



MZUZU UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

MESSAGE OF NEW YEAR, 2022

I wish to convey a special message to the University staff members and students by reflecting on the Year 2021 as we come to its end, and share new expectations as we enter the ensuing Year 2022.

We have ended 2021 with many admirable achievements to which all contributed. In 2021, we witnessed the arrival of (i) a new Deputy Vice-Chancellor and thus strengthening the Vice-Chancellor's (VC's) Office, (ii) recruitment of new staff for various departments, and (iii) return of academics from successful completion of postgraduate studies. Until 1st October, 2021, senior managers and leaders supported the VC's Office and jointly we, earnestly and with commitment, implemented planned programmes for the University. As we go into the new Year, 2022 which will mark 25 years of existence, we should reflect on the past journey and reposition ourselves as credible, competitive and responsible University, which must contribute to the realisation and fulfilment of Malawi 2063 and its first 10-year Implementation Plan (MIP-1; 2021-2030). Our 2021-2030 University Strategic Plan is pleasantly aligned to the national envisioning, Africa Agenda 2063 and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Under the pragmatic guidance of the Council of Mzuzu University, we are being called to consolidate the various gains in the year and mitigate man-made challenges. This is only possible if we (i) adhere to minimum standards espoused by the National Council of Higher Education in the delivery of all academic activities and services, (ii) strive to fulfill the service levels and standards required in the Customer Service Charter, (iii) embrace and participate in the implementation of Performance Management System, (iv) diversify the engagement with local and international partners towards provision of relevant and demand-driven academic programmes, and (v) mobilize additional resources, supplementing Government subvention and ensuring associated resource-use efficiency.

In the New Year, let us all from the Caretaker and Office-Assistant to Senior Professors, embrace mind-set change, and move away from a nostalgic

culture: *we used to do so and are used to doing so*. In the 21st Century, we must adapt to changing environment in the higher education subsector. Otherwise, we will be groaning behind!

Let me also encourage both staff and students who have not done so to go for COVID-19 vaccination. Each one of us has personal human right to live a peaceful and healthy life. This naturally means better and much safer lives for our neighbours. COVID-19 has affected our academic programmes since January, 2020 and will continue. Concerted partnership is required in 2022 to prevent and manage the pandemic. Apart from the negative impact of COVID-19, let us also appreciate the positive opportunities the pandemic has brought. New innovative ways of doing business, such as emergency remote teaching (ERT), appear to be a resilient and sustainable education delivery method during pandemics which we should all embrace.

On behalf of the Senior Leadership Team, I wish you all a fruitful 2022 New Year in which your dreams will be realised through hard work, professionalism and integrity. Our working together with a shared vision and commitment will result in the sustainable release of human capital duly groomed through provision of optimum students' experience.

God bless us all.

Prof. John D. Kalenga Saka
VICE-CHANCELLOR

31st December, 2021