

The Anvil

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Students, lecturer set for parliament

By KIPLON KANGOGO, KEMUNTO OIRURIA AND HUDSON LIYAI

A Lecturer and three students of the University of Nairobi have declared their interest for parliamentary seats in the forth coming general elections.

Ms. Kavetsa Adagala, a lecturer at the Literature Department has declared her intention to contest for the Westlands seat on a Kanu ticket. Makokha Situma, Eric Juma and Wabende Patrick all masters degree students, have said they are set to fight for parliamentary seats on FORD-K tickets.

In an exclusive interview with *The Anvil*, Adagala said her decision to vie for the seat had been necessitated by numerous requests from the area residents to lead them out of their economic difficulties.

Mr Makokha is a second year Masters student in the Linguistics Department.

"We will appeal to the electorate to hear our voice. Listen to our ideas. Ours is neither selling promises nor buying the vote. We endeavour to sell our ideas," he told *The Anvil*.

Mr Makhokha said he was set to vie for the newly created Bumula constituency, which was carved out of

the larger Kanduyi constituency. The current MP is Mr Lawrence Sifuna.

Ms Adagala has been a lecturer at the Department of Literature since 1976. "Most people in the constituency are living in abject poverty and need a visionary leader to marshal them out of such life," she told *The Anvil* while revealing her interests to take on Mr Fred Gumo, the current area MP.

The don said most of the people in Westlands had been caught up in their landlessness in their ancestral homes and poverty in the City, a scenario, she says, that must be reversed through a change of leadership.

She said when elected she intends to start up women groups in the constituency as vehicles through which development could be hastened. "I will strive to improve the lives of women by assisting them form viable women groups," she said.

Ms Adagala also said she will assist the residents improve on the sewerage system and education standards in the area.

Juma, a second year Masters Linguistics student said: "My vision is to bail my people out of the a culture of relying on handouts from the government or leaders in power."

Juma intends to vie for the Samia

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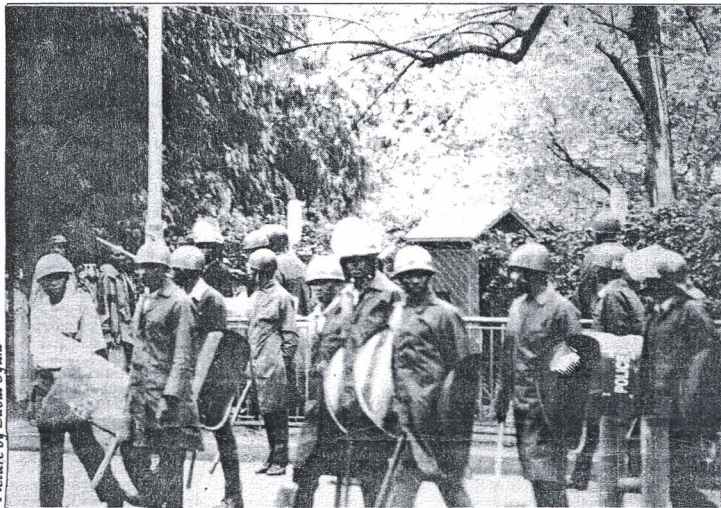
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Picture by David Syuk

Anti-Riot police prepare to confront pro-reform supporters in Nairobi who had vowed to disrupt the budget speech on Thursday. They later engaged students of the UON in running battles for the rest of the day.

Ethnicity rife at campus

By HELLAINE ANYANGO

Kenyan universities grading system is rife with favouritism. Students are either graded on the basis of ethnicity or their personal relationships with lecturers, *The Anvil* has learnt.

Mos of the students who talked to *The Anvil* about the scandal requested anonymity for fear of victimization.

A female student from the Department of Zoology said this

about a lecturer. "He approached me and told me that if I want to perform well in his subject then I should see him from time to time."

Ms Rose Shake, a lecturer in the Department of Linguistics also confirmed the gravity of the situation.

"The situation is getting out of control and something needs to be done." Speaking to *The Anvil* Ms Shake alleged that some departments were dominated by certain ethnic groups.

A Masters student at the Institute of Diplomacy and International Relations confirmed this, saying that even at undergraduate level some students are advised against choosing certain subjects if they do not belong to the dominant ethnic group in the department.

* The tragedy is that this trend is not confined to the University of Nairobi as it is a normal practice in all the public universities.

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Gichaga stems security crisis

BY JEMOSBEY MISOI AND KEMUNTO OIRURIA

The University of Nairobi will beef up security in the halls of residence to ease tension among students, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof Francis Gichaga, says.

Prof. Gichaga was addressing female students protesting against the insecurity in their halls.

On Friday, a man accused of voyeurism was stripped and marched

to the security office. The male students retaliated by stripping some of the female students.

According to the students, this was the second incident within a week and they were incensed that the authorities were not taking measures to stem the situation.

The infuriated students told the Vice-Chancellor that a man arrested and taken to the security office was released on the way to Central Police Station and we met him in town later the same day!"

They reiterated that their actions were fanned by lack of confidence in the institution's ability to provide security. "There is nothing wrong with the structures which are in place. The problem is with your people. They are never there when we need them," they told the VC.

"I am depressed by these incidents as they touch on our social behaviour, and regret that they should occur in an institution of higher learning," the

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Stop Press

Loan Application Forms for continuing students 1997/98 are now available at the universities, the district education offices, the Provincial Directors of Education and the offices of the Higher Education Loans Board offices. A press release signed by the Higher Education Loans Board secretary, Prof. Chacha Nyaigoti, says the forms must be returned duly completed to the offices of Higher Education Loans Board - 18th Floor, Anniversary Towers, Nairobi, by 30th June, 1997.

The incoming students (1997/1998-1st year) will collect their loan application forms from the respective district education offices and hand them to the Higher Education Loans Board by 15th July, 1997.

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