

WE'VE COME ALONG WAY

WHILE the University of Nairobi holds its 17th graduation ceremony this year, it will also be celebrating its 18th year since it became a fully fledged University.

The university of Nairobi was established in 1970 through an Act of parliament. The idea of a higher institution of education was initiated in 1947 by the then colonial government. The idea was to establish a Technical and Commercial Institute.

The Asian community in Kenya, at the time, was planning to build a college for Arts, Science and Commerce as a living memorial for Mahatma Gandhi.

To avoid duplication, the two decided to merge their interests. In 1954, the Royal Technical College of East Africa was established. In 1952, a foundation stone was laid for construction the Gandhi Memorial building.

BY NJERI KARURU

In June 1961 the Royal Technical College was transformed into the second University College of East Africa. This was a great historical occasion for Kenya because for the first time an African was appointed Chancellor of the University. This was President Julius Nyerere of Tanzania.

In 1964, it was renamed University College, Nairobi. Students in the

faculties of Arts, Science and Engineering were being prepared for the BA and BSc general degrees of the University of London.

Meanwhile, Departments which were previously being administered from Makerere were being transferred gradually to Nairobi. These included the faculty of Veterinary Science and Extra-Mural Studies. The college of Social Sciences was moved from Kikuyu to Nairobi. New departments were also being established during

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