

Varsity updates

University of Nairobi Visit South Africa

The Vice-Chancellor Prof. Francis J. Gichaga led members of Faculty and a musical team to the University of Transkei (South Africa) Graduation Class of 2000. The Vice-Chancellor gave a Keynote Address at the graduation ceremony. The team comprised Prof. K.M. Bhatt of the Faculty of Medicine; the University of Nairobi Choir under Dr. Arthur Kemoli; the Free Travelling Theatre from the Department of Literature under Mr. Waigwa Wachira.

Dr. Morley Nkosi, the Administrator (equivalent to Vice-Chancellor in Kenya) welcomed the University of Nairobi team and thanked the University of Nairobi for paying a reciprocal visit. The University of Transkei choir had been hosted by the University of Nairobi in 1999. Dr. Nkosi also paid tribute for assistance given to the Liberation Movement of South Africa by "brothers and sisters from the North" He said that the University of Nairobi has a lot to offer the University of Transkei especially in the area of Tropical Medicine. He promised to keep the relationship between the two universities vibrant.

The University of Transkei and the UoN Choirs perform together at City Hall, Umtata, South Africa

Prof. Gichaga called for collaboration "with those with whom we can share common vision and mission". He said that regional and sub-regional collaboration should be encouraged to service programmes such as academic training and staff exchange for teaching and external examination and students mobility.

The University of Transkei organised an elaborate programme for the visitors. The members of staff and students were able to visit the Qunu home of the former South African President and African statesman the Honourable Nelson Mandela; toured the Nelson Mandela Museum in the city of Umtata. The University Choir under the Directorship of Dr. Arthur Kemoli gave a musical concert at Umtata Town Hall in collaboration

with UNITRA Choir. They got a standing ovation. By the end of the concert the audience was on its feet - dancing to Kenyan melodies.

The team also toured Port St. Johns, a small tourist town on the Indian Ocean where they were received and feted by Her Worship the Mayor with a "cultural afternoon."

It was indeed a memorable visit with students establishing bonds of friendship and members of the Faculty discussing details on the way forward towards more tangible academic linkages and exchange programmes.

The tour was financed through a fund raising presided over by Dr. K. Gitu the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Human Resource Development early in the year.

