

DECEMBER 2013

# Varsity **FOCUS**

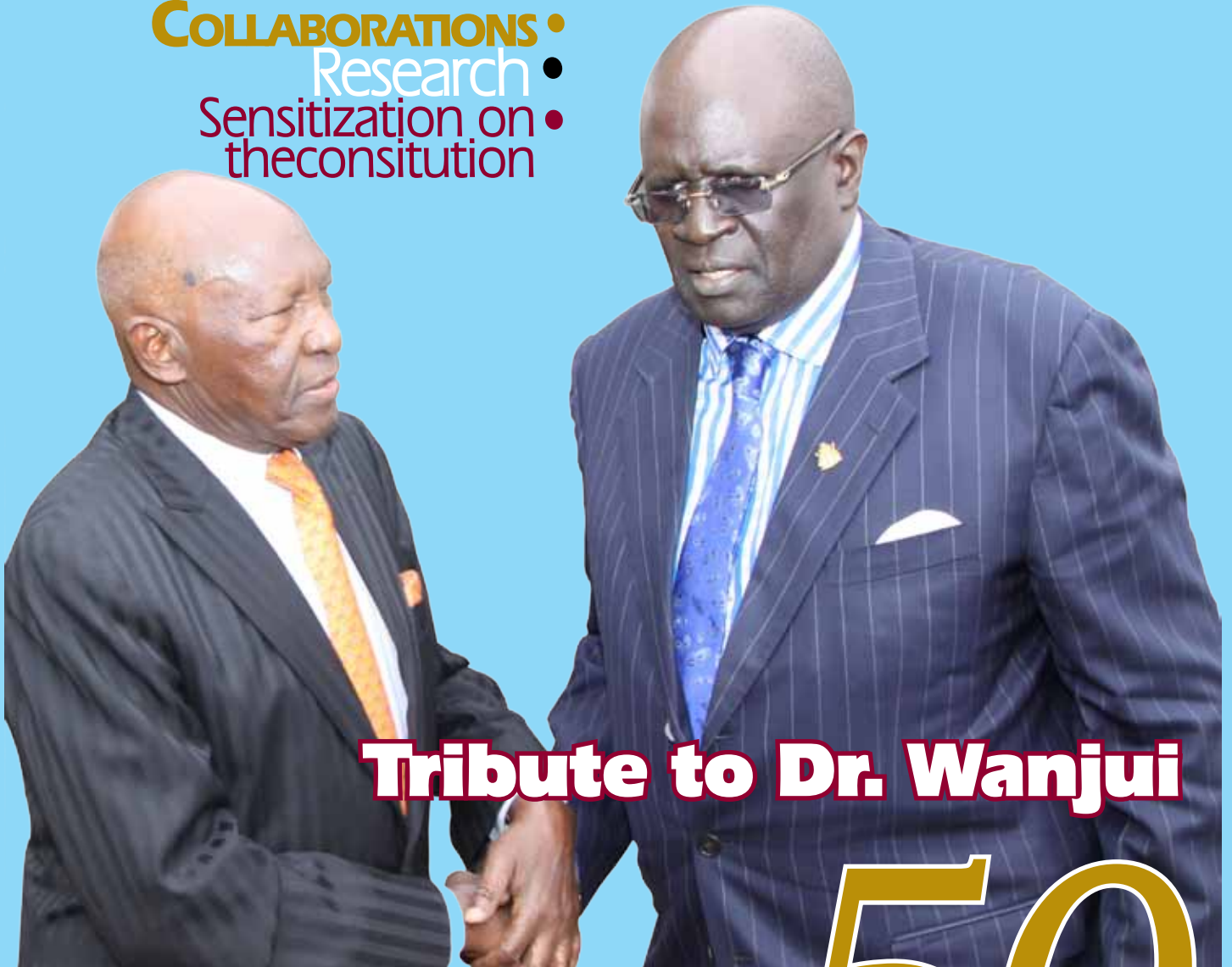
*A magazine of the University of Nairobi*

Student Affairs •

**COLLABORATIONS** •

Research •

Sensitization on  
the constitution •



**Tribute to Dr. Wanjui**

**UoN celebrates  
congregations as Kenya hits**

**50**



## **Our Vision**

A world-class university committed to scholarly excellence.

## **Our Mission**

To provide quality university education and training and to embody the aspirations of the Kenyan people and the global community through creation, preservation, integration, transmission and utilization of knowledge.

## **Our Core Values**

- freedom of thought and expression;
- innovativeness and creativity;
- good governance and integrity;
- team spirit and teamwork;
- professionalism;
- quality customer service;
- responsible citizenship;
- national cohesion and inclusiveness.



## Varsity**Focus**

### **Published By**

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# Inside

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**Years of contributing**  
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**economic growth**



Completion of the  
constitution sensitization  
programme

*The University of Nairobi has developed several multimedia publications on the implementation of the Constitution 2010.*



Adieu,  
Dr. Joseph Barrage  
Wanjui

## UoN hosts ACU Centenary Celebrations

School of Journalism and Mass  
Communication's Annual Media Summit  
sets the foundation for increased research  
and scholarship

# Reflecting on 2013 achievements

*Our final edition of the 2013 Varsity Focus highlights recent activities of the last quarter of this year and in a nutshell, reflects on some of the major accomplishments.*

This year, UoN joins the nation in celebrating 50 years of independence coinciding with the University of Nairobi's 50th graduation ceremony

The University has so far graduated over 151,000 high quality graduates to the market, highlighting its strategic importance in providing quality human

resources to drive the country towards the attainment of the Kenya Vision 2030. Indeed the development of this country and the contribution by the University of Nairobi are quite inseparable if the role our alumni play in key sectors locally and internationally is anything to go by.

On linkages the University has been busy internationalizing its profile. Born out of these efforts are increased collaborations with leading international universities and organizations worldwide in turn increasing our research portfolio and increased staff and student exchanges. In this regard, many universities from the US, UK, China, South Africa, Turkey among others have firmed up their relations with UoN.

The University has also hosted local and foreign dignitaries in intellectual discourse with students and staff. Among the local leading personalities are the retired President, Hon Mwai Kibaki, who interacted with staff and students on developments in the country since independence.

Students on their part have been active in participating in international forums and engaging in innovative ventures. SONU Secretary General, Edith Murigi was in Malawi interacting with student leaders from other countries on youth leadership. Others such as the Women Students Welfare Association (WOSWA) have been instrumental in supporting the girl child in marginalized areas with sanitary towels. The University just concluded its programme on sensitization of staff on the constitution. The programme, which began in August this year, targeted students, staff and alumni. The outcome of this process was an enlightened community that can exploit opportunities provided by the constitution. Other outcomes were several publications including six books and a video. An online resources depository is also available.

These are among the stories which constitute our 2013 final edition of the Varsity Focus.

I hope you enjoy reading and please give us your feedback.

**CHARLES E. SIKULU**

## Over 50 years of developing quality human resources for the international market



**Prof. George A.O. Magoha, Vice-Chancellor.**

2013 has been an exciting year for the University of Nairobi in terms of revitalizing our core agenda of teaching, research and corporate social responsibility. The University improved its performance in the Ranking Web of Universities (Webometrics) 2013 by being ranked top in Kenya and position 14 in Africa. At world level the University is now in position 1624.

Although the University was incepted over fifty years ago, it is joining the nation in celebrating 50 years of independence. The University has keenly taken up its role of participating in the maintenance of scientific standards, the provision of skilled manpower required by the industry, government

and other sectors of the economy and most fundamentally to the accumulation of knowledge and understanding.

In 50 years, the University has been responsible for the production of 151,000 alumni, majority of whom are deployed in the public and private sectors locally and internationally.

The University has also maintained and extended links and collaborations with other institutions of higher learning all

over the world. Our staff continue to make exemplary achievements on teaching and research fronts with their ability to think global and act local.

The challenges that the University is facing in the wake of the ever increasing demand for quality services amidst diminishing resources can be daunting. But in keeping to its vision of world class excellence and as part of Kenyan society, the University is rising to play its rightful role, guided by principles of good corporate governance, responsiveness and team work and professionalism.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the government, benefactors and donors as well as well-wishers who have continued to support us. Further, I would like to thank our staff and students, for without their unfailing dedication to the objects and functions of the University, we would not have achieved so much. I appreciate our alumni; they have done us proud and from all accounts continue to be worthy ambassadors of their alma mater.

The University will continue to forge ahead in the task of teaching, research, development and consultancy, thus contributing directly to capacity building, solving the countries health, education, economic, cultural and development problems.

*The University has been responsible for the production of 151,000 alumni.*

# University of Nairobi's 50 Years of contributing **to Kenya's social economic growth**

*In 2013, the nation celebrates 50 years of independence*

The nation has taken gigantic strides in development, and it is believed that the architects behind the progress is the courageous, committed, dedicated and visionary leaders at the social, economic and political level. Even as the nation reflects on 50 years of nationhood, one cannot ignore the role played by the University of Nairobi in the development processes of this country.

The University was incepted in 1956 at a colourful ceremony attended by representatives from the Kenya Colony. The University then christened Royal College had an intake of about 400 students pursuing courses at certificate and diploma level. From such humble beginnings, the University has grown exponentially to virtually all courses at all levels with over 70,000 students serviced by 7,000 academic, technical and administrative staff.

From the Royal Technical College, the University evolved in response to the social, economic and political realities of the day. The realities were based on the fact that the University is essentially public property, established and funded with specific goals and objectives and therefore often called to render an account from time to time of tangible achievements which justify growing public investment. In 50 years then, the University has contributed to the social, economic and



**First Chancellor, UoN, the late President Jomo Kenyatta confers PhD to a graduand.**

political development of Kenya through achievements in academia, research and corporate social responsibility. The magnitude of the contribution has been summarized succinctly “It is not an exaggeration to say that if all the people that the University of Nairobi has educated and trained were to stop working today, Kenya would come to a standstill”.

Many third world countries, Kenya included, look towards their higher institutions of learning for the type of knowledge and information that would protect and guarantee their national interests, objectives and ways of life. For mankind, this ensures security from ignorance, disease, hunger and exploitation. One of the major objectives of the University then has been to participate in the maintenance of scientific standards, provision of skilled manpower required by industry, government and other sectors of the economy and more fundamentally, the accumulation of knowledge and understanding. The University has transformed into a source of intellectual discourse becoming the choice destination for town hall type of meetings by international scholars seeking to engage Kenyans on development issues. In the past five years, the university has hosted senators, prime ministers, and more recently retired presidents.

