Luyai

# The Anvil

SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM, UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

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# Govt cuts funding to HELB

## ... board directed to be self-reliant

By Titus Mung'ou

**The government has reduced funding to the Higher Education Loans Board (HELB), *The Anvil* has established.**

Consequently, HELB Secretary, Prof Chacha Nyaigotti-Chacha, disclosed that the board will not award equal amounts of loans to university students.

This comes in the wake of skepticism among university students that HELB is poised to award each student Sh 20,000.

"It will be stupid to have a uniform figure because needs (of students) vary," Prof Nyaigotti argued.

HELB got from the government Sh 600m for this academic year, down from the previous Sh 880m. It has been directed to step up the process of loans recovery as a means of sustaining itself.

Prof Chacha indicated that only public university students benefit from loans commensurate with their needs. This is not the case with those in private institutions. "Less than 12 students in private institutions are awarded loans," he said.

HELB's Deputy Secretary, Mr Benjamin Cheboi, revealed that the board is reconsidering its decision to award loans to students who failed to meet the minimum cut-off points to public varsities and had joined private universities.

Consequently, the board is not going to award loans to students on Parallel Programme. This follows the need to assist students from poor families and those who qualified according to the Joint Universities Admission Board.

Prof Chacha called on former university students to co-operate in repaying their loans, which can be ploughed back to benefit students joining higher education institutions.

HELB recovers more than Sh 30m monthly, up from the previous Sh 4m. It is an achievement realised in less than three years. However, loanees who have declined to repay loans to HELB are to be affected by the increase in interest rates raised from 4 per cent to 15 per cent per annum.

Picture Courtesy Nation Media Group

Prof Chacha Nyaigotti-Chacha

The Secretary said HELB will strive to be self-sufficient, relying only on money recovered from loanees. The board still depends on the government for funds.

University of Nairobi student activists are questioning the incorporation of students in private institutions into HELB's scheme, when the board does not have sufficient funds to cater for students in public universities.

Prof Chacha informed *The Anvil* that money allocated to public varsities remains constant even with the private institutions having a share of the cake.

Meanwhile, HELB has discounted claims carried in a local daily that a Kenyatta University student, Doris Makena, had been denied a loan. She had claimed in a letter to the editor that she had applied for a loan from the board, "but failed to get anything" despite her financial incapability and persistent appeals.

Mr Cheboi revealed to *The Anvil* that the student was indeed awarded a first loan of Sh 20,000 on August 12, 1998 and a similar amount on December 18. The money was sent to a bank at Afya Centre where she has an account. Hence the accusation was unjustified.

HELB indicated that it has undertaken punitive measures on students who cheat in their loan applications, though it does not discontinue them as this would ruin their future. Its public relations officer, Mr Otieno Agiro, said plans to sensitize students to apply for loans without irregularities were in place.

# Campus set to relocate

By Gilbert Mogire

**Plans are underway to relocate the Lower Kabete Campus to a yet-to-be identified venue, Prof Francis Gichaga has disclosed.**

He, however, dismissed June 30 as the deadline when the campus should have been vacated. "I understand the fear that you have but rest assured that students welfare is top on our agenda. You won't be adversely affected in the event of the campus shifting places," Gichaga told the students.

The VC was reacting to protests by students from the campus who demanded to be informed about the true position concerning the transfer of the campus to another place, a move estimated to cost the University authorities close to three billion shillings.

The students asked the VC to shelve the plan immediately but Gichaga said "There are decisions I can make here and now on behalf of senate. There are some I cannot. I have limits in terms of power."

Talking to *The Anvil*, Prof Gichaga said the government had asked the university to consider relocating to an alternative venue. He indicated that Lower Kabete campus belongs to the Kenya Institute of Administration where officers in government service get trained. He said the issue came to his knowledge three weeks ago and the university council immediately formed a committee to deliberate on the matter.

"The idea of Mbagathi and Highridge as the likely places to move is just a figment of the imagination of media people. The council committee has not finished its business," Gichaga observed.

On allegations of Joseph Kaguthi being the mastermind behind the relocation plans Prof Gichaga noted that Kaguthi was in attendance at the alleged contentious council meeting in his capacity as Director of Personnel Management.

