

Mzee tells 1,891 graduates...

MAKE KENYA STRONGER



By Sammy Karumba

Need for another varsity

WELCOMING the President and Mama Ngina Kenyatta to the colourful and solemn graduation ceremony, the chairman of the Council of the University, Mr. B. M. Gecaga (pictured), told an attentive audience that the University's population is now 5,162 in the main University, and 1,200 at the Kenyatta University College.

In an eloquent welcoming address, Mr. Gecaga told their Excellencies and congregation:

"It is becoming increasingly apparent that one university, if it is to remain manageable, is insufficient to meet the needs of Kenyan young men and women who aspire to university education and who are breaking pass records in their Higher School Certificate examinations.

He suggested the establishment of one or two more universities "preferably in suitable rural areas."

Mr. Gecaga, who is also the chief executive of B.A.T. Kenya Ltd., paid glowing tribute to the devotion displayed by both the administrative and academic staff, and the successful students who were receiving their certificates, diplomas and degrees.

In an earlier part of his address, he sternly warned any potential trouble-makers among the students and reported that the troubles that erupted earlier this year were swiftly settled.

Mr. Gecaga said in a stern tone, "Violence as a weapon to solve university's problems cannot be condoned and must be replaced with reasoned discussions and dialogue which when carried out with reasonable people

PRESIDENT Kenyatta, in his capacity as the Chancellor of the University of Nairobi, yesterday called upon the 1,891 graduating students to use the knowledge they had acquired to make Kenya economically stronger and stable through a spirit of determination, undivided loyalty and patriotism to their motherland.

Conferring degrees and diplomas on the graduates, the President reminded them that a university existed to mould the minds and aspirations of those who went through it, and as citizens of this country the Nairobi University had given them ability to focus clearly what they could do for the country.

"On acquiring Uhuru, everyone in Kenya had to work hard to build the Kenya of today. Yet we must continue to make our nation stronger with this in mind, our people expect you to come out and use your knowledge and love of your country to make Kenya economically stronger and stable and to be ready at all times to defend what your countrymen have built and what you will build," Mzee said.

Praising the professors, lecturers and tutors for making it possible for the new graduates to complete their courses satisfactorily, Mzee also thanked the University Council for guiding the institution wisely through the past year. He also paid special tribute to "governments and agencies which have continued their support of university programmes of capital development, teaching, research and training."

Welcoming the President, the chairman of the Council of the University, Mr. B. M. Gecaga and the vice-chancellor, Dr. J. N. Karanja, lauded the graduates



An occasion for all...

Part of the students listening to speech on Grad at the University yesterday

ALL roads yesterday led to Nairobi University where 1,891 graduates were conferred their degrees and diplomas.

The university's Great Court was the scene of interaction between the country's intellectuals and the low-brows.

The university's seventh congregation, the occasion was preceded by a colourful, impressive and solemn academic procession, which included President Jomo Kenyatta, Chancellor of the university.

When Mzee took his seat, the Vice-Chancellor, Dr. J. N. Karanja, then constituted the congregation, followed by speeches.

Deans of the faculties then presented their candidates for the award of diplomas and conferment to degrees.

By Mitch Odera

dissolved the congregation and the procession, led by Mzee, then left the dais.

The Minister for Education, Mr. Taaita Toweett, was among the 13 who received doctoral degrees. He won "special" cheers from the gathering.

Mzee was met on arrival at the university by Mr. Toweett, the chairman of the university council, Mr. B. M. Gecaga, and Dr. Karanja.

Mr. Gecaga and Dr. Karanja, in their speeches, highly commended Mzee for his keen interest in the affairs of the university in which he had invested untiringly.