At 50 years, the University of Nairobi is an active, fact finding, soul searching community. It debates issues and proposes solution for adoption by society. In collaboration with government and NGOs, staff and students have spearheaded initiatives to find solutions to problems such as

rapid population growth, poverty and disease. Research carried out at the University has been key in enhancing knowledge and properly accelerating socio-economic progress. Such research has made the nation of Kenya able to compete internationally in the struggle for scientific and technological progress. The University has been identified with research on low cost housing technologies; release of new bean, maize, peas and pigeon peas varieties’, development of mala, yoghurt and uji; research on population planning’, HIV/AIDS; alternative sources of energy including low cost windmills; development of bio-fix a legume inoculant , amongst others.

*The University of Nairobi boasts of 151,000 alumni, people who have received education and training in almost all known areas, fields and disciplines of study, research and training*

The University has also been a reservoir of creative talent with students providing education and entertainment programs on mass media. The numerous plays, poems performed by student groups, University Choir, Free Travelling Theatre, receiving enthusiastic accolades and the birth of various artists is the pride not only of the University but the nation of Kenya. Artist John Sibi Okumu, Odingo Hawi, Mumbi Kaigwa, Billy Kaigwa, Njeri Luseno, ad nasuem.

The University of Nairobi boasts of 151,000 alumni, people who have received education and training in almost all known areas, fields and disciplines of study, research and training. The University has provided the nation with a large pool of highly educated and trained professional and technical experts in an extremely wide variety of disciplines and domains of human endeavor. It is these people who today occupy vital positions and play key roles in Kenya’s economic, social and political life. In fact the University of Nairobi has midwived the entire higher education sector in the country by ‘donating’ academic staff and chief officers to firm up the foundation of these institutions. From Kenyatta University College in the 70s and 80s to currently Embu University College, the UoN has given birth to seven institutions of higher learning. It is these individuals who constitute the vast majority of middle and senior officers, professionals in government ministries, commissions, private

business, parastatals and NGOs.

The University of Nairobi can be judged by the number of kilometers the engineers it has produced plan and supervise in the country. It can be argued that there is probably no major road or infrastructural development in Kenya, since independence that has not been without the involvement and participation of UoN engineers, planners, designers, supervisors in one capacity or another. Similarly, the University can be judged by how the medical professions – doctors, nurses, technicians, pharmacists, public health officers - that it has produced are contributing to tackle the problems and enhancing the health of Kenyans'. The professionals, officers and technical experts who constitute the backbone of our agricultural, industrial, commercial, banking, public administration and education systems are graduates of the University. It is not in question that Kenya has benefited in economic, political and social aspects from the services of these people, who in many cases are the only ones available to the country.

The role of the University in creating knowledge is a charge to contribute to the total stock of understanding and technology of action available to Kenya. This activity has taken the responsibility of providing new and deeper insights into all aspects of our national realities and to nurture

new and better explanations, descriptions and tools for prediction, foresight and action that enable us to make better decision and managing our affairs more effectively and efficiently. This is enshrined succinctly in Mwalimu Julius Nyerere's words (1963) 'The University must be a center of objective criticism and thinking and on all research and teaching, the University has to be as objective as humanly possible. Recently then, the University of Nairobi became the first government agency to take up a leadership role in the implementation of the constitution when it launched a rapid results initiative to sensitise the university community on the provisions of the constitution. This 100 day journey opened vast and lasting opportunities for growth and prosperity of the wider university community.

The University of Nairobi joins the Kenya at 50 celebration with a clear, recorded contribution and it continues to make a crucially important, irreplaceable and indispensable contribution to the life and welfare of Kenyans and to the future social, economic and political development of the nation. We have vital lessons to learn "that the educated run educational programs in the country, that the best qualified people lead our institution of higher learning. They are better placed to find solutions to the problems which make it impossible for more Kenyans to live above the minimum wage line".



**Retired  
President,  
Daniel  
Toroitich  
Arap Moi  
(right) B.M  
Gecaga**



# Adieu, Dr. Joseph Barrage Wanjui



**Chairman of Council, Dr. Idle Omar Farah with Dr. Joseph Barrage Wanjui.**

After ten years at the helm, Dr Joseph Wanjui, has come to the end of his tenure as Chancellor, Dr. Joseph Barrage Wanjui, was appointed on June 17th 2003, by the former president, H.E. Mwai Kibaki, in what was viewed as an important step in bringing the Chancellor closer to the staff and students. He hit the ground running and has never stopped.

‘It was your choice to come to this University, this investment has paid off; he would tell the cohort of graduating class. But, that did not mean that they were to forget the bigger things waiting that include opportunities to start or enhance careers and now, that they were more complete in terms of knowledge, to put it into good use to make them powerful.

Dr. Joseph Barrage Wanjui is a father and a parent and like all good parents, he believes in discipline. He has appreciated the parents and guardians in the University Community for their sacrifice and commitment in ensuring that their children go through University. ‘‘It has not been easy to do this as the world and national economy continues to falter. This has not stopped parents also from continuing to offer support and proffer advice’’.

Dr. Joseph Barrage Wanjui has challenged the University to maintain and provide the kind of graduate who will play a bigger role in the state. ‘‘Our graduates must go out to create employment, to be self-employed so that there is growth. In the challenging times that we live in,

it is individuals who are growing the economy and the graduate, who has been privileged to be educated must view themselves as the linchpin from which opportunities can be created for others’’.

Dr. Joseph Barrage Wanjui brought in a new spirit into the University; he added experience from industry to give value to the activities of the University. He has

*‘‘It was your choice to come to this University, this investment has paid off’’*



**Dr. Wanjui with Vice-Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha shortly after presiding over the 49th Graduation Ceremony at the Chancellor’s Court in August 2013. Looking on is Mrs. Anne Wanjui.**

motivated the University to recognise and use its diverse resources to keep the lead as a centre of excellence. This new spirit echoes a sentiment voiced in 1964, by Dr Julius Gikonyo , the then Minister for Education that one little island, oblivious of the changes going on around it, remain in Kenya, the Royal College Nairobi. It is not enough to change a name, but a fundamental change in the administration and spirit is required. It is not in doubt that the appointment of Dr. Wanjui, with his vast experience and long service as CEO, with business acumen and sound management principles heralded some fundamental change in spirit and the administration of the University.

When Dr. Wanjui was first

appointed Chancellor, he stated that “the status quo was not an option” and therefore we must introduce change to the way we do things. This inspired management to restructure the University, introduce performance targets and appraisals, and develop an intense training for change management.

Dr. Wanjui can take pride in the University; it took bold steps even in hiring top managers and being unshakeable in its commitment to achieve excellence. His words that a world class university is one that

society admires and emulates have been echoed in the University of Nairobi taking a leadership role, being a point of reference for the nation, and the City of Nairobi where she draws her name. As we bid adieu to Dr. Wanjui, we do so strong in the knowledge that the University is not an ivory tower; it is not on a pedestal but rather, is engaging in programs and processes that accelerate the social economic development of Kenya.

*Adieu to you, Dr. Joseph Barrage Wanjui.*

***We will continue to revitalise and engineer ourselves daily, being audacious in our plans, goals and objectives. That is the way Joseph Barrage Wanjui has taught by example, and it is the way to go.***

# Parliament Speakers engage UoN community on the Constitution

*'It is the role of every Kenyan to uphold and implement the Constitution.'* This was the message echoed during a public lecture held at the University of Nairobi, by the Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon. Justin Muturi and the Speaker of the Senate, Hon. Ekwee Ethuro while discussing the role of the parliament of Kenya in the implementation of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010.

While sharing his thoughts and insights on the topic, Hon. Muturi took the audience through the journey of the development of the constitution dating back to 1992. He highlighted the importance of politicians constantly consulting academia and experts' opinions while serving in various parliamentary committees. It was noted that although Parliament has faced different challenges in implementing the Constitution,



**The Speaker of the Senate, Hon. Ekwee Ethuro, Vice-Chancellor, University of Nairobi, Prof. George Magoha and the Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon. Justin Muturi, and DVC A&F Prof. Mbithi proceed to Taifa Hall for a public lecture.**

Kenyans should be assured of Parliament's commitment to deliver on their mandate.

Hon. Ethuro commended the University of Nairobi for being the first government agency to take the initiative to implement the constitution. He urged Kenyans to understand the Constitution and be part of the implementation process.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha said that the interaction with the Parliament affirms the University's consultative and integrative approach with key stakeholders in the task of sensitizing the University community on the constitution. He added that involvement of partners in the

process is one way of practicing the "Nyumba kumi" initiative at the corporate level.

Among the issues raised by the audience included the challenges being faced in the implementation of the Constitution, issues of an uneasy truce between the public demands and the interests of politicians undermining the provisions of the Constitution, gender inequities in various entities as well as the challenge of equal employment opportunities in the Counties.

The lecture held in Taifa Hall, were part of the activities undertaken by the University to enlighten students, staff and alumni on the contents of the Constitution 2010.



**Dean, School of Law, Prof. Patricia Kameri-Mbote during the colloquium. Inset a participant makes her contribution.**



# Women challenged on Constitutionalism

Messages on women's empowerment prevailed during the official opening ceremony of a two-day Colloquium on Women and the Constitution of Kenya (2010) recently at the University of Nairobi. During the event, women were challenged by different speakers and the University of Nairobi Free Travelling Theatre to take a leadership role in determining the country's destiny.

The two-day event dubbed 'Women and the Kenya Constitution (2010): Opportunities and Challenges' is a celebration of the journey by Kenyan women in the struggle for a new constitution, the opportunities and promises as well as the challenges that they face in benefiting from the various constitutional provisions.

*During the event, women were challenged by different speakers and the University of Nairobi Free Travelling Theatre to take a leadership role in determining the country's destiny.*

Officiating the colloquium on behalf of the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Devolution and Planning, Hon. Anne Waiguru, Planning Principal Secretary, Eng. Peter Mangiti, challenged women to take a lead role in the implementation of the Constitution. He highlighted various initiatives by the government in empowering women including the recently launched Uwezo Fund that provides funding opportunities for women and the youth interested in business.

Speaking on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Students Affairs, Prof. Isaac Mbeche, said that the role of women in the realization of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 is as great as that of the implementation of the same. He noted that the academia has a special role to play in the implementation of the constitution and to ensure that these rights and privileges provided for women are indeed actualized.