He, however, promised to get back to the students as soon as he consults the council chairman Prof David Wasawo.

# Varsity health services to go public

By Kithusi Mulonzya and David Mugonyi

**Plans are in the offing to open the University of Nairobi's health services to the public, the University Health Services (UHS) Administrator, Mr P. G. Mbugua has said.**

In an interview with *The Anvil*, Mr Mbugua said this was an effort to avert the financial crisis that has engulfed the university's health department, causing discontent among its clientele. The health facility serves both students and staff of the university.

"Problems here are tied to lack of funds," said Mr Mbugua, adding that the money paid in by students as medical fees could not match the high cost of medical services.

Patients are aggrieved by the poor services in the amenity, ranging from shortage of drugs to long queues at the health centres. Consequently, they have been asked to purchase drugs from designated chemists in the city, most of which are outside the central business district. Only one chemist - Crescent Medical Services - is situated in the CBD on Kigali Street.

Students and members of staff have complained that they are "cheated" into buying medicine without due refund.

Mr Mbugua defended UHS from such allegations, but admitted that there are delays as the necessary documents have to be processed.

An undergraduate electrical engi-

*Turn to page 2*

Picture Courtesy Nation Media Group

Prof. Gichaga: Listen, what can I do?

News

# SOJ barred

By Udoto Nyongesa and Tom Amoro

The Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (KBC) last week clandestinely recorded a talk show programme, *Insight*, blocking out students of the School of Journalism who had been invited to participate.

The students, invited to the show by *The Media Institute* on behalf of Insight Productions Limited, were informed at the KBC gate that the programme had been cancelled. The programme is a co-production of KBC and the *Insight* producers.

When the students contacted the *Media Instutite* to seek clarification, a Mr Martin Ndhiwa, confirmed that the show took off and referred them to the *Insight Production* Director, Chris Kubasu.

Mr Kubasu could not be reached for comment till next week. A staffer at the station regretted that the students had been barred.

On learning that the recording took place, some of the students claimed they had been warned in advance that their presence at the station was not welcome as they are deemed too critical of the station's management.

The students had been invited as part of the audience to pose comments and questions to the panellists discussing "Press Freedom and Ethics".

This is the second time the journalism students have been invited to take part in the production only to be to be turned away at the last minute.

The organisers did not bother to inform the participants in time over the cancellation and no explanation was offered.

The maltreatment of the students comes in the wake of numerous letters of complaint in the daily newspapers critical of the manner in which University of Nairobi students were handled in an *Insight Production* last month.

Mr Alfred Sendeyo, the School's administrative assistant said that on both occasions he had been requested by Kubasu and Makali to mobilise the students for the production.

"No one got back to us to explain what happened", said Mr Sendeyo, lamenting that on both occasions he took the pains to raise a quorum for the *Insight Production* despite the fact that the students are currently sitting their examinations and producing *The Anvil* newspaper - part of their practicals.

# Students to rebuild kiosks

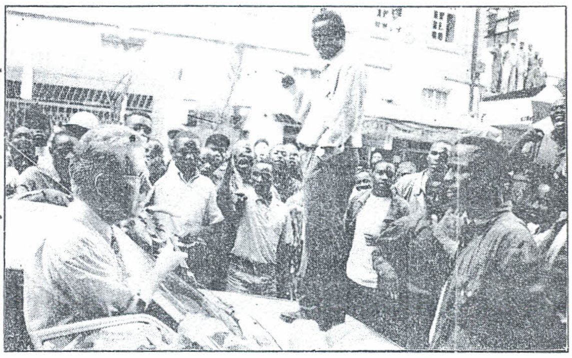
By Alex Kazungu

University of Nairobi students are angry following the demolition of kiosks along Mamlaka road and have vowed to reconstruct them. The kiosks were demolished early this year by the city council and the students are claiming the university had a hand in it.

The kiosks which used to sell groceries and other food stuffs were saving students who cook in their rooms the journey to the market.

"We will rebuild the kiosks and sell tomatoes if need be since the university has refused to give us an alternative ," Mr Joseph Kioko, the University of Nairobi Students Organisation (SONU), Secretary General said.

