



## PROF CARNUTE KHAMALA LEADING THE WAY IN ENTOMOLOGY

Professor Khamala is a Professor of Zoology and an accomplished, outstanding scholar. Sometimes described as forthright and one of a kind, Professor Khamala even sent a letter to the government,



**Prof. Canute Khamala**

while still a student in the United Kingdom, enquiring whether he would be able to get a job if he came back to the country. He has

taught for over 40 years and interacted with and taught many Eminent personalities in Kenya. He is also one of the founders of International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE).

Interview with Prof. Khamala

### How long have you been in the University of Nairobi?

For the last 49 years. I retired in 1998 and I have been working on post-retirement contract to this date.

### After 49 years of teaching, what makes your teaching different?

I begin all my first lectures in every first year class, with praise to God. I then ask each student to identify what his or her vision is. This is not the inscribed vision of the University, but what each student

visualizes for themselves and what they can individually achieve from this prestigious university.

### What is unique about the Zoology field?

Zoology is about the study of animals: from the smallest, amoeba to the biggest, elephant. Almost everything in life centers on the biological system.

The government should incorporate zoologists in key managerial positions which require skilled personnel in fields such as wild management or crop protection.

Zoologists should also take part in maintaining systems of Kenya Wildlife Society (KWS) which services the tourism industry.

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### Special points of interest:

- Prof. Khamala long serving member of staff in CBPS
- Expert in the field of Entomology
- Pointed out opportunities for those viewing Zoology and Entomology as a career

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## CBPS TAKING PERFORMANCE CONTRACTING TO THE NEXT LEVEL



staff at CBPS attending PC Training

College of Biological and Physical Sciences (CBPS) staff through training on performance contract (PC). The training was aimed at enlightening staff members on college's targets that needed to be attained, as well as involving each one

In his presentation, one of the trainers, Mr. Leonard Musyoka, Senior Assistant Registrar at Deputy Vice Chancellor Administration and Finance (DVC A&F) office, explained that performance targets must be relevant, comprehensive and should be benchmarked. He also emphasized on measurability noting that if performance, cannot be measured, it cannot be managed.

He also acknowledged that in

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**A** team from the Central Performance Contract Secretariat took Col-

of them in ensuring that they play a role in meeting the set targets.

## LEADING THE WAY IN ENTOMOLOGY



**Tsetse fly, one of the vectors of disease studied by entomologists such as Prof Khamala**

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In addition, zoologists can carry out research on Tsetse fly, which is a serious problem in the dairy industry, as well as the jigger infestation that has curbed many regions in Kenya. Jobs in Zoology are so many. They can be in oceans, in fisheries or even forests.

**You were among the founders of a well-known organization, based on your expertise in the field of Zoology. Tell us about this?**

We founded International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE) together with Tom Odhiambo, to look into issues in the tropics that were not being addressed by scientists, but posed detrimental health and productive risks, owing to insect infestation.

**You have also served in various boards?**

Yes, I have served in the capacity of chairman and member of boards such as Kenya Science Teachers College, National Environment and Management Authority (NEMA) and the Elder of the Burning Spear. I am also one of the founders of the Kenya National Academy of Science

(KNAS).

**What has motivated you all along?**

I am in the position I am today because of the late Professor Wasawo, the first African Professor in the whole of Eastern Africa. He taught and mentored me and I can say that he was the guru African in science.

I am also very proud of the people I have trained. Almost all professors in Zoology have passed through my hands.

I have lectured renowned politicians and prominent people in the country. Former Minister for Industrialization, Mr. Henry Kosgey, was among the first batch of students to undertake Zoology. In addition, I have taught Deputy President, Hon. William Ruto, who is currently pursuing a PhD in University of Nairobi's School of Biological Sciences, as well as the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research, Production and Extension UoN, Prof. Lucy Irungu, among others.

**What do you envision for the academicians who have served in long capacities as you have done?**

We receive certificate of long ser-

vice from the University. However, I look forward to a time when profound professors are given an emeritus status in all regional universities. This will enable professors skilled in various fields to train and pass down knowledge to young academics who would replace them. Professors Emeritus would also be available to students and lecturers to offer advice and guidance.

**Is the Zoology field promising?**

The future of the Zoology world is promising because of three measures: Climate change due to drought and floods; Energy and diverse ways of investing in it; Food and the capacity to produce adequate quantities. In all these biological systems, we need biology which is key for human life, key for society and key for Kenya.

**What do you do when you are not lecturing?**

Ones research and experiments will always be alive, you do not take a break. I enjoy being in the laboratories. If I am not researching or lecturing, then I am asleep.

**What would you like to be remembered for?**

I would like to be remembered for the science I have documented.

*I enjoy being in the laboratories. If I am not researching or lecturing, then I am asleep.*

## CBPS TAKING PERFORMANCE CONTRACTING TO THE NEXT LEVEL

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lower than what was achieved in a previous year. Mr. Peter Muri, Deputy Registrar at the DVC A & F office, guided participants through the college performance matrix.

The CBPS Performance Contract with the University of Nairobi has clear cut targets to be achieved in the

2013/2014 financial year. Among the targets set is installation of a seismological station webometric performance and heightened customer satisfaction.

While closing the training, the Principal CBPS, Prof. B. Aduda termed the sensitization a learning process for everyone, saying that it would enable staff to appreciate the

role of performance contract in the college and university at large. He urged members of staff to own the process of performance contract from each of their unit levels.

Dean, School of Physical Science, Prof. L. Njenga, CBPS Registrar, Mr. P. Mbutia and Directors were among those present during the training.



## DEAN OF CBPS ATTENDS THE GATURA GIRLS SECONDARY SCHOOL OPEN DAY



**Professor L.W. Njenga with Deputy principal Ms. Njambi**

Gatura Girls Secondary School is a public county boarding school in Gatura Township, Murang'a County.