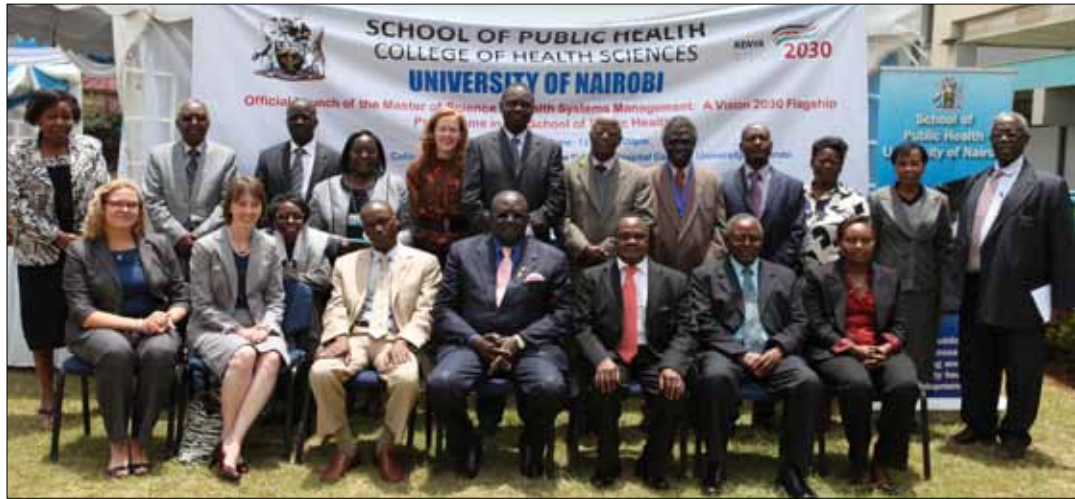
The Colloquium which was organized by the African Women Studies Centre and the School of Law was part of the key series of activities of the Rapid Results Initiative (RRI) Sensitization Programme on the Role of the University in the Implementation of the Constitution of Kenya and Sensitization of the University staff, students, alumni and the public.

# Programme to enhance training in health management unveiled

The University of Nairobi recently launched a Master of Science programme in Health Systems Management. This is a Vision 2030 Flagship Programme specifically developed to address the shortfalls in health systems which hamper service delivery in the health sector.

Officiating during the launch at the School of Public Health, Chief Public Health Officer, Dr. Kepha Ombacho, said on behalf of the cabinet secretary of health, that the government was happy that the University of Nairobi has successfully developed a Master's of Science Programme in Health Systems Management to address the gap of leadership and management skills in the health sector, in addition to other interventions that include integration of leadership and management content in the pre-service training curriculum.

The programme intends to train students who will be able to provide team leadership for aligning resources to improve health services delivery and strengthen critical health



**University staff and stakeholders during the launch of health programme.**

systems for improved health outcomes as well as support the devolution process of healthcare services at the county levels.

According to Hon Macharia, a national assessment on gaps in Leadership and Management in 2007-per 2008 assessment showed that 61% of the health managers felt inadequately prepared for their current roles due to lack of skills in leadership and health systems management.

The programme will develop capacity in health management in a

diverse and dynamic environment. The course targets professionals working in the health sector. It will apply cutting edge, student centered learning approaches and will expose students to contemporary health management and leadership practices and accord them national and international exposure.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha said that the launch of the programme was a clear indication of the efforts by the University to be proactive in addressing current national, regional and international health care. The first crop of students was admitted in 2013.

*The programme will develop capacity in health management in a diverse and dynamic environment*



**Prof. Henry Mutoro, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs.**

## Prof. Mutoro appointed to head Academic Affairs

Kaimenyi, was appointed Cabinet Secretary for Education.

Before this appointment, Prof Mutoro was the Principal, College of Education and External Studies; a position he held for nine years. Prof. Mutoro is an Associate Professor of Archeology. He studied at the University of Nairobi for his bachelors and master degrees before

proceeding to the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) for his doctoral studies. He served as Deputy Principal, College of Humanities and Social Sciences (1997-2004), Dean, Faculty of Arts (1996- 1997) and Chairman, Department of History (1991- 1996). Prof. Mutoro is a widely published scholar with articles in peer reviewed journals, chapters in books, and has made presentations at numerous conferences and forums.

He is now charged with heading the Academic Division, and will chair the Deans Committee, Senate Appeals Committee, Lecturers Appointments Committee and the Senior Lecturers Appointments Committee.

The government in consultation with the University of Nairobi Council has appointed Prof. Henry W. Mutoro as Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs.

The appointment is effective, October 14, 2013. Prof. Mutoro, has been serving in the same position in an acting capacity since May 2013 when the previous holder, Prof. Jacob

***Prof. Mutoro, had been serving in the same position in an acting capacity since May 2013***

## Director, Board of Postgraduate Studies appointed to KEMI Council

Professor Eunice W. Mutitu has been appointed the Chairperson of the Council of Kenya Education Management Institute (KEMI) for a period of three years with effect from 1st August, 2013. This appointment was contained in a Special Issue of The Kenya Gazette of September 18,

2013, Notice No. 13082.

Prof. Mutitu is the Director of the Board of Postgraduate Studies and Professor of Plant Pathology at the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Nairobi. She brings with her a wealth of experience having served in various capacities and boards including the National Coordinator of the Methyl Bromide Alternatives Project.

The Kenya Education Management Institute (KEMI) is a semi-autonomous agency of the Ministry of Education that offers capacity building services to the

education sector. The overall goal of KEMI is to promote good governance and management of education institutions through training, research and consultancy services.

Prof. Mutitu joins other Board members serving the government in various capacities including Professor Charles Okidi who is the Chairman of Council at Karatina University.

Varsity Focus congratulates Prof. Mutitu on her appointment and wish her success as she discharges her new responsibility.



**Chairperson UONAA, Dr. Betty Gikonyo hands over a gift to the chief guest Eng. Michael Kamau, Cabinet Secretary, Transport, during the launch.**

# Launching of Engineering and ADD alumni chapters

especially in the realization of the Chapters. Other Chapters which have been launched include MBA, Medicine, Veterinary, Agriculture, Journalism, Science, Range Management and most recently Diplomacy and International Relations.

The event was sponsored by the Communication Commission of Kenya (CCK), Kenya Electricity Transmission Company Ltd (KETRACO), General Motors East Africa (GM EA), Association of Consulting Engineers of Kenya (ACEK), Kenya Nuclear Electricity Board (KNEB) and Kenya Pipeline Company (KPC).

***These are the eighth and ninth Chapters respectively to be established since the inception of the Alumni Association in 2005.***

In a colourful ceremony held on 5th September 2013, the University of Nairobi Alumni Association (UONAA) launched the Engineering and ADD Alumni Chapters. These are the eighth and ninth Chapters, respectively, to be established since the inception of the Alumni Association in 2005.

The well attended event was graced by Cabinet Secretary for Transport and Infrastructure, Eng. Michael Kamau and Principal Secretary, Ministry of Lands, Housing and Development, Architect Mariam El Mawy. The Chief guest challenged the university to keep its members updated on

its activities and engage them in various projects. The need to create and strengthen relationships between the University and the private sector players.

Speaking on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research, Production and Extension, Prof. Lucy Irungu, said that through the launch of the chapters, the alumni will contribute more to the development of the schools and raise resources to build its own capacity and enhance opportunities for its members. She commended the alumni from the College of Architecture and Engineering (CAE) for supporting its alma mater

# EU tour Centre for Translation and Interpretation

A delegation from the European Union (EU) recently visited the University of Nairobi (UoN) to explore the possibility for further funding for the Centre for Translation and Interpretation. This was revealed when the team paid a courtesy call on the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research, Production and Extension, Prof. Lucy Irungu.

EU Lead Consultant, Mr. Bart Fonteyne, commended the University for fully supporting the Centre which was established in 2010, following an agreement between the University of Nairobi, the United Nations and the European Union with the mandate to train translators and conference and community interpreters within

*European Union with the mandate to train translators and conference and community interpreters within the African region.*

the African region. EU is looking to support the Centre and the students further in order to meet the growing market in Africa for translation and interpretation and supply to qualified professionals by training more people. The support will be given in kind, through virtual classes, equipment, student sponsorships and exposure.

In her remarks, Prof. Irungu thanked the EU for continuously supporting the University through the Centre saying that UoN

management is committed to seeing the establishment grow. The support has seen the Centre get additional training staff, modern training facilities with state-of-the-art interpreting booths, a library and a computer laboratory.

Present during the meeting was Prof. Enos Njeru, Principal, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Prof. Jayne Mutiga, Director, Centre for Translation and Interpretation and Ms. Maria Persson, EU Consultant.



**Mr. Bart Fonteyne, Prof. Jayne Mutiga, and Prof. Lucy Irungu during the meeting.**



# Varsity hosts annual ploughing competition

**T**HE UNIVERSITY MANAGEMENT HAS COMMENDED THE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

and Veterinary Sciences for playing a key role in the dissemination of appropriate agricultural technologies and farming practices necessary for improving efficiency in agricultural production.

Research, Production and Extension, Prof. Lucy Irungu said this during the annual ASK, Nairobi branch ploughing competition hosted at the Veterinary Farm, Kanyariri, College of Agriculture and Veterinary

Sciences (CAVS), Upper Kabete Campus. Prof. Irungu commended the participants for exhibiting the innovative ploughing technologies which will go a long way in increasing food production, and urged them to come up with other forums that provide exchange of ideas and information sharing among the institutions for the common goal of enhancing uptake of new knowledge for improved agricultural production

The event attracted participants from various organizations such as Agricultural Society of Kenya (ASK), Brookside Dairy, IRRICO

International, Sustained EA, various secondary schools and teachers training colleges. The event also showcased an exhibition of different ploughing innovations and technologies including tractor ploughing (Mouldboard and Disc plough categories), tractor driving by young farmers (secondary schools), hand digging by the young farmers and adults.

Mr. Charles Kamau, Vice Chairman of the Agricultural Society of Kenya, Nairobi Branch, represented the ASK Nairobi Branch Chairman.

## Turkish University to Collaborate with the University of Nairobi

**T**he University of Nairobi will soon formalize collaboration with the University of Turkish Aeronautical Association (UTAA). This will open doors for joint research and student and staff exchange between the two universities.

UTAA specializes in aviation and aerospace and other engineering disciplines. According to the Rector, Salih Yaylaa, UTAA is keen on building links with universities in the region with UoN being among those earmarked for collaboration.

Prof. Henry Mutoro, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic Affairs) welcomed the UTAA Rector and promised that the collaboration will be firmed up through an MoU.

A number of students from UTAA are studying at the University of Nairobi with the School of Education leading with 29 students in different courses. Those present during the courtesy call were

Dean, School of Engineering, Prof. Patts Odira, Prof. Grace Nyagah, Chairperson, Dept. of Educational Administration and Planning, and Dr. Josiah Aduda, Chairman, Department of Accounting, School of Business.



**Prof. Mutoro with the team from UTAA led by Salih Yaylaa (Right).**

## Students to benefit from UoN and ZJNU partnership

The University of Nairobi (UoN) has entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Zhejiang Normal University (ZJNU), China to set up a students' exchange programme and develop short-term exchange courses. Under the terms of agreement, both parties will collaborate in the development of educational programmes and cultural exchanges based on favourable discussions and mutual benefits. The MoU will also lead to development of joint research projects and academic workshops, joint educational programmes and short-term seminars in specific fields and exchange academic information, educational and research materials and publications. There will also be staff exchange programmes and researchers.

Prof. Wu Fengmin, President, ZJNU, said that the partnership will be a new and exciting opportunity for students and members of staff from both Universities.