Picture Courtesy Nation Media Group



Sonu Secretary-General, Joseph Kioko, addresses students from an improvised dais

Addressing a student gathering (Kamukunji), motivated by a recent power blackout, Kioko lamented that the Student Welfare Authority (SWA) has failed to carry out its responsibilities. "It has stopped caring for the welfare of the students. Instead it is making the students life miserable," Mr Kioko said.

The students are also threatening to go on the streets if the university does not buy stand-by generator to provide power in the halls of residence in the event of a power blackout.

Reacting to the students complaints, the SWA Director, Mr Julius Kipng'etich, said that the university will buy a generator when funds will be available. "Presently, the university has no money to that effect," Mr Kipng'etich said.

On the issue of kiosks, the director said that the demolition of kiosks was carried out by the City Council and the university played no role.

Some female students interviewed by *The Anvil* supported the demolition saying that the kiosks had made Mamlaka road a dangerous place especially at night. "The kiosks were harbouring muggers," Jane Otolo, a first year student lamented.

However, Mr Kipng'etich denied the claim: "In any case, students can get groceries from the city market or Club 36."

# Clinic for public

*From page 1*

neering student who identified himself only as Joseph said the processing of his refund had taken him a whole two days.

Asked why the university pharmacy lacks drugs, the administrator said the department was unable to pay suppliers.

Long queues at the clinic have been caused by the reduction of clinical officers from three to one due to financial constraints. Long queues, Mr Mbugua explained, was a non-issue as people must queue at most public places like banks and bus-stops.

Some members of staff feel that they should be given medical allowance to seek health services elsewhere. "The university should give us the money to go for better services at clinics of our choice instead of forcing us to queque for hours on end at its clinics which have no drugs," said a member of staff who requested anonymity.

According to Mr Mbugua, however, they would not use the allowance appropriately and it would not be sufficient to those who are chronically ill.

"Although it is a good idea and easy to manage, it is hard to obtain a health insurance cover for people with chronic ailments such as asthma and hypertension," he noted.

Chuna spokesman, L.K. Kurgat, explained that many of its members were applying for emergency loans as a result of poor medical facilities offered at the clinic.

# Body to investigate journalist's death

By Udoto Nyongesa and Rachel Alwala

A human rights and media watchdog body plans to privately investigate the death of Bernard Liru, a former *East African Standard* correspondent, *The Anvil* has learned.

This was disclosed by the Media Institute Programmes Director, Mr David Makali. He said the body intends to work with the family in a private prosecution as the state investigations "are not doing much on the ground."

The plan comes hot on the heels of last week's UNESCO initiated Press Freedom Week celebrations whose theme: "The Last Hurdle: Unpunished Crimes Against Journalists" were apt since the case of former *East African Standard* correspondent Bernard Liru's death is still pending in court while the maiming of Jim Wallace Gichere, a former *Kenya Times* photojournalist, by the police seems to have been conveniently forgotten.

Mr. Liru died in a mysterious road accident last November 8, at Musasa along the Chavakali-Kapsabet road. According to eye witnesses, there were no bruises on his body, save for a minor mark on the vehicle's front bumper.

When the Police Headquarters was contacted to find out how far the investigation on Liru's death had gone, the spokesman, Mr. King'ori Mwangi said, I cannot comment because I have no details on the case." He instead referred us to the Western Provincial Police Officer, where the death occurred.

**Mr. Gichere's maiming occurred over eight years ago and there is likelihood that the file has been destroyed.**

With regard to Mr. Gichere's maiming, Mr. Mwangi said he had only served in that capacity for one year and could not be able to trace matters that had been pending for long. Mr. Gichere's maiming occurred over eight years ago and there is likelihood that the file has been destroyed. He further added that murder and treason files are the only ones that are retained for longer periods.

Nevertheless, the journalistic spirit in Mr. Gichere is still alive. He celebrated this year's World Press Freedom week on a wheelchair.

# Mbindyo answers SOJ critics

By Otsieno Namwaya and Onesmus Kilonzo

The administration at the Nairobi University's School of Journalism has been accused of being lackadaisical and conservative.

The Media Institute's Executive Director, Mr David Makali, said that as a result "the School has stagnated and the nature of training given there is not keeping up with the trends in journalism globally."

