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UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

**VARSITY FOCUS**

A General Information Sheet from the Vice-Chancellor

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## 1. CLOSURE AND REOPENING OF UNIVERSITY

The closure of the University following the disturbances at the Central Catering Unit on Tuesday, 26 February, 1980, has disrupted the normal functioning of the Faculties at the Chiromo and Main Campuses. The University continues to try and find ways of solving student problems. In the current crisis, the Vice-Chancellor has had the University's problems discussed by special meetings of the Chairmen of Departments, Senate and Council. At its special meeting held on 3 March, 1980, Senate decided to set up a Committee to study and make recommendations to Council on the Central Catering Unit and other problems related to student unrest in the University.

In the meantime, the damages have been assessed and repairs are being carried out. The repairs should be completed within a week. Council, at its Special Meeting held on 13 March, 1980 resolved that, subject to consultation with the Government and in view of the continuing drought conditions, the University should reopen on 14 April, 1980.

## 2. CURRENT DROUGHT CONDITIONS

### Electricity:

The East African Power & Lighting Co. Ltd., called a meeting on 13 March, 1980 to explain to the consumers, including the University, that unless there is sufficient rain between then and 22 March, 1980, power rationing will have to be intensified. The city centre will be affected more. Where rationing is already in force, the consumers must expect longer hours of power rationing. There has to be rationing, otherwise the country will be without power altogether within a short time.

The causes of the present situation were explained to include the current drought; failure of the short rains; increased water projects in the Tana River catchment areas; increased irrigation by farmers in the same catchment areas; and breakdown of one of the generating machines in February 1978. The machine is, however, almost fully repaired.

The current saving of power has reached 12%. This must reach 20% to avoid what has been termed as Dry Dam Day. If there is sufficient rain between now and end of March, normal power supply will be resumed. Returning to normal power supply will be a gradual process because there has to be a build-up of water supply.

Siltation has not caused rationing. This is only important on long-term basis because it shortens the life of the dam.

The E.A.P. & L. Co. Ltd., are buying all the power Uganda can sell. The Company is utilizing all their standby generating machines. If water is available, the E.A.P. & L. Co. Ltd have the capacity to produce power far in excess of demand for sometime to come. When Masinga Dam is commissioned in October next year, it will hold water in reserve for dry periods.

The E.A.P. & L. Co. Ltd has not opposed any manufacturer from installing standby generators. The economics of such an installation has to be gone into as they can be very expensive and, in fact, the Company itself has had to phase out their standby generators. The licencing of such installations rests with the Minister for Energy and not with the E.A.P. & L. Co. Ltd.

The consumers have requested the E.A.P. & L. Co Ltd to try and stick to the power rationing schedules they produce because, in the past, the employers have found it embarrassing when employees report for duty at the agreed time only to find that there was no electricity.

The question of how long the power rationing will continue, therefore, depends on when the rains come and how heavy they are. In the long run, geothermal and solar energy sources are being developed by the Government.

#### Water:

The water shortage problem reported in Varsity Focus No.11 continues to be experienced. This shortage has been caused, as explained earlier, by the low water level at source due to the current drought prevailing in the country.

The power rationing that has had to be introduced has further compounded the problem because electricity is required to pump water up to the reservoir tanks.

Water shortage has been particularly bad at the Kabete campus and both the students and staff there have shown commendable understanding of the problem.

The Meteorological Department are optimistic that the rains will come between now and end of next week. There has been some rain in Kakamega, Meru, Embu and Nyeri, but more widespread and heavier rains must come before normal water supply can be resumed.

### 3. THE NAIROBI UNIVERSITY SPORTS ASSOCIATION

Interest in sports has recently gained momentum within the University. With the formation of the Kenya Universities Sports Association (KUSA) which aims, among other things, to promote closer contacts among students of Kenyan Universities and other institutions of higher learning within Kenya, there has been formed a Nairobi University Sports Association with the following objectives:

- a) to encourage and control sporting events and interests in games;
- b) to encourage better relations, competitions and good sportsmanship among sportsmen and sportswomen;
- c) to provide effective training for the students for national and international meetings;
- d) to bring better sports relationships with other Universities.

The Association will establish functional committees, namely, the Sports Council, the Executive Committee, the Committee for Indoor Games, the Club Committee and the Public Relations Committee. The University can look forward to improved sporting activities within and outside its campuses.

