

Excellent performance at trade fair

This year, the University of Nairobi (UoN) recorded excellent performance at the 2013 Nairobi International Trade Fair by taking the top positions in various categories. UoN scooped first position in two categories, second position in three categories and third position in three categories. The University of Nairobi was also named the best university stand and the best institution of higher learning in developing and advanced technology.

UoN received the two seven first prizes for position one from the President of the Republic of Kenya, H.E. President Uhuru Kenyatta.

The University also received second prizes for the best stand in development research institution, the best stand exhibiting agronomic practices to enhance food production and security as well as the best innovation and invention stand. For the third position, the University was presented with prizes for the best research and education stand that interprets the current show theme, the best stand that promotes



H.E. President Uhuru Kenyatta hands over a trophy to the Chairman, Exhibitions Committee, Dr. Fred Otieno.

national cohesion and integration development and the best stand that embraces information technology and communication. The University also won prizes in the farm and animal produce categories.

Various departments from the University at the annual event which accords UoN a platform to share information with stakeholders among them potential students, parents and the general public on its programme and services, and its role in national development. On display at the University stands were research innovations, food crops and farm animals which were in line with this year's trade fair theme- 'Enhancing Technology in Agriculture and Industry for Food Security and National Growth.'



University of Nairobi students and members of stand show off the prizes.

Kenyans yearned for devolution, now they must make it

The Constitution of Kenya has many meanings and values, Robert Brown Kenyando, a student shares his thoughts on the provisions of the constitution

Sweat, blood and dozens of precocious but brave souls, that is the heavy price Kenyans paid in nearly over two decades to attain the world acclaimed 2010 Constitution. Make no mistake; most developed nations achieved such a feat, by going through a civil war of fatal proportions. Kenya's supreme law has been hailed as one of the most progressive globally, hence Kenyans can hope.

Journalists and all media practitioners should recognize that they are accountable for their actions to the public, the professions and themselves. That said, the other tough phase has kicked off with implementation. The old has to give way for the new order, and as the sun always set in the evening, it won't be a mere walk in the park. Another set of heroes must emerge.

At the core of the claim for an overhaul of the abused constitution, was the thirst for an equitable share of the national cake and the devolution of power. Right from the colonial times, Kenya grew based on old fashion policies informed by the thinking that the government should only invest in regions where it would recoup money spent. This meant areas deemed unprofitable were deliberately left out when sharing national resources while a few lucky

ones got the lions' share. And this was indeed reinforced by the 1965 Session Paper Number 10. The skewed growth fuelled resentment among communities living in the neglected regions and at some point, something had to give way. Devolved governance devolved political power and the devolved resources were envisaged and packaged in the new law to remedy the injustices.

Devolution, therefore, informs the huge expectations of all Kenyans in the new dispensation. For the hungry, devolution will help to put food on the table. For the thirsty, devolution should ease the flow of pure water. For the power starved, devolution brings responsibility closer home. Now, with devolved power and resources, comes the need for proper checks and balances. This is where the fourth estate, which will also have to devolve, comes in. It would be tragic, for instance, if the 47 counties were to embrace the obnoxious old ways of doing things like corruption, exclusion and nepotism.

In my research, analysts and seasoned journalists should argue out the challenges and possible solutions to successful rollout of devolution. It is a new system of the government that will inevitably face teething problems. But there is no retreat or surrender for majority of Kenyans. The media and practice of journalism will also feel the pinch of devolution, journalists and media houses will not only have to embrace devolution but must also help guard the noble purposes of this new dispensation. There will be ups and downs but the media must help keep the country and county leaders on the track. Welcome to this stimulating debate of devolution and as usual share your findings and thoughts through the immediate means of communication available to you.