

A successful Open Day fete

The University of Nairobi held its third Open Day on 1st and 2nd April 2011. The Open Day was held at the Great Court with the theme "An opportunity to invest in your future".

The genesis to the Open Day can be traced back to three years ago, when the University found it prudent to open up to prospective students, parents and other stakeholders. Through this forum, prospective students and the public at large are able to interact with faculty staff to learn more about university programmes and other activities.

The 3rd Open Day was attended by 4,000 prospective

students, high school students, parents, staff, students and other stakeholders, who are keen to assess the strides made by the University over the years. Stakeholders ascertained for themselves that the University had grown both in size and stature – currently the University has a student population of over 52,000 enrolled in different programmes and a staff complement of 6,000. It offers courses at diploma, undergraduate

and postgraduate levels.

During the Open Day, experienced staff comprising of professors and other senior staff from all departments were on hand to receive visitors at the stands and to respond to queries relating to courses offered. Visitors were encouraged to engage these members of staff to assist them in making informed choices about their higher chosen careers.

Other departments that exhibited during the Open Day are those that play a supportive role in the achievement of the core objectives of the University. They included those that deal with academic affairs such as admissions, library, bookshop, and welfare departments such as the dean of students, health services, accommodation, sports and games among others – all of which play an important role in moulding students at the University.

During a short opening ceremony, the Barclays Bank Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Mohammed Adan, who was the chief guest, challenged students to protect the brand. He said "it takes close to 100 years to build a brand, but it takes a single incident to destroy it. Adan



Dr. Joseph Wanjui signs the visitor's book at UoN Press stand as Barclays CEO, Mr. Mohammed Aden and top administrator's look on.



Visitors during the 3rd University of Nairobi Open Day.

challenged students of the University of Nairobi to be mature in resolving conflicts with the administration. Adan, an alumnus of the University, paid tribute to UoN for producing outstanding graduates who are serving in key positions in various sectors worldwide.

His sentiments were echoed by the Chancellor of the University, Dr. Joe Wanjui who criticised a section of the student community for bringing the name of the University into disrepute. The Chancellor congratulated the University for successfully conducting a free

education clinic for members of the public and providing a chance for them to audit the activities of the University.

During the Open Day, the performance of various stands was ranked with Science Workshop/ Geology Kits emerging first followed by the School of Medicine and the Student Welfare Authority in third position. All corporate exhibitors were presented with certificates of participation.

Up to 12 exhibition booths were taken up by corporate bodies

that included the Higher Education Loans Board, Post Bank, Kenya Commercial Bank, Cooperative Bank, Barclays Bank of Kenya, Riley Security Services, and telecom giants Safaricom and Airtel, KASNEB and Kenya Revenue Authority.

Speaking to Varsity Focus, the Chairman of the University Exhibitions Committee, Dr. Fred Otieno said he was happy with the public response to the programmes offered as witnessed by visitors from as far as Nakuru, Kisumu, Kapenguria and Mulot in Turkana.

The special guest at the Open Day, Josephine Nyaga, who was recently featured in the daily newspapers after attaining a B- as an adult learner, stated that she was keen to join a programme at the University of Nairobi. Ms. Nyaga, who had travelled from Nakuru, is eligible to join the B.Ed science course, and with support and financial assistance will be joining the University in October, 2011.

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