



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

# VARSIY FOCUS

A General Information Sheet from the Vice-Chancellor

---

## C O N T E N T S

	<u>Page</u>
1. AN ABSTRACT OF PROF. J. MUHANGI'S INAUGURAL LECTURE.....	1
2. FACULTY-BASED STUDENTS' ASSOCIATIONS....	3
3. SPORTS.....	9
4. ACCOMMODATION.....	11
5. OBITUARY.....	13
6. RESEARCH FUNDS.....	15

1. AN ABSTRACT OF THE 15TH INAUGURAL LECTURE  
BY PROF. J. MUHANGI "PSYCHIATRY IN KENYA:  
NEW HORIZONS IN MEDICAL CARE"

"Years of struggle lie behind us,  
Ceaseless labour little gain,  
Ever let those years remind us  
Sunshine follows after rain".

These words are part of a school anthem I used to sing several years ago. They seem appropriate in describing the history, the present and future of psychiatry in Kenya.

Modern psychiatry in Kenya began in the 1920's when, ironically, Mathare hospital opened as a smallpox quarantine centre. Soon, however, smallpox receded and the centre became a mental Unit.

By the forties it was to form the base of Carother's work which resulted in his controversial publication, "The African mind in health and disease". It is not probably correct to blame Carothers for the flaws in his treatises. Psychiatric knowledge at his time was anyway scanty as exemplified by European travellers who returned to tell stories such as that the adult African's intellectual functioning was like that of a seven year old European child.

In the intervening period, a lot of knowledge has been accumulated. Thus, organic diseases like smallpox have been completely eradicated and knowledge of psychiatric diseases has been tremendously boosted as attested to by the various publications both from the continent and Kenya.

Psychiatric illnesses are not only complex both in diagnosis and treatment but are notorious for the effects they have on society. Diagnostically, they are difficult because they can masquerade as physical illnesses, thus deceiving doctors who waste a lot of time and money making investigations and offering prescriptions that ultimately do not benefit the patient. Furthermore, a psychiatrically ill patient will put a lot of demand on the family, will become less productive and in extreme cases will destroy property and crops.

Unfortunately, the new psychiatric knowledge has not been transmitted to many of our present health workers who continue to regard mental illness as 'madness'. The two concepts are not always interchangeable since people with purely physical illness can show behaviour indistinguishable from madness, behaviour that will be eliminated if the physical condition is treated.

There is an urgent need to increase the teaching of psychiatry not only in the medical schools but in all health training centres. Furthermore, there is need to institute research tasks that will enable us to understand fully the nature of psychiatric illness in our population.

The last ten years of this department are probably the years of struggle, ceaseless labour and little gain. They are years in which the department was poorly housed and had the minimum of staff. Recently, however, training of psychiatrists has been given a boost and a registered psychiatric nursing course has been started.

With the increasing governmental and University awareness of the ills of psychiatric disorder,

it looks as if sunshine will soon follow after rain.

The full text of the lecture is in press for publication and sale.

2. FACULTY-BASED STUDENTS' ASSOCIATIONS

The following students' associations are currently operating in the University. Those marked with an asterisk(\*) should submit their programmes of activities for the current year and the additional information requested below, including copies of their Constitutions.

1. Accounting Students Association\*
2. Association of Architectural Students
3. Association of Medical Students\*
4. AIESEC Kenya - Economics Commerce - Registered
5. Biology & Wildlife Association
6. DS 70 Design Students Association\*
7. Education Students Association\*
8. Engineering Students Association
9. Geographical Society of Kenya\*
10. Historical Association of Kenya\*
11. Law Students Association\*
12. Literature Students Association\*
13. Marketing Students Association
14. Nairobi University Agriculture Students Association (NUASA)
15. Sociology Students Association
16. Swahili Students Association\*
17. Veterinary Students Association\*
18. Nairobi University Pharmacy Students Association (NUPSA)\*

2.1 Required Information

2.1.1 As reported in Varsity Focus No.10 faculty-based students' organisations have been asked to programme their activities to include activities of an interdisciplinary nature. Many of these associations have not submitted this information to the Vice-Chancellor's office. More information is now required to update the records in his office and to assist the associations wherever possible.

2.1.2 Those Student Associations which have not submitted their Constitutions to the Vice-Chancellor's office are requested to do so as quickly as possible. This should include the number of members each association has and the names of its officials, date of inception and past achievements of the association. An example of such an achievement is reported below.

2.1.3 Of immediate importance for the associations is an indication of the problems they are encountering such as office needs, financial problems, and management and secretarial needs. This information should also be sent to the Vice-Chancellor's office. Whereas the University may not be in a position to offer these facilities wholly or in the immediate future, an assessment of the needs and the extent to which the University can be involved may subsequently be worked out. An example of such an involvement is reported

below in that the Gandhi Smarak Trust Fund is willing to finance educational projects by students. It is, therefore, important to provide the information being asked for.

## 2.2 Students' Activities

2.2.1 The Marketing Students' Association has as its main objective to introduce students to their prospective employers. To achieve this, they will organise public lectures and trips to industries in the City and in the rural areas. One such trip organised recently was to the Kenya Farmers' Association. This was in response to the Vice-Chancellor's call to the University community to help in the economic development of the rural areas by imparting knowledge to those who need it for solving practical problems of development.

During the remaining part of the academic year, the Association will organise three public lectures, educational visits to various industries in the City and one trip to a rural area towards the end of the year.

2.2.2 The Sociology Students' Association will hold the following public lectures in the latter part of the current session:

27 Feb 1980 - "Rural-urban migration - Causes, Consequences and Remedies".

5 Mar 1980 - "Impact of the present examination system on life changes".

12 Mar 1980 - "Kenya's New Education Policy".

At the middle of every first term, it is customary for the Sociology Students' Association (SSA) to hold an annual dinner-dance. Such was the occasion on February 1, 1980 in the University's

Junior Common Room. It is during this occasion when students and staff members of the association meet and interact on a purely recreational level in anticipation of a more busy time as students prepare themselves for the end of year University Examinations. Further, the occasion aims at providing a last best opportunity during the academic year when non-members can opt for membership in the association.

When circumstances permit, it is also desirable to invite distinguished guests to share the occasion with students. In this respect, the association was pleased to be honoured by two distinguished guests - the Vice-Chancellor and the Faculty Dean. Indeed, this was the first time in the history of the association when a Vice-Chancellor gave such respect to the SSA.

In his remarks as the guest of honour, the Vice-Chancellor noted the importance of recreational activities as "a health factor" in the students' academic life. He also appreciated efforts by students to relate their knowledge of Sociology to other discipline, and particularly to understanding problems of poverty, illiteracy, and ignorance that require solution through interdisciplinary efforts. He further remarked that many issues in socioeconomic development would be better understood if sociological insights are provided, and hoped that in future sociology will be even more utilized in identifying "action areas" which relate to development.

2.2.3 The Agricultural Students' Association has organised a Symposium to be held in March on "The need for restructuring and reforming a

more relevant curriculum to meet the immediate needs of the developing nations".

They also hope to participate in the All-Africa Agriculture Students Seminar on "Agricultural patterning to enhance rural development" to be held in Nigeria in March and in the 24th International Association of Agriculture Students scheduled to be held in Spain in July.

The educational trip being organised to survey Kenya's rural agriculture in the arid and semi-arid remote districts and the rural development project already identified by the Association and earmarked for material, albeit small, help is commendable.

2.2.4 The Architectural Students Association set up an ambitious but practical programme for the whole year including among other aims to educate the public on architecture through the mass media, to relaunch the indoor games programme started in 1978/79, to organise small competitions for development on campus paths around the Faculty of Architecture, Design and Development, and to stage exhibitions by students.

In order to provide practical experience for the members, a number of projects have been identified. The students have designed a display pavillion at Jamhuri Park for local building products and at Mt. Kenya Tourist Rest have done some work on local technology in a sloping site.

The Faculty exhibition to be held on 27 April, 1980 will have on display class and group exhibits of the students' work. This is an undertaking by the whole Faculty.

The students hold weekly seminars on Wednesday afternoons.

2.2.5 AIESEC - This Association holds weekly company contact talks and organises monthly visits to companies in Nairobi. This year they have decided to improve their public relations to promote awareness of AIESEC's aims in the University and in business circles. To this end, they hope to screen candidates for international exchange programmes and the leadership development programme. They also hope to start a committee at Kenyatta University College.

2.2.6 The Engineering Students' Association is organising educational trips to Leyland, Thika in March, Kamburu Dam in March, Lake Region Development Programme in September.

Guest Speakers to give public lectures are invited once a term.

They are working on a Mathare (Undugu Centre) project. This involves the construction of microphone stands and a mini-football pitch. They hope to interest local firms to provide the material for this.

2.3 When a comprehensive programme of activities is drawn up, the University community may wish to participate in any of the activities of these associations. There are other activities which are purely social in character, undertaken by the students which have not been highlighted today. The idea of programming activities aimed at achieving the objectives of a society is appreciated by all and it is hoped that the rest of this year will have projects and activities aimed at achieving particular objectives of each organisation. Students have already been invited to apply for funds from

the Gandhi Smarak Trust Fund to finance projects that are of an educational nature. The projects being undertaken by students can be organised individually or by student groups or organisations. It should be possible to tackle the Undugu project, for example, in an interdisciplinary fashion by involving sociology, engineering and architecture students' organisations. Projects should be clearly drawn up to ensure efficient implementation.

- 2.4 As an example of the usefulness of students' professionally oriented activities, the Nairobi University Pharmacy Students' Association's efforts to tackle the shortage of reading materials in the University is commendable. The students have reported that they received 13 books worth Shs. 4,000/- from the International Pharmacy Student Federation; they also raised money in a social function to buy four books which they donated to the Department of Pharmacy. Their departmental reading room is now reported to be stocking over 2000 books and journals which are extensively used by both staff and students. The materials are donations to the students.

3.

### SPORTS

The Kenya Universities Sports Association (KUSA) has now been in existence for just over a year, having been registered by the Registrar of Societies on the 4th day of January, 1979.

KUSA's objectives are:

1. to develop and promote sports in all Kenya Universities and other institutions of higher learning;
2. to promote closer contact among students of Kenyan Universities and other institutions

of higher learning within the Republic of Kenya;

3. to foster friendship, understanding and mutual respect among students in Kenya Universities and institutions of higher learning leading to the strengthening of Kenyan Unity.

To achieve these objectives, KUSA has applied for affiliation to the following sports bodies:

- (i) The Kenya Olympic Association (KOA)
- (ii) The Kenya National Sports Council (KNSC)
- (iii) The Federation of African University Sports (FASU)
- (iv) The International Federation of University Sport (FISU)

Membership of KUSA is open to all Kenyan national Universities (together with their constituent colleges) and other institutions of higher learning which award University Diplomas/Certificates, and whose membership shall be registered with and approved by KUSA. Suffice it to add that all Kenyan nationals, wherever they may be undertaking University education, are eligible to compete under the KUSA flag.

The current office-bearers of KUSA are:

Prof. K. Thairu	-	CHAIRMAN
Mr. E.N. Gicuhi	-	Vice-Chairman
Mr. P.E. Kangori	-	Hon. Secretary
Mr. S.J. Ashioya	-	Hon. Vice-Secretary
Mr. S.K. Ngaii	-	Hon. Treasurer
Mrs. Mumbi Maina	-	Hon. Vice-Treasurer
Mr. M.W. Wachira		
Mr. Meke Mukesh		
Mr. James Achoka		

His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Kenya and Chancellor of the University is the Patron of KUSA.

The University hopes that members of staff who have a contribution to make towards improving the standard of University sports will volunteer their services in coaching university athletes and sportsmen. Staff are eligible to serve as officials and qualified coaches will be most welcome to work in the Association.

KUSA will organise sports and competitions leading to the following events:

- a) World Student Cross-Country, March 1980 in Northern Ireland.
- b) The 10th Anniversary of the University of Nairobi Games, July 1980 in Nairobi.
- c) World Student Table-Tennis Championships, September 1980 in England.
- d) World University Games (FISU) 1981 in Spain.
- e) All-Africa University Games (FASU), 1982 in Zambia.
- f) World University Games (FISU) 1983, in Brazil.

Details about the above-listed programmes will be released as and when necessary. In the meantime, KUSA welcomes any ideas you may have as to how its activities can be improved, and looks forward to the participation of all in its sporting activities over the next two or so years.

4. ACCOMMODATION

During 1979/80 academic year, the University has accommodated 4,185 students in the Halls of Residence against the Halls capacity of 4,085 bed spaces. The extra 100 bed spaces were acquired through converting some quiet and reading rooms into sleeping rooms to ease the accommodation

pressure. The University Halls of Residence Institute helped to accommodate 703 students in local hotels while over 400 undergraduate students found their own accommodation, i.e. became non-resident students. The University has no accommodation for the postgraduate students.

Water shortage problem has been experienced recently. This has also affected most of Nairobi residents. The University has been informed that this has been due to the low water level at source as a result of the long dry spell prevailing in the country. This in turn resulted into low water pressure in the taps. This low pressure has at times diminished to drops of water or nothing at all.

Storage water tanks have, therefore, been installed in an attempt to alleviate this problem, particularly in Halls 5, 7, 10 and 11 which were badly affected by the water shortage. Storage water tank for Hall 9 has been ordered and will be installed shortly.

Students and members of staff working in the Halls of Residence should exercise economy in water usage at all times until the situation improves.

A new Hall of Residence is under construction at Kabete Campus and will be ready for occupation next academic year. This will accommodate an additional 300 undergraduate and 90 postgraduate students.

A water bore-hole, 675 feet deep, has already been sunk at Kabete Campus. This now awaits the installation of a water pump and when this is done, there will be considerable improvement in the

water situation at Kabete.

5. OBITUARY

THE VICE-CHANCELLOR'S EULOGY GIVEN AT THE FUNERAL SERVICE FOR THE LATE JAMELICK RUTERE MUGAMBI, HELD AT ST. ANDREWS CHURCH ON 22 FEBRUARY, 1980

"Dear Friends! We are gathered here today in memory of the late Jamelick Rutere Mugambi who has been a lecturer in Crop Science until he tragically met his death on Thursday, 14 February 1980.

The late Jamelick Rutere Mugambi was born in Abogeta location in Meru District on 6th January, 1944. He grew up in Meru where he completed both his primary and secondary school education in 1962. After passing Cambridge School Certificate in 1962, Mr. Mugambi was admitted to Siriba College, Maseno where he studied Agriculture. In 1965, he was awarded a Diploma in Agriculture with Distinction. Thereafter, he was awarded a scholarship to study for a degree in Agriculture in New Zealand. He was admitted at the University of Canterbury, Lincoln, where in May 1970, he qualified for the award of a BSc. degree in Agriculture. As a result of his good academic performance, he was registered for a Masters degree at the same University immediately after completing his Bachelor's degree. He qualified for the award of an MSc. degree in Agronomy in May 1973.

The late Mr. Mugambi was married to Susan in New Zealand and after completion of his studies, returned to Kenya. He joined the National Agricultural Research Station at Kitale in 1972 as a Maize Agronomist, the post he held until he joined the University. While at Kitale, he did some research which indicated the possibility of harvesting maize early if there were adequate

facilities to dry it. He then felt constrained at Kitale and also wanted to study for PhD. He, therefore, joined the University of Nairobi as a lecturer in 1974 in the Faculty of Agriculture, Department of Crop Science. During his stay at the University he was a conscientious teacher who was meticulous in his preparation and execution of duty. He got registered for PhD and then last year applied for sabbatical leave to go to the University of Florida to complete his PhD studies on Bana grass. The University was in the middle of negotiating for a scholarship at the time of his death.

Mugambi was actively involved in various University committees in addition to his normal teaching duties. He was, for a long time, the Secretary of the Farm Practice Committee of the Faculty of Agriculture and in the last year, the Committee Chairman. He did a commendable job in this Committee by organising student supervision by staff during their attachment to farmers outside the University. He was also an active member of the Field Station Farm Committee at Kabete. His contribution in all these will be greatly missed.

Besides his academic ability and involvement, the late Mr. Mugambi was a keen sportsman. He played football, tennis, squash and golf and excelled in virtually all of them. For three years he was a committee member of the Veterinary Laboratory Sports Club. He was also an active and respected official of the Kabete United Football Club for the Kabete Staff. Many members of staff will recall the several occasions when he persuaded them to provide transport for that football team.

In all these activities and involvements, Mr. Mugambi was a patient and friendly colleague. He was an indefatigable man who hated to leave

half-finished jobs. He made numerous friends both at Kabete and elsewhere. His death occurred on Thursday, 14 February 1980 at about 5.00 p.m. near Ahero in Nyanza. At the time of his death, Mr. Mugambi was on official duty with two other staff members to conduct a survey of farms where the Second Year B.Sc. Agriculture students would be going for their Farm Practice. He was tragically killed when the car in which they were travelling rolled.

Mr. Mugambi leaves a widow, Susan; a son, Kinoti and a daughter, Esther. He will be greatly missed by his family, all his friends and relatives, and the entire University community.

