

UoN self evaluation results out

By ISAAC MESO

Nairobi University's College of Health Sciences has been named the best performing college in the institution's recent performance results released by Deputy Vice Chancellor, Administration and Finance Peter Mbithi.

College of Education and External Studies and the College of Humanities and Social Sciences scooped positions two and three respectively. College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences was rated the most improved.

In the central administration departments, Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) Centre took first position followed by finance and administration departments in positions two and three respectively.

Speaking during the event held at Taifa Hall at the main campus, Vice Chancellor George Magoha said the university's overall improvement was reflected in many areas among them student enrolment.

USIU unveiling new look today

By STANDARD REPORTER

The United States International University (USIU) will unveil a new look this afternoon.

The rebranding ceremony will mark the institution's 45-year contribution to global understanding and multiculturalism. USIU External Communications Co-ordinator Jane Muriithi Thomas said the institution will celebrate its past and unveil its future.

"The event will also mark our contribution to universal understanding; a tradition that continues through the 67 nationalities represented at USIU," she said.

You may soon pay 47pc less for power

Ongoing generation projects will also see the industrial user part with 7 US cents per kilowatt hour

By STANDARD REPORTER

The Government plans to lower the cost of electricity for domestic customers by 47 per cent to about 10.43 US cents per kilowatt hour. Industrial customers on the other hand will enjoy a 37 per cent reduction to about 7 US cents per kilowatt hour.

Energy Cabinet Secretary Davies Chirchir said the initiative is on course with the on-going 5,000MW new generation capacity project, which he said will help make Kenya an attractive and competitive investment destination in Africa.

"We want to progressively lower the cost of electricity by 37 per cent for industrial customers from the current level in order to make existing manufacturers competitive on the local and international markets, and secondly to attract new investors with price as the incentive," he said.

Mr Chirchir spoke during a breakfast meeting with 100 top industrial executives in Nairobi organised by Kenya Association of Manufacturers (Kam).

Present were Energy Principal Secretary Joseph Njoroge, Kenya Power Managing Director Ben Chumo, his KenGen counterpart Albert Mugo and Kam Chief Executive Officer Betty Maina.

He told the executives that the new investment in generation capacity is focused on the cheaper geothermal resource, adding that the country has an estimated reserve of 10,000MW. Already, 280MW is at an advanced combined capacity of 140MW becoming available in June. The other two machines with equivalent capacity will commence operations in August and September.

Currently, he said, power generated from hydro capacity is being used as the base (main) load, forming

about 55 per cent of total power generated. However, he noted that this form of power is severely affected by the vagaries of weather, adding that the Government plans to make geothermal the base load as it is not affected by weather patterns, thus guaranteeing continuous power supply to the economy.

Power generation from the more expensive thermal sources has been enhanced recently due to failure of the long rains, he said. With assured increase in more cost effective generation capacity and improved transmission and distribution network, Chirchir urged industrialists to initiate expansion plans to take up the additional power in the next 32 months as well as create jobs.



Students Organisation of Nairobi University (Sonu) chairman Babu Owino addresses the Press at Bruce House, Nairobi, where he said university students will begin a countrywide strike on Tuesday to protest a fees increment. (PHOTO: MBUGUA KIBERA/STANDARD)

Varsity students promise 'mother of all strikes'

By ELEANOR NANDWA

Student leaders have threatened to paralyse learning in all public universities come Tuesday if the decision to increase university fees is not rescinded.

Backed by Kiharu MP Irungu Kang'ata – a former student leader at the University of Nairobi – the leaders vowed to stage "the mother of all strikes" to compel the Government to address their plight.

"We shall be joined by all the other MPs who were student leaders," said Kang'ata.

He spoke during a Press conference with student leaders in Nairobi yesterday. The leaders criticised Education Cabinet Secretary Jacob Kaimenyi for failing to meet them to unlock the fees impasse, saying their only option now was picketing.

"Kaimenyi has declined to meet us even after we issued a 14-day ultimatum. Life in campus has become difficult over the years and we want the fees reduced by 50 per cent," said Students Organisation of Nairobi University (Sonu) chairman Babu

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Owino.

The student leaders had given the Education CS 14 days to establish a task force to review university fees, insisting they were not consulted. According to the leaders, the Government is planning to double the fee for regular students, which currently stands at Sh28,000, while allocation from the Higher Education Loans Board (Helb) remains the same.

Kanga'ta said Helb is being mismanaged, citing the increased number of students who are not benefiting from the fund. He promised to push for the disbandment of the fund's leadership in Parliament.

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