Philip Ochieng, a long serving African journalist, told *The Anvil* that "(the school) is overstaffed with people who are so much into communication theory but without practical experience."

He said the biggest problem of the School is that " the Director is not there much of the time. He is too busy elsewhere, yet he is the decision- maker."

The Director of the School, Dr Joseph Mbindyo, denied the allegation, saying circumstances forced him to be busy all the time. "My duties are multi-faceted since I am not only a director, but also a lecturer and a consultant. I have to take care of all those duties." He said the consultancy work earns the School money. He said he can be accessed at any time by his secretary and the administrative assistant.

Questions abound as to why computers donated to the School in 1992 were diverted to the University of Zambia. The school lacks access to the Internet, where journalism of the future should be centred on.

Makali dismissed the attribution of SOJ problems to financial stringency saying there are so many donors like DANIDA and UNESCO who are willing to assist the School.

"If the Media Institute can be able to raise money to conduct its activities, then a committed officer of the School should even find it easier to attract sponsorship because of the name the School has," he added.

The Secretary General of the Kenya Union of Journalists (KUJ), Kihu Irimu, said the School should not ignore criticisms. Instead, it should respond by reassessing itself.

Reacting to these criticisms, Dr Joseph Mbindyo, blamed the woes on financial problems facing the School.

Dr Mbindyo said plans are underway to come up with an updated computer system for training purposes. The school will liaise with the Institute of Nuclear Science, which assembles computers, for that purpose.

He said the 1992 computer donation "fiasco" was caused by "bureaucratic hindrances" between the University of Nairobi and the Danish International Development Agency "and since then, donor funding has been very much restricted."

# Local menu at Royal Media

**By Mary Onyango**

I feel tempted to write this story in Kiswahili to pass my message. Why say this?

Because my interviewee drove the point home when he commented, "It is like we are ashamed of ourselves; we have given up laughing about ourselves, but are instead laughing with Americans and other people."

In short, do we have a culture to be proud of?

Culture is embodied in language, dress and food among other aspects, which we have discarded.

Royal Media Services is ready to take up the challenge where others have either not succeeded, or ignored.

In an interview with *The Anvil,* the General Manager of Radio Citizen and Television Network, Mr Karanja Njoroge, said he was happy with the progress of the venture, considering that he had to wait from September 1997 to August 1998 to be allocated frequencies.

The 24-hour Swahili broadcast will reach listeners in Nairobi and its environs on 106.7 FM ; Nyeri 104.3 FM ; Nyambene in Meru 94.3 FM and Nakuru 100.5 FM . "Licences to cover Timboroa and Coast at a later date have also been issued," adds Mr Njoroge.

However, he declined to comment on what it takes to get a licence, dismissing it as "another story altogether!"

He feels the dream to give Kenyans their choice has become a reality. With a staff of about 25 and the groundwork yet to be completed, RMS is set to start full broadcasts.

The station currently on test signal is operating Swahili radio and television services. Television is transmitting the radio news signal and devoting the rest of the hours to CNN. Transmitters are to be co-sited with the existing ones belonging to the Kenya Broadcasting Corporation at a fee. He reckons that broadcasting is a very high-cost investment and deliberate planning for resources must be put in place.

The station's mission is to offer good quality entertainment and information programmes. According to Mr Njoroge, good quality implies giving our culture priority.

RMS have adopted the policy of tapping the vast potential in local talent. He thinks Kenyan artists have been given a raw deal and this is the time to give them a voice to gain acceptability. Kenyans want to be entertained by fellow Kenyans, and this is evidenced by the fact that the youth now compose songs in vernacular but blend it with English.

Local musicians who have been ignored by other stations will be allocated air-time. His view on royalties to musicians is that they must be protected. The Music Society of Kenya has not been fair to the musicians by tightening grips on royalties, while ignoring the issue of promotion on Kenyan media. He says in the past, KBC has promoted more Zairean music than Kenyan, in a way that ashames the nation!

The head of news department, Mr Herman Igambi, reiterates that the station will basically be a news station covering as much local news as possible.