On behalf of the entire University community, I would like to express our deep and heartfelt condolences to the family of the late Mr. Mugambi, his relatives, friends and colleagues. We fully share with the family this very sad bereavement and wish them strength and courage as they learn to live without Mugambi. May he rest in eternity".

#### 6. RESEARCH FUNDS

At the joint meeting of the Councils of the University of Nairobi and Kenyatta University College held on 24 January, 1980 it was agreed that research, postgraduate training, staff development, research institutes and halls and catering, should be funded separately and adequately from the undergraduate capitation grant. Before then, these items had been funded from the approved budget based on a capitation grant of K£1450 per undergraduate.

In the meantime, it is announced that the National Council for Science and Technology has allocated Shs. 2,959,770/- for research to scholars in the University, including K.Shs. 68,950/- to applicants from Kenyatta University College. The University is very grateful to the Council for these generous research allocations.

JMM  
February 25, 1980.

AMT

RESEARCH FUNDS

At the joint meeting of the Councils of the University of Nairobi and Kenyatta University College held on 24 January, 1980 it was agreed that research, postgraduate training, staff development, research institutes and halls and catering, should be funded separately and adequately from the undergraduate capitalization grant. Before then, these items had been funded from the approved budget based on a capitalization grant of KSh20 per undergraduate.



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

# **VARSIY FOCUS**

A General Information Sheet from the Vice-Chancellor

---

CLOSURE OF UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI  
27 FEBRUARY, 1980

Statement made to the press by the Vice-Chancellor  
on Thursday 28 February, 1980 at 3.00 p.m.

CLOSURE OF UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI  
27 FEBRUARY, 1980

Statement made to the press by the Vice-Chancellor  
on Thursday 28 February, 1980 at 3.00 p.m.

On Wednesday, 27 February 1980, the Government ordered the closure of the University after extensive damage had been caused by students at the Central Catering Unit. The closure excluded Kenyatta University College, Kenyatta National Hospital campus and Kabete campus. The Government also announced that the date of reopening would be announced as soon as the damage had been assessed and repairs carried out.

According to the newspaper reports, the reasons given by the students for breaking utensils, windows and doors were as follows.

Firstly, there was mention of poor catering services.

Secondly, the food given at the Central Catering Unit was said to be unfit for human consumption.

Thirdly, the utensils used there were said to be 19th century and that all the cups were broken but that nobody cared.

Fourthly, student welfare was said to have been neglected.

Fifthly, the students said that the main reason underlying all the problems was lack of a representative student body since the dissolution of NUSO in October 1979.

This statement is aimed at clarifying the above points by the University.

Background

The first matter to bear in mind has been the economic situation in the country brought about by circumstances beyond our control. This has led to a situation in which the University has had to start measures to ensure more efficient utilisation of the resources made available to the University. With the escalation of costs of practically everything required by the

University, the normal capitation grant given on the basis of the number of undergraduates has had to do more than ever before. Although the Government has done everything to make up for the University's financial shortcomings it has, nevertheless, become necessary to find ways and means of raising more money, especially for research and other special purposes, and of reducing internal costs.

In the case of research, it is hoped that money will be raised separately from the undergraduate capitation grant. In this regard, the University is glad to acknowledge with gratitude a recent allocation of research funds by the National Council for Science and Technology to members of staff in the University totalling over K.Shs 2.9 million.

In the case of reduction of costs, the University has had to look into ways and means of reducing the amount of money spent in paying house rents, maintenance of vehicles, publications and food.

In the meantime, addresses by the Vice-Chancellor to the students and staff of all the faculties have emphasised the need for patience and exercise of every possible economic measure to avoid making a difficult financial situation worse.

The second matter to bear in mind has been the condition of drought that has affected the country since December 1979. This kind of drought is always associated with shortages of water and food. This time it has also been associated with a shortage of electricity. All these shortages have affected the University in a big way.

What must be realised is that the University of Nairobi, excluding Kenyatta University College has 5,590 undergraduate students, over 1000 postgraduates, almost 1000 academic staff, 700 technicians and secretaries and over 2000 junior staff. During each working day, this number of people need about 10,000 gallons of water to use the toilet at least once each. The effects of reduction or disappearance of water do, therefore, become evident within one day.

### Student grievances

Coming back to the grievances listed by students, the important point to bear in mind is the large number of people and the volume of food to be served.

For example, in the Central Catering Unit alone, some 2500 meals are served at any one sitting for breakfast, lunch, tea and supper. In addition to this, other meals are served at the women's halls, kitchen one, Kabete campus, Kenyatta National Hospital campus. Kikuyu campus and Machakos. All in all, some 5000 meals are served to undergraduate students at any one sitting.

To achieve this, the following amounts of food are needed every day. When beef is served, it is given at lunch and supper and this amounts to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  tonnes or the equivalent of 5-8 cows depending on the amount of bone in it. Beef is bought from the KMC and is alternated with chicken for which some 1200 chickens are needed for each meal.

As far as carbohydrate is concerned, the students get maizemeal, rice, potatoes and matoke (bananas). Of these just over 1 tonne of maizemeal and rice is needed for each meal. These are alternated with potatoes for one of the meals for which 3 tonnes are needed.

Some  $2\frac{1}{2}$  tonnes of vegetables,  $1/2$  tonne of tomatoes, and 80 kg of salt, are also consumed per day. Students have refused to eat fish and mutton.

As far as breakfast is concerned, the students get eggs for 3 days, sausages for 2 days and fruit/porridge for 2 days during the week. Some 5300 eggs are needed at each sitting. At both breakfast and tea some 4 sacks of sugar are consumed daily plus 20 kg of tea leaves,  $3/4$  tonne of bread and 2836 milk packets of  $\frac{1}{2}$  litre each.

Despite the prevailing dry weather conditions which have adversely affected the supply of water, and all types of food, the University has made every effort to meet these food requirements.

However, it must be realised that when dealing with this kind of volume of food supplies, there are bound to be problems if, for example, power failure or water supply is disrupted or a host of other reasons. During the 1978/79 academic year, the University as a whole consumed electricity worth Shs. 2,197,000/- and water worth Shs. 1,569,597/-.

Whenever these problems have arisen, everything has been done to ensure they do not recur. All this is, of course, done within the limits of human, technical and financial resources that are at the disposal of the University. But at no time have students been given food unfit for human consumption. The utensils used are modern cutlery and crockery.

With regard to the Nairobi University Students Organisation (NUSO) the problem started in June 1979 when the Registrar of Societies wrote to the NUSO Chairman giving notice of intended cancellation within 30 days due to failure to furnish annual returns for 1977 and 1978. NUSO is registered directly with the Registrar of Societies and is required to furnish annual returns like any other society registered under the Societies Act.

The letter of June 1979 also pointed out that the NUSO constitution needed to be amended.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor appealed to the Registrar of Societies on behalf of the students to extend the period of notice for cancellation. The Registrar of Societies accepted to do so.

Then the Student Welfare Committee, a Senate committee in which the students are represented, met on 25 June, 1979 including student representatives, and set up a sub-committee to examine the NUSO constitution with a view to meeting the amendments required by the Registrar of Societies.

The sub-committee held three meetings between July and September 1979 and produced a draft constitution which was acceptable to the two groups of NUSO leaders that had by then become rivals. These student leaders were invited back to the University during the vacation, at the expense of the University, to help them prepare for the NUSO elections within the first term of 1979/80 academic year.

As soon as term began on 1 October, 1979 the Vice-Chancellor authorised the holding of NUSO elections and appointed a returning officer. Posters were issued for the campaigning and an election programme drawn out.

A meeting of all students was then called on 7 October, 1979 to adopt the draft constitution and then dissolve NUSO to make way for the elections.

Unfortunately, at the meeting the students decided to march to Nairobi on a demonstration for which they did not have permission from the University or the Government. This led to the expulsion of six of the student leaders from the University.

Since then the NUSO constitution which had been accepted by the rival student groups has been to the Registrar of Societies and back. It is ready. This was communicated to students at a meeting of a hall committee chairmen (elected) held on Thursday, 21 February 1980 under the chairmanship of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor. It was due to be handed over to students at a meeting of the Student Welfare Committee scheduled to be held on 29 February, 1980.

In the meantime, and in spite of the problems that have affected NUSO, communication between students and central administration and services has been maintained. The Vice-Chancellor addressed students and staff of all faculties including Kenyatta University College, between September and December 1979. These addresses are being followed up with other meetings through the Student Welfare Committee, Hall Committees Chairmen, and faculty-based student associations. Matters of student welfare have been dealt with at these meetings.

On behalf of the entire University community, I would, therefore, like to express my very deep concern that students found it necessary to resort to causing such extensive damage to property. Resorting to such self-destructive activities will not produce any more or better food. On the contrary and in the present economic and weather conditions, this action of students has made everything many times more difficult and

may lead to real hardship. Society expects much more mature understanding and restraint from its future leaders who are being educated at the highest level of learning. They are certainly expected to set an example among the rest of youth, the majority of whom never have an opportunity of enjoying anything like the food the University students are condemning.

In the meantime, the damage caused must be assessed and further steps considered.

February 28, 1980

*Circulate.*



No. 12

UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

# VARSIY FOCUS

A General Information Sheet from the Vice-Chancellor

---

## C O N T E N T S

	<u>Page</u>
1. CLOSURE AND REOPENING OF UNIVERSITY.....	1
2. CURRENT DROUGHT CONDITIONS.....	1
3. THE NAIROBI UNIVERSITY SPORTS ASSOCIATION.....	3
4. RESEARCH ON FARMING SYSTEMS.....	3
5. SEMINAR ON UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION.....	5
6. STAFF MATTERS.....	5

*DWT*  
*Vk.*  
*P.m.*  
*Bdz*  
*D.Jh.*

## 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. Mukiamo	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



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

**VARSIY FOCUS**

A General Information Sheet from the Vice-Chancellor

---

STATEMENT MADE TO THE PRESS BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

ON 5TH MAY, 1980 AT 10.00 A.M.

UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

PRESS STATEMENT MADE BY PROFESSOR JOSEPH MAINA MUNGAI,  
VICE-CHANCELLOR, ON 5 MAY, 1980.

---

1. Introduction

The University of Nairobi was closed on 27 February, 1980 following disturbances which had started in the Central Catering Unit. The University Council has recently met and recommended to Government that the University reopens on 2 June, 1980 to complete the rest of the 1979/80 academic year. The recommendation has been accepted.

Meanwhile, it has been found necessary to initiate changes to improve the services that have been associated with these problems. At this time attention will be focused on the Central Catering Unit.

2. Central Catering Unit

As far as the Central Catering Unit is concerned, the two major problems have been that, first of all, it was not meant to be a dining place, and secondly, since its establishment it has been made to serve very large numbers of meals.

The Central Catering Unit was meant to serve as a cook/freeze service area for distribution to all the other dining halls. The reason the University was persuaded to use it as a dining centre was the then planned expansion of University enrolment. By centralising massive catering services, the necessity was avoided of building extra kitchens and dining halls for the new halls of residence which had to be put up. Indeed, the University of Nairobi has grown from an enrolment of 3384 students in 1971/1972 to an enrolment of 5590 students in 1979/1980. To cater

for this rapid expansion, the Central Catering Unit has been serving half of all the meals served to students in the University.

The chronic problems of the Central Catering Unit were pointed out by the former Catering Manager, Mr. P.C.G. Berale, in his letter of 8 September, 1970 to the Vice-Chancellor. He termed the proposed Unit as "...so costly a project which offers absolutely nothing by way of advantage in catering here". As a result, he resigned, as he said, to avoid further embarrassment and conflict. Although he was persuaded to stay on for another two years until 30 June, 1972 to help in supervision of its construction, he made it very clear to the University that it would be associated with serious problems.

His successor, Mr. L.A. Ng'ethe has since 1972 operated the service which has been bedevilled with problems from the beginning. When the University was closed for 5 months in 1974, the Central Catering Unit featured as one of the major problem areas.

However, in spite of these inherent and chronic problems of running the Central Catering Unit as a dining place, and in spite of the special problems of food and water shortages experienced during the December-March dry periods, everything has been done to meet the food requirements of students.

However, it has now been found necessary to change the catering system altogether to minimise these inherent problems of large-scale and congested catering. The aim of making these changes is to improve the quality of food and catering services.

The main changes being undertaken are decentralisation of catering from the Central Catering Unit and restructuring of the staffing and catering units. All in all,

the 5,500 students of the University will be fed in 9 dining units scattered in the various campuses and which will be identified with different colours and numbers. Each dining unit will serve a specified group of halls of residence. Two extra dining halls are being revived. These are the old dining hall on the upper floor of Kitchen 1 which will be re-opened to feed 682 students and Mary's hall dining hall which will feed 116 students. The lower floor dining room of the Central Catering Unit will feed only 869 students instead of 1250 while the upper floor dining room will feed only 726 students instead of 1250. The women's hall dining room will continue to feed 734 students, Kabete campus 339, Medical School Hostel 363 and Kikuyu campus dining hall 60 students.

In order to undertake these changes in an organised and rational manner, the University sought the services of an institutional management consultant from the Kenya Polytechnic. As a result of his recommendations, the following changes are being undertaken during the month of May.

### 3. Staffing

There will be a complete restructuring of the staffing with new job titles and responsibilities clearly laid out. Where there is over-staffing there will be a redeployment in other parts of the University. Staff qualifications are being checked. Inservice training is being initiated. Management and supervisory staff will be appointed and assigned on the basis of defined qualifications and experience.

Each kitchen and dining unit will be serviced by its own team consisting of a catering supervisor responsible for the planning and budgetting of the menus, assistant catering supervisors, head cooks,

assistant cooks, kitchen assistants, dining room assistants, and storekeepers. The number of each of the categories of the staff will depend on the number of students to be fed.

In the long run the two floors of the Central Catering Unit that have been used for 8 years as dining halls will be converted to other uses. However, the other facilities of the Central Catering Unit will be retained as the main purchasing and delivering area for all the catering units of the University. These functions will be carried out by a team consisting of a catering manager, deputy catering manager, purchasing officer, 9 butchers, accountant and drivers working under the direct control of the Registrar and Finance Officer. Mr. Daniel Gacheru is the Acting Catering Manager and is supervising the current changes.

This system is expected to be more efficient and to facilitate operating within the approved budget as well as avoiding any mismanagement of funds. Increased production of food on the University farms is also being undertaken with a view to reducing the overall cost of food.

In spite of these changes, the question of the quantities of food to be purchased, processed and served will remain a problem to be taken into consideration, especially during the December-March dry period.

#### 4. Quality of Food

Menus will be better planned to enable costs to be controlled accurately and full use to be made of the seasonal fluctuations in price as well as quality and quantity of foodstuffs. It is hoped to offer better choices of dishes.

However, in order to achieve these improvements, a request is being made to increase the student ration allowance from Shs. 16/50 to Shs. 18/50. per day.

5. Environmental Sanitation

Each of the catering units will be cleaned up and a programme for regular inspection and cleaning drawn out for ensuring maintenance of levels of hygiene expected of catering facilities. Regular medical checks are also being undertaken on the catering staff.

6. Uniforms

The problem of failure to supply uniforms to catering staff applies to all other staff in the University who are supposed to have uniforms. Hitherto, tenders have been given out but for the last three years either the uniforms have not been delivered or there has not been enough money to buy them. It has, therefore, become necessary to find alternative ways and means of ensuring that proper uniforms are supplied and at the right time.

Towards this end the University has consulted the National Youth Service with a view to starting a tailoring unit within the University. The unit has now been started with the recruitment of 4 fully-trained tailors from the National Youth Service to make uniforms for the catering staff as well as for other staff in the University who are supposed to wear uniforms at work.

7. Crockery

With regard to crockery, the manufacturers have admitted that a lot of the crockery which had been supplied to the University had been manufactured with faulty materials which inevitably changed colour

quickly after use and washing. Fortunately, the manufacturers have agreed to replace the faulty crockery free of charge. The manufacturers and their agents are also being consulted on the right processes and materials to use in cleaning the crockery.

In view of these findings, it has been decided not to charge students for the damage caused at the Central Catering Unit. This does not, however, in any way condone the action taken by students for expressing their grievances, and especially when they also extended the violence and damage outside the University.

8. Equipment

A re-arrangement of equipment from the Central Catering Unit to Kitchen 1 and Mary's Hall kitchen is being undertaken. With regard to maintenance of the equipment, the Department of Mechanical Engineering has undertaken an inspection and is assisting in setting up a maintenance team.

9. General comment.

These immediate changes are only a small part of major and long-term changes that are contemplated to enable the University to continue to serve its objectives, provide the necessary facilities for its academic operations and orientate its services towards the welfare of its students, staff and society in general. There are many other problems facing the University and whose solutions are also being worked out. It must, however, be appreciated by students, staff and the public that all these steps will continue to be taken within the limits of the resources that are made available to the University. On its side, however, the University will ensure that those resources are managed with efficiency.

