



HEKIMA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

A CONSTITUENT COLLEGE OF THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF EASTERN AFRICA

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OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL

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Dear Hekima Family, Friends and Partners,

A Successful Year 2023-2024: A Narrative Report

Blessed Solemnity of the Sacred Heart!

The Academic Year 2023-2024 officially closed on 31 May 2024! It is a year to remember with much gratitude, a year of vision, renewal, creativity, new growth and development. We have arrived at the close of this academic year with hearts filled with gratitude. We all must thank the Good Lord for all the blessings God has bestowed on us at Hekima University College (HUC). We also thank each other for our mutual work and support. It is a good time to say thanks. May God bless all those whose efforts made the year successful. As the African proverb beautifully puts it: "Many minds together are always better than one alone."

We extend our sincere gratitude to Dr. Deogratias Rwezaura, SJ, Dr. Gaspar Sunhwa, SJ, and Fr. Eric Kambale for their service to HUC. We sincerely wish them success in the new work they will undertake in the coming years and look forward to welcoming them back to HUC.

We will keep your hands warm still by expressing our gratitude to three wonderful men who put all their energies into their work at Hekima. We thank Dr. Johnny Thachuparamban, CMI, who served as Dean of JST with admirable dedication. We welcome Dr. Stephen Eyeowa, SJ, the new Acting Dean of JST. We also congratulate Rev. Prof. Patrick Mwanja, HUC external examiner, for working with his team to ensure Tangaza gets University status. Congratulations. We wish them success and consolation in the days ahead.

It has been a real joy to witness and feel the incredible team spirit that has permeated all our activities at HUC. Together, we have embraced a shared vision. We have learned from each other and collaborated in our service for the Common Good. We will continue our serious networking. Here, the image of a spider web comes to mind. Each part is connected to the rest. I sincerely hope we continue to foster and strengthen this network for the good of all at HUC.



**Jesuit School of Theology (JST) and Hekima Institute of Peace Studies & International Relations (HIPSIR)
Jesuit Historical Institute in Africa (JHIA) and Faculty of Theology of the Jesuits of Africa and Madagascar (FTJAM)
Center for Research, Training and Publications (CRTP) and Center for Interfaith Studies in Africa (CISA)**

We are mindful that communication springs from sincere and positive communion and, in turn, fosters communion among all concerned. In the years ahead, we will continue to promote this healthy communion. According to Patrick Lencioni, trust, constructive conflict management, commitment, accountability, and attention to results are at the heart of good leadership. These five elements have to be brewed in appropriate and respectful communication.

We ended the fiscal year 2023 on a positive note. Our financial accounts are not in red. Our Strategic Plan 2024-2030 has been approved by the Board of Trustees. While this is good news, it also demands serious responsibility. We have the task of implementing the plan. We have reduced the cost of electricity at HUC by 95%. This year, 2024, there is an increment of 5% in the salaries of our hardworking staff. We have renovated our infrastructure and beautified HUC. We are adding one new car to ease the movements of our academic and administrative staff. The DPA+F will set up guidelines for vehicle use in the coming days.

During the academic year, we had the good fortune to sponsor several academic conferences that will help keep HUC on the collegiate map. We started the first ever Academic Chair in African Studies. Bishop Rodrigo Mejia, SJ is the first and current holder of this Chair. We managed to get scholarships for some deserving students. The work of our predecessors gained these for us. We are deeply grateful to our donors. We have just received two big library donations from the late Professors Benezet Bujo and Teresia Hinga. May they find favour with God.

We had several first classes (nine) in the JST Class of 2024 this year. That is a record. However, our concerns have not only focused on academic and infrastructural developments. In fact, even those concerns are for the good of the human development of all in the Hekima family. Hekima exists for people and engages in things that help people flourish and unite the community. A faculty retreat for renewal was held at the Nairobi Golf Club in February 2024, where we celebrated important milestones in the lives of our faculty and recognized some who continue to excel. Our non-teaching staff also had renewal time at the Mwangaza Retreat Center. We ensured that Benjamin (our College driver) never had reasons to feel left out. These are a few examples of what we accomplished: expressions of our being, working, playing and praying together. We may not always be without error, but our efforts have always been sincere. There is a good reason to say *we are moving from better to best!*

We look forward to welcoming Peter Cardinal Tuckson, Chancellor of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences and the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences (Vatican), as our Keynote Speaker for the Academic Year 2024-2025. He will address HUC and its friends on 17 August 2024 on the theme: “Re-imagining Power Dynamics in the Ecclesial and Socio-Political Loci: Lessons from Vatican II, Ecclesia in Africa, and Synod on Synodality.”

Why is it necessary to create a space that brings everyone together? Chinua Achebe has an answer:

A man who calls his kinsmen to a feast does not do so to save them from starving. They all have food in their own homes. When we gather together in the moonlit village ground, it is not because of the moon. Every man [and woman] can see it in his [or her] own compound. We come together because it is good for [kinspeople] to do so.

Enjoy your well-deserved break. To our Alumni, make HUC proud. Command respect because it is never given on a silver platter. Seek to be people of value because *agaciro ntikagira igiciro* (value has no price). May all we do remain for the greater glory of God (AMDG).

Thank you, and we look forward to welcoming you back to HUC!



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