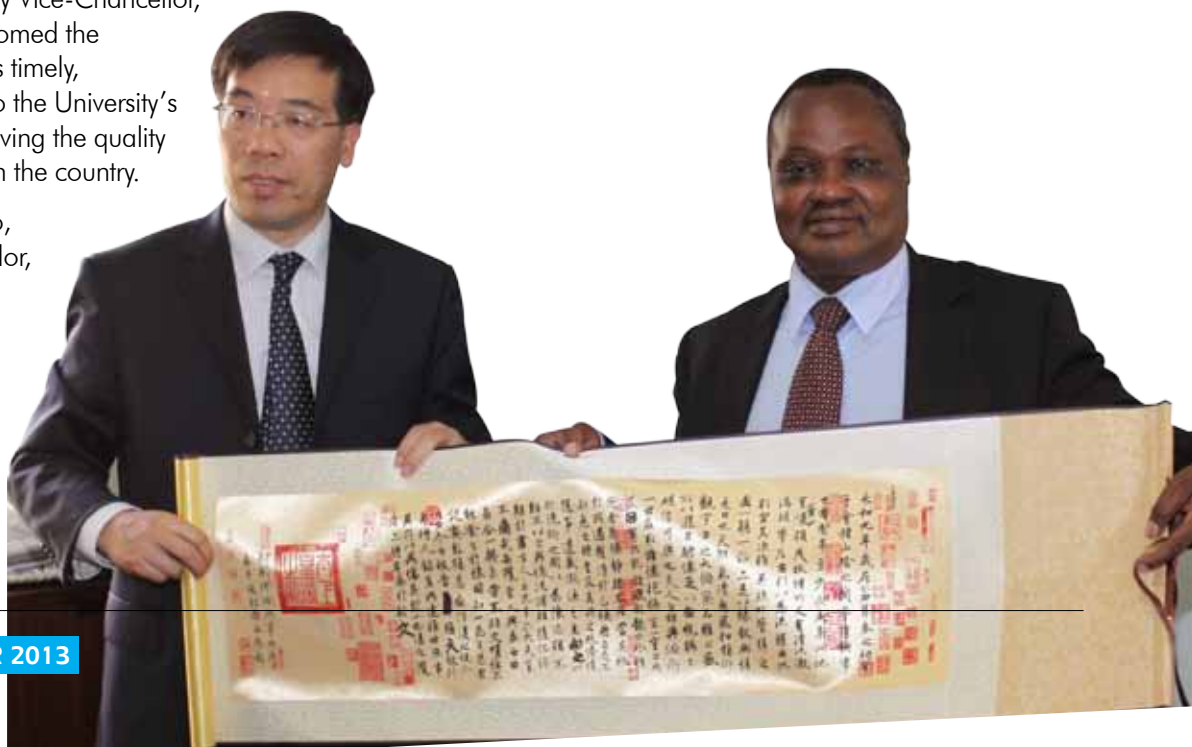
Speaking on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Isaac Mbeche, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Students Affairs, welcomed the initiative dubbing it as timely, especially in regard to the University's commitment in improving the quality of higher education in the country.

Prof. Henry Mutoro, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs and

**Prof. Wu Fengmin, President, ZJNU and Prof. Isaac Mbeche, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Students Affairs.**

*The MoU will also lead to development of joint research projects and academic workshops, joint educational programmes and short-term seminars in specific fields*

Prof. Enos Njeru, Principal, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, were among those who witnessed the signing of the MoU.



# UoN and UMB discuss further collaboration



**President of the University of Maryland Global Programs, Ms. Kathleen Byington with, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs, Prof. Henry Mutoro.**

The University of Nairobi (UoN) and the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) have entered into talks on the possibility for further collaboration. This was revealed when the President of the University of Maryland Global Programs, Ms. Kathleen Byington, paid a courtesy call on the Vice-Chancellor, UoN.

The collaboration with the University of Maryland Global Partners has led to the establishment of four major projects in the Department

of Clinical Medicine and Therapeutics which include the Partnership for Advanced Clinical Education (PACE) Project, the Partnership for Advanced Care and Treatment (PACT) Project, the Partnership for Advanced Care and Treatment- Centre of Excellence (PACT-CoE) and the Central Province Response Integration Strengthening and Sustainability Project (CRISSP).

According to Ms. Byington, the University of Maryland Global Partners is pleased with the support and collaboration with UoN and is looking forward to more research on infectious tropical diseases and development of broader educational programmes as well as health policies.

Already, the partnership has realized the setting up of an e-resource learning centre at

the Kenyatta National Hospital Library and a state-of-the-art skills laboratory which has facilitated the practical sessions for Medicine students. Plans are underway to have the skills lab get international accreditation.

Speaking of behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs, Prof. Henry Mutoro, commended the key drivers of the partnership for their input which has benefited students at the College of Health Sciences. He said that the University is committed to realizing the terms of the partnership. Prof. S. Mitema, Director, Center for International Programmes and Links (CIPL) and Prof. James Kiarie, Associate professor, Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology were present during the meeting.

***the partnership has realized the setting up of an e-resource learning centre at the Kenyatta National Hospital Library and a state-of-the-art skills laboratory***

# Prof. Ndetei defends his DSc



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.'

## *“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,

*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*

# A Student's Weekend Out

By Caleb Wanda

He woke up in the afternoon feeling a strong pain and a thud in his head. His temple was swollen, and his left eye and right jaw puffed up, resembling the cheeks of a glutton who had unreasonably stuffed up the food in his mouth. He attempted to raise himself up but a stinging pain cut across from the hand he tried to support himself with, to all parts of his body. That is when a nurse helped him back to the bed as several voices struggled to say all was well and that he would be fine.

But how could all be well, yet he felt so much pain and emptiness? Events of the previous day were so clear, yet he wanted them all buried. How he had woken up in a jolly mood preparing for the early Saturday class before that fateful call from Ken, his classmate and best friend. Martin so much wished he could have turned down the offer but the curiosity that pushed interest for the thrill of a twenty four hour party was pure electromagnetic and its force could not be ignored.

It was not long before Ken drove into the parking bay of their hostel and called Martin out. In the car were two girls, one later introduced as Beatrice, who insisted on being referred to as Beatty. Martin took to the wheel and soon they were cruising along the main highway



headed for the outskirts of town.

"This town has no peace," Ken was croaking. "We need a cool place where we can enjoy ourselves without anybody interfering. We don't need to care about the people, the police, or school or the night....is it so.... Martin...?"

"Yes, but where are we headed to? We are already..."

"Just drive on Martin...or...we are getting late"

The car was already doing a hundred and fifty kilometers an hour and Martin did not want to exceed though the pressure was intense. And just then, Beatty asked him to stop and turn off the main road to the left. A kilometer into green fields

with a beautiful scent from opening flowers, mixed with the sweet smell of rain, which had apparently ceased a while ago and the rhythm of birds singing melodiously, brought them in front of a single stone house. A dozen youths were already in the compound and soon after the car stopped, all the youth circled around them and started chanting what Martin could only tell to be freedom songs by a drunken lot.

"Feel the mood Martin, you just missed love by one day...pick up a lady and join everybody in merry making!"

And so the day had gone, beer, women and freedom being issues of importance and concern.

But freedom from what? Responsibility? And why were they making reference only to women as if indulgence by men was nothing at all. But again why did the women allow themselves to be taken as toys which after boredom by the children, would be left outside to incur the wrath of the biting weather? Was beer the only source of happiness and feeling cool and great as the young men and women in this party wanted to be? Was greatness ever marked by how many bottles one drowned or how many men and women someone trounced, and was this the freedom that these youths were craving?

Martin drowned himself in this craze and within an hour, he was part of the group roaming the compound.....

It was the wee hours of Sunday morning when the party ended and Ken and his team hit the road back to the city. At this point Martin started to sob. He could remember Ken continuously urging him to drive faster until all became dark behind a dangerously parked trailer at a sharp bend.

All was fine, at least he was the sole survivor out of seven in the over packed four seater brand new sedan.

## Library marks International Open Access Week

In October 2013, the University of Nairobi (UoN) Library joined the rest of world in marking the International Open Access Week. The Library set up an exhibition, showcasing UoN's information resources including e-resources and training on open access, plagiarism, copyright, searching strategies.

While officially launching the exhibition, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research, Production and Extension, Prof. Lucy Irungu, emphasized the importance of

the library as the "heart" of the University. She noted that one of the challenges the library faced was underutilization of resources. It is hoped that activities such as Open Access Week help in increasing access to information resources.

Open Access is a global event that advocates free, immediate, online access to the results of scholarly research. The University of Nairobi has been at the forefront in advocating for open access initiatives.



**Prof. Lucy Irungu, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research, Production and Extension officially opens the Open Access Week at the Jomo Kenyatta Memorial Library.**

# Excellent performance at trade fair

This year, the University of Nairobi (UoN) recorded excellent performance at the 2013 Nairobi International Trade Fair by taking the top positions in various categories. UoN scooped first position in two categories, second position in three categories and third position in three categories. The University of Nairobi was also named the best university stand and the best institution of higher learning in developing and advanced technology.

UoN received the two seven first prizes for position one from the President of the Republic of Kenya, H.E. President Uhuru Kenyatta.

The University also received second prizes for the best stand in development research institution, the best stand exhibiting agronomic practices to enhance food production and security as well as the best innovation and invention stand. For the third position, the University was presented with prizes for the best research and education stand that interprets the current show theme, the best stand that promotes



**H.E. President Uhuru Kenyatta hands over a trophy to the Chairman, Exhibitions Committee, Dr. Fred Otieno.**

national cohesion and integration development and the best stand that embraces information technology and communication. The University also won prizes in the farm and animal produce categories.

Various departments from the University at the annual event which accords UoN a platform to share information with stakeholders among them potential students, parents and the general public on its programme and services, and its role in national development. On display at the University stands were research innovations, food crops and farm animals which were in line with this year's trade fair theme- 'Enhancing Technology in Agriculture and Industry for Food Security and National Growth.'



**University of Nairobi students and members of stand show off the prizes.**

## Students launch Google Club



In a fun-filled event dubbed G-Student Club Meet-Up, the first ever Google Club was recently launched at the University of Nairobi by the Google Students Ambassadors (GSAs). During the launch, at the 8-4-4 Multipurpose Hall, Main Campus, the GSAs took the participants through the various Google Apps for education available to students.

The Google Student Ambassador Program is a unique

opportunity for students to act as liaison between Google and their universities, a unique for the duration of one academic year, holding workshops, training and events with their campus community around Google's core products, programs and initiatives. The team consisting of Stephen Mudibo, from the School of Law, Michelle Ngure and Geoffrey Mosongo, from the Department of Electrical and Information Engineering, is the second team of Ambassadors in the

University.