MAY 5, 1980



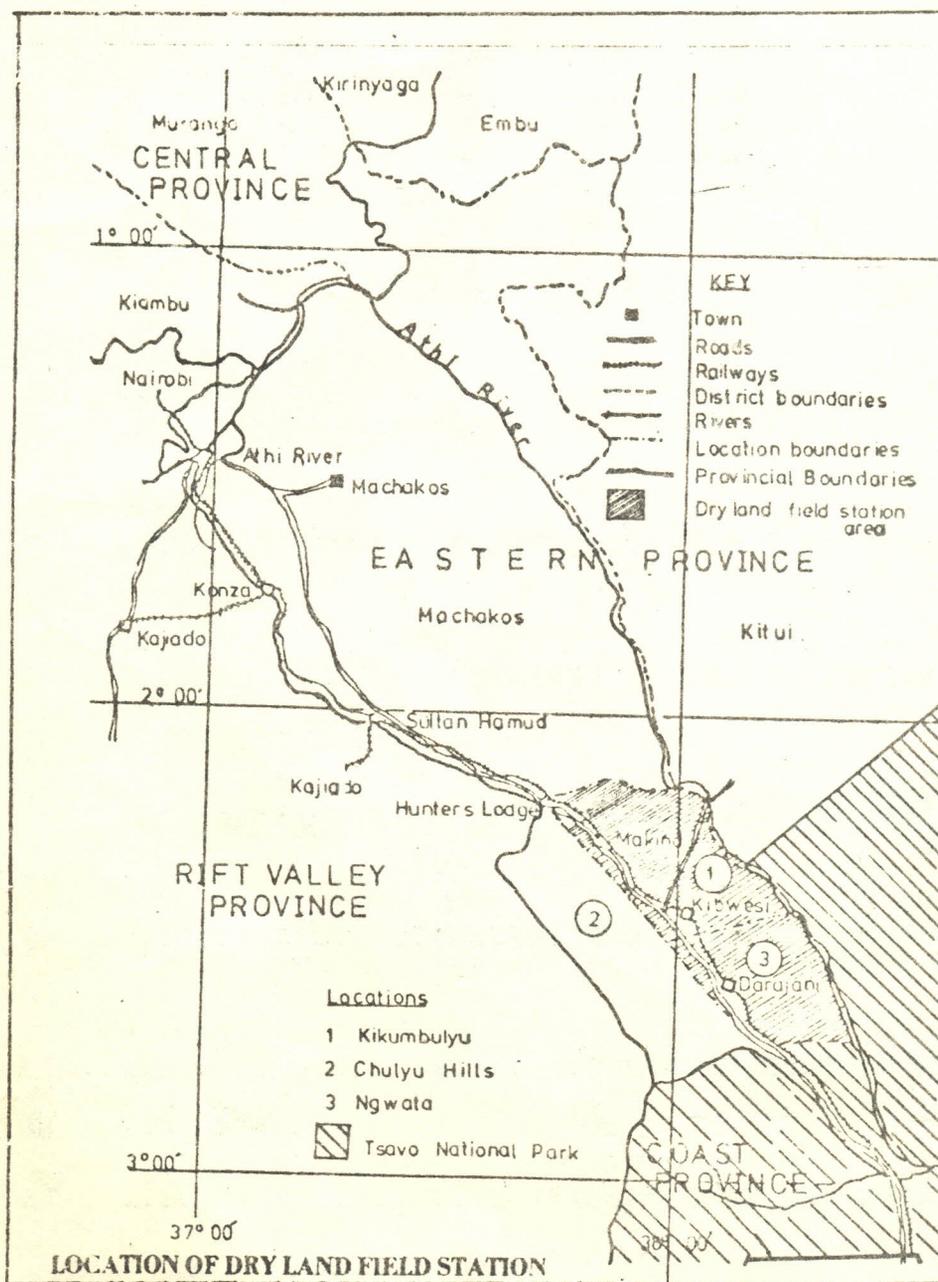
UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

No.13

A General Information Sheet from the Vice-Chancellor

C O N T E N T S

	<u>Page</u>
1. STAFF MATTERS.....	1
2. PRODUCTION OF FOODSTUFFS AT KABETE.....	5
3. INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH UNITS.....	5
4. DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES.....	7
5. STUDENTS' WELFARE SERVICES.....	9
6. THE FUTURE OF I.U.C.....	10
7. DATES OF TERMS 1980/81.....	13



(See Item 3.1)

1. STAFF MATTERS

New Appointments:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Designation</u>	<u>Department</u>
Dr. C. Aligre	Lecturer	School of Journalism
Mr. D.A. Obara	Tutorial Fellow	Accounting
Mr. D.N. Odette	Tutorial Fellow	Business Admin.
Prof. S. Nieuwolt	Vis. Professor	Geography
Prof. T.E. Dow	Vis. Professor	Population Studies
Dr. M.Z. Siddiqi	Sen. Lecturer	Private Law
Mr. A.B. Lyall	Sen. Lecturer	Private Law
Mr. P.B. Lal	Sen. Lecturer	Civil Eng.
Dr. T.L. Dhama	Lecturer	Chemistry
Dr. W.R. Bowen	Lecturer	Chemistry
Dr. I.T. Urasa	Lecturer	Chemistry
Dr. T. Visweswaraiya	Sen. Lecturer	Civil Eng.
Miss L. Mutharia	Tutorial Fellow	Biochemistry
Dr. D.G. Makuto	Lecturer	Community Health
Mr. M.O. Imbuga	Grad. Res. Asst.	Biochemistry
Dr. P.E. Coughlin	Lecturer	Economics
Mr. G.B. Ayithey	Lecturer	Economics
Dr. P.D. Smith	Lecturer	I.C.S.
Mr. J.K. Kateregga	Research Fellow	H.R.D.U.
Mr. T.J. Rao	Lecturer	Orthopaedic Surgery
Dr. H.E. Grabaskey	Sen. Lecturer	Dental Surgery
Dr. M.O. Yambo	Lecturer	Sociology
Dr. J. Kasule	Lecturer	Obstet. & Gynae.
Dr. O.P. Kachhwaha	Lecturer	Chemistry
Dr. S.M. Prigg	Lecturer	Obstet. & Gynae.
Mr. W. Okelo-Odongo	Asst. Lecturer	I.C.S.

Re-appointments:

Mrs. I. Otieno	Senior Library Assistant	Library
Mr. R.A. Caukwell	Sen. Lecturer	Surveying & Photogram.
Mr. N.M. Muroki	Tutorial Fellow	Food Science & Tech.
Prof. W.H. Mosley	Vis. Professor	Population Studies
Mr. M.N. Opondo	Tutorial Fellow	Mechanical Eng.
Mr. E. Maina-Ayiera	Tutorial Fellow	Physics
Mr. S.M. Mutuli	Tutorial Fellow	Mechanical Eng.
Dr. H. Ellen	Vis. Lecturer	Agric. Eng.
Mr. W. Schulthess	Vis. Sen. Lecturer	Food Science & Tech.
Mr. W.E.O. Ochoro	Asst. Lecturer	Economics
Mr. G.E.M. Ogutu	Tutorial Fellow	Phil. & Rel. Studies
Mr. C.G. Nyagah	Tutorial Fellow	Chemistry

Promotions:

Dr. B.K. Arap Siele	Lecturer	Inst. of Adult St.
Mr. G.K. Kamau	Sen. Lecturer	Private Law
Mr. R. Kamonde	Asst. Librarian	Library
Mrs. N.W. Theuri	Asst. Librarian	Library
Dr. K. Kinyanjui	Sen. Res. Fellow	I.D.S.
Dr. G.O. Okidi	Sen. Res. Fellow	I.D.S.
Mr. C.M. Kiamba	Lecturer	Land Development

Promotions (Cont'd)

Dr. B.I. Muruli	Sen. Lecturer	Crop Science
Dr. E.M. Gathuru	Sen. Lecturer	Crop Science
Mr. W.M. Mutunga	Sen. Lecturer	Commercial Law
Dr. M.S. Abdulla	Sen. Lecturer	Medicine
Dr. M. Bahemuka	Sen. Lecturer	Medicine
Mr. J.A. Nkinyangi	Res. Fellow	I.D.S.
Dr. K. Waithaka	Sen. Lecturer	Crop Science
Dr.P. Anyang-Nyongo	Sen. Lecturer	Government

Resignations/Expiry of Contract

Dr. D.C.A. Twum	Sen. Lecturer	Crop Science
Mrs. N.R. Parma	Asst. Systems Programmer	I.C.S.
Dr. J.S.Kaminjolo	Sen. Lecturer	Vet. Pathology
Mr. J.N. Namasake	Lecturer	Commercial Law
Dr. R.D. Webber	Lecturer	Ling. & Afr. Langs.
Dr. M. Gunaratne	Sen. Lecturer	Obstet & Gynae.
Mr. T.Tewelde	Lecturer	Accounting
Dr. S.V. Walvekar	Lecturer	Dental Surgery
Dr. O.S. Bamford	Lecturer	Animal Production
Mr. K.V. Kamalgoda	Sen. Lecturer	Business Admin.

Study Leave:

Dr. S.G. Gatere - Lecturer, Department of Psychiatry. Six months' Study Leave from 1 November 1979 to enable him to complete his M.Phil.Degree in Psychiatry at the University of London on sponsorship from the University of Nairobi and the Livingstone Registrars.

Dr. W.Z. Lutu - Lecturer, Department of Clinical Studies. Six months' study leave from 1 April 1980 to enable him to fulfill the residence pre-requisite for the final part of his PhD Programme at Edinburgh University.

Mr. M. M'Maithulia - Lecturer, Department of Accounting. Four years' study leave from 1 February 1980 to enable him to study for a PhD in Commerce at the University of New South Wales, under the sponsorship of the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan.

Dr. K.R. Radia - Lecturer, Department of Medical Pathology. Study leave for two years from 9 February 1980 to enable her to proceed to Hammersmith Hospital, London to prepare and sit for the MRC Pathology examination, on a World Health Organisation Research Grant.

- Dr. M.V. Shah - Lecturer, Department of Medicine. One year of study leave from 15 March 1980 to enable him to pursue further studies in Gastroenterology and Liver Diseases at the Royal Free Hospital, London, on sponsorship from the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission.
- Miss S.J. Kosgei - Tutorial Fellow, Department of History. Three months' study leave from 1 April 1980 to enable her to proceed to Stanford University, USA, to defend her PhD thesis.
- Mr. F.M. Chuaga - Tutorial Fellow, Department of Agricultural Engineering. Three months of study leave from 21 March 1980 to enable him to attend courses on Agricultural and Irrigation Engineering at Utah University under the sponsorship of the Netherlands Government.
- Miss S. Minae - Tutorial Fellow, Department of Agricultural Economics. One year's study leave from 15 April 1980 to enable her to analyse, write-up and present her research findings for the award of a PhD degree at Cornell University on a Ford Foundation Scholarship.
- Miss B. Mbaka - Tutorial Fellow, French Sub-Department. Two years' study leave from 3 October, 1979 to enable her to undertake studies leading to the award of an M.A. degree at the University of Strasbourg under a French Government scholarship.
- Mr. E.G. Karuri - Tutorial Fellow, Department of Food Science & Technology. Three years' study leave from 16 January 1980 to enable him to take up studies leading to the award of a PhD degree at the National College of Food Technology of the University of Reading, on a Swiss Government Scholarship.

- Mr. G.G. Wainaina - Administrative Assistant, Registrar's Department. One year of study leave from 1st October 1979 to enable him to take up studies leading to the award of a Postgraduate Diploma in Mass Communication at the University of Nairobi, on a DANIDA Scholarship.
- Mr. W. Ngare - Senior Technician, Department of Medical Microbiology. Six months' study leave from 9th April 1980 to enable him to undertake studies in Medical Mycology in the Diagnostic Laboratory at the Department of Medical Mycology of St. John's Hospital, U.K. on an Inter-University Council Scholarship.
- Mr. C.M. Karienyne - Technician, Department of Electrical Engineering, six months' study leave from 1st October 1980 to enable him to take up an Inter-University Council Technician Training Award at the Department of Electrical Engineering, University of Southampton.

Housing:

The Kenya National Assurance Company are willing to consider the University application for Shs.4m for the erection of residential staff houses. Council at its meeting held on 29th May 1980 authorised the payment of the application fee for this loan and asked the Faculty of Architecture to submit architectural drawings for maisonnettes to be put up on plot LR No.4857/46 which measures 2.6 acres. Up to 16 maisonnettes will be built on the site.

## 2. PRODUCTION OF FOODSTUFFS AT KABETE

At its meeting held on 6 September 1979, the General Purposes Committee considered proposals aimed at reducing internal operational costs in the University. One of the proposals under this programme is to increase foodstuff production at Kabete Farm and supply it to students' kitchens.

The Agricultural Faculty farm is 200 ha. with 53 ha. coffee, 65 ha. arable, 62 ha. grazing and 20 ha. under miscellaneous experiments. The farm can produce maize, beans, potatoes, tomatoes, carrots, cabbage and spinach from arable areas, as well as meat.

The plan is to allow the coffee enterprise to continue as a revenue earner and as a supporter of the main labour force in the farm.

To produce the above-mentioned foodstuffs, a financial requirement of K.Shs. 275,000/- is required for one small tractor, 3 sprayers, 16 tons of fertilizers and some herbicides and fungicides. Labour required will cost K.Shs. 65,000/- per year.

The grazing area has so far been neglected. It is possible that with some slight investment in the animal facilities, feeds and purchased animals, the number of animals available could be increased.

The Grand Total of funds required to produce foodstuffs and meat from the Faculty of Agriculture Farm is K.Shs. 608,000/-. On the basis of the current food prices this is a paying enterprise, and it is recommended that the project be implemented when funds become available.

## 3. INTER-DISCIPLINARY RESEARCH UNITS

In response to the Vice-Chancellor's call to academic staff to engage in interdisciplinary research projects, many departments have initiated collaborative research programmes.

These programmes are slowly beginning to take shape and cooperation has been extended in some cases beyond the boundaries of the University. Some researchers have identified their colleagues working on the same projects outside the campus and have decided to join hands with them. The departments of Public Health, Pharmacology and Toxicology,

Medical Microbiology, Zoology, ICIPE, ILRAD, among others, are working on collaborative research in Hydatidosis/Echicoccosis. Interdisciplinary research is not a new concept but it is a more effective way of utilizing the limited human and financial resources of the institution. The University hopes to identify sources of additional research funds for these projects for the interdisciplinary research groups which have been initiated.

### 3.1 Dryland Farming:

Kenya is an agricultural country with over 60% of its arable crop production being concentrated in about 20% of its available land mass. 70% of Kenyan land mass is in the marginal arid and semi-arid areas, largely used for extensive Range Livestock production systems. Much of the Range areas are now characterized by a rapidly increasing population of farming communities with intent to grow various arable crops, in addition to keeping small numbers of livestock as a part and parcel of their dryland farming systems.

Upto the present time, agro-technology to make the marginal areas more productive in terms of agricultural and livestock products has been inadequate or lacking altogether. Such basic information on the size of land required to support a family unit of 6 persons either from growing crops or keeping livestock, or both, is not available. Basic information on the types of crops that could be grown in such areas that could efficiently utilize the limited moisture available is not obtainable. Techniques of water management to raise the underground water catchment, reafforestation to improve and protect soil from soil erosion and intense solar radiation, and techniques of small scale supplementary irrigation schemes have yet to be developed.

The University of Nairobi, through the initiatives taken by the Faculty of Agriculture, has been allocated a dryland field station at Kibwezi, of approximately 4,700 ha. The station was one in a chain of dryland research stations being developed by the Government of Kenya, through the Ministry of Agriculture, to provide basic information for the development of the arid and semi-arid areas of Kenya under the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands Development Project.

The Dryland Field Station is located about 200 km south of Nairobi on Mombasa Road. It borders the new Kitui Road branching off Mombasa Road at Kibwezi Petrol Station, and borders the Athi River on the Machakos-Kitui Districts boundary. (See sketch on the inside of cover page).

The objective of the Faculty of Agriculture is to provide coordination machinery for a co-ordinated planning, research and development of the dryland station. In this regard, the Department of Zoology at Kenyatta University College, Meteorology in Faculty of Science, Urban and Regional Planning in the Faculty of ADD, Forestry, Crop Science, Animal Production, Range Management and Soil Science in the Faculty of Agriculture, are actively involved in drawing up projects that could be implemented once funds are available from the University and a donor agent.

Members of staff in the University should feel free and visit the Dryland Station to familiarize themselves with the ongoing pilot projects at the station.

#### 4. DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES

##### 4.1 Harambee at Kabete

Following discussions and proposals by members of the University Community at Kabete Campus, plans are underway to organise a self-help water project. The idea of organising the water project has been prompted by the regular water shortage at Kabete Campus, and the aim is to cater for a population of about 2,000 people by the year 1983. The target of this Harambee would be to raise about K.Shs.1.5 million to cater for drilling and installations of 2 extra boreholes, and any extra money realised would be utilised in improving the welfare of the Kabete Campus Community.

An adhoc committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. G.M. Mugeru, has already met several times. The committee has proposed that all Kabete Campus Academic staff should contribute a minimum of K.Shs. 200/- while the junior staff would contribute a minimum of K.Shs. 20/-.

This project by the Kabete Campus Community is, indeed, commendable.