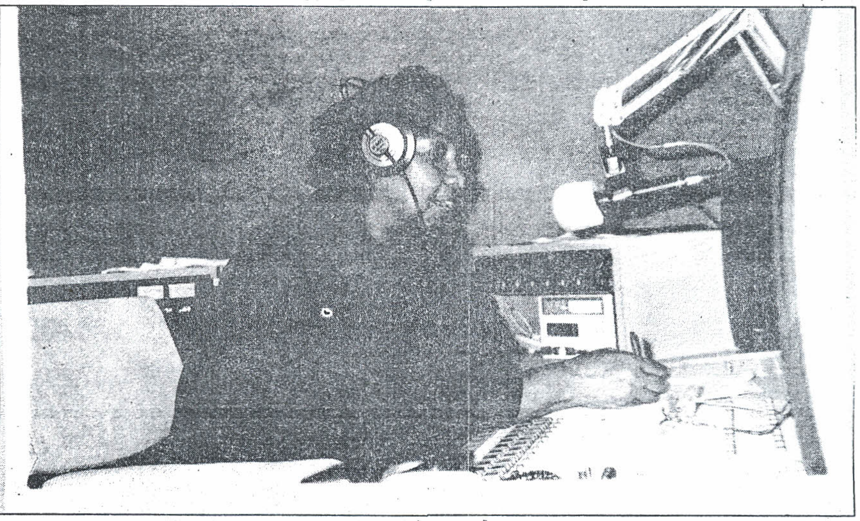
Listeners suggest that some improvements are needed if the station is to achieve its objectives. Mr Daniel Aghan notes that there is inconsistency in the simultaneous use of Kiswahili and English. He also says hard-rock music at 10.00 pm does not put one to sleep!

His preference would be our music by musicians like Daudi Kabaka, Mbaraka Mwinshehe and others. David Mugonyi and Maina Kigaga, think standard Swahili is lacking as they have noticed some direct translations.

Although the station is a private enterprise, Mr Njoroge says it will not accept adverts which dehumanise African customs.

Asked whether the Nation Media Group and other emerging stations pose a threat, Mr Njoroge ascertained that Citizen is out to provide a menu which will build a credible corporate image.

Picture by Mary Onyango



Amina Fakii, a veteran broadcaster, does her thing at the new Citizen Radio

# Poverty alleviation blueprint queried

**By Tom Amoro**

The government's plan to eradicate poverty by the year 2015 is too ambitious, two University of Nairobi lectures have said.

Speaking to *The Anvil* separately, Dr Gerishon Ikiara and Dr Walter Odhiambo said many people are critical of the government achieving its target within 16 years because its policy implementation record has been poor.

However, Dr Ikiara of the Institute of Diplomacy and International Studies said: "It can be done. We have seen Asian Tigers (Taiwan, South Korea, Hong Kong, Indonesia and Singapore) reduce poverty levels from 60 per cent to less than 10 per cent between the 1960's and 1970's."

But he said this depended on the government's seriousness and commitment, adding that similar declarations in the past were not implemented. He cited Sessional Paper Number 10 of 1965 which also focused on poverty, but nothing came out of it.

The Poverty Eradication Plan envisages universal primary education by 2015 as well as bringing access to primary healthcare to within five kilometres of all rural households in high and medium potential areas.

The first phase of the the plan, launched by President Moi in March is to be implemented by the year 2004. This phase aims at 20 per cent reduction in the number of households living in absolute poverty.

In the second phase, 2005 to 2010, absolute poverty should be down by half, with the final face 2015 devoted to consolidating the gains made.

According to statistics in the 1998 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), about 12.6 million of the country's estimated population of 30 million live below the poverty line.

Dr Odhiambo, a senior lecturer at the Department of Economics, said the government might not succeed in eradicating poverty within such a short time due to widespread unemployment and the collapse of infrastructure.

The two dons said, to win support in the implementation of the scheme, the government must first eliminate corruption, which has wrecked the economy.

# Policy affects Education

**By Lairumbi Geoffrey**

When the working party on education and manpower training was set up in 1985, little did it envisage the negative effects that its policies would have on higher education.

The party was mandated to review the country's entire education philosophy, policies and objectives, and formulate a policy document on education and manpower training in Kenya for the future.

The 17-member working party comprised of people well conversant with education including business executives, clergymen, academics, trade unionists and top civil servants.