The Google Club will constitute a core team made of students as well as a staff supervisor to give guidance to the club. Membership is free and students are invited to be part of Google. The club will run on a strict calendar in line with UoN's academic calendar.

Interested members can communicate with the GSAs via their email: [uongsas2013@gmail.com](mailto:uongsas2013@gmail.com)



**One of the Google Clubs members during the launch.**



# Chiromites united against substance abuse



*The inspirational talk ended with sporting activities at the Chancellor's Court.*

## *During an event organized by UNADSAC and ONUSS, students were challenged to take a stand against drug and substance abuse.*

In line with the theme 'No drug formed against you shall prosper but the choice is yours,' the students were taken through inspirational exercises by various speakers.

One of the presenters, Dr. S.K. Moindi shared his personal struggles with alcohol and how he took control of his life, emerging victorious. He noted that the greatest rehab is in the mind, as he testified to have quit the habit voluntarily, after witnessing the pertinent demise of his colleagues from the vice.

Mrs. Wendy Gaya, a representative from the National Authority for Campaign against Alcohol and Drug Abuse (NACADA), took the students through the legal and illegal types of drugs available in the society and their effects on the human body. She encouraged the students to make the right choices and to steer clear from negative peer influence.

Dr. Kiragu Ndero from the Department of Psychology,

gave an energetic inspirational warm-up, dwelling on the person. He demonstrated that, making a choice to abuse substance, is as good as buying a rope to commit suicide. A rope was passed round the class to accentuate the reality of the matter. The rope was also used to demonstrate that the person abusing substances is usually in a tug of war with three things- the society, the peddler and the drug itself. The force of three against one was shown to be an overwhelming pull. The blame game and stigma were shown to suppress the will of a user trying to quit the habit.

This was demonstrated again in an exercise where participants formed a circle around a mock user and pointed fingers at the person, while blocking any attempts by the person to break through the circle. In yet another exercise, each participant was required to blow a balloon, and then hold it delicately close to the heart without bursting it. This was to show that, each person is as dear and one should love and treat themselves preciously.



**1. Top University of Nairobi managers with counterparts from University of Maryland.**

**2. Prof. Geoffrey Maloij after being awarded with a Doctor of Science.**

**3. University of Nairobi managers with EACC Chairman, Mumo Matemu and Chairperson of Alumni Association, Dr. Betty Gikonyo.**

**4. Alumni officials after the launch of the ADD and Engineering Chapters.**



**5. Staff and Students march to the closing ceremony of the Constitutional sensitization programme at Taifa Hall.**

**6. Chairman of Council Dr. Idle Farah (Centre), Vice-Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha (right) and Deputy Vice-Chancellor, A &F, Prof. Peter Mbithi during signing of performance contract by the Vice-Chancellor.**

**7. Visit By IDIS MA students to the Humanitarian Peace Support School on the 7th of November 2013.**

**8. Cabinet Secretary for Education, Prof. Jacob Kaimenyi, during the Association for Common Wealth Universities Women Conference held at the University of Nairobi.**

**9. Prof. Henry Mutoro, Deputy Vice-Chancellor academic affairs receives Prof. Olive Mugenda, Vice-Chancellor, Kenyatta University.**



**Dorothy Garland, Director, Professional Network, Association of Commonwealth Universities.**

# UoN hosts ACU Centenary Celebrations

*The conference was themed 'Enhancing Gender Equity in the Leadership and Management of Higher Education'*

The University of Nairobi made history by hosting the first Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) Women's Conference in Africa. The Conference which was organized in conjunction with the ACU was part of the Associations' centenary celebrations and a follow up from the 2012 Gender Conference. The opening ceremony was held in Taifa Hall.

While officially opening the conference themed 'Enhancing Gender Equity in the Leadership and Management of Higher Education' on behalf of the Deputy President of Kenya, Hon. William Ruto, Cabinet Secretary, for Education, Science and Technology, Prof. Jacob Kaimenyi, commended the Association for choosing Kenya as the ideal venue for their 100 years celebrations. He termed the

Conference timely and relevant to Kenya as the country seeks to address issues of gender balance. He called on the delegates to share information and experiences, brainstorm and deliver appropriate strategies in dealing with the issues.

Prof. Olive Mugenda, Vice-Chancellor, Kenyatta University and ACU council member, gave the key note address, in which she challenged institutions of higher learning to embrace gender equity by empowering women and giving them an opportunity to grow academically and in their careers. During the presentation, Prof. Mugenda took the participants through the challenges faced in enhancing gender equity in the leadership and management of higher education.

In his remarks, Prof. George Magoha, Vice-Chancellor, UoN,

welcomed the delegates saying that the Conference was relevant as higher education institutions in Kenya and the neighbouring countries, are grappling with transformational changes, key among such changes is mainstreaming gender and diversity in access to education. Prof. Magoha said that ACU's mission is a clarion call to universities and

other higher education institutions to ensure that programmes offered are relevant and in line with international standards. The University of Nairobi is among the 540 members of ACU, which is a strong professional network of universities in the Commonwealth.

Speaking on behalf of ACU, Ms Dorothy Garland said that through the ACU's centenary theme future forward: design, develop, deliver, the Association will address the important debates on the future of international higher education. "This

allows the ACU to examine what lies ahead in the sector and engage in meaningful debates with members to tackle some of the challenges they face". She said that the initiative is member-led and that it seeks to engage stakeholders in the key challenges facing higher education today.

The official opening of the conference, was followed by a four day Training-of-Trainers workshop on Women, Gender and Leadership in Higher Education at Lillian Towers.

The workshop aimed at developing a network of highly trained and confident professional key trainers were equipped to collaborate extensively across the region, draw on each other's strengths, and strengthen each other's weaknesses. Together, they would seek to establish and deliver sustainable management development programmes for women in higher education in the region but also introduce such other initiatives to embed equitable gender practices.

## Students support the girl child in Marigat

University of Nairobi students under the aegis of the Women Students Welfare Association (WOSWA) and the Students Organization of Nairobi University (SONU) recently donated sanitary towels to the Marigat community in response to a public appeal in the press. The students collected the sanitary pads from the University community and presented the package to the Royal Media Group who were coordinating the collection and delivery of pads to the needy girls in Marigat, Baringo county.

The initiative dubbed 'We Have Seen Her Suffer, It's Time for Comrades to Act,' collected over

1,000 packs of sanitary towels and 1,000 rolls of tissue. During the handing over ceremony, the WOSWA Chairlady, Mickey Ochieng' pledged WOSWA's commitment to continue supporting the initiative, noting that plans are underway for a major campaign early in 2014.

***The initiative dubbed 'We Have Seen Her Suffer, It's Time for Comrades to Act,' collected over 1,000 packs of sanitary towels and 1,000 rolls of tissue***



***of Royal Media Group receives sanitary towels from Woswa Chairperson, Mickey Ochieng as part of their contribution towards needy girls in Marigat, Baringo.***

# Kenyans yearned for devolution, now they must make it

***The Constitution of Kenya has many meanings and values, Robert Brown Kenyando, a student shares his thoughts on the provisions of the constitution***

Sweat, blood and dozens of precocious but brave souls, that is the heavy price Kenyans paid in nearly over two decades to attain the world acclaimed 2010 Constitution. Make no mistake; most developed nations achieved such a feat, by going through a civil war of fatal proportions. Kenya's supreme law has been hailed as one of the most progressive globally, hence Kenyans can hope.

Journalists and all media practitioners should recognize that they are accountable for their actions to the public, the professions and themselves. That said, the other tough phase has kicked off with implementation. The old has to give way for the new order, and as the sun always set in the evening, it won't be a mere walk in the park. Another set of heroes must emerge.

At the core of the claim for an overhaul of the abused constitution, was the thirst for an equitable share of the national cake and the devolution of power. Right from the colonial times, Kenya grew based on old fashion policies informed by the thinking that the government should only invest in regions where it would recoup money spent. This meant areas deemed unprofitable were deliberately left out when sharing national resources while a few lucky

ones got the lions' share. And this was indeed reinforced by the 1965 Session Paper Number 10. The skewed growth fuelled resentment among communities living in the neglected regions and at some point, something had to give way. Devolved governance devolved political power and the devolved resources were envisaged and packaged in the new law to remedy the injustices.

Devolution, therefore, informs the huge expectations of all Kenyans in the new dispensation. For the hungry, devolution will help to put food on the table. For the thirsty, devolution should ease the flow of pure water. For the power starved, devolution brings responsibility closer home. Now, with devolved power and resources, comes the need for proper checks and balances. This is where the fourth estate, which will also have to devolve, comes in. It would be tragic, for instance, if the 47 counties were to embrace the obnoxious old ways of doing things like corruption, exclusion and nepotism.

In my research, analysts and seasoned journalists should argue out the challenges and possible solutions to successful rollout of devolution. It is a new system of the government that will inevitably face teething problems. But there is no retreat or surrender for majority of Kenyans. The media and practice of journalism will also feel the pinch of devolution, journalists and media houses will not only have to embrace devolution but must also help guard the noble purposes of this new dispensation. There will be ups and downs but the media must help keep the country and county leaders on the track. Welcome to this stimulating debate of devolution and as usual share your findings and thoughts through the immediate means of communication available to you.

## Internal Quality Auditors undergo refresher training

The University of Nairobi (UoN) Internal Quality Auditors (IQAs) recently underwent a three day refresher course to prepare for internal audit of the management system. The exercise, whose objectives included proper record capture, transparency in research, emphasis on ICT management, and service delivery innovations, was geared towards improving the quality of services rendered by the University.

While officially opening the retreat, Vice-Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha, commended the IQAs for their dedication to the ISO

Programme over the last seven years. The Vice-Chancellor reiterated that the University has gone through successful pre-certification, certification audits, surveillance and internal quality audits; all of which have been realized through the efforts of the IQAs.

The benefits of ISO 9001:2008 have been the continuous monitoring and evaluation of University products, goods and services. Service provision, record keeping, continuous acquisition of equipment and setting up of new facilities and upgrading existing ones

has improved greatly and enhanced customer satisfaction. Indeed, customer feedback process, handling of documentation and enhanced employee morale as a result of defined staff job descriptions has also improved.

The IQAs were drawn from various colleges and departments within the University and have successfully undertaken the internal audit which took place in November.

***The benefits of ISO 9001:2008 have been the continuous monitoring and evaluation of University products, goods and services.***

## Secretaries undergo training

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Administration and Finance, Prof. Peter Mbithi, has challenged secretaries to serve with distinction to enable the University to realize its goals. Prof. Mbithi was representing the Vice-Chancellor during the official opening of a three-day workshop for secretaries dubbed 'Illuminating the Real Manager, Behind the Boss.'

Prof. Mbithi noted that the workshop was indeed timely as the University repositions itself to optimize production and improve its reputation among key stakeholders. He said that through the training, various gaps that affect performance will be identified and solutions sought because efficient running of any organization is largely beholden to the efficient execution of secretarial

duties, functions and responsibilities.

