because the job market is looking for ethical staff. We inculcate values that are universal as they are acceptable in all cultures. These values are Witness of Life, Prayer, Truthfulness, Honesty, Excellence, Commitment and Competence. Living these values makes one acquire a Catholic Identity.

3. Today I would like to emphasize on one of these values which is Competency. This is a very important value in learning. Competent people are the ones who solve problems in society be the problems minor or major, affecting a family, a village or even a country. That is why you, our students, have to acclimatize to being competent in all that you do. Reading to pass examination is scholarly mediocre; it is what is expected of an average individual. The education we are offering to you in CUEA prepares you to be the best in whatever you do. Today there are so many distractions that make one's competency levels greatly diminish.
4. One major distraction is social media and the desire to be abreast with the "in-thing" of the day. Social media has become what defines us. It tells us who we are as individuals. Discounted internet shopping platforms such as Jumia, Kilimall and even Amazon tell us what we "need to buy" to make our lives better be they phone accessories, a new bag, a new watch and so on and so forth.

5. As a result of these social media distraction, we have no place for God because we are wasting our time on these platforms. In addition, social media rarely helps us in future our careers. Get involved in the University's faith activities which give one a taste of goodness in our society. Practicing your faith also helps you focus on what the important things are in life. That is why Prayer is one of our University's Core Values.
6. It is not just the students who should showcase Catholic Identity but so should we the University staff. My dear staff, unless we are models of values and offer quality service to students, we will not achieve our purpose. Remember; we as a University believe that faith informs truth, our lifelong learning programs form and inspire scholars to be ethical leaders through Judeo-Christian-African and other inter-cultural values, we embed the social teaching of the Church in our curriculum that makes our scholars catalysts for integral human development which enables them to achieve personal fulfilment in life. We should always aspire to live the Catholic Identity. Remember, as long as you are a staff in CUEA, you are a model to the students. A recruiter journal I once saw put it very clearly by stating that values are lighthouses, they are signals giving direction, meaning and purpose. We the staff should be the custodians of these values.
7. Lastly, I would like to talk about what has been very dear to the Church for the last couple of years, our environment. The world today is facing challenges because of global warming. As we all know global warming is the gradual heating of the Earth's surface, oceans and atmosphere

which is caused by human activity. The Church has chosen to push for us the people of the world to arrest climate change and reclaim our environment by focusing on making it, the environment, healthy once more. This is being done in the spirit of Laudato Si and the spirit of Synodality.

8. In this spirit CUEA has started offering a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Planning and Management degree with an aim to produce leaders in the area who will help reclaim our environment. Through the Environmental programme, research and academic discourses can be carried out by CUEA which will help our University formally form alliances that thrusts us in higher levels of recognition as a value-adding institution in society, especially in regard to championing for global environmental health.
9. Your Lordship, ladies and gentlemen, as can be seen, as we start our routine of working through an academic year, we not only need to check ourselves to ensure that we are embracing a Catholic Identity, we also need to focus our efforts on our environment. This is a major problem facing the world today but we can turn it to an opportunity for the University to give back to society.

At this juncture, in the powers vested in me by the University Council, I hereby declare the 2022 – 2023 Academic Year officially started. Thank you and God bless CUEA.

Very Rev. Prof. Stephen Mbugua NGARI
RECTOR/VICE CHANCELLOR