### 4. RESEARCH ON FARMING SYSTEMS

In December 1979, the International Development Research Centre organised a trip to India, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand to review research on farming systems, at which the Departments of Agricultural Economics and Crop Science were represented by Drs. W.M. Mwangi and D.N. Ngugi. Some of the experiences gained from this trip are contained in a short report available in the Faculty of Agriculture. The report stresses the importance which these countries have attached to an interdisciplinary approach in cropping systems research for which a research methodology has been formulated. The report notes in part that "the objective of cropping systems research approach is to develop appropriate technology based on the farmer's socio-economic and environmental realities. This approach involves first making an inventory of type of crops grown; kinds of inputs being used; land classification of a given ecozone; cropping patterns etc. By

classifying the cropped land according to such physical features as slope, soil types, drainage, etc., the researcher will ensure that each land class will be treated as a distinct situation while attempting to evolve suitable cropping system for the area. Cropping Systems Research findings arising from experiments in distinct ecozones or soil/slope types would then be issued as recommendations specific to the farmers' unique situation. The cropping system research system approach avoids the pitfalls of discipline oriented research which has often failed to take into account the farmers socio-economic and environmental set-up before embarking on research to solve a particular problem of production on the farm and then making recommendations."

It also points out that whereas the concepts and methodology may not be entirely new, the idea of showing that the information generated in three months might be as good in solving farmers' problems just like the one generated over a year or longer is new. In conclusion, the participants report that from the trip "it was clear that Farming System research is mainly oriented towards problem-solving. There is very little, if any, disciplinary type of research that is being undertaken. The farming system research is also promoting the idea of multi-disciplinary approach to research and in solving farmers' problems. This is even more interesting when pooled together between the scientists from the University and those in the Ministry of Agriculture as we saw in Thailand. This is one approach that the University of Nairobi should try to promote, not to mention the need for such approach among the Faculty members coming from various disciplines".

About the same time, Dr. D.B. Thomas completed a three months' sabbatical leave study tour of the USA and Mexico. In Ohio, Indiana, Iowa, Mississippi, Arizona and Mexico, Dr. Thomas looked at soil conservation research and practice, concluding in part that "the move to reduce tillage methods which leave residues on the surface should not only reduce erosion and pollution but should reduce energy inputs as well. Ideas on controlling soil erosion must take account of changes in farming technology. The approach to erosion control using the Universal Soil Loss Equation has been updated in the USDA Agricultural Handbook No. 537 to take account of the latest developments.

"Control of soil erosion is not a task which can be done once for all time but a continuing struggle. Cooperation between suitably qualified agriculturalists and agricultural engineers and members of the farming community is needed for success. Kenya still needs to develop an adequate corp of trained people at all levels,

to develop public consciousness about the consequences of erosion and the methods of control and to carry out the basic research that is needed to provide technical solutions that are economically realistic".

The report is available in the Department of Agricultural Engineering for those interested.

5. SEMINAR ON UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION

The seminar which had been scheduled for Monday, 17 March, 1980 on New Trends in Management has been postponed to Friday, 21 March, 1980 between 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. in Education Theatre II. The Seminar has been organised by Mr. P.N.K. Gufwoli on behalf of the Faculty of Commerce. The topic is of interest to both full-time administrators and administrators holding academic posts in the University. The Seminar will be conducted by Professor Fred Wickett, a well-known authority in human resources planning and management. Prof. Wickett is an authority in both industrial psychology and business administration.

It is hoped that as many people as possible will take advantage of this opportunity to listen to and exchange views on Management, especially on the management of Universities.

6. STAFF MATTERS

6.1 New Appointments

<u>Name</u>	<u>Designation</u>	<u>Department</u>
Mr. P.M. Mbugua	Tutorial Fellow	Med. Physiology
Dr. D.K. Kiaraha	" "	" "
Dr. A.M. Adam	" "	Medicine
Dr. C.J. Grant	Lecturer	Zoology
Prof. M.O. Adeniji	Vis. Prof.	Crop Science
Dr. J.W. Patterson	Snr. Lecturer	Zoology
Dr. V. Jaccarini	Snr. Lecturer	Zoology
Dr. M. Valland	Vis. Prof.	Food Science & Tech.
Dr. D.K. Gikonyo	Tutorial Fellow	Medicine
Miss J.M. Kayere	Jun. Res. Fellow	Inst. of Afr. Studies
Dr. K.M. Siddiqui	Lecturer	Mech. Engineering
Dr. R.M. Eley	Lecturer	Animal Physiology
Dr. P. Struebi	Vis. Lecturer	Food Science & Tech.
Mr. P.M. Chege	Systems Analyst	I.C.S.
Mr. P.A. Ruane	" "	I.C.S.
Dr. H. Matovu	Snr. Lecturer	Community Health
Dr. O. Parry	Lecturer	Animal Physiology
Dr. J. Mathew	Snr. Lecturer	Mech. Engineering