#### 4.2 Pharmacy

Prof. C.K. Maitai, Chairman of the Department of Pharmacy, recently attended the Ninth Annual Scientific Conference of the Kenya Medical Association. He presented a paper entitled "Development in Therapeutics". The word "therapeutics" refers to treatment of diseases with or without drugs.

Among other things, Prof. Maitai argued in the paper that "In the last few years, the cost of medical treatment has gone up considerably throughout the world and consequently many people are running to self medication with non-prescription drugs.... Some people see the practice of self medication as complementing that of medical practitioners while others see this as undermining the medical profession. If we accept self medication with non-prescription drugs as a fact of life, then we must ask ourselves whether the public is sufficiently informed to recognise when to seek professional advice. In this connection, I suggest that dissemination of information on the use of non-prescription drugs should be given more attention".

The paper is available in the Department of Pharmacy and those interested can obtain a copy from there.

The Department of Pharmacy is enhancing closer involvement with Kenyatta National Hospital with the aim of improving Pharmacy services at the hospital. In a departmental meeting held recently, members of staff agreed that the possibility of teaching in the hospital environment was both a great challenge and a good opportunity to initiate clinical pharmacy in the hospital. Arrangements are already underway to start staff participation at the hospital.

A Drug Analysis and Research Unit (DARU) is now operational and Dr. W.M. Kofi-Tsekpo, is in charge of the Unit. The Unit is working closely with the Ministry of Health. Apart from participating in drug analysis in the Unit, members of staff of this Department also serve in various committees and Boards of the Ministry of Health and the Kenya Bureau of Standards, amongst several others.

#### 4.3. Literature

"During the colonial times, the task of the African man of culture was to install the 'let-my-people-go' consciousness into the minds of the people. Now, in the post-independence period, he has a new task: he has to speak of national freedom and self-determination, a realisation that 'people cannot be developed: they can only develop themselves.'"

This came out in a paper presented by Dr. Chris Wanjala as part of the series of staff seminars in the Department of Literature. Dr. Wanjala's paper entitled "Literature and the tyranny of Change" outlines the role of a creative writer and would appeal to a wide cross-section of the University Community. It sheds light on some of the forces that compel the creative African writer to give up the comfort of his privileged position and live alongside the people he is writing on and speaking for.

Mr. Gacheche Waruingi has also presented a staff seminar paper entitled "Historical Realism in Ngugi Wa Thiongo's early Novels" while Mr. H. Indagasi presented another one entitled "Intercultural Perception in Consad's African Works."

#### 5. STUDENTS' WELFARE SERVICES

The University reopened on 2 June, 1980. Some of the changes initiated to improve the services include the re-organisation of the catering services involving a decentralisation of the dining halls and the kitchens, a re-structuring of the staffing in the halls of residence and the dining halls, and the provision of uniforms.

The new system of decentralized dining halls is now fully functional and the standard of hygiene and the quality of food is reported to have improved tremendously. Students are currently feeding in 9 dining halls in groups of two to four halls. Resident students may have meals only in those

dining halls to which they have been assigned, as follows:

Dining Hall 1:

- (a) Hall 1
- (b) Hall 2
- (c) Hall 3

Dining Hall 2:

- (a) Hall 10
- (b) Hall 11

Dining Hall 3:

- (a) Hall 6
- (b) Hall 7
- (c) Hall 8
- (d) Hall 13
- (e) State House Road Hostel

Dining Hall 4:

- (a) Hall 4
- (b) Hall 5
- (c) Hall 9

Dining Hall 5:

- (a) Hall 12
- (b) Women's Hall

Dining Hall 6:

Mary's Hall.

Dining Hall 7:

Kabete Campus.

Dining Hall 8:

Kenyatta National Hospital Campus.

Dining Hall 9:

Kikuyu Campus.

The Uniforms Production Unit which was established last month is currently making uniforms for the catering staff. It is hoped that the four tailors will cope with the volume of work which has accumulated over the past year. They are already doing a good job and the uniforms they have made should be issued shortly to the staff in the catering services. Besides producing uniforms for staff, this is also a measure aimed at reducing costs internally. The establishment of the Unit was authorised by the General Purposes Committee in September 1979.

6. THE FUTURE OF THE INTER-UNIVERSITY COUNCIL

It has been reported in the latest issue of the IUC Newsletter that the position of the IUC is to be re-examined and support for tertiary education overseas is being reviewed with a possibility of severe reductions. IUC was set up in 1946 by the British Universities to help in the creation of universities in the emergent Commonwealth

countries. That task is said to have been largely completed. The report states, inter alia, that:

"IUC's present activity is almost wholly financed by ODA but involves organising forms of academic collaboration which, to a degree, overlap with the British Council's activities. The present position of IUC will be preserved until, following Ministerial decisions on the future of the British Council, the IUC's role in helping administer aid to tertiary education overseas, and its relationship with the British Council, can be settled in the light of those decisions, and in consultation with all the parties concerned".

The essential broader task of promoting higher education, learning and research in developing countries, and to strengthen cooperation between British Universities and those overseas, is far from finished.

#### A. Overseas Students Fees

In the same issue of the IUC Newsletter, the following reaction to the policy of overseas students fees is reported:

##### "(a) UKCOSA Conference:

The United Kingdom Council for Overseas Student Affairs held an open meeting on 2 November, 1979 on the theme "Overseas students and the fees issue - what does Britain stand to gain or lose?" The meeting was attended by about 200 delegates and the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

This meeting in recognising

- (1) the important cultural, educational and economic benefits accruing to the UK from the wide range of nationalities represented in institutions of higher and further education;
- (2) Britain's historical and current commitments and moral responsibilities to the developing world, the Commonwealth and the EEC; and to immigrants and refugees newly settled here,

calls upon Government:

- (a) to withdraw their policy of phasing in so-called "full cost" fees as from 1980/1 which will mean that apart from a few sponsored students only very rich students will be able to study in the UK, thereby reducing the range and quality of course available to British students and hitting hardest at institutions with an international reputation;
- (b) to enter into consultation with interested and experienced statutory, academic, professional, student and voluntary bodies in the field of overseas student affairs on alternative, more farsighted and equitable proposals.

In the context of this Resolution, the meeting considers there is an immediate need to:

- (a) exempt overseas students already in the UK education system from further fee increases;
- (b) allow overseas students to take part-time and vocation work without restriction;
- (c) increase provision of and widen access to hardship funds for students hit by the 33% increase in fees;
- (d) offer a far more comprehensive programme of fee awards for selected students at various levels nominated by their institutions;
- (e) set up Ministerial machinery to develop a framework for positive, rational and consistent policies towards overseas students in relation to fees, definitions, numbers and awards; and to consult the governments currently sending overseas students to the UK on future arrangements."

In the meantime, there is no indication that the students will be exempted from "full cost" fees as requested by the meeting.

#### B. BESS

Dr. B. Steele of Overseas Development Agency has informed the University that as from 1 April, 1981, there will be only 30 members of staff on BESS Supplementation Scheme as compared with 50 in 1980. She told the meeting held between herself and the Central Administration that British aid would in future concentrate on basic sciences and medicine, and supplementation would be restricted to staff of senior lecturer and professorial levels.

She attributed the reductions in BESS to the increase in supplementation which went up by 26% in November 1979 and an increase in salaries and air fares. The University would like assistance in the development of the country's human resources and would like to see as much postgraduate training done in Kenya as possible. It was suggested, therefore, that future aid be negotiated in man years/months instead of a given number of persons whose skills may not be needed over the whole contract period. Other areas for which assistance is sought are interdisciplinary research programmes, external degree programme and cooperative extension services. It was suggested that the Manchester Course for University Administrators, sponsored by the British Council, be reviewed and be conducted locally. This would not only be less costly but would be more relevant.

7. DATES OF TERMS FOR 1980/81

First Term: 13 October - 20 December, 1980  
(ten weeks)

Second Term: 12 January - 4 April, 1981  
(twelve weeks)

Third Term: 27 April - 11 July, 1981  
(eleven weeks)

Fourth Term: 13 July - 5 September, 1981  
(eight weeks)

Fourth Term: (for 4th & 5th Years - Medicine)

4th Years - 13 July - 26 September 1981  
(eleven weeks)

5th Years - 13 July - 1 August, 1981  
(three weeks)

June 10, 1980



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

**VARSIY FOCUS**

A General Information Sheet from the Vice-Chancellor

---

C O N T E N T S

	<u>Page</u>
1. FOREWORD.....	1
2. CATERING SERVICES.....	1
3. UGALI (Kenya Kitchenopoea 1980).....	2
4. THE TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR SAFE DRIVING....	4
5. NEW APPOINTMENTS.....	4
6. UNIVERSITY HEALTH SERVICES.....	5
7. ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE RESEARCH LAB.....	8
8. DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES.....	9
9. GANDHI SMARAK NIDHI TRUSTEES.....	10
10. CONVOCATION.....	11

1. FOREWORD

The 1980/81 financial year started on 1 July, 1980 and the Government printed estimates indicate that the University will get K.£8,125,800 for the period 1 July 1980 to 30 June 1981. As in the past, this budget has been calculated on the basis of a capitation grant, currently fixed at K£1450 per undergraduate student per annum.

The Senate and Council will be requested to recast the University estimates according to the Government printed estimates.

In the meantime, it is evident that restraint in overall expenditure will have to continue to be exercised. It is, however, hoped that for the rest of development plan period until 1982/83, everything will be done to facilitate improved development of the academic functions of the University.

2. CATERING SERVICES

During the recent (February-June 1980) closure of the University, a great deal of time and effort were spent in effecting various changes to improve the catering services. Some of them are still going on and will be continued in the next long vacation. In particular, the central catering unit will continue to be decongested. In general, there is still considerable congestion in the large dining halls at breakfast time. This is inevitable in the meantime as the majority of students have classes at 8.00 a.m. This will be alleviated by starting breakfast earlier. But this also means more students should get to breakfast earlier to avoid the congestion and rush just before 8.00 a.m.

In the meantime, the students of pharmacy have recently launched a new publication; the Pharma News, whose first issue carried the following article written by Mr. Kipkonos Cheruiyot. It is a lighthearted pharmaceutical/pharmacological description of ugali. It is reproduced here from Pharma News by kind permission of the author, Mr. K. Cheruiyot. Other scholars are invited to match this humorous description with their own political, literary, financial, linguistic, surgical, botanical, architectural, medicinal, agricultural, artistic, commercial, educational,

engineering, legal, scientific, veterinary or any other scholarly description of a topic of such social importance.

3. UGALI (Kenya Kitchenopoea 1980)

by Kipkonos Cheruiyot - B.Pharm. IV.

Reproduced from PHARMA NEWS APRIL 1980, Magazine of the Nairobi University Pharmacy Students' Association, by kind permission of the author.

Appearance:

It is a white doughy mass. Freshly prepared, it is of semi-solid consistency but hardens on standing to a hard cake.

Active Ingredients:

Maize starch, powdered and seived to a loosely defined mesh number (K.K. 1980) is the active principle of this medicament.

Preparation:

Water is heated to 80-100°C. The water has to be free from botulinum and other dreaded toxins otherwise rigid specifications do not arise. The powdered maize starch is added to the boiling water in small quantities triturating all the time. The preparation is considered ready when a semi-solid mixture has formed: the exact end-point is a delicate one which only experience can provide.

Indications:

It is the drug of choice for moderate to severe hungeriasis. That the prognosis is so good is evidenced by the fact that this drug is heavily prescribed in institutions of hungry in patients like high schools and colleges.

Dose:

The dose regimen is vastly ranged being dictated by the particular needs of the patient, and on the type of formulation. A patient with acute or severe hungeriasis may take in a staggering dose without belching. On formulation aspect, one may approximate the toxic level simply because the preparation has been aptly diluted with Kuku soap. Otherwise according to K.K. 1980 this drug should be given in kilograms per kilogram body weight.

Side-effects:

The saying goes - a harmless drug is a useless one. Ugali, the wonder drug, is not exception. The most widely reported acute side effect is drowsiness. For this reason, the inpatients in schools are usually underdosed for the mid-day administration, otherwise the lecturer will be beautifully punctuated with snores. This is because drowsiness synergises fantastically with a boring afternoon lecture.

Obesity has been reported liable to result from chronic administration of the drug, especially if one is not mindful of the dose given.

Constipation is commonly reported if the drug is administered without roughage which aids in degradation.

Forensic classification:

It is a part I of the Essential Commodities Act: So no hoarding is allowed.

Transportation from one place to another is legal only if a permit is issued by the prescribed officer in the prescribed form.

Assay:

According to K.K.1980, bio-assay is highly recommended. This is best achieved by eating it.

S.A.R.

This is not yet fully elucidated. Research should be geared towards achieving the following goals:

- a) Prolonging the duration of action. A single dose administered per day would go a long way in solving the more pressing energy crisis and the mid-day traffic jam would be diluted.
- b) Hoarding could be checked by employing the help of the most effective detective, the nose.

This can be done by increasing the commodity - nose affinity can be increased by perfuming the drug so that the smell can emanate from the hoarders' backyards to the hungry consumer on the counter end.

4. THE TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR SAFE DRIVING

The Institute of Adult Studies has diversified its adult educational work to include driving. The following ten commandments constitute the first ten lessons:

- 4.1 Thou shalt hold nothing but thy steering.
- 4.2 Thou shalt not take unto thee a God of thy horsepower.
- 4.3 Thou shalt not make the centre lane in vain.
- 4.4 Remember the driver behind you; let him pass.
- 4.5 Honor thy father and mother and thine other passengers.
- 4.6 Thou shalt not kill any pedestrian.
- 4.7 Thou shalt not commit drunken driving.
- 4.8 Thou shalt not steal thy neighbour's eyes with thy headlight nor his ear with horn, nor his enjoyment with litter.
- 4.9 Thou shalt not bear false witness with thy signals.
- 4.10 Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's right of way.

5. NEW APPOINTMENTS

5.1 Mr. Felix Macharia Kiruhi

Lecturer (Radio): Institute of Adult Studies.

Mr. Kiruhi was trained as a teacher at Thogoto and Kenyatta College in 1967 and 1971 respectively. Between 1975 and 1976 he undertook basic training in radio production at the Institute of Mass Communication in Nairobi followed by further studies at the North E. Wales Institute where he was awarded a Bachelor of Education in Educational Technology and the Advanced Diploma in Educational Studies in 1979. His special interest is in T.V. production and the organisation of a multi-media library.

## 5.2 Promotion:

Dr. Henry Indagasi, PhD

Lecturer: Department of Literature.

Dr. Indagasi was educated at Kamusinga Secondary School and the University of Nairobi where he won the Shell Award for the best results in the Faculty of Arts in 1973. He taught at Sigalagala and Lugulu Secondary Schools before joining the University of California, Santa Cruz in 1974. He was awarded a Master's degree in 1975 and PhD in January 1980. His doctoral dissertation was entitled "Joseph Conrad: A study of Colonialism". He has taught in the Department of Literature since 1977 as a Tutorial Fellow, assistant lecturer and was recently promoted to lecturer. Mr. Indagasi is the assistant editor of Busara.

## 6. UNIVERSITY HEALTH SERVICES

The University Health Services came into operation in October 1966. There were then about 1449 undergraduate students and 236 academic staff. The panel of private doctors was increased from two to three, with a provision of a fourth member as may be required. The scheme provided for general practitioner services to staff in return for a capitation fee per person dealt with.

In January 1967, it was decided that a full time College Medical Officer should be appointed to be responsible for the students' health scheme as well as providing medical services to all staff other than those on academic terms of service. The Medical Officer started work on 1 July, 1968 but the panel of private doctors continued serving the College whose population by then had increased to 1892 undergraduates and 250 academic staff.

In 1970 it was decided to increase the establishment in the students health centre. There was also a provision to extend the health service to cover curative and preventive medicine which would ensure regular medical check-ups for members of staff and their families. These were, however, carried out in town in the facilities of the private doctors. An advantage accruing from this offer was that staff would have the chance of consulting the other doctors on the panel of private doctors. One of the doctors would also be on call at all hours, including Sundays and public holidays.

In 1971 the question was raised as to the benefits to be provided by the University to both staff and students if the health services were run on a unified basis. There were then about 3384 undergraduates, 190 postgraduates and 309 academic staff. The existing scheme covered general practitioner and consultant services, but doctors gave prescriptions and not medication. The University Council Terms of Service Committee reviewed medical benefits for Academic staff in 1971 to include:

- (a) Under a non-contributory scheme provision of clinics and general practitioner services, together with such specialist services as may be recommended by the University doctors free of charge to members of staff and their families.
- (b) Hospital charges, except insofar as covered by the member's contribution by way of hospital tax collected by the Government, fall to be met by the member of staff. Payment of anaesthetist's, surgeon's and other specialist fees together with x-ray and any specialist treatment.
- (c) Cost of drugs to a maximum of £50 per family per year either through its own dispensing unit or through other arrangements the University may make from time to time.

In February 1977, Council considered a report on the University Medical Scheme, including certain unsatisfactory features arising largely from the provisions of the University Terms of Service leading to misuse of the scheme. Council authorised the Vice-Chancellor to take appropriate action and a re-constituted medical review sub-committee reviewed the scheme.

