**FIRST YEAR VIRTUAL ORIENTATION SPEECH**

BY Dean of Student Affairs Mr M. Kunene

THEME: #” ***The future of Education is in e-Learning-Embracing the New Normal”***

It is with great delight that I welcome you all, most heartedly to the 2021/22 virtual orientation programme of the University of Eswatini.

To the class of 2021/2022 first-year students, congratulations for making it to UNESWA University of choice in Africa and you are enrolling at a very unprecedented time of the COVID-19, which has had negative effects on the teaching and learning system and modes delivery. To some large extent face-to-face learning has been replaced by the blended digital platforms.

It is pivotal to mention that in 2020/21 the University held its first virtual orientation which was blended with face-to-face meeting in the various campuses. In 2021/22 the whole orientation programme will be through the virtual platform.

Student Affairs office is essential for all students enrolled at the University. It is a one stop shop for all students who need support services such as:

* Counselling services
* Administrative and SRC services
* Accommodation
* Sports and medical facilities in all the campuses.
* International Students are assisted with their study permits

It is also important to note that the office further works closely with all faculties and units of the University in ensuring holistic development of students.

The whole world and indeed Eswatini has said and taught us a lot about Covid-19. The University expects all students while on campus to observe the UNESWA COVID-19 regulations, e.g. observing social distancing, wearing of mask, sanitizing and proper washing of hands.

Last but not least, students are encouraged to focus on education so as to graduate within the specified time of their programmes. Be warned, stay away from harmful drugs and alcoholic abuse, missing/absenting yourself from classes.

With these few remarks, allow me take this opportunity to welcome and wish you all a wonderful and educative experience at the University.

Thank you!!