The workshop is part of the University Management's deliberate move to enhance effective service delivery. During the workshop, customer service, internal communication, time management, management and leadership, personal financial management and personal excellence were handled.



# IDS concludes key researches

By Otuma Ongalo

**T**he Institute for Development Studies, University of Nairobi, recently concluded landmark research projects and engaged in various collaborations.

In October 2013, IDS released the Afrobarometer Round 5 Global Release findings on freedom of speech, sources of news and information and the spread of communication technologies in Africa. The findings were released in Nairobi in a report entitled “The Partnership of Free Speech and Good Governance in Africa”, authored by Prof Winnie Mitullah and Dr Paul Kamau.

Some 51,605 individuals

in 34 African countries were interviewed, representing the views of approximately three quarters of the continent’s population.

The Afrobarometer research project measures social, political and the economic atmosphere in Africa. It is managed by a network comprising the Centre for Democratic Development (CDD), Ghana; Institute for Empirical Research in Political Economy (IREEP), Benin; Institute for Democracy in South Africa (IDASA), and IDS, University of Nairobi.

The main purpose of the survey is to produce scientifically reliable data on public opinion

in sub-Saharan Africa in order to strengthen institutional capacities for survey research, dissemination and application of research findings to development policy and practice.

Round 5 surveys, which began in 2011, were funded by the Department for International Development (DFID), UK; Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA); Mo Ibrahim Foundation; and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Prof Winnie Mitullah, The IDS Director, is the Core Partner Project Director for the region. She is assisted by Dr Paul Kamau (IDS), Dr Adams Oloo (Chairman, Department



## Development Institute to enhance collaborations



### ***The Non Motorised Transport (NMT) and Paratransit research project was also concluded after a five-year study.***

of Political Science and Public Administration and Dr Joshua Kivuva.

IDS has also concluded a three-year study entitled “Rethinking Social Movements in East Africa.” The study generated knowledge on how to build and sustain social movements. It inquired into the conditions that give rise to social movements and those that lead to the fall or expiry of social movements; created the opportunity for CSO actors to interact with academia on social movements

in Kenya and Uganda in order to promote healthy debates and sharing of knowledge on social movements; and generated practice-informed knowledge to help shape the form and nature of engagements between the CSOs and the society in Kenya and Uganda.

One of the achievements of the study is documentation of social movements in East Africa, given that little has been studied and documented in the region concerning social movements. It provided a forum for members

of the academia and civil society practitioners to interact freely and build each other’s knowledge on social movements.

The researchers worked with the civil society members and their narratives will be published as articles in a special issue of the Eastern Africa Journal of Development Studies and as chapters in a book.

This is in addition to the publication of a manual on how to create and sustain successful social movements in East Africa for the civil society practitioners.

The Social Movements study was funded by the Ford Foundation and coordinated by Professors Njuguna Ng’ethe and Karuti Kanyinga.

The Non Motorised Transport (NMT) and Paratransit research project was also concluded after a five-year study. The project was conducted under the auspices of African Centre of Excellence in Public and Non-motorised Transport (ACET). Its conceptualisation was informed by challenges of poor public transport in most African cities, including Nairobi City.

IDS recently hosted a conference, whose theme was “Enabling Mobility in Nairobi. Policy, Regulations and Practice.” The conference drew stakeholders from the public and private sector as well as local and international NGOs to exchange ideas and make proposals for informing policy and decision

making relevant for improving the urban road transport sector to restore safety and sanity.

IDS Researchers Prof Dorothy McCormick and Prof Winnie Mitullah presented findings on paratransit (matatu) business strategies and compliance, and challenges of mainstreaming NMT in policy planning in Nairobi, respectively.

The study explored how the diverse strategies of matatu operators result in variations in regulatory compliance. It was based on 15 case studies of matatu businesses.

## Collaboration

The Institute has continued to seek collaboration with other institutions in pursuant to its vision to be the leading centre of excellence for development research, teaching, training, consultancy and advisory services on issues of policy, practical and academic concerns in the public and private domains.

In November, delegates from Bonn Rhein-Sieg University of Applied Sciences (Germany) and the University of Cape Coast (Ghana) were hosted by IDS in a workshop to explore and develop academic collaboration in various thematic areas.

The fact finding mission to Kenya, "towards a South-South-North

**Focus on renewable energy and energy efficient uses; Entrepreneurship and sustainable economic development; Responsible business: sustainable food; and social protection systems and health.**

(S-S-N) Academic Cooperation," drew scholars from BRSU's International Centre for Sustainable Development (IZNE) and UCC's Institute for Development Studies and Department of Management Studies, School of Business.

The three institutions explored four thematic areas namely: Sustainable technologies: Focus on renewable energy and energy efficient uses; Entrepreneurship and sustainable economic development; Responsible business: sustainable food; and Social protection systems and health.

The recently completed African Clothing and Footwear Research Network (ACFRN) led to the formation of Regional Centre of Excellence for Textile and Apparel

to provide up-to-date, relevant and practical training and capacity building for the various segments of the textile value chain in the Eastern and Southern region as well as for relevant institutional actors.

The Sub-Committee visited the Kenya Vision 2030 Secretariat to create awareness of the proposed centre of excellence and identify areas of collaboration as well as explore the possibility of making the proposed centre one of the flagship projects of Vision 2030.

Prof. Dorothy McCormick, International Coordinator of ACFRN and Research Professor at (IDS), and Dr. Paul Kamau, Senior Research Fellow at IDS and ACFRN Kenya Country Coordinator, are members of the Working Committee on the Regional Centre of Excellence for the Textile and Apparel Industry.

The IDS has also collaborated with University of Cambridge and University of Zambia in the Politics and Interactive Media in Africa (PIMA) project. PIMA is a research project looking at how select radio and TV stations in Kenya and Zambia reflect, gather, disseminate and influence public opinion. It is particularly interested in the implications of the spread of mobile phone technology and the growth of call-in and text-in radio and TV shows for governance, accountability and politics in general.

# Every saint has a past

By Mickey Ochieng, Chairperson, WOSWA



This recollection of her experience at the University of Nairobi by Mickey Ochieng is succinct and heartfelt. The University of Nairobi offers an environment for students with various talents and passion to grow. This enables such students to acquire different kinds of skills that are not taught in class. Such students have opted to do things that contribute positively to their wellbeing, both as students and citizens of this great nation. This is contrary to the belief that university students are trouble makers, only known for goonish behavior and peddling illicit wares during the nocturnal hours across the road, and along the infamous K-Street. There are several students who have opted to do constructive things with their time while in campus.

Freedom has a price, currently, students get into campus

at a very tender age. Mostly they are individuals who have been shielded throughout their young-adult lives either by parents, guardians or teachers. Their lives revolved round some set of rules, regulation and curfews that they had to abide by. Then, boom!!! Total freedom. Freedom to do as you please, whatever, whenever, however. And with every freedom comes responsibility.

A student finds that they have way too much time on their hands. What, with eating what you want, free dressing, partying all night without the glaring and ever watchful eyes of parents and guardians. This has posed lots of challenges to the unfocused students, finding their lives in total disarray, constantly trying to keep up with class work, assignments and sitting for

supplementary examinations. These students are always following lectures around for late submissions or make-up assessments simply because they cannot control their newfound freedom.

Life at campus is sometimes the bane of a parent. It is painful when a parent realizes that their child is not on the graduating list or had been suspended and is out of campus. More often than not these are students whose parents have literally turned on each stone to ensure that their children get the elusive college education. Such parents are known to have sold family land, livestock or even taken loans to see their children through school.

It is agonizing for a parent to watch their loved ones choose a destructive path. Some of these students are the life line of their families, a chance at a better life, a light that illuminates their hard, dark

life. Many are the parents who have travelled long distances to come for their child's graduation, only to later find out, after years on end of tarmacking, that the gowns were hired to take photos, an illusion of the real deal.

We understand that in a basket of fresh apples there may be a rotten one. The more reason why we should not label all university students the 'lost generation'. Several students opt to wait. They toil with hope of a better tomorrow, a brighter future. They choose to ignore the seemingly ripe fruits at the neighbour's garden, they choose to ignore greed, shortsightedness and myopic thinking. These are students who know and believe in themselves. They know the value of true hard work and earning what you truly deserve.

It is said that the first two people you meet at a new place

determines who you become in that environment. And as such, it's paramount for students to carefully choose their friends. Taking time to know new acquaintances and values they possess can save one from falling into a destructive path. Surrounding oneself with the right peer pressure is very instrumental and can catapult your life in the right direction.

John Kuebler said, show me your friends and I'll tell you who you are. The wrong peer pressure and trying to fit in continues to be a problem for some students in campus. Being in the right 'clique' continues to plague especially girls in campus. To be or not to be the most beautiful, stylishly dressed, having the latest gadgets or being the most 'swagged up' is eating up our morals.

You may be naïve, but you are not stupid. Take a moment, re-evaluate your life, put a reverse gear and right your wrongs. It's not too late for anyone to get on the right path. Every saint has a past, and every sinner has a future.

*I have been blessed to be in a university that encourages growth beyond the wildest imagination.*



**Mickey Ochieng (2nd left) with fellow students. Opposite page: Cutting a cake during a mentorship session with school girls.**

# Discourse on presidential petition

*The University of Nairobi has just concluded a two-day symposium seeking to analyse the 'Supreme Court's decision in Raila vs Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) and Others.'*

The forum sought to provide a better understanding of the case, not only for legal and intellectual reasons but also for public interest. Sponsored by the Ford Foundation and organized by the School of Law, the symposium attracted over 200 students, lawyers, communication experts and civil rights activists.

During the opening ceremony, Ford Foundation representative, Maurice Makoloo noted that the findings and conclusions of the topic will shape the history of Kenya's democratic journey. Makoloo said that the Foundation was committed to working with and building collaboration with the Government and other players in opening up space that will lead to the

achievement of good governance.

On his part, Commission for the Implementation of the Constitution (CIC) Chairman, Charles Nyachae called on academia to be part of the process of the implementation of the Constitution of Kenya 2010. He commended the University of Nairobi for taking deliberate measures in ensuring that the objectives of the Rapid Results Initiative (RRI) on the implementation of the Constitution, launched in August 2013 are realized.

Vice-Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha, called upon the participants to give their input on the discussion and consolidate the findings which will lead to a deepened understanding of the Constitution and robust debates on its implementation. He said that the University is keen in being part of focused discussions seeking to address some emerging issues that are relevant to the nation's development politically, economically and socially.