New Appointments (Cont'd)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Designation</u>	<u>Department</u>
Mr. P.G. Ngunjiri	Tutorial Fellow	Architecture
Mr. S. Khan	" "	"
Mr. P.S. Thatthi	" "	"

6.2 Promotions

Mr. K. Mazrui	Lecturer	Inst. of Adult St.
Dr. S. M. Arimi	Lecturer	Public Health
Mr. J.N.K. Mugambi	Lecturer	Phil. & Rel. St.
Mr. S.B.O. Gutto	Lecturer	Public Law
Mr. J. Moilo	Chief Tech.	Zoology
Mr. Guido Ast	Snr. Lecturer	Architecture
Mr. B.K. Kapoor	Snr. Lecturer	Architecture

6.3 Re-Appointments

Dr. J. Okulo	Lecturer	Med. Physiology
Mr. J.S. Mayienga	Tutorial Fellow	Design
Mr. J. Ruganda	Lecturer	Literature
Mr. N.A.G. Wanjohi	Tutorial Fellow	Government
Dr. F. Waweru	Tutorial Fellow	Med. Physiology
Prof. F.H.El-Masri	Lecturer	Ling. & Afr. Langs.
Dr. J.R. Brock	Lecturer	Med. Physiology
Dr. C.J. Swain	Lecturer	Physics
Dr.A.C. Eijnsbergen	Snr. Lecturer	Crop Science
Mr. A.K. Chaudry	Lecturer	Surveying & Photogramm.
Dr. M. Lumba	Snr. Lecturer	Paediatrics
Dr.W.G.S.Pandikow	Snr. Lecturer	Computer Science
Dr. C. Mullins	Snr. Lecturer	Mathematics
Mr. T. Van Sant	Lecturer	Mathematics
Mr. J.B. Lukoma	Lecturer	Management Science
Mrs. M.L. Kapur	Asst. Lecturer	Mathematics
Dr. E.A. Ojara	Lecturer	Surgery
Dr. D. Basiime	Lecturer	Crop Science
Dr. M. Bahemuka	Lecturer	Medicine
Mrs. W.K.Ssebunya	User Services Manager	Computer Science
Mr. M. Bakari	Asst. Lecturer	Linguistics & African Langs.
Mr. R.G. Barber	Lecturer	Soil Science
Dr. H.Kayongo-Male	Snr. Lecturer	Animal Production
Mrs. A.B. Odaga	Jun. Res. Fellow	Inst. of Afr. St.
Mr. M.F. Chuaga	Tutorial Fellow	Agric. Engineering
Mr. T.K. Mukiyama	Tutorial Fellow	Botany
Mrs.Y. Ramamoorthy	Lecturer	Literature

6.4 Resignations/Expiry of Contract

Prof. A.M. Odonga	Vis. Professor	Contract expired on 29.2.80
Miss N. Harjee	Snr. Lecturer	Resigned from 3.1.80
Prof. K. Borgin	Snr. Lecturer	Resigns from 14.4.80
Dr. O. Aseto	Snr. Lecturer	Resigns from 13.4.80
Dr. S.W.K. Awuye	Snr. Lecturer	Resigned from 6.1.80
Mr. M. Odindo	Tutorial Fellow	Resigned from 31.1.80
Mr. N.H. Khan	Lecturer	Resigns from 13.4.80
Dr. F. Lamphear	Lecturer	Contract expired on 29.2.80
Dr. J.P. Singh	Snr. Lecturer	Contract expired on 11.2.80
Dr. N.S. Shetty	Lecturer	Resigns from 1.4.80
Dr. S.K. Guha	Lecturer	Resigns from 15.7.80
Dr. J.P. Madda	Lecturer	Contract expires on 30.4.80
Dr. A.W. Diamond	Snr. Lecturer	Contract expired on 29.2.80

March 19, 1980