In May 1986 the party proposed, as a matter of priority, that education authorities examine and make proposals on cost-sharing as a strategy for financing education and training in the country.

The argument of the working party was that education was increasingly consuming the largest share of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), which stood at KSh 700 million in 1986.

These recommendations were implemented through the introduction of Pay As You Eat (P.A.Y.E) system and payment of fees. The changes left students, especially those from poor families, in a dilemma.

Although there were no immediate drop-outs due to non-payment of fees, students with shaky financial backgrounds started earning marginal degrees.

What this meant is that instead of devoting maximum time on studies, students were to shoulder an extra burden of subsistence.

Besides these effects at the student level, the policy implication meant that the universities could no longer enjoy full support from the Exchequer. Universities were therefore required to find alternative sources of funding for their operations. The widely publicised of these was the "income generation" through consultancies and research.

When reality finally knocked on the door, there was growing dissatisfaction among the members of the academic staff. This culminated in the formation of University Academic Staff Union (UASU), to champion for staff welfare.

The dismissal of this body and the subsequent denial for union status gave them the "power to read and do all that appertains to their area of specialisation!"

Income-generating syndrome has preceded the mission of local universities being centres of academic excellence. The introduction of the parallel programme attests to this.

# SWA in pay deficit

**By Jesse Osman**

The Students Welfare Authority (SWA) faces a deficit to the tune of three million shillings every month to meet its payroll demands, the director Joseph Kipng'etich has told *The Anvil*.

Responding to allegations that SWA has not been remitting workers' deductions to their co-operative, Chuna, Kipng'etich said that his department, like any other, on campus, is faced with financial difficulties.

Said he: "Our gross payroll stands at Ksh19 million while we only receive 16 million from the university finance office."

The director added that SWA tries to remit whatever it has to the co-operative.

Chuna manager, Edward Nabangi, vice-chairman, L. K. Kurgat, and treasurer Ruth Omware indicated that they were facing financial constraints because the university and the SWA were not remitting their employees deductions in time.

However, the university financial officer, Mr E. W.Khakame, refuted Chuna's claims, saying that the Vice-chancellor gives first priority to the workers' co-operative. He further said that Chuna "should give the true picture."

EDITORIAL

# Campus relocation: Let the truth prevail

In February this year, University of Nairobi students, while protesting against the irregular allocation of some parts of Karura Forest, sent a strong message. As future leaders they had a moral responsibility to protect the country's natural resources. This is probably a message shared by many other Kenyans.

The inconsiderate allocation of public land to apparently well connected individuals, referred to as 'private developers', is an issue that has in the recent past stirred emotions.

What concerns many is the fact that forests, public toilets as well as school land have been grabbed with the government remaining indifferent thus necessitating accusations of complicity.

Recently, students of Lower Kabete campus protested against what they termed "land grabbing of their campus," and its subsequent relocation.

It is believed the reason for this is not to allow for the extension of the neighbouring Kenya Institute of Administration, but to allow peaceful settlement by "developers" who it is said have grabbed the neighbouring land formerly owned by Kenya Agricultural Research Institute and Nairobi Juvenile Remand Home.

If that is a misconception, then, the government ought to give a definite explanation for the intention to avert the growing tension among students. This would demonstrate its commitment to the much vaunted fight against corruption. As things stand now, questions abound as to why it has become suddenly important to relocate the campus.

*THE ANVIL* is a School of Journalism student training newspaper. The views expressed in this newspaper are not necessarily those of the School of Journalism or the University of Nairobi

