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Services Deteriorate at Health Clinics

By DENNIS ONYANGO

Long queues of waiting patients. Lax staff trickling in one by one. Tales of betrayed hopes and complaints about missing laboratory test results. These are the daily features of the University of Nairobi's Students Health Centre.

A typical day at the Students' Health Centre starts with students streaming from eight o'clock. They would have to be very lucky to find it open. The centre opens its doors at nine and cleaners trickle in, followed about half an hour later by filing clerks. Patients are booked in, and the waiting for the medical staff begins.

On a lucky day, nurses and clinical officers arrive at around ten, greet one another, see a few patients then lock themselves in for tea. Afternoon session begins at around two-thirty. At four the sounds of files being shuffled and scenes of nurses with pouches dangling on their arms indicate that they are leaving.

"It is a big joke," Mr. Johnson Kinywa, a postgraduate biochemistry student at Chiromo campus says.

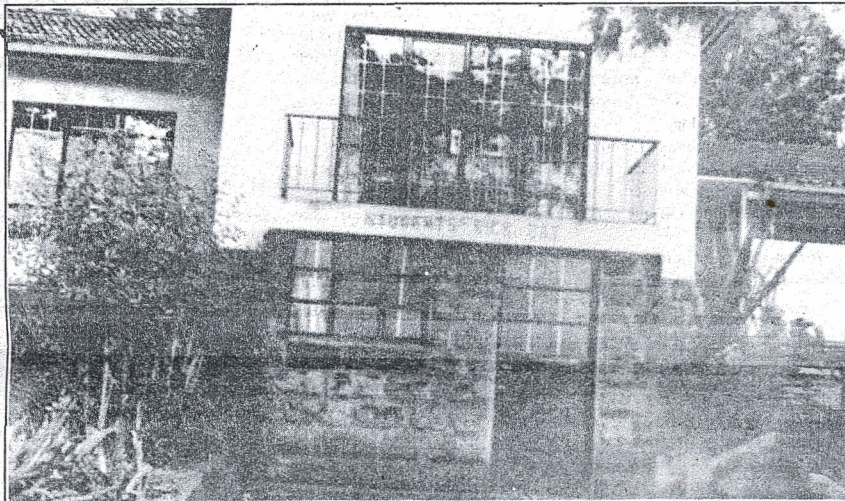
Students complain that they waste a lot of time at the Health Centre and even miss classes. They also lament of the unhygienic conditions at the sick bay and the lack of concern displayed by majority of staff.

A student, Mr. Evanson Amudavi, says sometimes prescriptions disappear or are altered by those giving drugs. In some cases, he said, pharmacists give less potent drugs than the ones prescribed or keep the expensive ones for themselves.

A source at the School of Journalism said he has seen outsiders being treated at the Health Centre because they know particular doctors, a claim a filing clerk at one of the staff clinics supported.

"Outsiders come and get treated under other people's names. Some people have died, some have been sacked, but their files remain here to be used in dubious deals," a clerk said.

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The Students Sick Bay: Theatre for the "big joke."

Picture by Hudson Lijai

Okigbo set to leave ACCE

By OCHUOGA OTUNGE

Dr. Charles Okigbo, the Executive Coordinator of the Nairobi-based African Council for Communication Education (ACCE) is quitting, *the Anvil* has learnt.

But he declined to give details of his resignation, saying he would do so only after consulting with the ACCE president, Mr. Polycarp Omollo Ochilo. Contacted for comment, Mr. Ochilo declined to comment, saying he had not received Dr. Okigbo's letter of resignation.

However he said he had a discussion with Dr. Okigbo last week about his quitting.

Dr Okigbo told *The Anvil*: "I'm moving to new challenges and greener pastures."

The former university don disclosed that he would be taking up a fellowship at the Leicester University in the United Kingdom.

In the recent past, two members of the ACCE staff Mrs Phyllis Gichimo, a deputy documentalist at the ACCE library and Mrs Beatrice Gichohi, a secretary, were given retirement notices effective in August.

The organisation's Publications Officer, Mr Charles Nyambuga, also resigned to take up a job elsewhere.

Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FES), ACCE's main financier has notified the continental body that it will not continue funding its programmes. The withdrawal of FES is likely to destabilise the organisation as it pays most of the employees' salaries.

HELB to launch Trust Fund



Prof. Chacha Nyaiogoti Chacha

By LUCY NDICHU AND
EVERLYN KEMUNTO

The Higher Education Loans Board (HELB) has increased loan recovery by 50 per cent in the last three months, the Secretary, Professor Chacha Nyaiogoti Chacha, says.

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Professor Chacha who was speaking to *The Anvil* reporters in his office, said the board was receiving Sh10 million up from Sh5 million from the past loanees.

He attributed the response to the recent advertisements in the local newspapers calling on past loanees and their employers to get in touch with the board.

"Since the adverts were run in the papers we have been able to improve the loan recovery as more and more graduates can be traced easily," Prof Chacha said.

The secretary noted that the improved recovery system would enable the board to avail loans to all applicants without difficulties. HELB, Prof Chacha said was seeking to have a law enacted to empower the

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