

SPEECH BY THE DEAN OF STUDENTS DR. LEUNITA MAKILA DURING THE SWEARING IN CEREMONY OF THE 9TH SOKU LEADERS ON 1ST APRIL, 2026.

The Vice-Chancellor,

DVC ASA,

DVC P PRI,

DVC AFD,

CHAIR KEC prof Robert Kati,

Legal Officer,

Staff,

Outgoing Leadership,

New leadership.

Let me start by offering my Congratulations to all of you who have been newly elected. Your election is a clear sign of the trust and hope your peers have placed in you evidenced by a high voter turnout on 27th March 2026. Today, the outgoing leadership, the un mgt and staff are here to witness a smooth transition of leadership, reinforcing our commitment to democratic governance as a university."

You have won the election—but now, the real work begins. There has to be a shift from shift from campaigning to service. University leadership is not about the titles or designation neither popularity/t prestige, but a call to serve fellow students with humility.

- University leadership is about tasks done faithfully. A title may give you recognition but faithfulness in small assignments gives you credibility here on earth and also in heaven. Jesus said, "If you are faithful in: *"Whoever is faithful in very little is also faithful in much, and whoever is dishonest in very little is also dishonest in much"* ([Luke 16:10](#)), It highlights that stewardship of small responsibilities or resources prepares one for greater trust. Little, then.
- its about impact, influence and inspiration. And you cannot inspire others if you have not mastered yourself first.

"Before you Lead Others, You must lead Self". Your character, habits and values set the tone for influencing others effectively. You must be Self-Aware, possess the discipline an Vision that will anchor your life as a leader

You must see Value in yourself to add value to others." Invest in your personal development

As you begin your term, remember these three things:

1. **Lead with Humility and Inclusivity.** You are no longer just representing the friends who voted for you, or the party that sponsored you. Listen to the quiet voices, not just the loud ones. Approach every issue with humility, knowing that you do not have all the answers.
2. **Balance Leadership and Academic /Responsibility.**
Your core business in this university is to seek knowledge and academic excellence. We have witnessed student leaders in the past who lost their way, neglected their studies, and failed to graduate. Do not become that statistic. As leaders, you must set an example of integrity in your academic work.
3. **Act with Integrity:** When you make promises, keep them. When challenges arise—and they will—let your actions be guided by honesty, not popularity.
4. **Unity and Collaboration:** Encourage a collaborative approach with the administration and peers.: Act as a mediator between students and administration, not just a challenger.
5. **Adherence to Policies:** Familiarize yourself with University Acts, student handbooks, SOKU Constitution and codes of conduct.

The Dean of Students office exists to provide direction. Work closely with the office.

To the Outgoing Leadership: Thank you for your service and for setting a foundation. I urge you to assist the new team in settling in to ensure a smooth transition.

To the Incoming Leaders: You have the potential to make this university an even better place. Be bold, be innovative, and work hard. The students believe in you. Now, go out there and make them proud.

Congratulations once again!