

UNIVERSITY OF DAR ES SALAAM

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Press Release

Dear Members of the UDSM Community,

Happy 2021 to you all!

As always, it is gratifying to witness the end of yet another momentous year and mark the beginning of a new one with an opportunity to look back and ahead. We look back to review our individual and collective accomplishments and challenges we encountered in the just folded year. Meanwhile, we look ahead to take a glimpse at opportunities that the New Year beholds for us and how we can make necessary amends and adjustments to overcome shortcomings encountered in 2020.

It is in this context of delight and renewed hope that, on behalf of the University Management, I congratulate all the members of the UDSM Community for navigating successfully through 2020 against the tide of numerous odds and some moments of despair. I also offer my warmest New Year Greetings and Best Wishes to you all.

FLASHBACK ON 2020

We all witnessed during the year 2020 how our University relentlessly went about implementing its statutory mission of providing quality higher education to fellow Tanzanians and citizens of the world with dedication and renewed verve. We did our best to fulfil all the University's core activities of teaching, research and consultancy. Thanks to the maximum co-operation received from the government, members of staff, and students, we accomplished our mission successfully and honourably, regardless of the challenges we grappled with along the way. I will briefly reminisce about memorable achievements.

(i) Teaching, Research and Consultancy

We have made good progress in our academic and research activities whose fruits have included launching seven new undergraduate and eight new postgraduate programmes; establishing the position of professor emeritus at our University hence enabling several professors who have served this University

diligently and with dignity for so long, to assume this eminent position. We also expanded our research grants from our internally generated revenue by allocating TZS 1.9 billion as compared to TZS 1.4 billion, which was allocated in 2019. Ultimately, the goal is to increase both the number of research grant recipients and the quality of the output to contribute even much more meaningfully to the country's development and human progress. We have also begun offering three new joint degree programmes in collaboration with Roskilde University of Denmark - and we had the first batch of graduates from this programme during the 50th Graduation Ceremony in 2020. This development marks a breakthrough for a plan that was inceptioned in 2015.

We also strived, with the assistance of media outlets and other stakeholders, to reach out to the broader Tanzanian society and provide important public service. Apart from delivering professional advice to public and private institutions, the UDSM has continued to offer awareness-building services to the Tanzanian public on issues ranging from research, innovation and industrial development to environmental conservation and application of new technologies. Notably, we effectively supported the country's fight against COVID-19 by manufacturing and distributing facilities for prevention purposes and conducting experiments in search of treatment. We also offered some of our premises to serve as a quarantine centre in Dar es Salaam. We still urge you to keep on taking measures against COVID-19 as per government's instructions. More significantly, as we approached the 50th series of graduation ceremonies, our different units (colleges, schools, institutes, departments and centres) offered various services free-of-charge as a gesture of our readiness and continuous devotion to serving the country and individuals through our exemplary expertise and public service of high standard. Many of these successes stem from the sacrifices made by members of the UDSM Community, especially those who had to contend with inadequate essential infrastructure such as laboratory and workshop equipment, office and teaching space, and accommodation facilities, some of which are in dire need of a facelift and rejuvenation.

(ii) Establishment of New Schools and Acquiring the Mineral Resources Institute

In 2020, we also strengthened our academic units to enhance even further the stature and contribution of our University to scholarship and human advancement by establishing new schools namely, the University of Dar es Salaam School of Economics (UDSoEC), the School of Mines and Geosciences (SoMG), and the School of Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Technology (SoAF). Relatedly, in August 2020, the Ministry of Energy handed over to UDSM the Mineral Resources Institute (that has two campuses in Dodoma and Nzega), which has now become the University of Dar es Salaam Mineral Resources

Institute (UDSM-MRI). All these initiatives aim to create an academic structure that better reflects the University's history, size, scope, lofty standards, and prestige in addition to enhancing its ability to deliver on its mandate steadfastly.

(iii) UDSM 50th Graduation Ceremonies

During the 50th graduation ceremonies held in August, November and December 2020, we produced **11,255** graduates (6,392 female graduates or 57%) at various levels, comprising **94** PhDs, **796** Master's degrees, **110** postgraduate diplomas and **10,255** bachelor's degrees. Notably, in these *golden jubilee* ceremonies 248 students graduated with the Doctor of Medicine (MD) for the first time after UDSM resumed offering health and allied sciences studies (in line with its status as a comprehensive University) at our Mbeya College of Health and Allied Sciences (UDSM-MCHAS) five years ago.

Generally, we are proud of our admission rates (of up to 17,000 first year undergraduate students last year), and subsequent number of graduates each year, especially as we have maintained acceptable quality standards in our teaching and supervision, thanks to the growing proficiency of our quality assurance and control system. Members of the UDSM community may wish to know that the adeptness of our quality assurance system and processes has gained recognition in the East African region, and that many universities in the region currently treat ours as an exemplary system.

