# REPUBLIC OF KENYA



SESSION 15/10/2020

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (FOURTH SESSION)

## **PUBLIC PETITION**

(No. 35 of 2020)

# REGARDING IMMINENT CLOSURE OF JOMO KENYATTA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, KAKAMEGA CAMPUS

**I,** the **UNDERSIGNED**, on behalf of concerned students of Jomo Kenyatta University of Science and Technology, Kakamega Campus;

DRAW the attention of the House to the following: -

In Spaker

- 1. **THAT**, university education is one of the critical foundations for building the necessary technical human resource capabilities needed to drive the country towards achieving the Kenya Vision 2030 as well as establishing the country as a middle class economy;
- 2. THAT, in furtherance of the above vision, the Government embarked on an ambitious programme of expanding places for university education by accrediting more universities and establishing new campuses;
- 3. THAT, in 2011, Jomo Kenyatta University of Science and Technology opened up a constituent Campus in Kakamega Town at Ambwere Fraha Building with an initial enrolment of 17 students, which has grown to more than 800 undergraduate and postgraduate students currently pursuing different courses;
- 4. THAT, from 2017, the political leadership in Kakamega and the County Government of Kakamega initiated plans to secure land to relocate the campus from the rented premises to its own premises and put up appropriate structures in support of permanent establishment of the Campus;
- THAT, the County Government of Kakamega has already secured for the Campus approximately 3.5 acres of land with lecture rooms in Lurambi Constituency and another 50 acres in Likuyani Constituency;
- 6. THAT, the process of fully securing land for the Campus began in 2017 and the final approvals were forwarded to the National Land Commission in 2019 for allocation of allotment letters and issuance of title deeds to the Campus;
- 7. **THAT,** in a disappointing turn of events, on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020, the management of JKUAT Kakamega Campus issued a short notice for permanent closure of the Kakamega Campus by 30<sup>th</sup> August 2020 and directed student to either opt for online classes or relocate to other JKUAT Campuses in Kitale, Kisii or Nakūru;
- 8. **THAT,** the abrupt closure of the Campus is not in the best interest of the students given that it will adversely disrupt learning programmes for more than 800 students, some of whom had just one

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semester remaining to complete their undergraduate studies and occasion loss of livelihoods for staff and service providers in Kakamega town who were dependent on the university population;

- THAT, the imminent closure has failed to take cognizance of the efforts made by the County Government of Kakamega to avail land in Lurambi and Likuyani Constituencies for the permanent establishment of the Campus, hence likely to erode the gains made in expanding opportunities for accessing university education;
- 10. THAT, the inconveniences and challenges associated with the imminent closure will potentially shatter the dreams of many undergraduate and post graduate students at the affected Campus because some of them may not be able to fund the relocation or opt for online classes given that technology courses cannot be effectively delivered online;
- 11. THAT, efforts by the local leadership and the student leadership to have the relocation halted have not yielded fruit;
- 12. THAT, the matters in respect of which this Petition is made are not pending before a Court of law, constitutional or legal body;

THEREFORE, your humble Petitioners pray that the National Assembly through the Department Committee on Education and Research: -

- (a) Inquires into the issues raised in this Petition with a view to establishing the circumstances leading to the abrupt issuance of a Memo for closure of Jomo Kenyatta University of Science and Technology, Kakamega Campus, despite the progress made in providing land for permanent establishment of the facility at its own premises;
- (b) Recommends to the Ministry of Education and the Commission for University Education to reverse the decision to close the Campus so as to secure the interest of students whose studies are at the risk of being shattered by the abrupt closure;
- (c) Makes any other recommendation it deems necessary in addressing the plight of the Petitioners.

And your **PETITIONERS** will ever pray.

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THE HON. (BISHOP) TITUS MUKHWANA KHAMALA, MP

MEMBER FOR LURAMBICONSTITUENCY

### **JKUAT KAKAMEGA CAMPUS STUDENTS**

	NAME	ID	REGISTRATION NUMBER	PHONE NUMBER	POSTAL ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
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2	Helkiah Lijodi	29053705	HBD221-C009-0195/2018	723727263	P.O BOX 118- 50100, KAKAMEG <del>A</del>	<b>*</b>
3	Adolphine Nduko	27884952	HDB211-C009-0260/2018	727902374	P.O BOX 823- 50104, KHAYEGA	ÄH
4	Bonface Otiende	32322341	SCT221-C009-0065/2018	791471418	P.O BOX 2787- 50100, KAKAMEGA	lev
5	Mellan Juma	33155907	HDB112-C009-0214/2017	799168933	P.O BOX 79- 50100, KAKAMEGA	19Xa
6	Samson Okok	25558043	HDE324-C009-0975/2010	727145602	P.O BOX 1014- 50100, KAKAMEGA	PA
7	Jeremiah Bulibah	25185506	HDE324-C009-0973/2019	722515304	P.O BOX 36- 50100, KAKAMEGA	Kas
8	Brian Omwenga	36488506	SCT221-C009-0162/2018	708355391	P.O BOX 1014- 50100, KAKAMEGA	Bogn.
9	Philimon Moi	24972452	HDE324-C009-0974/2019	723502609	P.O BOX 97- 50127, NAMBACHA	240
10	Samita Mercy	27852539	HDE324-C009-2428/2018	710185544	P.O BOX 112- WEBUYE	Hars
11	Anne Muyekho	37064406	HDB111-C009-0023/2019	711526429	P.O BOX 1014- 50100, KAKAMEGA	May
12	Esther Chepkorir	13672290	HDB213-C0090232/2017	724117764	P.O BOX 822- 50400, BUSIA	Mor
13	Odongo William	26113175	HDB111-C009-0272/2018	702973445	P.O BOX 1014- 50100, KAKAMEGA	aut
14	Derrick Ondonyo	32503805	HDE222-C009-0197/2018	710696552	P.O BOX 180- 50100, KAKAMEGA	Bul
15	Caroline Yatich	24901616	HDE324-C009-2535/2019	725990899	P.O BOX 285- BUNGOMA	Dunk

16	Magdelene Rugut	21768310	HDE324-C009-0970/2019		P.O BOX 1287- 50100, KAKAMEGA	6
17	Pauline Adisa	28246618	HDE222-C009-0001/2019	714936385	P.O BOX 65- VIHIGA	Buch
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