KENYA, a decade of progress

The University of Nairobi

The period 1970-74 has been one of vigorous development of the University of Nairobi. The major objectives set out by the Development Plan 1970-74 have been achieved: new Faculties have been established; existing Faculties have been extended; and enrolment targets have been surpassed. There has been a major investment in the physical infrastructure of the University of over K£5 million. In contrast to the previous Plan, the period 1974-78 will be marked by a consolidation and careful deployment of the University's resources towards achieving the following aims:-

(a) The University will produce the high level manpower, particularly in professions such as Commerce, Medicine, Engineering and Agriculture that are essential to support the nation's rapid social and economic development.

(b) The University will assist in carrying out research on problems of social and economic importance to the country.

(c) The University will apply its expertise and manpower more directly to solving relevant problems at the community level.

In order to achieve these objectives the Government has established the guidelines for the overall development of the University. The University has set out the enrolment guidelines for each individual Faculty. Within these guidelines, the following new Departments will be established: Physical Planning (Architecture); International Law, Comparative Law (Law); Orthopaedic Surgery, Microbiology, Diagnostic Radiology, Anaesthetics Medicine; Public Health Pharmacology and Toxicology (Veterinary Medicine). Degree programmes will be broadened with the introduction of new studies. There will be a carefully controlled expansion of existing post-graduate programmes; new post-graduate programmes will commence in the Faculties of Commerce, Engineering and Medicine. These post-graduate programmes will be subject to external evaluation to ensure that internationally accepted standards are main trained at the University.

The University research activities will be sponsored by individual Faculties through post-graduate and staff development programmes; * by the University through Fellowship Awards; and by the more specialized Centres and Institutes. During this Plan period, the University will assist in the establishment of an International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology, an inter faculty Populations Studies and Research Centre, and a Natural Resources Centre. Additional support will be forthcoming to the Institute for Development Studies and the Institute of African Studies. The Child Development Research Unit will be moved with the Faculty of Education to the Kenyatta University College campus.

In line with the Government's general policy for tertiary education, University students will be made responsible for financing the non-tuition portion of their education. A Loan Scheme for Students, incorporating a substantial concessionary element, will be introduced. The Halls of Residence will be placed under a non-profit Trust to ensure that students are charged low but economical amounts for boarding and accommodation.

One inevitable result of the rapid establishment of many new Departments and Faculties in a relatively short period has been the inability to utilize professional staff as efficiently as possible.
The 1974-78 period will allow the University to consolidate its overall student/staff ratio at 10:1, and no Faculty will have a ratio of less than 6:1 by 1976. Moreover, greater efficiency in this area will permit Kenyanization to take place at a faster rate without prejudice to the University's standing in the international academic community.

The Government and the University will be introducing a Scheme of Service for Students whereby university students will undertake a year of public service before completing their studies. The scheme will be administered by the University, and will have two principal objectives, namely to promote the development of rural areas, and to provide a practical focus to university education.

Most of the University's physical requirements have been fulfilled; Additional facilities will become available with the transfer of the Faculty of Education to Kenyatta University College in 1977/78. Therefore capital building requirements will not exceed K£0.9 million. Priority will be given to the completion of the Physical Science complex, the further development of student facilities, and the provision of specialized facilities to existing Faculties.