The sub-committee reported its recommendations to the GPC in May 1977 and Council at its meeting in 1977 accepted these recommendations in principle and resolved that the University Medical Service for staff and students be operated by University doctors, and that as recommended by the sub-committee, eligibility of staff in the scheme should be as follows:

- (1) Husbands of women members of staff are not entitled except:
  - (a) where such husbands are employees of the University and entitled on their own right,
  - (b) in exceptional circumstances in which university permission has been granted, e.g. where a disabled husband is shown to be entirely dependent on the wife.
- (2) Children, including legally adopted children of entitled women employees should receive medical benefits even if the family is in receipt of benefits under the husband's terms of employment elsewhere.
- (3) All children born of multiple existing marriages of entitled members should receive benefits.

This reorganisation was to have been effected on 1 July, 1978 but this was faced with a basic problem of the gradings proposed for the doctors to be employed at the Health Centre. It was not possible to recruit the doctors at the salaries being offered then. In the circumstances, interim arrangements were made for staff to continue to receive medical services after 30 June, 1978. These arrangements enabled members of staff and their families to consult a number of private practitioners whose names and addresses were circulated to staff.

It is these arrangements which ceased on 31 March, 1980 when the new reorganised scheme was put into effect, with 3 specialist doctors. As originally conceived, the health services would have had approximately 5 general practitioners on full-time employment and would have used the Medical School staff and consultants. As it is, the present staff clinic is congested due to shortage of physical facilities and general practitioners. Efforts have been made to resolve the present problems of congestion through employment of two additional doctors to bring the total number of doctors at the Staff Health Centre to 4: one general doctor and three specialists; and two at the students health services. Doctors from the Department of Human Anatomy have kindly volunteered their services to the Health Centre.

In the meantime, the GPC at its meeting held on 6 September 1979 adopted the Government rate of Shs. 150/- per day as support for hospital charges for senior staff. This was adjusted for other grades to bring them up corresponding government rates. Attempts were also made to alleviate the problems staff experience when treatment is undertaken overseas. At present, therefore, the University meets the economy airfare, doctor/specialist fees and drug costs and a portion of the hospitalisation charges.

The University Health Services aims at continuing to provide adequate medical services to entitled staff at the Staff Health Centre, and emergencies after working hours, weekends and public holidays in collaboration with the Nairobi Hospital, Aga Khan Hospital, Gertrude's Garden Children's Hospital and other hospitals.

In the meantime, it has become clear that the service will need to be reviewed again and strengthened through an effective health insurance scheme to cater for the health needs of nearly 6000 undergraduate students, over 1000 postgraduates, about 1000 academic staff and their families, some 700 middle grade staff and their families and over 2000 junior staff whose families also need attention.

#### 7. ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE RESEARCH LABORATORY

The German Agency for Technical Cooperation has donated equipment worth K.Shs. 190,000/- to the Environmental Science Laboratories of the Faculty of Architecture, Design and Development. The equipment supplied included one measuring Tape Recorder BRUEL & KJAER, including power supply, two microphones and two microphone carrier systems. This will be used for research in the field of noise control by field recording and subsequent analysis in the acoustic laboratory. The thermal laboratory received an infra-red thermometer ULTRAKUST for measuring surface temperatures with accessories including one electric recorder and an electric psychrometer HYGROPHIL for electronic temperature and humidity measurements.

## 8. DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES

### 8.1 "Save our Soils Project" - IFIAS/UNEP Workshop Department of Geography

The Director of the Population Studies and Research Institute, Prof. S.H. Ominde and Dr. G. Ongweny of the Department of Geography recently attended a workshop on the Phase I Programme for the IFIAS/UNEP Project "Save our Soils" in USSR. The workshop considered, among other things, the kind of data on socio-economic problems that are available at each project centre that could answer questions raised during the preparatory phase, the reports already written and the additional information needed to be collected and the formulation of the Phase II programme. These studies will be limited to the semi-arid and wet tropical regions and ecologically by the erosion and nutrient depletion processes of soil degradation. Dr. Ongweny presented a paper on "The Nature and extent of soil loss studies in Kenya". Kenya will be one of the regions in which the project will be carried out. In the meantime, a Presidential Commission on Soil Conservation and Afforestation has been set up.

### 8.2 Kanu Party Workshop Department of Government

Two members of the University community presented papers at the KANU Workshop on 31 May, 1980 at the Kenyatta Conference Centre. Dr. Michael Chege talked on the "organisational and structural problems of political parties in Africa". His proposals included identification of the party with popular aspirations as a means of expanding recruitment and hence expand its financial base; a graduated fee system with respect to personal income; hiring of graduate-level executive officers at branch level and headquarters; a thorough review of party ideology in light of realities; strict adherence to party constitution and a national party training college. Dr. Anyang' Nyong'o discussed "The Role of the political party in policy making". He dwelt on, among other issues, agriculture, energy, education, and economic planning and asked "in planning the economy of Kenya, what type of individuals are we building the future for? What type of sacrifices are we making today so that the people of tomorrow will enjoy?"

To what extent would we expect the individual today inspired by Kanu to make any sacrifice for the achievement of the goals set out in our Development Plan and subsequent sessional papers?"

The workshop made a number of recommendations among which similar workshops are envisaged for every year. Inputs by University scholars dealing with a whole range of problems that have faced Kenya since independence would form the basis for further future policy and organisational issues to be discussed at such workshops.

### 8.3 A Manual for Research and Writing Faculty of Commerce

The Faculty of Commerce has published a manual on research methodology and writing which both undergraduate and research students may find useful. It outlines the steps to be taken in writing up a research project. Although written mainly with MBA students in mind, other students are likely to benefit. The manual is divided into two parts. The first part contains some helpful hints for doing research, the details of which are given in a twenty-page appendix, and the second part is concerned with the mechanics of writing an academic paper. The manual can be purchased from the Faculty of Commerce office, at a nominal price of Shs. 5/-

## 9. GANDHI SMARAK NIDHI TRUSTEES (GSNT)

The GSNT Committee resolved on 9 May, 1980 that in future, due to current inflation, the best final year student in each faculty, except those in the Faculties of Architecture, Design and Development, and Medicine, be given K. Shs. 3,000/- instead of K. Shs. 2,000/-

The Committee is designing a gold medal to be awarded annually to the best overall student in the whole University with the highest proficiency both academically and in extra-curricular activities.

10. CONVOCATION

There was a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Convocation on 21 March, 1980.

During the meeting, arrangements for the 1980 Annual Re-Union for the Members of the Convocation were discussed and a Committee, under the Chairmanship of Dr. H.W.O. Okoth-Ogendo, was set up to work on specific arrangements for the Re-Union. The last Re-Union held on 25 November, 1978 was in the form of a dinner/dance held at Panafric Hotel, Nairobi. The Committee working on the arrangements for this year's Annual Re-Union welcomes any ideas and suggestions to make the function a memorable and eventful occasion.

During the meeting, the Executive Committee also considered the whole question of Youth and Society, in view of the continuing unrest of students in schools and the University, and recommended, among others, that there is need of the Convocation organising a public seminar on the subject.

The Editorial Committee of the Convocation Gazette is presently working on the third issue of the Gazette and any contributions, from the members of the Convocation, are welcome. Such contributions, on matters relevant to the Convocation, should be directed to Dr. V.B. Mbaya, the Editor of the Convocation Gazette, at the Department of Biochemistry, Chiromo.

July 3, 1980.



Cumulative

UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

No.15

# VARSAITY FOCUS

A General Information Sheet from the Vice-Chancellor

---

## C O N T E N T S

Page

1. STAFF MATTERS.....	1
2. SEMINAR/WORKSHOP FOR SECRETARIES.....	3
3. U.N. ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA - STAFF DEVELOPMENT/TRAINING OFFICERS WORKSHOP.....	4
4. DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES.....	5

1. STAFF MATTERS

1.1 New Appointments

<u>Name</u>	<u>Designation</u>	<u>Department</u>
Mr. G. Kariuki	Res. Fellow	H.R.D.U.
Prof. O. Ogunfowora	Visiting Prof.	Agric. Economics
Mr. O. Ooko-Ombaka	Lecturer	Public Law
Miss Z. Devji	Junior Res. Fellow	H.R.D.U.
Mr. M.M. Wanyoike	Lecturer	Animal Production
Mr. F.M. Kiruhi	Lecturer (Radio)	Inst. of Adult St.
Prof. P. Lenz	Professor	Dental Surgery
Mr. S.K. Arap Koske	Lecturer	Chemistry
Mr. N.G. Kaheru	Graduate Res. Asst.	I.C.S.
Prof. J.F. Bone	Visiting Prof.	Vet. Anatomy
Prof. P. Alper	Visiting Prof.	Management Science

1.2 Re-Appointments

Dr. A. Williams	Lecturer	Food Sc. & Tech.
Dr. W. Kofi-Tsekpo	Senior Lecturer	Pharmacy
Dr. S. Talalaj	Visiting Prof.	Pharmacy
Dr. S.W. Acuda	Senior Lecturer	Psychiatry
Dr. J. Dar	Senior Lecturer	Surgery
Dr. J.M. Molepo	Lecturer	Chemistry
Mr. S. Rajan	Lecturer	Mechanical Eng.
Mr. F.W. Aduol	Tutorial Fellow	Surveying & Photogrammetry

1.3 Promotions

Dr. T.S. Rangan	Senior Lecturer	Botany
Dr. J.B. Oyieke	Lecturer	Obstetrics & Gynae.
Dr. W. Widdowson	Senior Lecturer	Botany
Dr. A.O. Obel	Senior Lecturer	Medicine
Mr. O.N. Gakuru	Tutorial Fellow	Sociology

1.4 Resignations

Mr. J.N. Namasake	Lecturer	Commercial Law
Dr. P.H. Nafstad	Associate Prof.	Vet. Anatomy
Mr. D. Devaris	Senior Lecturer	Architecture
Miss M.L. Amoth	Tutorial Fellow	Food Sc. & Tech.
Mr. M. Muturi	Lecturer	Economics
Mr. B.K. Kapoor	Senior Lecturer	Architecture
Mr. M. Karanja	Tutorial Fellow	Architecture

### 1.5 Expiry of Contracts

Dr. J.K. Patnaik	Lecturer	Meteorology
Dr. J.F. Calder	Senior Lecturer	Diagnostic Radiology
Mr. A.A. Strain	Associate Prof.	Business Admin.
Dr. W.P. Pereira	Lecturer	Chemistry
Mr. J.M. Kinyua	Tutorial Fellow	Economics
Prof. C.M. Eastman	Associate Prof.	Linguistics & African Langs.
Dr. J.D. Newton	Associate Prof.	Accounting
Dr. M. Malone	Senior Lecturer	Community Health.

#### 1.6.1 Dr. Mary Kagwa ( New Appointment)

Dr. Mary Kagwa has been appointed as a lecturer in the Department of Dental Surgery. Born in Uganda, Dr. Kagwa obtained a BSc. degree from Howard University in 1956, and DDS (Doctor of Dental Surgery) in 1960 from the same University. From 1960-62, she joined Guy's Hospital College of Dentistry in London and received L.D.S. and R.C.S. She later worked as a Government Dental Surgeon at Mulago Hospital before going into private practice from 1970-1976. Dr. Kagwa later was appointed as lecturer in the Department of Dental Surgery for 1½ years before resigning in September 1977 to join the University of Wales Dental School. Last year, she graduated and obtained an M.Sc.D. degree in Periodontology. Her major lines of interest are in Pediatric Dentistry, Periodontology and research programmes. She is a member of several dental associations.

#### 1.6.2 Mr. S.M. Mutuli (Promotion)

Mr. S.M. Mutuli has been promoted to lecturer in the Department of Mechanical Engineering. He studied for his BSc. in Mechanical Engineering and MSc. at the University of Nairobi. His MSc. thesis is entitled "The Properties of Sisal Fibres and Sisal Fibre Reinforces Composite Materials". He has been a tutorial fellow in the Department and one of his papers entitled "The Potential of Sisal as a reinforcing fibre in cement base materials" has been published in the journal of Engineering Education and Research in Tropical Africa, (CEEMA).

#### 1.6.3 Dr. R.S. Rangan (Promotion)

Dr. R.S. Rangan has been promoted to Senior lecturer in the Department of Botany. He attended the University of Mysore, Bangalore, India, where he obtained a B.Sc. degree in 1960, and an MSc. degree in 1961 and later attended University of Delhi where he obtained his PhD in 1966. Prior to joining the University of Nairobi in 1977, Dr. Rangan had worked for two years as a Research Plant Physiologist in the University of California, one year as Visiting Research Scientist, Twyford Laboratories in London,

seven years as a Senior Scientific Officer and Group Leader at the Bio-Organic Division, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre in India. His main areas of specialisation are in Experimental Plant Morphology and Embryology, plant morphogenesis, isolation and culture of plant protoplasts, bio-synthetic potentials of plant tissue cultures, and clonal propagation of economically important plants. He has 27 research publications to his credit.

## 2. SEMINAR/WORKSHOP FOR SECRETARIES

The Institute of Adult Studies recently organised a 3-day workshop for 30 secretaries from 24th-26th July, 1980 at the Institute for Development Studies at the Main Campus. The workshop was aimed at improving secretarial services at the University. It was conducted by five members of staff from the Institute of Adult Studies. Although similar workshops have been organised before, the secretaries who attended this particular workshop had not had the opportunity to participate. It has been reported by both participants and organisers to have been an unforgettable experience.

The workshop focused on the following broad issues: the structure and operations of the University, the personal and public image of the secretary, creating a greater awareness of the secretary's powers and responsibilities. It offered an opportunity for the participants to share experiences and feelings at their places of work which included administrative and academic sections of the University. The Registrar, in introducing the workshop, stressed the importance of training and the significance of workshops of this kind.

The participants in sharing their experiences observed a common concern of frustration and boredom. Among the reasons given were lack of appreciation of their work on the part of the officers to whom they were attached; lack of opportunity to use their shorthand skills which the University insists on when they are recruited or promoted. A major source of frustration comes from the fact that officers do not inform secretaries of their whereabouts during office hours making it difficult, therefore, for them to offer the services they are expected to offer. Some secretaries from

academic departments wondered whether a system of sharing work with their colleagues when they may not be having so much work, could be worked out.

On a more positive note, the participants underlined their role in contributing to the success of the University. They were satisfied that improvement on their part in the following areas will create better working relationships and increase not only the efficiency but also the effectiveness of the institution. It is important to cultivate a sense of urgency to decide on priorities when there is more than one thing to be done, to be punctual and avoid absenting oneself from the place of work.

In the words of the participants themselves they saw themselves as the "ambassadors" of the University - the public relations officers who are the main contact point with both the internal and the external public. They resolved, therefore, that they should acquaint themselves with the operations of the whole University so as to be able to refer those seeking information to the right places.

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA -  
STAFF DEVELOPMENT/TRAINING OFFICERS WORKSHOP

The Institute of Adult Studies hosted a one month staff development and training officers seminar running from 13 July to 8 August, 1980. This was the third United Nations Economic Commission for Africa Workshop to be held at the Institute of Adult Studies at the Institute's Kikuyu Campus.

The Institute supplied the resource persons who were assisted by two lecturers from the Faculty of Commerce. Other visiting personnel included the Deputy Chief Economist, Ministry of Economic Planning and Development, an officer from UNEP and the Chief Manpower Development Section UN/ECA. The workshop was closed by the Vice-Chancellor

The participants in the workshop were drawn from 12 African countries which included Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Mozambique, Lesotho, Botswana, Ethiopia, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia and Kenya. There were 27 participants in all, some of whom were senior manpower, training and administrative officers, personnel managers and analysts, senior assessors, Controller of Customs from Government departments and parastatal organisations.

In organising the workshop, the objectives were to make the participants become aware of the need for planned, regular, systematic personnel training in their organisations and to acquire skills and knowledge needed by manpower executives. Among them were training strategies, selection and appraisal of trainees, career planning, organisational analysis, manpower planning, leadership styles and communication.

At the end of the workshop, each of the participants developed and wrote a training policy for his organisation. The participants' evaluation of the workshop indicated that they had acquired the knowledge and drive essential to personnel training executives.

At the same time, the participants found the interaction between them and the resource personnel providing a rich learning experience.

In his closing address, the Vice-Chancellor appealed to the participants not to depend too heavily on planning models from industrialised nations but rather to work out means of educating the large numbers of young men and women who drop out of the formal education system as a way of developing the human resources of this continent. The participants, having reflected on their own jobs were in a better position to go back to their desks with an overall view of a continuous planning process and utilization of human resources, he added.

He hoped, that they will turn their attention to the urgent needs of their countries' manpower requirements as seen by themselves.

## DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES

### 4.1 Institute of Computer Science

Prof. R.J.P. Scott, the Director of the Institute of Computer Science, recently participated in a one-day seminar on the University Administrative Systems. He gave a lecture on the computerisation of the University's administrative systems. The participants were presented with a copy of a paper entitled "The role of computer in a University in a developing country" written by Prof. Scott for the ODA Publication Overseas Universities in March 1979.