(iv) Infrastructure

As a vibrant and dynamic institution, we also made progress in expanding and improving our infrastructure systems such as buildings and roads. One example, among others, is the rehabilitation of 32 staff residential houses/apartments. We also received a financial grant from the government to rehabilitate some buildings of the College of Engineering and Technology (CoET) and College of Natural and Applied Sciences (CoNAS). In addition, through our internally generated revenue, we have constructed and upgraded some roads within the University such as the University-Changanyikeni-Msewe road; the road that connects staff offices and Yombo 4 and Yombo 5 lecture theatres; and the one that connects the UDSM School of Law to the CoET entrance. Also, we are delighted that we are about to complete major rehabilitation of Halls of Residence II and V at Mwalimu Nyerere Main Campus. In addition, we have constructed a huge water storage sump as well as a major water supply line that will certainly solve the water shortage problem.

Meanwhile, we are very glad that in 2020 we managed to complete the construction of a long-awaited fence wall that surrounds some parts of the

University compound, especially from Dr. J. P. Magufuli Hostels to Ubungo Maji entrance, along Sam Nujoma Road. Also, we successfully set up street lights (phase I) along the University Road and Chief Kunambi Road. Also, we have completed the 2nd phase of installing CCTV system in office buildings, parking lots, conference rooms and some dormitories. These efforts aim at strengthening our security and safety as well as instilling a more conducive academic atmosphere. It is my pleasure to let members of the UDSM community know that most of these works have been completed successfully while others are progressing well and will be completed as soon as possible.

(v) DUCE and MUCE 2020 Headways

It would be unfair to conclude these New Year greetings without recognizing remarkable achievements made by our constituent colleges, Dar es Salaam University College of Education (DUCE) and Mkwawa University College of Education (MUCE) in the past year. With regards to DUCE, emphasis was placed on human resources where TZS 429,250,000 was allocated for staff development (short and long-term trainings/studies) which aimed to benefit more than 105 members of staff. In addition, DUCE initiated three postgraduate programmes, making a total of 11 postgraduate programmes offered at DUCE. Meanwhile, in 2020 DUCE allocated TZS 200 million as research grants for its members of staff. In terms of infrastructure development, the completion of the current phase of the construction of the administrative building has made available office spaces to more than 120 members of staff. Again, DUCE received TZS 950 million from the government for construction and rehabilitation of its infrastructure.

With regards to MUCE, quite a significant number of achievements have also been registered in 2020. On the human resources front, it was remarkable that nine members of academic staff completed their PhDs last year, making a total of 58 members of academic with PhDs. In teaching and research, in 2020 MUCE began to offer non-education programmes, including launch of a new Bachelor of Science in Chemistry. MUCE also managed to register all its library books through an up-to-date electronic system, *KOHA*, and purchased a barcode printer in line with information and library services current needs and demands. In addition, in 2020 the construction of internal roads in MUCE started, thanks to the promise made by the President, H.E. Dr. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli when he toured the Campus in 2018.

(vi) UDSM Vision 2061 and Plans for 2021

As we embark on our 2021 journey, let us remind ourselves about staying the course and true to our key mission and vision blueprint - the UDSM Vision 2061. The Vision serves as the roadmap for the University's new journey towards its

100th anniversary in 2061. It stipulates the essentials for the University to survive and thrive in an increasingly competitive 21st Century. Central to its content is the desire for the University to become a leading centre of intellectual wealth; turn into an e-learning institution in terms of the availability and wide application of modern information technology; expand and modernise postgraduate training programmes and activities; make major advances in research planning and management; internationalise teaching programmes and learning experiences; and establish strong alumni networks to strengthen their solidarity with the institution.

Similarly, as we begin this year's journey, our main focus is to improve robustly the welfare of the entire University community, that is, both staff and students; linking further our research works and community development; as well as investing and capitalising more on innovation and industrialisation, with efforts such as establishing a Central Chemical Laboratory. Undoubtedly, achieving these ambitions optimally will reward the University with a clearly different outlook at not only the end of 2021 but also come 2061 as our Vision optimistically envisions. In consequence, visible improvements will accrue in volume and quality of our University's services to the society. However, we also realise that the desired outcomes are only achievable through dedication and hard work by all of us in our different and changing capacities.

REMEMBERING LOST FELLOW COMMUNITY MEMBERS

As in the previous years, during the just concluded year we lost precious lives of our colleagues, our family members and our close friends. It is sad to recall these gloomy moments in life. Unfortunately, this is a reality we can neither avoid nor get accustomed to. Yet, as we enter a new year, we dearly remember those fallen members of our Community, knowing that, although they physically departed from us, the spirit of their determination and dignified contributions to our families' and our university's prosperity live on forever.

Once again, I wish you all **a rewarding and happy 2021.**



Professor William A. L. Anangisye
VICE CHANCELLOR