



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

JUNE 2014



# SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS NEWSLETTER Vol. 3 No. 2

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



Prof. Jane Mariara, Director, SoE.

Welcome to the last issue of the School of Economics newsletter for the 2013/14 year. The April to June 2014 quarter was quite eventful. It started with welcoming of new students under the privately sponsored programmes in Nairobi Campus.

A number of meetings were also held during the quarter ranging from guest lectures to research workshops. PhD students also presented their PhD work at the African Economic Research Consortium Biannual Workshop in Accra, Ghana. The quarter however ended on a very sad note. Mr. L. Maurice Awiti, Deputy Director, School of Economics went to be with the Lord on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2014 after a short illness. He was laid to rest on 12<sup>th</sup> July at his home in HomaBay County. Maurice has left a huge vacuum in the School where he had worked for 33 years. May God rest his soul in eternal peace.

## NEWS

### Staff Matters

#### 1). School welcomes new administrator



Mr. Mathew M. Nyamu



Mr. Daniel M. Gitonga

Mr. Mathew M. Nyamu joined the School on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2014, replacing Mr. Daniel Gitonga who was transferred to Faculty of Agriculture. Mr. Nyamu holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree, Second class (Hons) from the University of Nairobi, and a Post graduate Diploma, Development Administration from the University of Birmingham U.K. Mr. Nyamu Worked with the Civil Service before joining the University of Nairobi in 1992. He has over 20 years

administrative experience at the University of Nairobi having worked with the Faculties of Arts, Agriculture and the Centre for International Programmes and Links before joining the School of Economics.

#### 2). Staff Promotions



Dr. Joy Kiiru

Dr. Joy Kiiru was promoted to Senior Lecturer in May 2014. She holds a PhD from Bonn University, Germany, MA in Economics from Chancellor College- Malawi and a BA (Economics and Philosophy) from the University of Nairobi.

## RECENT SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

### Undergraduate Module II May intake orientation

The orientation of first year module II students was conducted on Tuesday 29th April 2014. Students were taken through the process of online registration, courses offered and advised on how to conduct themselves while in the university among others. More than 120 students attended the exercise which was graced by the School Director, Prof. Jane Mariara



Undergraduate students listen attentively during the orientation

### Masters module II Students orientation May intake

The School conducted the orientation for masters students on Wednesday 30th April 2014. During the orientation, the students were taken through their responsibilities including attending classes, avoiding examination cheating and the importance of staying focused on completing the course.

The occasion was graced by the School Director, Prof. Jane Mariara.



*Masters students during the orientation*

### Consultative meeting on Social Health Protection Mechanisms in the Republic of Kenya- Panafric Hotel, Nairobi, April 10<sup>th</sup> 2014

The School of Economics hosted a National Consultative meeting to analyze the current status of social health protection services in the East African Community. The objective of the workshop was to voice Kenya's opinion on how the EAC Partner States can move forward the social health protection agenda in the region through harmonization of existing policies and legal frameworks to ensure that people are socially protected against diseases and accidents.

Through a competitive process with renowned global leaders in such studies, a consortium composed of schools of public health/Economics from EAC region and research institutes won the tender to assess the status of social health protection mechanisms in the region and to propose the way forward towards harmonization. This assessment is being done in all the East African Community member states. Rwanda is also contributing to the assessment because of the tremendous achievements in the area of social health protection achieved so far. The School of Economics is proud to be part of this project.

In her opening remarks, the Director, School of Economics lauded participation of members, noting that their presence underscored the importance to move forward the integration of policies and programs towards harmonized social protection mechanism in general and social health protection in particular. Protecting the health of the population living in the East African Community is an extremely important component of the common market protocol because as people move within the region, they need to continue benefiting from protection against catastrophic health expenditure when they need care. The workshop was facilitated by Dr. Urbanus M. Kioko, School of Economics; Angelique K. Rwiyereka and Mr. Spencer Bugingo, GHI Solutions Rwanda and Mr. Munguti Nzoya, Ministry of Health, Kenya. Participants were drawn from a wide range of stakeholder institutions including Futures Group; UNICEF and Ministry of Health.

### Participation in the 5<sup>th</sup> University of Nairobi open day

The School of Economics participated in the University of Nairobi Open Day from 8th - 10th May 2014. The School of Economics attracted a lot of potential students, parents and other stakeholders.

Most of the students wanted to know the career prospects of the students graduating from the School and the staff provided the information in plenty.



*The Chancellor Dr Vijoo H. M. Rantansi (Mrs) OGW (third right) accompanied by DVC (SA) visiting our stand*

### PhD students participate in AERC Research/thesis workshop

Six (6) PhD students presented their PhD proposals/post fieldwork reports during the AERC Biannual Research and Thesis Workshop held at the Royale Palme Beach Hotel, Accra Ghana from 31<sup>st</sup> May to 6<sup>th</sup> June 2014. Several members of academic staff also participated as resource persons/supervisors, while three members of staff presented proposals/ongoing research.