The papers, presented by different scholars and professionals, examined various aspects and processes that were the focus of questioning, during the presidential petition and included: the vitality of presidential elections and the roles of the IEBC, the executive and parliament. Other presentations touched on media technology and the civil society in the process of electioneering. An interesting paper was that on the role of language in regards to the Supreme Court ruling. In addition, Prof. Kwasi H. Prempeh,



**President Uhuru Kenyatta**



**Former Prime Minister Raila Odinga**

a constitutional scholar from Ghana, shared Ghana's experience following two presidential election petitions in the country and discussed issues surrounding technology, time frames and constitutional provisions which were explored incisively in the petitions.

The proceedings of the symposium will be developed into a print and electronic publication titled Searching for Balance: Reflections on Kenya's Presidential Election of 2013 available to the public.

# Woman in full circle

*2013 has been a year of events, experiences and insights for the women students. Mickey Ochieng, WOSWA Chairperson shares some of the lessons and experiences with Varsity Focus.*

Sunny, bright, luscious green grass and determined mood, You could not dull it if you tried. Great women of our time, behold, we stared in admiration. I like the sound of this, but it is no poem, this is the day of WOSWA's luncheon, where the newly elect WOSWA officials are being recognized. The event was graced by the presence of great women: Honorable Rachael Shebesh – Women's Representative, Nairobi County, Ms. Njoki Karuoya – Eve Sisters, The Standard Group, Madam Mariam Lugonzo – office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Student Affairs, Tichi Nyasani, Stephanie Muite – Mothers and Daughters, and Proctor n Gamble

Hon. Shebesh as she shared her struggles, to position herself in the male dominated Kenyan political arena. Shebesh's challenged us not to sit pretty hoping to be given leadership positions, but to rise up and take the positions echoed and resonated with many who were present. "Work towards salvaging campus ladies' tarnished image in the community and to ensure that we do not give reasons to be suspected for any wrong doing or room for negative talk" she implored us.

In her presentation, Ms. Karuoya further stressed the significance of dignity in achieving goals. She said, dignity will

accord one respect and open doors wherever you go.

After getting fired up to work hard towards achieving our vision, WOSWA was privileged to be sponsored by Hon. Shebesh to attend a Leadership Training by Mrs. Betty Kimani of the Marion Group of Schools. The training was instrumental in sharpening our leadership skills. Among the things that we learnt were leadership and the law of the lid, the law of significance, highlighting the importance of teamwork in achieving greatness, and the principles of relationships which postulates who we are determines how we view others. We also learnt what is expected of a



*Mickey Ochieng, WOSWA Chairperson*

leader, the rules of engagement, the ethical requirements and how to manage conflict amongst ourselves.

After the leadership training, WOSWA partnered with Grandpa Records and other artists to visit Mama Tunza Children's Home in Ngong town. We were deeply touched by Mama Tunza's story of courage and compassion in



**Woswa handing over ceremony 2012 - 2013 with Ms. Njoki Karuoya of Standard Group.**

welcoming these children into her home.

Thereafter, WOSWA teamed up with Marie Stopes Kenya and we went round to the nine campuses to educate and guide first year female students to realize their full potential while at the University. During the interaction we shared on integrity issues, human dignity, self esteem, reproductive health and harmonious co-existence in their daily life at the University.

We also held a ‘WOSWA Swimming Health Fair.’ The event educated students on the importance of living a healthy life. The swimming competition was meant to demonstrate fun ways of exercising. There were also talks on eating right without necessarily breaking a bank, application of chemical free make-up and the various negative effects of drugs to our health and skin, and the dangers of alcohol over indulgence.

We appreciate the opportunity to work with the Vice-Chancellor’s office, Madam Lugonzo and Dr. Fred Otieno, chairman of the exhibition committee in producing a documentary on students

who do things beyond academia. This project increased our level of interaction with both the administration and the student fraternity of the University of Nairobi. We acquired certain skills that are not taught in class. We were able to ascertain and corroborate the law of significance. Interviewing students for ‘Beyond Books’, getting an insight into their lives and what it entails to do what they do was very inspirational. We learnt the components of success which demands proper time management, patience, focus, hard work and determination.

WOSWA also had the chance to accompany ‘Mothers and Daughters’ to Machakos Girls School on a mentorship programme. This gave us the opportunity to give back by sharing our experiences and what we have learnt from our mentors. It was beyond amazing to watch these young girls look at us with admiration and desire to be in our shoes. We encouraged them to work hard, and welcome them in advance to the University of Nairobi. This was a platform for us to perfect our public speaking and

mentorship skills.

Recently, in partnership with SONU, Inua Dada – Citizen TV, Zenko Kenya - Hanan Tissue, WOSWA embarked on an intervention to collect sanitary towels for teenage girl in Marigat – Baringo County. We are truly grateful to the University of Nairobi administration, Special thanks to the Dean of students – Father Wamugunda, who was key in ensuring the facilitation of collection of sanitary pads, the staff and all students who donated to keep a girl in school. As WOSWA continues to endeavor in achieving her goals, we also look forward to encourage more female students to take up leadership positions. We can never have enough female leaders. We look forward to having the UoN Women Forum, Career Fair, Annual Reproductive Health Week and Alpha Diva Reunion. We thank our partners and sponsors for inviting us to forums and events that continue to positively expose us and widen our perspectives.

It was also a first for WOSWA to work with SONU so successfully, and the realization that you don’t have to be anti-man to be pro-woman was quite liberating. We decided that as a woman in a home, it was our duty to protect the whole family. As we relentlessly continue to champion the course of the female student in campus, we shall try to be on the same page with our male counterparts, for the purpose of harmonious co-existence. As Diane Mariechild said, a woman is the full circle, within her is the power to create, nurture and transform.



**WOSWA & SONU at EAC Award Giving Ceremony**

# My experience in Malawi

*Edith Mwirigi, Secretary General of SONU recently attended the Annual Commonwealth Youth Parliament in Lilongwe Malawi. She shares her experience with Varsity Focus.*

The Youth Parliament was organized in form of debate sessions in the national Parliament of Malawi. During the three day sessions we debated issues that affect youth in Africa including unemployment, the role and social responsibilities of the youth in eradicating hunger and poverty.

The parliamentary proceedings were conducted and controlled by the Malawi government. We elected a Malawi delegate (a lady) as the speaker of our assembly. I was elected as the leader of the opposition and I had to observe etiquette and understanding of parliamentary procedures.

Malawi, Namibia and South Africa have embraced the idea of youth parliaments and they organize monthly debates for the youth and especially the student leaders. This exposes youth leaders very early to the issues affecting their countries and sharpens them with skills on future leadership and understand how government runs.

It was evident that if Africa is to



**Edith Mwirigi, Secretary General of SONU (second right) with colleagues at the Annual Commonwealth Youth Parliament in Lilongwe Malawi.**

***Young people in Kenya should embrace debates in our Institution as a way of sharpening critical thinking, and also to improve our grasp and articulation of current affairs.***

develop, the youth need to be on the frontline as they are a major segment of the population, and thus their talents must be tapped into for national development.

The major lessons that I learnt are that we the young people in Kenya should embrace debates in our Institution as a way of sharpening critical thinking, and also to improve our grasp and articulation of current affairs. If our national government organized monthly parliamentary debates in our national assembly to

give a chance to the young people to articulate issues that affect them and expose them to the political structure of our country, then perhaps the youth leader across the divide will be at the forefront in matters of public scrutiny, offering constructive criticism to our leader and above all, of being conscience of doing what is right.

Attending the commonwealth youth parliament earned us a two year membership that will end in August, 2015. We look forward to attending next year's gathering which will be held in Zambia to deliberate on more issues that are pulling our continent back and also to come up with the way forward of tackling these set-backs.

The four-day Conference gave me an opportunity to learn and acquire new skills.



# Completion of the constitution sensitization programme



**EACC Chairman, Mumo Matemu, officially launch a book titled *The University of Nairobi and the Constitution 2010*. With him is the chairperson, Alumni Association Dr. Betty Gikonyo, Vice-Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha, and Deputy Vice-Chancellor, (A&F), Prof. Peter Mbiti.**

The University of Nairobi has developed several multimedia publications on the implementation of the Constitution 2010. Among the publications are: a book titled *The University of Nairobi and the Constitution 2010: A sensitization process and a video* titled: 'Silent Key Parties in Kenya's New Constitution.' The publications are part of the outcomes of the sensitization process on the provisions of the Constitution embraced by the University slightly over 100 days ago.

Officiating during the closing ceremony, the Chairman of the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC), Mr Mumo Matemu praised the University of Nairobi for successfully sensitizing students, staff and alumni on the provisions of the Constitution 2010 and the Public Service Integrity Programme (PSIP). Matemu challenged the University to put in place some measures that will nurture and promote integrity. He proposed that the University can conduct research on emerging issues on integrity to enhance the anti-corruption jurisprudence, establish an award scheme for integrity targeting students or members of staff or

administration, organize scholarly debates on complex integrity and anti-corruption issues, design and administer an examinable course on integrity as well as mainstream integrity content in policies, programmes and activities and review the codes of conduct, rules and regulation to reflect the spirit of Chapter Six of the Constitution.

Vice-Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha, noted that through the process, the University has demonstrated its committed role in the higher education sector in Kenya by taking leadership in the implementation of the constitution and embracing the practice of integrity in its activities. The University has embraced the notion of institutionalizing and personalizing integrity in the community. Prof. Magoha noted that education is a key sector and therefore requires our institutions to take up leadership roles in the country including implementation of the Constitution among others.

The programme has developed

the capacity of the University as a player in the higher education sector, to implement the Constitution, ensuring that it practices integrity in its activities. Ultimately integrity has been institutionalized and personalized in the University community. Through the sensitization process the University held television talk shows, public lectures, colloquia, symposia, panel discussions, legal and medical clinics, tree planting and clean up exercises among others. The objectives of the program included facilitation towards improved access to information contained in the Constitution, set up policies systems and procedures aimed at implementing the Constitution as well as the provision of tools and resources.

Partners included the Commission for the Implementation of the Constitution, whose Chairman, Mr. Charles Nyachae kicked off the process in August 2013 and facilitated several sensitization activities. Other partners were EACC and the University of Nairobi Alumni Association (UONAA).

# School of Journalism and Mass Communication's Annual Media Summit sets the foundation for increased research and scholarship

By Dr. George Nyabuga



**Cabinet Secretary for Information, Communication and Technology, Dr. Fred Matiangi with the Director, School of Journalism and Mass Communication, Dr. Wambui Kiai (right) during the Annual Media Summit.**

*Research and scholarship have always played a critical role in the way we understand and internalise issues.*

This is premised on the notion that it is research that contributes to the production of new knowledge, it is research that critically engages with and interrogates the issues of the day, and it is through research that we can strengthen education and training as well as institutions of higher learning.

In fact, research is the foundation upon which serious and established academic institutions are built. It is the quality and amount of research that determines the success of any institution. This of course alongside the quality of education offered.

The place of research is thus fortified by the fact that many organisations rely on valid and reliable findings to assess their performances, and make decisions.

