

Lecturers hit at varsity closure

By NATION Reporter

SOME Nairobi University lecturers yesterday hit out at the early closure of the university.

At an impromptu meeting on the campus, the lecturers expressed sympathy with the students who were yesterday sent home for the Easter vacation.

The lecturers demanded to meet the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Mungai, his administration officials, and officials of the Ministry of Higher Education for them to explain what the university must do to be in good books with the Government and the administration.

A sociology lecturer, Dr. George Mkangi said that with the banning of the University Staff Union (USU), the academic community now had no forum. He said the community must however, express its anger over the university closure through the Senior Common Room Association.

Mukaru Ng'ang'a, a lecturer in government claimed the university administration had for too long been misinforming the public.

He pointed out that the students had asked for a symposium and did not need a permit to hold one on the campus.

Academic

He alleged academic freedom in Kenya "is now in trouble. This freedom is being taken away from us and from the students day in and day out."

Dr. E. Atieno Odhiambo a senior lecturer in history, called for a meeting between academicians and university authorities to thrash out issues relating to the university.

Another lecturer, criticising the university closure said: "How does anybody expect us to teach for 16 weeks and administer examinations thereafter? This will increase the number of psychological problems we have at the university."

Prof. Kihumbu Thairu, of neuro-surgery, asked the lecturers not to condemn the Vice-Chancellor but to ask for a complete overhaul of the communication system. "You may not know where the pressures came from," he said.

As the students streamed out of the campus yesterday, riot policemen stood by at the Central Police Station.

The Vice-Chancellor, said he would call a press conference after the deans committee has met to reschedule lectures.

● Prof. Philip Mbithi, sociology, has been appointed acting deputy Vice-Chancellor in place of Prof. Musangi, who has been moved to Egerton College as Principal.