The Principal Gatura Girls invited the College of Biological and Physical Sciences (CBPS) amongst other participants to talk to the girls during the academic/ career day. The theme of the day was: "discover, acquire and become". Participants who were invited to give motivational talks to the students were from diverse backgrounds including professionals, members of the university academia, politicians, some members of the local business community and former students of that school. Those in attendance included the local Member of Parliament, the Deputy Governor of Murang'a

County and the School Board of Management. The University of Nairobi College of Biological and Physical Sciences, was ably represented by the Dean of the School of Physical Sciences, Professor Lydia Njenga, the CBPS Exhibitions Coordinator Mr Godfrey Wafula, and Lecturer in the Department of Chemistry, and Mr Cromwel Lukorito

who is also a member of the College Exhibitions Committee and a Lecturer in the Department of Meteorology.

The Dean gave an overview of the University of Nairobi, including additional details about the College of Biological and Physical Sciences, and her own experiences both as a student and as an academician. She emphasized the need of hard work and encouraged the students to put more efforts in their studies.

Mr Cromwel Lukorito enlightened the students about other available career opportunities at the University of Nairobi besides the well known and popular courses such as Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery. He advised them that it was not possible for

everyone to pursue a career in medicine since other professionals are also needed and further more, the available spaces were limited. In addition, Mr Lukorito expounded on available opportunities for candidates who had scored mean grades of C- and above.

Mr Godfrey Wafula responded to the various questions on the academic programmes at the University. He explained the importance of appropriate subject clusters and also shed more light on the diversity in scientific scicareers including actuarial science.

The students were excited about the talk and had many questions. At the end of the session, they requested the team to make another visit before the end of the year. The teachers and members of the local community were also grateful for the attendance of the representatives from CBPS and for the information given to the students.

The team distributed brochures on the academic programmes in CBPS, the current University of Nairobi Academic Calendar and the 2014/2015 University of Nairobi Student Information Handbooks after the function.



**Prof. Njenga addressing the students**

*She emphasized the need of hard work and encouraged the students to put more efforts in their studies.*

## School of Biological Sciences Gets a New Director



**Prof. Paul N. Ndegwa.  
New Director SBS**

**A** new Director for the School of Biological Sciences was appointed at the end of May this year. The School has been under the

leadership of Dr. Elijah Akunda for the last six years.

During Dr. Akunda's tenure, many changes were made to the school's academic programmes, one of the more significant being the revision of both the undergraduate and post graduate programs. The revisions to the programmes were made to enable the school meet the market demand.

Dr Akunda handed over to the new director, Prof. Paul Ndegwa on 27<sup>th</sup> of May, 2014.

During the Handing Over Ceremony, Prof. Ndegwa said that he was humbled by the appointment and promised to serve the school

to the best of his ability building on the achievements of his predecessors.

Prof. Ndegwa affirmed his commitment to take the school to the next level by nurturing the existing harmony between staff and the University management. He promised to use open door policy to benefit both the staff and students of the school. We at the CBPS news wish Prof Ndegwa success in guiding the school and Dr Akunda all the best in his future endeavours.



**Some Academic Staff of the School of Biological Sciences**

# MILESTONES—PROMOTIONS

Department of Chemistry		
Name	Position	School/ Institute
Dr. Fredrick D. Oduor	Senior Lecturer	Chemistry
Dr. Albert J. Ndakala	Senior Lecturer	Chemistry
Dr. Martin M. Mbugua	Senior Lecturer	Chemistry
Dr. John M. Wanjohi	Senior Lecturer	Chemistry
Dr. Vincent O. Madadi	Lecturer	Chemistry
Dr. Njagi Njomo	Lecturer	Chemistry
Dr. Karir E. Kipkoech	Lecturer	Chemistry
Ms. Marion N. Checha	SeniorTechnologist	Chemistry
Department of Physics		
Dr. Sebastian M. Waita	Senior Lecturer	Physics
Dr. Justus Simiyu	Senior Lecturer	Physics
Dr. Erick O. Ayieta	Senior Lecturer	Physics
Mr. Dickson Linani Omucheni	Chief Technologist	Physics
Department of Mathematics		
Dr. Josephine W. Kagunda	Senior Lecturer	Mathematics
School of Computing and Informatics		
Dr. Robert Obwacha Oboko	Director e-learning	School of Computing and Infomatics
School of Biological Sciences		
Prof. Robinson B. Mwaura	Professor	School of Biological Sciences

## SCHOOL OF PHYSICAL SCIENCES TEAM BUILDING DAY

The School of Physical Sciences (SPS) held a successful team building exercise that opened with tips on stress management and ended with vigorous sports activities.

Staff were given a radical and practical recipe for addressing stress. Giving this unique approach to stress management was Ms. Jean Wachira, a psychologist from University of Nairobi's Department of Psychology. She identified humour as a stress buster noting that "Everyone should try to incorporate humour in their daily lives."

The highlight of Ms.

Wachira's presentation was a practical exercise which proved that laughter is infectious. She also expounded on the effects of stress and other ways of counteracting stress including time management, change of attitude, nutritious diet and a social support circle.

What followed was an intense workout, comprising of team building games and winning strategies, where staff battled it out in different group exercises, a relay race and finally an intense tug-of-war competition.

The Principal College of Biological and Physical

Sciences (CBPS), Prof. B. Aduda, who opened the event, invited staff to be part of the success emanating from team play in the college.

The Dean School of Physical Sciences, Prof. Lydia Njenga was an apt and energetic host during the field

games. **SPS TUG-OF-WAR TEAM** She extended

her appreciation to everyone who participated in making the day a success