Yet, despite the importance of research, there have been few serious media studies in Kenya, and purely academic or scholarly conferences where research findings

can be shared, debated, approved, disapproved, adopted or discarded. Of course in recent years, we have started to see a rise in media scholarly activity, and increased engagement between actors in media and journalism, academia, civil society, government and other sectors. There has begun to sprout platforms and channels for engagement, for production and sharing of information and knowledge.

The emergence of the East Africa Communication Association (EACA) and set up of its annual conference has been an important step in attempts to promote research and scholarship. The latest in initiatives to promote media, journalism and communication scholarship is the University of Nairobi Annual Media Summit whose inaugural meeting was held 13-15 November 2013.

The Summit examined issues relating to media ownership, training, the coverage of elections, diversity, and conflict, and assessed media performance before, during and after the March 4, 2013 general election. Within that ambit, the meeting also looked at the relationship between news media and journalism on one hand and politics, governance and democracy on the other. It interrogated the social, cultural, political and economic embeddedness of journalistic and media practices in the context of rapidly changing, albeit fluid, political

and democratic developments. It also examined issues, actors and agents informing and affecting the democratic and political process in Kenya.

To help make sense of these issues were some of the best media scholars from and outside Kenya. Prof Kwame Karikari from the Media Foundation for West Africa tackled the issue of media and diversity. Prof Goretti Nassanga from Makerere University presented a paper on training and how it impacts media coverage of elections. Issues of media and conflict were tackled by Prof Winnie Mitullah of the University of Nairobi. Dr Brice Rambaud of Internews talked about the media's coverage of elections while Dr Othieno Nyanjom presented on media ownership. At hand to contribute to the discussion of media and elections and particularly how the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission handled the poll was the vice chair Mrs Lilian Bokeeye Mahiri-Zaja. Other presentations and discussions were enriched by views, in panel discussions, plenary discussions and by participants from different backgrounds and countries. Delegates came from Burundi, Ethiopia, Ghana, Tanzania, Uganda and of course Kenya.

The conference was officially opened by the Cabinet Secretary for Information, Communication and Technology Dr Fred Matiang'i who challenged universities and other institutions of higher learning to engage more in research. "One of the deliverables of such a conference is the production of new research and knowledge on journalism and the media. I wish to exhort the participants to address the issues of uptake of the generated research and apply the knowledge gathered and produced to inform and enhance debate, the media roles, responsibilities and good practice," he said.

On his part, University of Nairobi's Vice-Chancellor Prof George Magoha

commended the School of Journalism and Mass Communication for organising the conference which he reckoned would promote research and scholarship. In a speech read on his behalf by the Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Prof. Henry Mutoro, the Vice-Chancellor also applauded the School for its continued commitment to quality journalism and communication education and training.

The conference themes and topics were chosen particularly not because the media is in a state of flux but also because it is facing numerous challenges. In a fluid political environment, the media in Kenya seems constantly on watch particularly as it seeks to guard against serious state encroachment on liberties key to its operations and performance. Yet the media itself has subjected to fierce criticism for its canoodling with actors whose main (and rather deceitful) agenda is information and knowledge manipulation and management.

*The Annual Media Summit, organised by the School of Journalism and Communication, was premised on the fact that research activity is key to the strengthening of communication, journalism and media education and knowledge production.*

The issues above should of course interest the media, and the people that manage it. Such issues should be the basis for deeper research to help understand the genesis of and basis for the problems that beset the media and journalism at the moment. Granted, arguments abound that the media is often capricious and belligerent particularly when events are going against it.

The Annual Media Summit, organised by the School of Journalism and Communication, was premised on the fact that research activity is key to the strengthening of communication, journalism and media education and knowledge production. Accordingly, it is not only interested in the production of new research and knowledge on journalism and media but also the promotion of debates and general knowledge and understanding of journalistic and media roles, responsibilities, powers and practices, and the development and consolidation of effective relationships between scholars and institutions of journalism and media as well as practitioners and industry.

The Annual Media Summit addresses a wide range of issues relating to journalism and the media, both traditional and new. No topic will be out of bounds. In other words, normative as well as controversial issues relating to media and journalism will be addressed as a way of promoting high order research into traditional as well as emerging issues. The themes of the meeting will vary from year to year but will specifically relate to media and journalism. For example, themes will range from the obvious like the media and the political process to the controversial representation of sexuality for instance homosexuality. There will be opportunities for inter-disciplinary or multi-disciplinary approaches meant to expand media and journalism discourses into other related academic domains.



**Vice-Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha and Attorney General, Prof. Githu Muigai.**

## AG challenges law schools to lead in implementation of the constitution

The Attorney General, Prof. Githu Muigai recently challenged local law schools to be at the forefront in implementing the constitution in the country because they have requisite skills of interpretation. Addressing staff, students, legal experts and other participants in a forum on Legal Education Policy Making and Implementation, organized by the University to discuss the role of law schools in the implementation of the constitution, Prof. Muigai also advised the schools to embrace information technology and enhance sharing of intellectual resources with other institutions.

The forum was organized as part of the activities by the University to sensitize its stakeholders on the constitution. The University commenced constitutional

sensitization activities on August 12th as a 100-day Rapid Results Initiative (RRI).

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha chronicled the role played by the University of Nairobi scholars in the drafting and implementation of the constitution. They included the late Prof. H.W.O. Okoth Ogendo, the Attorney General, Githu Muigai, the late Dr. Adronico Adede and Prof. Musili Wambua who were commissioners in the defunct Constitution of Kenya Review Commission (CKRC). Other members of staff contributed in different ways. He challenged UoN alumni who are spread in many sectors in the country to spread the gospel about the constitution. He said "this panel discussion seeks to catalyze discussions on the role of law schools in the implementation of the constitution.

He also said that the University was considering the proposal to offer Constitutional Law as a common course to undergraduate students and called for partnerships among players in legal education to contribute to a deepened understanding of the Constitution and robust debates on its implementation.

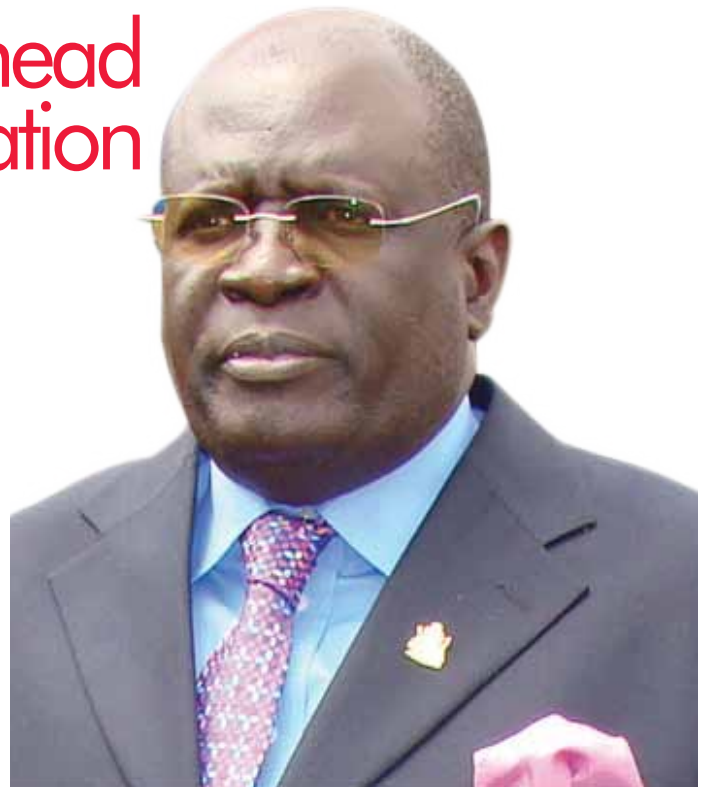
Others who addressed the forum included the Commission for the Implementation of the Constitution (CIC) Vice-Chairperson, Dr. Elizabeth Muli who spelt out CIC mandate as monitoring and overseeing the implementation and challenged legal institutions to be centres of excellence that model the constitution. Justice Joel Ngugi, Director, Judiciary Training Institute also made a presentation.

## Prof. Magoha to head African Association

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha was recently elected President of the Association of Medical Councils of Africa, in elections held during the Association’s Conference on Management of Medical Litigation in Kigali, Rwanda.

While accepting the appointment, Prof. Magoha pledged to incorporate the North African countries who are not members of the Association. He said that he will also work on increasing information exchange on regulatory frameworks as well as reciprocal recognition for medical practitioners and doctors trained in Africa.

Prof. Magoha, is also the Chairman of the Medical Practitioners and Dentists Board. He has previously served the continent as the Chairman of the Association of African Universities (AAU) a post he held between 2010 and April 2013. He is a Professor of surgery and has published widely in peer reviewed publications.



**Vice-Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha**

## Varsity joins Kenyans in supporting Westgate cause



**UoN students and staff donate blood during the drive.**

The University of Nairobi (UoN) responded swiftly in supporting victims of the Westgate Shopping Mall terrorist attack on September 21, 2013 by setting up a blood donation drive. The blood drive was set up at the Chancellor’s Court next to the University sports grounds and attracted many donors from the University community.

The week-long noble initiative which started on Monday, September 23, 2013 targeted students and members of staff who voluntarily donated blood in solidarity with the nation and support victims of the attack. 67 people were killed in the brutal attack and hundreds injured. Some members of staff lost their loved ones. The University also sent, medical staff and final year medical students to give assistance to various hospitals in the city.

# UoN Red Cross Chapter ranked top in Kenya

*The University of Nairobi is (UoN) Red Cross Chapter recently clinched the University Chapters Volunteer Programme Award after being ranked top by the National Society for its exemplary service to humanity.*

The team was presented with a certificate of recognition, trophy and cash prize to be used on a community project of their choice.

The award recognizes any public or private university which has a strong Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) club or chapter that has made a difference in the lives of the vulnerable in the communities where



**UoN Red Cross Chapter Officials show off the certificate and trophy: From (left) Chapter Patron, Mr. Ben Waweru, Vice-Chairperson & acting Academic Registrar, Caroline Njeri, First Aid Officer, Basilio Mwangi and Chairman, Sylvester Oloo.**

the university is located.

For the last 48 years, the University of Nairobi Red Cross Chapter has contributed to the society by holding blood donation mobilization activities, raising funds that have been used to purchase food and clothing for local orphaned children's homes, supported those in need through visits to patients in hospital and convicts in various prisons including Kamiti Maximum Security Prison and the elderly. The

Chapter has held various clean up exercises in local markets and participated in activities aimed at promoting life and health such as the measles campaigns. The chapter was also actively involved in the 2013 Choose Peace Campaign. The Patron of the Chapter is Mr. Ben Waweru, the Academic Registrar and is chaired by Sylvester Oloo.

Kudos to the UoN Red Cross Chapter!





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