

Prof. Ndetei defends his DSc



“There is hope of mental health for all”

This was the message delivered by Prof. David Musyimi Ndetei, during his Doctor of Science defence at the University of Nairobi (UoN).

The title of his thesis ‘Studies and Works in Mental Health to Inform Practice and Policy in the African Social Cultural Context,’ presented Ndetei’s research journey Psychiatry that commenced in 1979. Ndetei authored six books, 21 monographs, over 250 publications in professional journals and book chapters, he has also been published in over 700 articles in the national newspapers and has appeared on numerous

radio and TV shows.

An evaluation panel, led by Prof. George Magoha, Vice Chancellor, UoN, took Prof. Ndetei through a rigorous exercise that culminated in an oral public defense of his work to-date. In his public presentation, Prof. Ndetei took the audience through the various thematic areas he has researched on. Grouping his papers into 14 sections, Ndetei took the audience through the study sites that included highlights of his findings on mental health in hospitals, schools, refugee camps and villages from different parts of the country. Through his initiatives, Prof. Ndetei,

with the help of his students, research assistants and community leaders, was able to demystify and educate the public on mental health.

This is the third Doctor of Science degree candidate that the University of Nairobi has evaluated since its inception in 1956. In August 2013, Prof. Geoffrey M. Ole Maloiy of the Department of Veterinary Anatomy and Physiology graduated with a Doctor of Science, titled ‘Studies in Integrative Animal Energetics and Metabolism: Structural and Environmental Correlates’. In 2008, Prof. John Kokwaro the first DSc graduate from UoN, successfully presented his thesis on ‘Medicinal Plants of East Africa.’

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