

## Dispute hits varsity over new deputy

BY NATION CORRESPONDENT

A union is accusing the Ministry of Education and senior members of staff at the University of Nairobi of interfering with appointment of a new deputy vice-chancellor.

Universities Academic Staff Union chairman Samuel Nyandemo claims the ministry is attempting to have another person, other than Prof Bernard Njoroge, who topped the interview, take up the position.

The deputy vice-chancellor for finance and administration will replace Prof Peter Mbithi who is now the vice-chancellor.

"Prof Njoroge won the interviews with a 78 per cent score but now the ministry is introducing another concept it is calling regional balancing, that the new deputy vice-chancellor should come from a minority tribe. We will not entertain this," said Dr Nyandemo.

### Mbeere community

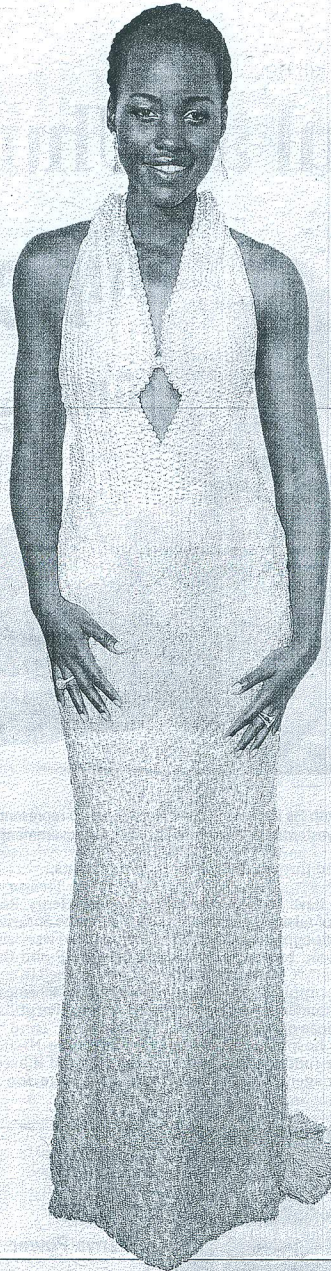
He claimed this was only a ploy to have Prof Enos Njeru take up the position. Prof Njeru is the principal of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences and is a Mbeere while Prof Njoroge is the principal of the College of Architecture and Engineering and is a Kikuyu. Prof Njeru scored 71.33 per cent.

"We are demanding that Prof Njoroge is immediately appointed, the rest are sideshows," Prof Nyandemo said.

Prof Bernard Aduda, principal College of Biological and Physical Sciences, Chiromo Campus scored 60.67 per cent. Prof Isaac Kibwage, who is the principal of College of Health Sciences, scored 70.33 per cent.

This is not the first time appointment of senior members of staff at the university is riddled with controversy.

The ministry was accused of interfering with the appointment of a new vice-chancellor before Prof Mbithi was sworn in.



FASHION | No arrests have been made so far after incident

# Lupita's Sh14m Oscars dress theft shocks world

Actress reportedly told detectives she left her room on Wednesday only to return and find the dress missing

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Police in Los Angeles are still investigating alleged theft of the Sh13.6 million (\$150,000) pearl-encrusted dress that actress Lupita Nyong'o wore during the 2015 Oscar awards on Sunday.

The dress was stolen when the Kenyan actress was out of her room at the London Hotel in West Hollywood, Los Angeles.

The custom-made dress designed by Francisco Costa for Calvin Klein, took 25 people 10 weeks to hand-sew the 6,000 natural Akoya white pearls.

The dress was very expensive because the white pearls used to make it are rare. One white pearl can cost up to Sh9,000 (\$100).

In her remarks about the dress, Lupita is quoted as saying: "We talked about it being fluid and liquid. I wanted it to be homage to the sea."

Both the thief and the designer dress were long gone by the time police were notified of the incident shortly before midnight.

Police said she was out of her hotel room when the crime took place, just three days after she rocked the head-turner at the Dolby Theatre.

Lupita had a large entourage, including friends, makeup artists, hairstylists and fitters, and many of them had access to her hotel

room key cards, a source told the *Daily News*.

No one has been arrested in connection with the theft so far but according to BBC, a statement by the hotel's management said they are working with law enforcement officers to nab the culprits.

Detectives have visited the hotel and examined security cameras' footage. Reports also indicated that there was no forced entry into the room and that nothing else was taken. It could not be immediately established if the dress was insured.

Mr John Kaveke, an international Kenyan fashion designer based in Nairobi said the thief may have known its worth.

"But it is unlikely that the dress can fetch the same amount of money when resold," Mr Kaveke told *Nation* on phone.

The 31-year-old Lupita dazzled on the red carpet with the dress during as the awards went down last week.

The figure-hugging frock featured intricate white beading from top to bottom, a halter neckline and sexy keyhole cut-out.

"The pressure's off. I can just dress up and enjoy the show," Lupita said.

The *12 Years a Slave* actress, who won best supporting female actress during last year's ceremony, had been selected alongside fellow winners Jared Leto, Cate Blanchet and Matthew McConaughey to present this year's awards.

Last year was a remarkable one for the Kenyan, the daughter of

Kisumu Senator Anyang' Nyong'o, as she made her debut to the global screen with her role as Patsy, a slave on a Louisiana cotton plantation in the award-winning movie.

Her role earned her nominations for several awards including a Golden Globe Award for Best Supporting Actress, a BAFTA Award for Best Actress in a supporting role and two Screen Actors Guild Awards including Best Supporting Actress, which she won.

She became the sixth black actress to win the best supporting actress award, the first African to win the award and the only Kenyan to ever win an Oscars.

### Present award

This year was the second time Lupita had been selected to present an award. Last month, the actress hit the stage with Leto at the Screen Actors Guild Awards to present the award for Outstanding Performance by a Male Actor in a Miniseries or Television Movie.

The Oscar-winning actress is also part of the cast of the long running science fiction film "Star Wars: Episode VII."

Last year, Lupita appeared in *Peoples Magazine*; 50 most beautiful people in 2014.

She is currently taking part in a film; *Adaptation of Americanah*, a novel by acclaimed Nigerian writer Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie.

Most of the filming will be done in the US, but eyes will be on the African actors cast for the role of Nigerians in the story.

Lupita will star as Ifemelu, a young Nigerian woman who immigrates to the US and at some point starts blogging about race issues in her adopted country.

She was a presenter at the Sunday's Oscar having won one in 2014 for her role in *Twelve Years a Slave*. Lupita is a red carpet darling and has won praise over her fashion choices.

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The days it took 10 people to hand-sew the Sh13.6 million dress Lupita wore at the 2015 Oscars awards

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