

# NORAD Donates 15 Microcomputers

The Norwegian Ambassador to Kenya, Mr. Niels A. Dahl, has praised the University of Nairobi for maintaining high academic standards in both teaching and research activities. Presenting 15 computers donated by NORAD under NORAD KEN 046 Project, the Ambassador said that the NORAD Project, in which K.Shs. 60 million will be spent to assist the Departments of Public Health, Pharmacology and Toxicology, Animal Production and Animal Physiology, is part of K.Shs. 500 million Norway spends in Kenya every year to assist various projects. Mr. Dahl, who came to Kenya recently, said he was optimistic that Project NORAD KEN 046 Project will be renewed for a second term.

In his vote of thanks after receiving the 15 computers and related soft-ware worth K.Shs. 1.9 million, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. P.M. Mbithi, noted with appreciation that NORAD assistance to the University of Nairobi dates back to 1965 when NORAD provided personnel and financial support to the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine. Later on financial assistance was extended to other departments in the newly inaugurated University of Nairobi.

On the role of a University in the technological advancement of every nation Prof. Mbithi said that Universities are expected to operate at the frontiers of knowledge to ensure that their graduates have keen minds and are masters in their fields of specialisations.

Under NORAD KEN 046 Project, staff training is carried out in some of the best Universities in the world such as Royal Veterinary College, London, University of California, Davies, University of Cambridge, University of Alberta, Canada, University of Hawaii and Norwegian College of Veterinary Medicine. Said the Vice-Chancellor, "The implementation of this project touches on the very essence of the University of Nairobi mandate to train, research and develop skills and knowledge for the betterment of the country".

Prof. Mbithi said that NORAD is also supporting the Institute of African



*The Vice-Chancellor (centre) and other guests attentively watching a net-working computer demonstration.*

Studies Women Studies Project to the tune of K.Shs. 10 million which would be used to conduct research, disseminate results, buy equipment and acquire library materials.

In his remarks during the occasion Prof. Lokken who is the Project Coordinator, said the Project's Steering Committee decided to purchase the computers to supplement the University's efforts in providing research facilities. Said he, "It is the research component that distinguishes a good University from most other institutions of learning. Without qualified research at international level, all academic functions will eventually suffer and

become a third rate institute".

One of the computers and typewriter would go to the Institute of African Studies. Those present during the occasion included Prof. S.O. Wandiga, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Administration & Finance, Prof. F.A. Mutere, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic, the Principal, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Prof. O.K. Mutungi, Principal, College of Health Sciences, Prof. N. Bwibo, Prof. Oduor-Okelo, acting Principal College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences. Personnel from NORAD office in Nairobi, Deans of Faculties and Chairmen of Departments.

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