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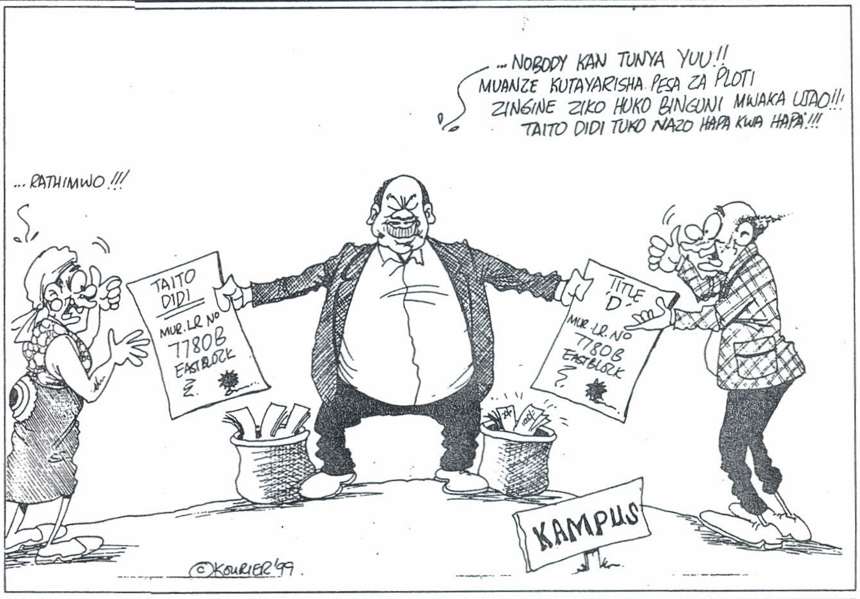


OPINION

# COMESA: Four years after

By Tom Indimuli

Picture Courtesy Nation Media Group

**President Moi and counterparts in a past regional meeting**

Since its inception in 1994, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) has not been able to meet its goals largely because of political and economic setbacks. These have delayed the implementation of programmes.

Formed under the aegis of the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern Africa (PTA), it aims at forging economic partnership through customs union to ensure free movement of goods and services. However, the five-year-old, 21-member body has faced numerous obstacles in its endeavour.

The major drawback is the raging political conflicts among member countries. Currently, peace is still elusive in the Ethiopia-Eritrea border war, civil war in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Burundi ethnic strife and Sudan problem, to mention a few.

These conflicts have kept many potential investors at bay. Unfortunately, COMESA has no capacity to mediate in the conflicts. The mandate is bestowed on The Organisation of African Unity (OAU). Piecemeal and slow implementation of agreed resolutions by member states may also end up being counter-productive.

Member states committed themselves to reduce tariffs by 80% as from October 1996. Only 14 of the 21 members have attained this. It is hoped that by next year, all countries will have achieved this.

There is poor economic performance, high inflation rates and corruption among member country's governments which scare off investors.

Despite these setbacks, COMESA's performance on the whole can be evaluated as a success. There has been a step forward in the removal of tariff barriers. Currently, two countries have published the 90% tariff reduction, eight countries 80%, one country 70% and three 60%.

Intra-COMESA trade is valued at US $4.2 billion with a growth rate of 20% per annum, more than 400% increase from US$ 823 million in 1985.

The establishment of a COMESA Court of Justice will ensure proper interpretation and application of the provisions of the treaty and to adjudicate any disputes that may arise among member states regarding the interpretation and application of the treaty provisions

In the transport sector, the COMESA Carriers licence has been introduced to replace the national road permits. Currently operational in nine mainland countries, the licence enables COMESA transporters to move freely within the region.

The process of currency convertibility is underway and member states will no longer have to convert their currency to the dollar while undertaking international trade transactions.

The monetary harmonisation programme has been put in place to allow COMESA to eventually achieve a monetary union. The adoption of single COMESA Customs Document (COMESA-CD) to replace the multiplicity of documents will ease customs formalities.

The setting up of a Website (http:comesa.int) is a great stride towards achieving the desired goals. This provides information about business interests from within and outside the COMESA region. Information is provided on all export and import opportunities available in each country.

COMESA will develop members' overall economies through integration of trade and investment. For instance, through reduction of tariffs, 50% of Kenya's exports are destined to the COMESA region.

To strengthen its capacity, COMESA is considering a move to establish a Common External Tariff (CET) or customs union by the year 2004 and attain an economic community status by the year 2025. The body plans to stimulate economic development by adopting an import substitution policy as an alternative to the present export orientation strategy.

As COMESA member countries Heads of State meet in Nairobi on the 24th and 25th of this month, it will be prudent for them to take stock of the performance of the body bearing in mind it was set up with the prime goal of achieving a free trade area status by the year 2000. The set target is only months away. Therefore at the end of this annual summit, loose ends in the treaty should be tightened appropriately.

This will only be achieved if COMESA betters the profile of the region as an investment location by working with member states to reduce the barriers to investing and doing business in the region.