



PROF. MUNGAI ... "I can see a great demand for open university education".

KUC to revive S1 teachers diploma course

KENYATTA University College has been authorised to revive the S1 Diploma course discontinued one year ago to provide teachers for Harambee schools.

This was stated by KUC Principal Joseph Koinange, in a Press conference he shared with Prof. Maina Mungai on Saturday to explain the procedure used in this year's university intake.

Mr. Koinange said his college will soon invite applications from Form VI school leavers who may not have got minimum university entrance requirements — from whom 200 diploma students will be selected.

He said this would happen between October and January.

Mr. Koinange said the move has been taken following President Moi's directive that Harambee schools which urgently require teachers be aided with them.

He said these teachers take only two years to qualify and therefore are most useful for this purpose, because the schools need them urgently.

Mr. Koinange said he hopes to take 200 students for this course.

Earlier, Vice-Chancellor Prof. Mungai said the University of Nairobi has started several departments geared to meet Kenya's developmental goals.

Prof. Mungai said the University of Nairobi has started a Department of Range Management under the Faculty of Agriculture.

He said 80 per cent of Kenya's land mass falls under the arid and semi-arid zone. With Kenya's growing population, this land must be "researched" to make it much more productive than it is.

He said the new department will be charged with research in arid zone technology and its application to the economy. It will also be charged with producing manpower to oversee the application of this technology.

Prof. Mungai also said the university has started a Department of Forestry also under the Faculty of Agriculture to tackle the problems of afforestation in

By NATION Reporter

Kenya.

He said Kenya has launched a massive afforestation project which needs qualified manpower to look into its management.

He revealed the university has also started a Population Research Institute to study population growth and its impact on the economy.

The two educationists decried the place of accommodation in the development of university education in Kenya.

They said the university spends huge sums of money on accommodation which could be used in educating more Kenyans.

Prof. Mungai said the University of Nairobi itself accommodates 4,200 students with another 1,400 at Kenyatta.

He said in many countries today, students live with their families and come to university in the morning.

On open university education, Prof. Mungai said the great impediment is lack of teachers. Already there was a most successful correspondence course unit which helps people through both KJSE and EACE.

"I can see a great demand for open university education," Prof. Mungai noted.