In his lecture Prof. Scott recalled that in May 1979, the University was presented with a new computer installation. The computer, an ICL 2950 comprises the main frame computer and terminals. The main-frame is installed at the Institute of Computer Science building at Chiromo. It is running all the programmes previously run on the old computer, but has more power and storage capacity. The terminals are installed in the Institute and in Room 101 in the former Education building on the main Campus. The terminals are visual display screens with key boards and remote printers. Data is being entered directly through the terminal keyboards and on "floppy" discs. The use of punched cards is expected to be phased out eventually.

At the moment, the Institute of Computer Science provides the University administration with data processing systems for Admissions, Nominal Roll, Postgraduate Nominal Roll, Examinations Registration, Transcripts and Payroll. Different versions of these administrative systems are also run for Kenyatta University College. Work on the implementation of a financial system is underway and the first aspects should be ready by now.

With the availability of visual display terminals that can be remotely linked to the new University computer, these systems can be revised to provide more useful output and linkage to each other. In order to initiate constructive discussion on these revisions, a short overview of each system is being prepared by the Institute of Computer Science, for distribution to all University staff involved with processing of records.

In the development plan for the Institute of Computer Science for the period 1979/83, it is envisaged that the following administrative systems will be implemented - financial control, estate management (housing and administration), registration (personnel records), bookshop (stock control), the Library (union list, book location information system and periodical control system), Vice-Chancellor's office (skills bank), manpower and training projection, student service scheme, external degree programme and KJSE correspondence programme.

Despite the installation of an up to date and more powerful computer with terminal facilities, there are some problems that the Institute faces. The first problem is due to the delay by Kenya

Posts and Telecommunications Corporation to acquire modems for telephone subscribers. To be able to use a terminal connected to a computer using a telephone line, a pair of modems (modulator demodulator) are required and the exclusive supplier in Kenya is Kenya Posts and Telecommunications. Until modems are available, the remote terminal at the Faculty of Engineering, Institute for Development Studies, Finance Office, Registrar's Office, Kabete Campus, Kenyatta Hospital Campus and Kenyatta University College cannot be connected. In addition, the latter three remote sites require direct telephone lines available for exclusive use of the computer link.

The other major problem preventing rapid development of new administrative data processing systems for the University is the recruitment and retention of suitably qualified and experienced personnel. Kenyans trained through the Institute's staff training programme often find more lucrative jobs in the private sector. The Institute has now taken a different strategy to offset this problem. The problems of staff recruitment and retention have been dealt with in the long term development plan.

Meanwhile, the Institute of Computer Science has offered to mount in-service computer and data processing appreciation courses for the University administrative staff.

#### 4.2 Department of Agricultural Economics-

Miss S. Minae from the Department of Agricultural Economics in the Faculty of Agriculture recently attended a symposium in Egypt organised by the University of Alexandria and the Association of Faculties of Agriculture in Africa (AFAA). The symposium was financed by AFAA and FAO and its theme was "The Role of Faculties of Agriculture in Extension and Rural Development".

The major task of the workshop was to establish what role the faculties of Agriculture play in extension services, and to come up with recommendations on how best the faculties could enhance provision of extension services.

The symposium was attended by representatives from several African countries. Amongst the major topics discussed in the symposium were the present situation as regards to training, research and extension services in faculties

of Agriculture. Secondly, discussions on the present situation in Ministries of Agriculture were held in addition to examining the present research situation in the various research institutions and their relationship with the Ministries and Faculties of Agriculture.

The general consensus amongst the participants was that the major role of the Faculties of Agriculture is the training of extension agents on a mass scale. The meeting also underlined the need for improved linkages between the various institutions involved in agricultural extension work and the need for greater coordination of their training programmes and research. It also underscored the need for the faculties of Agriculture to play a more dynamic role in extension services.

Miss Minae presented a paper entitled "Bureaucracy Structure and Organisation of Extension Systems - A case study of Kenya Agricultural Extension System". In this paper, Miss Minae argues amongst other things, that "the present agricultural extension system in Kenya is based on the British Colonial model which Kenya inherited from the British after independence". Apart from pointing out the positive changes that have been made in the post-independence era, she also indicates shortcomings and makes several recommendations to improve the system.

Amongst her main recommendations are:

- a reorganisation of the present structure so that more trained staff can teach the producers.
- decentralisation to allow greater participation of extension staff and local people in planning, in addition to reducing the present red tape where one has to go through the whole bureaucratic links before any new program can be implemented.
- A change of the unilateral approach and haphazard system of priority setting by implementing programs which are congruent to local needs and national goals.
- Introduction of integrated rural projects, increasing coordination in the field and emphasizing use of local resources.

#### 4.3 Department of Diagnostic Radiology

Dr. N. Tole of the Department of Diagnostic Radiology recently attended an international training course on Nuclear Materials Accountability and control for Safeguards purposes in Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA. The course was organised by the International Atomic Energy (IAEA) in conjunction with the United States Department of Energy and coordinated by the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory of the University of California. The course aimed at providing practical training in the design, implementation and operation of national systems of nuclear materials accountability and control that satisfy both national and international safeguards objectives.

The Faculty of Engineering has already started a programme related to the use of nuclear materials. Further collaboration between various departments engaged in research in this can be undertaken in an interdisciplinary forum to include, inter alia, those that are competent in international nuclear legislation.

#### 4.4 Department of Architecture

- Enkarau Village Project: Housing Development for a Maasai Community of the Kajiado District.

Following an invitation by the Council for Human Ecology - Kenya (CHEK), the Department of Architecture looked into the possibility of developing the present housing conditions of Maasai Community, which is in the process of settling down on a more permanent basis.

A competition, open to all architectural and planning students, had been organised in May 1979. However, due to the high pressure at the end of the academic year, only three students of the then 2nd year in Architecture took part, to be later joined by the only Maasai student of the school.

The basic idea of the Department's involvement is to identify the actual requirements of the Community, to find a potential solution to the needs of the people, to train members of the group in basic building technologies - to be undertaken by the Village Technology Unit at Karen, and finally to erect one or two prototype structures, for which funds have still to be made available. However, the main initiative has to come from the Community itself, as well as the funding for the finally approved individual structures.

To obtain the necessary background information, several Maasai settlements have been visited, the cost of which has been mainly met out of the

Consultancy income of Prof. Meffert of the Environment Section of the Department, and who is acting as Supervisor to the Project.

Recently, the participating students had the opportunity to present a model of their design proposal to the Community, which was welcomed with great interest by the people - in particular by the women. The outcome of the lively discussion will be incorporated into the final proposal.

It is the strong conviction of the supervising staff that projects such as this one are extremely useful in bridging the gap between the reality which people of this country are facing in their daily life and the more theoretical academic education of architectural students. Thus the Department of Architecture is most grateful to CHEK for having provided the opportunity to take up such a challenging project which has the potential to serve as a pilot project in the future development of Kenya.

Of comparable interest the Department of Architecture is also involved in another practice oriented project, wherein the 3rd year students have been invited to design the required building facilities in Appropriate Building Technology, for the recently established Centre for Appropriate Technology at Kenyatta University College. A jury will identify the most suitable proposal and invite the student designer to become a member of the final planning group.

October 1, 1980.



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

## **VARSIY FOCUS**

A General Information Sheet from the Vice-Chancellor

---

SPECIAL ISSUE

We have learnt with great shock of the untimely death of Dr. A.R.T. Hove, Chairman of the Department of Geology, on the night of Wednesday, 13 August 1980 following a car accident.

On behalf of the entire University community, we express our deep sorrow and condolences to the family of Dr. Hove.

Further arrangements will be announced later.

August 14, 1980

JMM

*bl*



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

## **VARSITY FOCUS**

A General Information Sheet from the Vice-Chancellor

---

### SPECIAL ISSUE

Last week has turned out to be a bleak one for the University. We also learnt with deep shock of the death of the 1 $\frac{1}{4}$  year-old son of Prof. J. Kagia (Community Health) on Friday 15 August, 1980 after a short illness. Funeral arrangements will be announced later.

We also learnt with great sorrow of the death of one of the cleaners in the halls of residence, Mr. James Mugweru. He is reported to have been knocked down by a car and to have died instantly.

On behalf of the entire University community, we express our deep sorrow and condolences to the families of the deceased.

August 18, 1980

JMM

*Library*

*Staff*



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

No.16

# VARSITY FOCUS

A General Information Sheet from the Vice-Chancellor

C O N T E N T S

	<u>Page</u>
1. STAFF MATTERS.....	1
2. DEANS COMMITTEE ALLOCATION OF POST-GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS.....	2
3. NEW DEAN FOR THE FACULTY OF SCIENCE.....	4
4. DEPARTMENTAL EXAMINER BOARD MEETING - DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES.....	4
5. POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN MASS COMMUNICATION - ONE YEAR PERIOD OF OPERATION...	5
6. CONFERENCE ON HIGHER EDUCATION FOR DEVELOPMENT.....	6
7. INTERNATIONAL CHEMISTRY CONFERENCE.....	7

# 1. STAFF MATTERS

## 1.1 New Appointments

<u>Name</u>	<u>Designation</u>	<u>Department</u>
Mr. F.M. Gatumo	Lecturer	Accounting
Mr. P.A. Boateng	Lecturer	Accounting
Dr. Mary Kagwa	Lecturer	Dental Surgery
Mr. R.P. Raju	Lecturer	Accounting
Mr. C.P. Oduol	Tut. Fellow	Linguistics & African Langs.
Mr. L. Keya	Tut. Fellow	Food Sc. & Tech.
Dr. D.T. Hazlett	Lecturer	Human Microbiology
Mr. P.M. Sitonik	Tut. Fellow	Crop Science
Dr. H.S. Adala	Lecturer	Surgery
Mr. S.B. Barua	Lecturer	Surgery
Dr. V.K. Talwar	Lecturer	Dental Surgery
Dr. J.K. Munyua	Lecturer	Biochemistry
Dr. H. Osore	Lecturer	Biochemistry
Dr. C. Mohamed	Lecturer	French Sub-Dept.
Dr. G.D. Ashby	Lecturer	" "
Dr. B.H. Ogwang	Lecturer	Range Management
Mr. T.K. Njagi	Lecturer	Forestry
Mr. D. Kamutei	Lecturer	Forestry
Mr. R. Murtland	Lecturer	Forestry
Dr. C.N. Warui	Tut. Fellow	Vet. Anatomy
Dr. C. Chimutenywende	Senior Lecturer	School of Journalism
Miss S.R. Addison	Lecturer	Advanced Nursing
Dr. O.I. Leleji	Vis.Snr. Lecturer	Crop Science

## 1.2 Re-Appointments

Prof. M.K. Jeshirani	Assoc. Prof.	Orthopaedic Surgery
Mr. G.W. Mathu	Research Fellow	I.A.S.
Dr. E.K. Kangethe	Tutorial Fellow	Public Health Pharm. & Toxicology
Dr. J.N. Tripathi	Sen. Lecturer	Electrical Eng.
Prof. M.S. Patel	Assoc. Prof.	Mathematics
Prof. F. Fasana	Assoc. Prof.	Human Anatomy
Prof. R.L. Smith	Professor	Civil Engineering
Prof. R.K. Srivastava	Professor	Agric. Engineering
Dr. D. Mazzeo	Lecturer	Government
Mr. Klaus Roesch	Lecturer	Architecture
Dr V.B. Mbaya	Sen. Lecturer	Biochemistry
Mr. J.W. Ssenyonga	Research Fellow	Inst. of African St.
Dr. D.S. Pathak	Sen. Lecturer	Economics
Dr. A.H. Walji	Tutorial Fellow	Human Anatomy
Mr. M.N. Etyang	Tutorial Fellow	Economics
Dr. G.C. Asnani	Professor	Meteorology
Mr. K.B. Kityo	Lecturer	Management Science
Dr. H.N. Gopalan	Sen. Lecturer	Botany
Dr. C.M. Mulei	Tutorial Fellow	Clinical Studies
Mr. M.M. Gohil	Tutorial Fellow	Design
Dr. G.E. Owiti	Tutorial Fellow	Vet. Anatomy
Mr. J.K. Karogi	Tutorial Fellow	Architecture
Mr. Z. Waweru	Tutorial Fellow	School of Journalism
Dr. G.N. Ganapathy	Lecturer	Medicine

1.3 Promotions

Mr. Henry Indagazi	Lecturer	Literature
Mr. S.J. Kibathi	Lecturer	Architecture
Dr. J. Dar	Assoc. Prof.	Surgery
Dr. J.M. Kyambi	Assoc. Prof.	Surgery
Dr. P.S. Bhogal	Sen. Lecturer	Physics
Dr. B.W. Ogana	Sen. Lecturer	Mathematics
Dr. J.M. Molepo	Sen. Lecturer	Chemistry
Mr. M.S. Mukras	Sen. Lecturer	Economics

1.4 Resignations.

Dr. A.M. Shatry	Lecturer	Clinical Studies w.e.f. 9.9.80
Dr. N. Adamali	Lecturer	Diagnostic Radiology w.e.f. 30.9.80
Prof. S. Date-Bah	Assoc. Prof.	Commercial Law w.e.f. 2.10.80
Dr. E. Steinhart	Lecturer	History w.e.f. 9.10.80
Dr. S.K. Sawhney	Sen. Lecturer	Biochemistry w.e.f. 9.12.80
Miss P. Charania	Lecturer	Crop Science w.e.f. 11.1.81

2. DEANS COMMITTEE ALLOCATION OF POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS

The Deans Committee held its 99th Meeting on September 16 to consider the postgraduate scholarships for the 1980/81 Academic year.

The meeting, which was chaired by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, also discussed the proposed increase of the postgraduate fees and stipends and allocated the available scholarships to the various Faculties, Institutes and the School of Journalism.

Like in all the previous years, the available scholarships were fewer than the ones required by the various Faculties and each one of them had to be content with the number that was allocated to it. In the Committee's deliberations, it was noted that any increase in the stipends and postgraduate fees would result in fewer applicants being given the scholarships. It was also noted that some donors have already notified the University that they would not increase their donation until 1982. Consequently, any increase in the level of the stipends before that date would only be met by decreasing the number of scholarships available in any given year.

The Committee, therefore, decided that the review be done once the proposed new terms of service are ready and after the report by Waruhiu Committee, into which the University's recommendation has been incorporated, is accepted by the Government. It was further agreed that the matter should be discussed later when a paper prepared by the Registrar, with inputs from the Deans, has been prepared to shed light into all the aspects of the matter.

It was further reported that during the current academic year, there <sup>not</sup> would be a total of 141 post-graduate scholarships from the various donor agencies and from the University of Nairobi. From the University's sources, there would be £150,000 for 46 new scholarships plus renewals. DAAD had made available £160,000 for 80 new scholarships, 20 of which will be reserved for foreign students. Other available scholarships include 5 new scholarships for the Population Studies from UNFPA, and 25 new scholarships for Kenyatta University College. The Ministry of Agriculture is sponsoring 13 of its employees for the various MSc. programmes in the Faculty of Agriculture.

There was, however, a notable shortfall in terms of sources of scholarships as a few donor agencies were not providing new scholarships. It was reported that CIDA, Rockefeller and MIRCEN were not providing scholarships as their contracts with the University had come to an end.

The Committee agreed to allocate the scholarships from University of Nairobi and DAAD as follows:

<u>Faculty</u>	<u>UON</u>	<u>DAAD</u>
Agriculture	-	7
Architecture, Design & Development	3	4
Arts	19	-
Commerce	8	2
Education	-	3
Engineering	-	8
Law	5	-
Medicine	-	6
Veterinary Medicine	-	10
Science	2	19
Institute of African Studies	2	-
Institute of Computer Science	1	-
Population Studies Research Institute	1	1
Journalism	3	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	44	60
TOTAL	=====	=====

The Committee also agreed that the nominations of the candidates from the various Faculties be made by Committees appointed on a faculty level before forwarding them to the Chairman of the Deans Committee for approval.

3. NEW DEAN FOR THE FACULTY OF SCIENCE

At its 108th meeting, the Faculty Board of Science elected Prof. George Kinoti as the new Dean of the Faculty with effect from 1 September, 1980. His appointment has also been confirmed by the Senate. He replaces Prof. M.S. Alala who has been the Dean of the Faculty for the last four years.

Prof. Kinoti, who has been the Chairman of the Department of Zoology since 1975, is also a member of the University Council and the Vice-Chairman of the Convocation. He got most of his University education at the University of London where he qualified for a B.Sc. in 1962, a Diploma in Applied Parasitology and Entomology in 1964 and a PhD. degree in 1967.

From 1962-1966, Prof. Kinoti worked as a Research Officer Trainee in the East African Institute for Medical Research before joining Makerere University as a lecturer in 1967. He joined the University of Nairobi as lecturer in 1968, was promoted to Senior Lecturer in 1974 and later appointed Associate Professor in 1976.

Apart from being a member of several Professional Societies, Prof. Kinoti has in the past been the Chairman, Churches Chaplaincy to the Christian Community in the University, member of the Board of Directors, Christian Student Leadership Centre and Chairman of the Faculty of Science Students Welfare Committee. He brings into his post a wealth of experience gained in several posts of responsibility that he has held at various times.

