The Web Ranking of Universities has once again affirmed the University of Nairobi (UoN) as the best University in the region. In the best performance ever since the inception of Web Ranking of Universities 11 years ago, the University of Nairobi leads all universities in East Africa, and is at position nine (9) in Africa out of 1307 ranked universities. The University also registered impressive improvement internationally by emerging 967 out of over 22,000 ranked universities — jumping 419 places from its previous ranking in January 2014, when it emerged 1326.

The ranking confirms the scholarly competitive edge the University of Nairobi (UoN) has steadily maintained in the country, in Africa and the entire world. Over the years, it has established itself as world-class university committed to scholarly excellence offering programmes in diverse fields of specialization.

In Africa, UoN led local universities who were positioned in 22, 45, 49, 74 and 77 among those ranked in the top 100. Overall in Africa, the University of Cape Town reclaimed its top position after swapping places with Cairo University which emerged second. UoN was the only university outside South Africa and Egypt to appear among the top 10 in the region. The first position worldwide went to the renowned Harvard University and the first top ten positions were captured by US universities.

UoN’s performance is the best result posted by any regional University since the advent of web ranking in 2004. In the January 2014 rankings, the University of Nairobi was also first in Kenya, first in East Africa and 9th in Africa.

The web rankings of universities also complement the government Performance Contracting ranking in which UoN has consistently maintained position one ahead of other public Universities and Institutions. In the last results, UoN posted an “Excellent” rank a position that has never been achieved by any public entity in the Performance Contracting exercise. In November 2011, the University of Nairobi’s College of Health Sciences was recognized as the Centre of Excellence in health by the East African Legislative Assembly.

The improved rankings come against the backdrop of increased enrolment. The student population has grown tremendously over the last decade and currently, UoN boasts an undergraduate population of 70,000, up from 30,000 in 2004, making it the largest university in East Africa. Staff comprise highly qualified academic members including 176 Professors, and 276 Associate Professors. It also has a research portfolio of KES 3.5 billion and over 1350 international linkages out of which 350 are active. The research kitty is the biggest in the region and is the incubation point of knowledge by scholars and students.

To cope with the accelerated intake, increased overall admissions and academic activities in the University, management is increasing physical facilities campus wide. The facilities include the ongoing construction of the state-of-the-art 22-storey, University of Nairobi Towers at the Main Campus, expected to cost KES 2.5 billion on completion and will house the increasing academic and administrative activities. Also, ongoing, are the constructions of the School of Pharmacy Complex at the College of Health Sciences at Kenyatta National Hospital, and the expansion of Kiamuu campus which houses the Schools of Law, Business and Education. Renovation works at Parklands Campus are also at the completion stage. These facilities are in addition to projects worth more than KES 1.5 billion completed in the last 10 years.

Strategically located in Nairobi’s central business district, UoN is endowed with modern facilities and remains a magnet for those in search of quality university education. For Kenyans who wish to pursue professional courses among them medicine and related courses, engineering or architecture, law, business, agriculture, science, social sciences and liberal arts, UoN remains the first choice university.

The University’s alumni number more than 156,000, majority of who serve in top leadership positions in all sectors of the economy locally and internationally. Going by last year’s trend in which a record 14,287 students, among them 3,373 Masters, 95 PhDs and 2 DScs graduated, the University will surpass this number by the time we hold the second graduation in December this year. UoN holds the distinction of the institution that has produced more trained human resources than any other institution of higher learning in Kenya and has a hand in the development of the entire higher education subsector in the country.

The University Senate congratulates members of staff and students for the good performance and challenges them to improve on these impressive results and benchmark with the best universities in the world.

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