Name	Topic	Presentation
1). Kipyegon B. Kirui	Financial Market Imperfection and its impact on the Kenyan Economy	Proposal
2). Ongong'a Winnie Adhiambo	The demand for long term care: the case of spinal cord injuries (SCIS) in Kenya.	Proposal
3). Rogers Ondiba Ocheng	Essays on the microstructure of Government bonds market in Kenya	Proposal
4). Alex Oguso Ochien'g	Wage indexation and macroeconomic stabilisation in Kenya: evidence from public sector wage adjustments in Kenya	Proposal
5). Dunstone Ulwodi	The Potential Impact of Voluntary Environmental Management Practices In Kenya:	Post-field report
6). Elizabeth Owino	Equity And Efficiency In Health Care Delivery In Kenya	Post-field report



## Efd-Kenya writing workshop - 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> June 2014

EfD Kenya held a writing workshop from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> June 2014. The purpose of the workshop was to bring together participants of two ongoing EfD-K projects: Increasing block tariffs and the relationship between income and water use in Nairobi, Kenya project and (2) Water sourcing and sanitation in rural Kenya. The specific objectives of the workshop were to among other things:

- (I) Discuss outcome of fieldwork;
- (ii) Finalise data cleaning;
- (iii) Start data analysis;
- (iv) Discuss the papers to be produced from the projects; and,
- (v) To identify and plan next steps for the projects.

In the Increasing block tariffs project, the researchers are David Fuente (Kenan Fellow and PhD student, University of North Carolina), Prof. Jane Mariara (Director, School of Economics, University of Nairobi, and EfD-K Coordinator), Mbutu Mwaura (Monitoring and Evaluation Manager at Nairobi City Water and Sewerage Company (NCWSC)), Dr. Moses Ikiara (Managing Director, KenInvest) and Prof. Dale Whittington (University of North Carolina). The Water Sourcing and Sanitation team consists of Prof. Joe Cook (University of Washington), Prof. Peter Kimuyu (University of Nairobi, and Chair of EfD-K Executive Committee) and Prof. Dale Whittington (University of North Carolina). Josephine Gatua and John Wainaina are supporting both teams. In a related event, The EfD-Kenya team made a presentation to the NCWSC Research and Development Committee on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2014 at the Central Region Board Room, Addis Ababa Road, Nairobi.



*EfD-Kenya researchers and staff during the writing workshop*

## Guest lecture on “competition, regional integration and inclusive growth”, 17<sup>th</sup> June 2014

Prof. Simon Roberts, the Director of Centre for Competition, Regulation and Economic Development, University of Johannesburg gave a lecture on, “Competition, Regional Integration and Inclusive Growth: Key Insights from Cross Country Studies of Cement and Sugar” with a keynote address on "Partnering in Research and Training between University of Nairobi and Competition Authority of Kenya (CAK)" by Mr. Francis Wang'ombe Kariuki, the Director General of the Authority.

The occasion kicked off collaboration between UON and CAK as envisaged in an MOU that the two institutions entered recently. For this reason, it is very important that we all find time and attend the event.



*Mr. Francis W. Kariuki, CEO CAK, delivers his key note address.*

## Short training course on PhD supervision

Three members of academic staff from the School attended a 3 day short course on PhD supervision at the University of Nairobi from 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> June 2014 along with teaching faculty from other units of the University. The participants from the School were Dr. Peter Muriu, Dr. Martine Oleche and Dr. Daniel Abala.



*Dr. Peter Muriu*

**D**r. Peter Muriu reported: “I attended the PhD supervision training course on 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> June. The course was facilitated by the office of the DVC Research, Production and Extension. The instructors were Professors R. G. Wahome, P. Gathumbi

and L. C. Bebora all who were drawn from College of Agriculture and Veterinary Services. They had received the training at Copenhagen University (fully funded by EU that also included Sokoine University staff and Makerere). The course covered better supervision competence, roles and alignment of supervisors, application of rules and regulations governing PhD training, developing realistic PhD training plans, quality of a PhD thesis, managing PhD grants, ethics of supervision and the way forward. The course content was delivered via lectures and group work. Overall the training was very beneficial to the supervisors. Though it is understandable that the number of PhD students that any unit produces depends on a combination of factors some of which are beyond the supervision roles, if our School is to improve on the PhD completion rates, it is worthwhile to put as many supervisors and potential supervisors as possible into this kind of training.”



## FARE THEE WELL ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR



**I**t was a sad quarter for the School as it closed with the demise of the second Associate Director of the School Mr. L. Maurice Awiti, on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2014. Mr. Awiti had worked for the University of Nairobi in various capacities since 1981. He served as Director Student welfare Authority at some point

*The late Mr. L. Maurice Awiti* before being appointed acting Associate Director, School of Economics on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2010, a position he held till his death. His contribution to the School can be summed up in the following tribute, written by members of the School:

“At the School of Economics, He was like a father to the students and members of staff. He listened to the concerns of everybody and advised appropriately, and the issues and concerns were effectively sorted out. Maurice was a mentor, generous and fair in the way he dealt with everybody in the school, and the university at large. He was helpful and effective advisor to both students and staff whenever this was needed.

Maurice's exemplary performance in the halls of residence, at Students' Welfare Authority (SWA) and any responsibility ever given to him to handle in the university was unmatched. As a person he was always deeply committed and ready to be of help to others in an almost selfless manner. He was able to manage his emotions very well, and if he felt offended, he would merely walk away rather than belabor the point. He practiced patience.”

Maurice was laid to rest on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2014 at his home in Mawego village, Homa Bay County. The funeral was graced by many dons and he was escorted in full academic dress.

**May the Almighty God rest his soul in eternal peace**



*School of Economics staff set off from Kisii to Mawego, Homa Bay County for the burial.*



*Dons escort the body to the grave side in full academic attire.*



*The blessing of the grave*



*The body is lowered into the grave*

### Upcoming Events

- 1). LSE-Africa Consortium Workshop on Strengthening Doctoral Training: University of Cape Town, 2-9 July 2014
- 2). UNDP-UNDESA Presentation Gains and Losses in Kenya's Road Towards African Integration” by Dr. Eduardo Zependa. 07<sup>th</sup> August 2014 at the School of Economics

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