In the academic field, Prof. Kinoti has conducted research and published extensively. His research and teaching interest lies in medical parasitology.

4. DEPARTMENTAL EXAMINER BOARD MEETING - DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES

The Department of Religious Studies held its departmental examiners' board meeting on 5 September, 1980. Their External Examiner, Prof. C. Gaba who

has been the External Examiner since 1972, also attended the meeting.

Prof. Gaba, who comes from the University of Cape Coast, Ghana, invited members of the department to visit his department whenever they had an opportunity.

In his report on the students performance this year, Prof. Gaba observed that the general performance was higher than in the previous two years. He added that the long closure of the University does not seem to have adversely affected the students performances. In his University, he said, a similar trend had been observed, where students tended to work harder in times of crisis.

Prof. Gaba observed that in all the examination papers, the range of questions that the students answered was wide and this was an indication that the syllabus has been well covered. He commended the members of staff for covering the syllabus adequately and maintaining a high standard. He noted that in general, course work marks compared favourably with the performance of students in the examination.

The External Examiner made several recommendations for further discussion and action in the department. Among his recommendations were that the internal examiners should not write any marks in the text of the scripts. Rather, they should read and record their marks on the cover. This would help to reduce the possibility of influencing others who might assess the scripts later. He also recommended that a mark sheet be designed in which the performance of students can be recorded according to questions answered. It was noted that such a form was in use some years ago, but the practice was abandoned.

In addition, he said that if a particular course uses several text books, examination questions should be based on all the books, rather than on one. This would help ensure that the examination covered the whole course.

5. POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN MASS COMMUNICATION  
MARKS ITS ONE YEAR PERIOD OF OPERATION

The new postgraduate Diploma in Mass Communication at the School of Journalism ended its first year

since inception at the end of last month. As a result, the School has instituted a programme of evaluation to assess the first year of the course.

The assessment report prepared by the Ag. Director, Dr. J. Jouet, was presented at the School's last board meeting held on 12 July, 1980. It offers an analysis of the current situation as well as an outline of the trend towards a degree course in the long run.

The seventeen-page report is based on views expressed by all the persons who have been involved in the programme: academic staff, part-time lecturers and students. A six-page questionnaire was distributed to all of them in order to gather their comments on the benefit derived from the course as well as the problems faced during the academic year. The report, though not unique by its nature, is a commendable one because of its attempt to promote dialogues between staff and the students - and the use of an internal survey in the planning process.

The report covers several areas: Main constraints of the 1979/80 academic year, course assessment, media attachment, discussion of programme amendments, development plans and prospects for the 1980/81 academic year.

## 6. CONFERENCE ON HIGHER EDUCATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

The University was the venue for the Afro-German Conference on Higher Education for Development, sponsored by the German Agency for Technical Co-operation (GJZ), German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) in cooperation with the University of Nairobi.

The Conference was officially opened by the Assistant Minister for Higher Education, Hon. W.E. Muita, on behalf of the Minister for Higher Education. The Conference was also addressed by the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Kenya, Dr. A. Kuehn.

The theme of the Conference was "Higher Education for Development - Contributions from Afro-German Cooperation" and it attracted more than 100 experts from Germany and all over Africa - from as far as Morocco, Egypt, Zaire, Nigeria, Zambia and Tanzania. The Ministry of Higher Education was also represented.

The participants represented a spectrum of professions and the emphasis was on mapping out how higher education in the various disciplines, could be harnessed for the development of Africa. Among the major objectives of the conference was to exchange information, views and experiences, among African teachers and German colleagues who are presently attached to African Universities with a view to further strengthening and improving joint endeavours.

Most of the participants were representatives of Universities all over Africa and expressed their desires for the need of African countries to adequately harness the available higher education resources for comprehensive development.

Among the speakers in the plenary sessions were the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. J.M. Mungai, Prof. P.K. Khamala, Chairman, Kenya National Academy for the Advancement of Arts and Sciences, Prof. Abu Zayd, Vice-Chancellor, University of Juba representing the Association of African Universities, Dr. K. Kinyanjui, Institute of Development Studies, and Mr. C. Fyle from Unesco.

## 7. INTERNATIONAL CHEMISTRY CONFERENCE

The Department of Chemistry organised an International Conference on Chemistry in Africa, sponsored by the Association of Faculties of Science of African Universities, and co-sponsored by several International organisations. 147 participants from thirty-two African and European countries attended the conference which run from July 28 to 1 August this year.

Plenary lectures and short communication papers on Renewable Resources as sources of energy and Chemicals, management of non-renewable resources, Prospects for small scale chemical industries in developing countries, pesticides for a clean and safe environment and chemical education were presented.

About one third of the plenary and presentation papers dealt totally or partly with the problem of renewable resources as sources of energy and chemicals. It was the general feeling among the participants that emphasis should be given to the development of a chemistry based on renewable natural materials - which would be inexpensive and available in large quantities.

It was felt that it would be necessary to minimise the use of those renewable resources like soil, which have traditionally been utilised to produce food. Chemists were also urged to work in multi-disciplinary teams with agronomists and biologists in order to determine the agronomical consequences of the different processes.

With regard to Africa's problems, the conference felt that there was no panacea to her use of renewable resources and all the possibilities have to be reviewed, and discussed in terms of their availability, rate of development, scope for future development and optimal use.

Discussing the management of non-renewable resources in developing countries, the conference recommended that proper use of non-renewable resources must be formulated and found for materials like forests, minerals, petroleum, gases, etc and that soil rehabilitation should form an integrated part of management of non-renewable resources.

In addition, the conference recommended that African governments should include qualified chemists in their policy making bodies.

Underlying all the papers presented in the conference was a central theme emphasizing the part chemical education should play in development. In teaching it was felt, effort should be made to show how chemistry interacts with society. The conference, therefore, recommended the need to re-examine the present chemistry curricula in order to justify unequivocally each part and to ensure that it is indeed important that the students learn the material - and not just include the subject because it has 'always been in the syllabus'.

October 7, 1980



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

# VARSIY FOCUS

No.17

A General Information Sheet from the Vice-Chancellor

---

## SPECIAL ISSUE

Mr. Paul Wambugu Ngunjiri

We have learnt with great shock, of the untimely death of Mr. Paul Wambugu Ngunjiri, a 3rd Year Bachelor of Arts Student. He died on Monday night after being hit by one of the University buses. The accident occurred on Monday at around 2.00 p.m. when the bus was taking students to a Basketball tournament at YMCA Shauri Moyo. Three other students also sustained minor injuries in the accident and they were treated at Kenyatta National Hospital and discharged later in the day. Investigations are going on to ascertain the circumstances under which the accident occurred.

Before joining the University, the late Mr. Ngunjiri, had attended Nyeri High School and Kirimara High School for his secondary education. At the time of his death, the late Mr. Ngunjiri was 23 years old.

On behalf of the entire University we express our deep sorrow and condolences to the family of the deceased.

MISS RUTH OMBIS

We have also learned with great shock of the untimely death of Miss Ruth Ombis who had successfully completed her studies for the Bachelor of Arts degree. She is a daughter of Mr. Julius Ombis, a Junior Administrative Assistant at the Institute of Adult Studies.

She died from a lifelong disease which had developed complications lately. At the time of her death, Miss Ombis was 24 years old. Her father has been an employee of the University since 1963.

On behalf of the entire University we express our deep sorrow and condolences to the family of the deceased.

October 21, 1980

JMM



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

No. 18

# VARSAITY FOCUS

A General Information Sheet from the Vice-Chancellor

## C O N T E N T S

	<u>PAGE</u>
1. STAFF MATTERS .....	1
2. ORIENTATION WEEK .....	2
3. UNIVERSITY PARTICIPATION IN THE NAIROBI SHOW .....	3
4. DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES .....	4
5. THE STORY OF THE FOUR BLIND MEN .....	6
6. NEW MOTOR MILEAGE ALLOWANCE WHILE ON DUTY .....	9
7. TERM DATES .....	9

October 25th, 1980.

JMM

STAFF MATTERS

1:1. NEW APPOINTMENTS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DESIGNATION</u>	<u>DEPARTMENT</u>
Dr. P.N. Mathur	Lecturer	Chemistry
Dr. N.J. Taylor	Lecturer	Zoology
Dr. B. Kaur	Lecturer	Biochemistry
Dr. P. Krishnan	Lecturer	Agr. Engineering
Dr. J.P. Mburi	Lecturer	Soil Science
Dr. T. Geer	Lecturer	Zoology
Dr. A.R. Tindimubona	Lecturer	Chemistry
Mrs. E.W. Mutitu	Asst. Lecturer	Crop Science
Dr. T. Woldetitos	Lecturer	Crop Science
Mr. N.M. Munyonko	Tutorial Fellow	Physics
Mr. L.N. Gichamba	Tutorial Fellow	Physics
Dr. C.J. Chovasse	Lecturer	Zoology

1:2. RE-APPOINTMENTS

Dr. S. Nyamwange	Tutorial Fellow	Clinical Studies
Prof. B. Telang	Assoc. Professor	Medicine
Dr. Timothy Bessel	Senior Lecturer	Mechanical Engineering
Dr. P.G. Kioy	Tutorial Fellow	Medical Physiology
Dr. J.M. Nyaga	Tutorial Fellow	Vet Pathology
Prof. P.M. Ahn	Professor	Soil Science
Miss Irene Othieno	Tutorial Fellow	French Sub. Department
Mr. T.N. Kibua	Tutorial Fellow	Clinical Studies
Prof. A. Nevanlinna	Visiting Professor	Architecture
Mr. J.M. Muraguri	Tutorial Fellow	Civil Engineering
Dr. B.N. Wankya	Senior Lecturer	Medicine
Ms. A. Kassam	Tutorial Fellow	French Sub. Department
Dr. M. Mugyeni	Lecturer	Government

1:3. PROMOTION

Dr. J. Theuri Njoka	Lecturer	Range Management (From the date he takes up the appointment)
Dr. R.S. Raja	Senior Lecturer	Diagnostic Radiology (18-9-80).
Dr. S.G. Mbogo	Lecturer	Agr. Engineering (4-9-80)
Dr. B.C. Waruingi	Senior Lecturer	Business Administration (16-9-80)
Mr. S.G. Njuguna	Asst. Lecturer	Botany (25-9-80).

1:4. RESIGNATIONS

Dr. S. Varma	Senior Lecturer	Clinical Studies (From 30-12-80).
--------------	-----------------	--------------------------------------

EXPIRY OF CONTRACT

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DESIGNATION</u>	<u>DEPARTMENT</u>
Dr. W. Dechant	Lecturer	Surgery
Mr. Z. Tewelde	Lecturer	Accounting
Fr. S. Clercits	Visiting Lecturer	Phil. & Rel. Studies
Dr. J.W. Kijne	Visiting Lecturer	Agric. Engineering
Dr. R.C.L. O'Neill	Lecturer	Computer Science
Prof. R. Gupta	Assoc. Professor	Clinical Studies.

2. THE ORIENTATION WEEK FOR THE NEW STUDENTS

The quiet that had seemingly fallen over the University Campuses since students went on vacation, sprung to life with the arrival of the new students on Sunday, 5th October to begin their orientation week. By Monday morning the registration of the new students was in full swing with students converging at the main Campus for the exercise.

The registration exercise had, however, begun the previous week on a smaller scale. To avoid congestion on the first day of registration, students living in and around Nairobi had been requested to begin registering in the first week of October - a call that a sizeable number of students had positively responded to.

Apart from the registration, all Kenyan students opting to take a loan from the Kenya Government had to return their loan application forms to the Ministry of Higher Education Officials who were in attendance.

Later in the week, students were taken on guided visits to the University Library and Bookshop. The various Deans and Directors of Institutes also gave welcoming speeches to the students. The new students were also addressed by the Registrar, Dean of Students, University Medical Officer and the Games Tutor.

Prof. J.G. Donders gave his series of lectures on "Reading Skills and Methods of Study at the University", which have now come to be a common feature of the orientation week.

During the week, the new students took time to familiarize themselves with the location of the various Lecture Theatres, Laboratories, Seminar Rooms and to consult with the Dean and Heads of Departments over choice of subjects. The climax of the orientation week was marked by the address given by the Vice-Chancellor to all the first year students, academic members of staff, Deans of Faculties, and Chairmen of Departments at the Taifa Hall on Saturday.

3. UNIVERSITY WINS PRIZES AT THE NAIROBI INTERNATIONAL SHOW

The University of Nairobi participated in the Nairobi International Show and won prizes for the third time running. Represented by the Faculty of Agriculture, the University participated in the Livestock exhibition and had a plot to demonstrate some of the research findings at the experimental farms at Kabete.

Reports from Prof. C.N. Karue, the Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Dr. S.O. Keya, the Chairman, Department of Crop Science and Mr. C.N. Ng'ang'a, the Field Station Manager indicate that the interest shown by the show fans in the two stands from the University was overwhelming. President Moi, the Chancellor of the University visited the plots exhibited by the Department of Crop Science on Tuesday 30th. Earlier in the week, both Ministers of Livestock and Agriculture had visited the plots. They estimated that by the end of the week, over 40,000 individuals had visited the stands.

From the Field Station seven animals were entered for competition - 3 of whom were registered Borans and 4 cross breeds. In the pure breed competition, the University won first prize and was awarded a token of appreciation worth K.Shs.50/- and livestock drugs worth K.Shs.250/00. In the cross breed competition, the University entry held third position, while in the Championship class, one of the animals entered succeeded in being the reserve Champion and was awarded a cash prize.

Through the assistance of the Ministry of Agriculture, the University was also allocated a plot at the Show ground with the aim of showing the farmers the results obtained in the various research stations on the potential of inoculation. This refers to a process of coating seeds with bacteria which would ensure that the plants bear nodules on their roots. If the nodules are effective, they can fix as much as 200 kilogrammes of nitrogen per hectare annually, which is equivalent to 8 bags of fertilizer.

It was demonstrated that inoculated soybeans grew better than those receiving 180 kgs. of fertilizer nitrogen per hectare. Where neither bacteria nor fertilizer was used the plants were yellow confirming that nitrogen was deficient.

Farmers were also shown how the inoculants are made and the benefits likely to accrue from their use. It costs K.Shs.15/- to raise 3,000 kgs. of soybean seeds by the use of bacterial inoculants, whereas the same yield of soybeans is obtained by applying a fertilizer costing K.Shs.350/00 per hectare.

By the end of the week, more than 5,000 handouts had been distributed and over the 20,000 individuals had visited the plots.

While the demand for the inoculants are streaming in, plans are underway to set up a pilot plant inoculant production to meet the need of researchers and interested farmers. Currently, inoculants used in the country are imported. Slow adoption of inoculation is partly attributed to the unavailability of inoculants and unawareness of the benefits of inoculation by farmers.

The University, through the Faculty of Agriculture, was able to demonstrate that this is an agrotechnology which should not only assist in enhanced plant protein production but also improve the fertility of our soils and save enormous foreign exchange.

The Microbiological Resources Centre (MIRCEN) Project, based at the Departments of Soil Science and Botany have since 1977 been engaged in research, training and information dissemination geared towards maximizing on biological nitrogen fixation involving legumes.

Low yields of important grain legumes in Kenya is attributed to poor agronomic practices and lack of soil nutrients. One of those limiting nutrient elements is nitrogen.

The MIRCEN scientists are part and parcel of the Grain Legume Improvement Programme at the Faculty of Agriculture. During the last seven years, research concentration has been on beans, cowpeas and pigeon peas. Recently activities have been expanded to include Soybeans.

Close cooperation is maintained with the Ministry of Agriculture whose research stations offer representative testing sites throughout the country. Consequently, results obtained from stations such as Kitale, Njoro, Homa Bay, Mtwapa and Kabete showed that inoculation increased Soybean yields by 50% and that of beans by 20%. In the 1979/80 period, the faculty conducted demonstration trials at the above sites to highlight the effect of inoculating soybeans.

#### 4. DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES

##### 4.1. - Department of History - History Conference

The Department of History organised an Eastern Africa History Conference at Nyeri from the 17th to 21st September 1980. The theme of the Conference was "Language and Culture in Eastern Africa."

The Conference was attended by 45 delegates from Kenya, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Zambia and Germany. The Kenyan delegation came from the Department of History, Literature, Linguistics and African Studies, the National Museums of Kenya. British Institute in Eastern Africa and Kenyatta University College. The other neighbouring countries not represented had been invited but were unfortunately unable to send representatives.

Hon. J.J.M. Nyagah, the Minister for Culture and Social Services, opened the Conference. In his address, he stressed that in the past planners had neglected the role of culture in the national development. However, there was a new awareness of the need to establish our own identity through preserving our heritage and developing our culture. He particularly hoped that the delegates would consider the problem of developing a national language and establishing a cultural policy for Eastern African Countries. In concluding, he thanked the German Government for its financial assistance, through the Goethe-Institute which had enabled the Department of History to organise such valuable conference in the last three years.

