

Office of the CEO

Date : April 30, 2025

To : **Staff, Students, Alumni, Clients, and Partners** (ALL)

Subject : **CEO's 5-year Anniversary Statement**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This year marks a significant milestone in the journey of Friendina College—our 5-year anniversary. As I reflect on this incredible journey, I am overwhelmed with pride and gratitude for how far we have come together. What began as an ambitious idea and bold vision to create an inclusive, innovative, student-centered and forward-thinking institution has blossomed into a thriving and dynamic community of learners, educators, and leaders making a difference in the world.

Since our founding on April 30, 2020, amid the COVID-19 pandemic by Ezechiel Kasaka, David Muanda, and Lievin K. Mawongo, Friendina College has remained committed to our core mission: to *empower leaders from all walks of life with the skills they need to succeed in business and give our young people the (basic) education they need for a brighter future*. In just five (5) years, we have become the “Educational Pearl” of Africa by:

- Enrolling **11,509 students** across diverse programs, both on-campus and online.
- Reaching a **global footprint of 36 countries** where our students and partners reside (footprint categorized by respective languages: 24 French-speaking nations, 11 English-speaking nations, and 1 Portuguese-speaking nation).
- Launching **12 new programs** (for Professional Training and Executive Coaching), including our flagship “English as a Second Language (ESL)” program.
- Achieving **national accreditation**, affirming our commitment to academic excellence and continuous improvement.
- Expanding our campus facilities with the opening of the **Friendina College Innovation Centers** in Nairobi (Kenya) and the **Friendina College Community Learning Commons** in Lubumbashi (Democratic Republic of Congo).
- Building partnerships with **27 companies and/or organizations** in Africa, giving students access to real-world learning, internships, and career opportunities.

- Maintaining a **95% student satisfaction rate**, thanks to our personalized support services and dedicated staff.
- Creating **4 scholarships and financial aid programs** to remove barriers to education and training for underrepresented students.

Beyond these numbers, although fascinating, it is only an “outward sign of an inward grace” (see John Wesley, Sermon 16, “The Means of Grace”, 1772). Our true success lies in the people and the personal experiences all of them have had with us in the past five (5) years—empowering students to become well-seasoned employees and executives, educators, entrepreneurs, community leaders, and changemakers. Our alumni are now making a difference across the continent, and we could not be prouder.

Bringing together corporate decision-makers of every background in our classes and coaching sessions has led to multiple business deals, professional networking, and new friendships on an international scale. And today we are very proud of the progress we have made, even though our work here is never finished. We say “THANK YOU” to all our individual and corporate clients who have trusted us, from Governments and State Cabinets to small, medium, and big companies across Africa. Our efforts of becoming the “Educational Mount Everest” of Africa would mean nothing without your support.

This anniversary is not only a celebration of what we’ve achieved, but a call to keep striving. The next five years hold even more promise as we expand our reach, embrace emerging technologies, and continue shaping education that meets the needs of a rapidly changing world. We are charting a bold course forward with upcoming initiatives like our:

- **Modern School Project** (starting as a pilot-project in Kinshasa, Dakar, Abidjan, and Windhoek before expanding elsewhere).
- **The Leadership Corner (TLC)**, a monthly event for sharing, networking and motivating our global students and partners.
- **Education & Leadership Week**, an annual 4-day event designed to inspire, educate and empower students, educators and future leaders.

To every student, staff member, alumni, client, and partner—thank you. Your passion, trust, and dedication are the heartbeat of Friendina College. Together, we have built more than a company—we’ve built a community, a family, and a legacy.

Here’s to the past five years of growth—and to an even brighter future ahead!

With heartfelt gratitude,

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