The German Ambassador to Kenya, Dr. A. Kuhne also addressed the delegates. In his address, he welcomed the delegates to the Conference, particularly those from outside Kenya. He emphasized the importance of culture and language and wished the delegates a successful and fruitful Conference.

This was the third conference of its kind. Also sponsored by the Goethe-Institut, the other conferences were held in Kisumu in 1978 and Nakuru in 1979. This year the new Ministry of Culture and Social Services had also granted a subvention to the Conference. The Department is particularly grateful to the Goethe-Institut whose generosity has enabled East African Historians to meet annually to discuss common problems and exchange views of mutual academic interest. This stimulates research in specific areas or themes and fastens cooperation between the Eastern Africa Universities.

The conference discussed fourteen papers on archeology, linguistics, literature and history. A lot of the discussions, besides covering individual papers, concentrated on the need for a clear enunciation of cultural policies and commitment to and development of national languages in Eastern Africa. Delegates felt that these two areas called for immediate and urgent attention. Particular emphasis was laid on the need for the collection and preservation of material culture. In view of the importance attached to role of culture in national development, it was proposed that next conference should discuss "Social and Cultural History of Eastern Africa."

The following resolutions were also passed by the delegates:

1. This conference on language and culture, recognising the need for commitment to the development of and research on culture, urges (a) scholars and academics to cooperate with the relevant Government Ministries and (b) Governments in Eastern Africa to demonstrate political commitment to indigenous cultures and to work towards the evolution and adoption of distinct policies for developing national cultures in indigenous traditions.
2. "Urges Governments and other institutions to encourage and finance research projects on material culture of Eastern Africa."
3. "Urges all Universities in Eastern Africa to encourage inter-disciplinary research on culture."

5. THE STORY OF FOUR BLIND MEN

"The meaning of development and indeed that of forces and factors that bring or hinder development in the third world is a matter of serious and continuing public and academic debate."

This was said by Dr. Kabiru Kinyanjui, a Senior Research Fellow at the Institute for Development Studies when participating on the recently concluded conference on Higher Education for Development.

In his paper, entitled "Education and Development in Africa; Theories Strategies and Practical Implications", presented at the Conference, Dr. Kinyanjui further said that the deep crisis of development facing most of the Third World countries is manifested in the crisis of development thinking that is noticeable the world over.

In the paper, Dr. Kinyanjui attempts to show what kind of theories, solutions and policies have been utilised in the study and analysis of under-development and education in Africa. The paper also attempts to show the policy and practical implications of those theories.

Of particular interest is his analogy of what he sees as the complexity of the process of development and the conflicting approaches that scholars have given to the study of education and development.

"When going through the literature on development and the debates that have been ranging in this field for the last two decades," Dr. Kinyanjui told his audience, "I am reminded of a story I read when I was in primary school. This is the story of four blind men of India who had an ongoing debate on what an elephant looked like. The four old blind men thought they were very clever and in the council of elders they were quick to express their opinions on all sorts of issues. One day when they were walking along the road, they heard footsteps of an elephant and they decided to take the practical step of touching the elephant so that they could resolve their debate. When the elephant approached, the blind men sat down in the roadside and one after the other went and touched the elephant. Each person touched a different part of the elephant from the other. When each of them had taken his turn, they decided to relate their experiences.

The first person to touch the elephant then stood up and declared: "An elephant can be compared to a wall of a house." He said this because he had touched the side of an elephant. He then sat down very satisfied with his view of an elephant.

The second person then stood and said "An elephant is like a big tree." He said this because he had touched the leg of an elephant.

6. NEW MOTOR MILEAGE ALLOWANCE WHILE ON DUTY

New motor mileage allowance rates for staff while on duty have been announced. The new rates which take effect from 10th October 1980 are as follows:-

<u>Category of Vehicle</u>	<u>Rate per Km.</u>
(a) Motor cars of 1925 cc and above	Shs. 1.85
(b) Motor cars of 1351 - 1924 cc	Shs. 1.30
(c) Motor cars of 950 - 1350 cc	Shs. 1.10
(d) Motor cars of less than 950 cc	Shs. 0.50
All types of Motor Cycles	Shs. 0.40.

7. DATES OF TERMS: 1980/81 ACADEMIC YEAR

- 1st TERM: Monday 13th October 1980 - Saturday 20th December, 1980
- 2nd TERM: Monday 12th January 1981 - Saturday 4th April, 1981
- 3rd TERM: Monday 27th April, 1981 - Saturday 11th July, 1981
- 4th TERM: (Where applicable)  
Monday 13th July 1981 - Saturday 5th September, 1981.



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

No.19

## VARSAITY FOCUS

A General Information Sheet from the Vice-Chancellor

### SPECIAL ISSUE

EULOGY OF MR. PAUL WAMBUGU NGUNJIRI READ BY  
PROFESSOR JOSEPH MAINA MUNGAI, VICE-CHANCELLOR

Dear friends,

We are gathered here today in memory of the late Paul Wambugu Ngunjiri, a third year student in the Faculty of Arts who died last Monday 20 October 1980.

The late Ngunjiri was born on 23 August 1957 to Mr. & Mrs. Isaya Ngunjiri Wambugu. He came from Nyeri District. In his earlier years he attended Gititu Primary School and then joined Nyeri High School between 1972 - 1975 where he completed O level education.

In 1976 he went to Kirimara High School where he successfully completed advanced level education. As a result, he was admitted into the University in 1978 where he was making good progress. He was due to complete his three year studies for the degree of Bachelor of Arts next year.

When he entered the University he registered for the subjects of Economics, Geography and Philosophy in the first year. In the second and third years he was continuing with the subjects of Economics and Geography, having dropped Philosophy after the first year.

The tragic and most unfortunate accident that took Wambugu's life occurred last Monday 20 October 1980 at about 2.30 p.m. There was to be a basket ball match at Shauri Moyo and students had gathered outside the Halls of Residence waiting for the bus that was to take the team there. I am made to understand that the accident occurred as the bus was coming where it would stop and then be boarded. Wambugu was seriously injured and unfortunately died later in hospital. Investigations are still continuing in order to establish the circumstances surrounding the accident. In the meantime I would like to appeal to students and drivers to exercise every possible restraint and caution to avoid the recurrence of such incidents and to strictly observe all laws and regulations governing transportation of groups.

Wambugu was a very sociable and polite person. He was very fond of games since his high school days. He was always ready to help in times of difficulties. He was progressing well as a student. His death is a tragic loss to his dear parents, relatives, friends and to the entire University Community.

On behalf of the entire University Community I would like to express our deepest sympathies and condolences to his parents, relatives and friends.

May he rest in eternity.

October 28th, 1980

JMM



No.20

UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

# VARSIY FOCUS

A General Information Sheet from the Vice-Chancellor

## C O N T E N T S

	<u>PAGE</u>
1. STAFF MATTERS .....	1
2. 10TH GRADUATION CEREMONY .....	2
3. CHUNA HOLDS 5TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING .....	2
4. 32ND FRANKFURT BOOK FAIR .....	4
5. MAKING MILK FROM SOYBEANS .....	5
6. OBITUARY .....	6

November 7th, 1980

JMM

1. STAFF MATTERS

1.1. RESIGNATIONS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POST</u>	<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE DATE</u>
Dr. S. Varma	Senior Lecturer	Clinical Studies	30-12-80
Dr. R.S. Pathak	Senior Lecturer	Crop Science	30-9-80
Dr. Man Mohan	Senior Lecturer	Accounting	7-10-80
Mrs. Y. Ramamoorthy	Lecturer	Literature	12-10-80

1.2. PROMOTIONS

Dr. V.P. Aggarwal	Senior Lecturer	Obst.& Gynaecology	18- 9-80
Dr. H.N. Gichinga	Senior Lecturer	Human Anatomy	30- 9-80
Dr. R. Baraza	Senior Lecturer	Human Anatomy	30- 9-80
Dr. G.M. Sande	Senior Lecturer	Surgery	30- 9-80
Mr. B.M. Khaemba	Lecturer	Zoology	11- 9-80
Dr. J.E. Price	Senior Lecturer	Clinical Studies	8-10-80
Dr. J.C. Kiptoon	Senior Lecturer	Clinical Studies	8-10-80
Dr. J.M. Nyasani	Senior Lecturer	Philosophy	30- 9-80

1.3. RE-APPOINTMENTS

Dr. M.R. Litterick	Lecturer	Zoology
Dr. J.J. Barwoya	Lecturer	Geology
Dr. S. Ghalay	Clinician	Clinical Studies
Dr. G.N. Opinya	Tutorial Fellow	Dental Surgery
Mr. C.G. Gakahu	Tutorial Fellow	Zoology
Mr. M. Thorne	Lecturer	Economics
Miss S. Minae	Tutorial Fellow	Agr. Economics

1.4. NEW APPOINTMENTS

Mrs. L. Nyagah	Asst. Lecturer	Linguistics & African Lang.
Dr. D. Bholā	Lecturer	Crop Science
Dr. J.E. Grainger	Lecturer	Botany
Dr. M.G. Manuel	Lecturer	Botany

2. 10TH GRADUATION CEREMONY

The tenth graduation ceremony will be held on Friday 19th December, 1980. The Office of the President has confirmed that His Excellency, President Moi, Chancellor of the University has agreed to preside over the ceremony.

The relevant statute under the University of Nairobi Act for the conferment of degrees provides that the congregation of the University shall be held at least once a year in Nairobi and shall be presided over by the Chancellor or in his absence, by the Vice-Chancellor or some other person nominated by the Chancellor.

At the moment, behind the scene arrangements that annually lead to the success of the graduation ceremony are under way.

Meanwhile, the Vice-Chancellor has begun a series of meetings with all the Faculties, Institutes and the School of Journalism. These meetings are similar to the ones held last academic year and are designed to initiate a tradition of dialogue which will promote exchange of views and create channels of communication in the entire University. The meetings are also supposed to provide a platform where free and frank views would be expressed by students and staff on the various issues about the University.

So far the Vice-Chancellor has held meetings with the Institute of Adult Studies, Faculties of Medicine, Agriculture, Veterinary Medicine, Science, Commerce and Law. The Faculties of Engineering, Architecture, Design and Development and the School of Journalism will be met part of this week and next week and the entire exercise will cover a three-week period.

In all the meetings held so far, the Vice-Chancellor has asked the Deans of the Faculties to extend this tradition of dialogue to the Faculty level by holding regular meetings with the executive bodies of the Faculty-based student organisations regularly. He has also asked for the minutes of such meetings to be sent to his office for further processing of any problems raised.

3. CHUNA HOLDS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Chuna Cooperative Savings and Credit Society held its 5th annual general meeting on Saturday, 25th October, 1980 at Taifa Hall.

The meeting was opened by the Minister for Cooperative Development Mr. R. S. Matano and was attended by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor J. M. Mungai, who is also a member of the Society.

In his opening address, the Minister announced that the Government is in the process of reviewing the Cooperative Act with a view to streamlining the operations of the co-operative movement in the country. The Minister revealed that amongst the major changes envisaged would be to make the check-off system mandatory. The present act gives the employer the option of refusing to deduct employees salaries for such welfare association.

Castigating press reports that tend to discredit co-operative movement in Kenya, the Minister said that there was a sound future for the co-operative movement in the country. The Minister commended Chuna for the good example that it had set signifying the viability of co-operative movement in this country.

Among the main business of the day, was election of new office bearers and the following nine people were elected to represent six constituencies:

Main Campus:	Mr. Moses Wambugu Mr. D. Mundabo
Chiromo Campus:	Dr. J. Kimani Mr. J. N. Gichiri
Kabete:	Dr. Omuse Dr. Waiyaki
Halls of Residence:	Mr. J. Muthami
Kenyatta Hospital:	Mr. D. K. Muchaba
Kikuyu Campus:	Mr. J. Njiru.

Chuna Co-operative Savings and Credit Society is a staff welfare association catering for members of staff of the University. It was launched in February 1976 with 116 members, 1976 ended with the Society having a membership of 633 members, a share capital of K.Shs.263,700.00 and the money loaned out was K.Shs.206,180.00.

The year 1977 started with the Society employing its first reception clerk in order to formalise the workings of the Society and centralise its operations. The Society made a profit of 15,012.00 for that year.

Over the years, the Society has grown from strength to strength as the following figures indicate:

- 1978 - 2,000 Members
  - K.Shs.3,396,420.00 as Share Capital
  - 1568 Members with loans worth 6,000,000.00
  - K.Shs.89,000.00 as profit
  - Divinded:- 52cts. per share of 20.00
  
- 1979 - 2,299 Members
  - K.Shs.5,475,800.00 as Share Capital
  - 2,004 Members with loans worth K.Shs.10,434,130.00
  - K.Shs.160,000.00 expected to be the profit
  
- 1980 - 2,500 Members
  - K.Shs.7,741,520.00 as Share Capital
  - 2,300 Members with loans worth 16,380,950.00

At the moment, the Society has four full time employees and collects three quarters of a million shillings every month and in the words of its Chairman, the Society is now "standing as a giant."

Speaking at the meeting Dr. Omuse said "let us not allow anybody to cause havoc to it. To-day is a very special day for us in the University. For those from outside, you are yourselves witness to a great occasion at the University of Nairobi." And indeed it was a great occasion for most of the members who range from Grade I staff to Professors had all gathered at Taifa Hall. As the saying goes, all roads led to Taifa Hall.

4. 32ND FRANKFURT BOOK FAIR

Dr. Chris Wanjala from the Department of Literature attended the 32nd Frankfurt Book Fair held last month from 4th to 8th October. The theme of the book fair was, "Africa: a Continent Asserts its Identity."

Dr. Wanjala participated in the preliminary symposium on the functions of Modern African Literature. He wrote and presented a paper at the symposium entitled, "Criticism, Culture and Pedagogy in Kenya."

The Conference was attended by such well known African writers like Chinua **Achebe**, the Nigeria Writer, Abiora Ireli, Professor of French poetry and several others.

In his paper, Dr. Wanjala deals with the problems of teaching literature in Kenya and asserts that the problems of literary communication are best tackled by publishers, literary critics and educators all at once. He adds that there is, for this matter,

a need for the literary critic, the literary scholar and the teacher of literature to work hand in hand with the imaginative writer to formulate critical ideas of their time and to help the young generation of writers to recognise a literary tradition against which they have to sharpen their literary minds.

Discussing the nature of the literature appropriate to our schools, he says that the literature must not only be relevant, but also stimulating to the reader and the student of literature. "In Kenya, we.... want a literature which deals with class conflict, talks about the evils of capitalism, imperialism, poverty and alienation," he asserts. The paper has very interesting ideas on Literature and Literary Education in Kenya.

#### 5. MAKING MILK FROM SOYBEANS

With the shortage of milk across the country, a new technique has been developed by rural Kenyan farmers to offset the shortfall. The new technique which makes milk from Soybeans is being used in homesteads of the rural areas but not in automated factories.

This new technique is reported in the current issue of Microbiological Research Centre (MIRCEN) newsletter released in September 1980. MIRCEN is a joint Research Project of the Department of Botany and Soil Science - and the Newsletter is edited by H. Ssalli of the Department of Soil Science.

Noting that no blenders or other sophisticated machines are necessary in making milk from Soybeans, the article describes how Mr. Paul Omuga of Homa Bay makes his milk following the eight stages described below:

1. Cleans dry Soybean seeds by washing with water (usually starts late afternoon or evening).
2. Places the clean seeds in a Sufuria (cooking pan) and adds twice the amount of water (by volume) and leaves it to soak overnight.
3. In the morning pours off the excess water and removes the seed coat from each seed.
4. Pounds the soaked seeds into a soft pulp.
5. Makes the soft pulp into a paste by adding water (about equal volume) and stirs (a clean stick will do).

6. Pours the paste into a clean cloth and squeezes out the "Milk" into a Sufuria.
7. Boils the milk just like that from the cow.
8. Lets the milk cool. Just like the cow's milk it will have a cream only that sometimes this one is too thick and Mr. Omuga has to thin it.

Mr. Omuga was asked a few questions:

Q. What do you do with the residue in Step 6?

A. Make a soybean cake but if it is too much, mix it with the seed coat (Step 3) and feed it to chickens.

Q. How about the excess cream?

A. Use it for various purposes just like that from cow's milk.

Q. Where did you learn this?

A. From the Homa Bay Farmers' Training Centre.

Q. Do you like the soybean milk?

A. Yes, very much, besides, when my mother visited us she could not tell the difference between cow's milk and mine from the soybeans! And who can doubt the wisdom of an African mother!

## 6. OBITUARY

For the second time this term, the cruel hand of death robbed the University another student on Monday 24th October 1980 when John Kimemia, a first year Bachelor of Commerce student drowned at the swimming pool.

Kimemia was laid to rest at his Njoro home on 31st October 1980. The University, through the Dean of Students Office arranged for ten students to attend the funeral. Mr. S. Kimui represented the University at the funeral.

Before joining the University last month, Kimemia had attended Mother of Apostles Seminary and Murang'a High School for his secondary education. He had studied Biology, Mathematics and Geography for his 'A' levels and passed in all of them. At the time of his death Kimemia was twenty years old.

On behalf of the entire University, we extend our condolences to his family, relatives and friends.