

TEXT OF SPEECH BY MR. B. M. GECAGA, CHAIRMAN
OF COUNCIL OF UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, NAIROBI AT
THE CEREMONY OF FORMAL HANDING OVER OF THE
NEW WING OF THE FACULTY OF ENGINEERING -
11TH DECEMBER, 1968

Honourable Ministers, Your Worship, Your Excellencies,
Mr. Principal, Ladies and Gentlemen -

It is my pleasure to welcome all of you to this ceremony whose purpose is for H. E. the Ambassador of the United States of America, Mr. Glen W. Fergusson, to formally handover and for the Minister of Education, Dr. Kiano and the Principal of the University College, Nairobi, Dr. Porter, to formally take possession of this building which is the new wing of the Faculty of Engineering, and whose construction by the Kenya Government - for which the College is deeply appreciative - has been made possible by funds generously provided by the United States Agency for International Development which, as you know, is one of the numerous beneficial arms of the Government of the United States whose Ambassador in Kenya, H. E. Mr. Glen Fergusson, has honoured us by his presence at University College this afternoon .

The Faculty of Engineering has the distinction of being a "Founding Faculty" which can trace its roots back to the days of the Royal Technical College (one of whose early members of the academic staff was our present Minister of Education, Dr. Kiano) when, in 1956, the College had its first intake of students in April of that year, but it is also an energetic, virile Faculty under the current Deanship of Professor ^{W. B. Palmer} ~~Royston Jones~~, which can hold its own with any other Faculty in the University of East Africa.

Initially, students were entered for a 5-year course after School Certificate, leading to a diploma in Engineering. On assumption of University status in 1961 students were entered with Higher School Certificate for University of London examinations in the first instance, but subsequently degrees of the University of East Africa were awarded.

The record of the Faculty, measured by the number and quality of diplomates and graduates, starts with 14 Engineering diplomates in 1961 and progresses to the point where this year 67 graduates received their B. Sc. degrees in Engineering of the University of East Africa, thus making a total of 236 diplomates and graduates up to 1968.

But what lies on the horizon? Expansion of the Faculty has continued and this can perhaps be best expressed by the student intake which comprised 93 students in 1967 and 149 in 1968. The total number of students in the Faculty at this moment, December 1968, is 329.

This I suggest, ladies and gentlemen, is a record in which this relatively young University College of Nairobi and the University of East Africa might be allowed to take some pride without, of course, in any way resting on our laurels.

But this rapid and impressive expansion of the Faculty of Engineering which is evidenced by, among other things, these fine buildings which you see, would not have been possible but for the most generous aid of the United States Government through its International Development Agency. In 1964 through U. S. A. I. D. University College, Nairobi received a grant of \$120,000 for the Civil Engineering Block.

Perhaps I might be allowed to interpose here and make mention, with gratitude, that during the last three years and currently expected, the Faculty has received equipment to the value of \$200,000 from UNESCO. By the generosity of NORAD, further equipment to the value of sh. 450,000/- has been delivered or is on order for the Department of Electrical Engineering plus a Library grant of sh. 50,000/-. In connection with the expansion into the new building, the Department of Civil and Mechanical Engineering and the Department of Surveying and Photogrammetry have received a grant of approximately £100,000 under United Kingdom/Kenya Loan

No. 3, and the equipment is now on order.

And now we turn to this magnificent new building. Planning for it was initiated in 1964 and approved in 1965, as a U. S. A. I. D. project costing approximately \$600,000 or £250,000 sterling and providing 32,000 square feet of working space. If anyone here seriously requires that measurement in the Metric System I am afraid I cannot assist them, but I am sure that the Ministry of Commerce and Industry would oblige or possibly even one of our own Engineering students.

I know that both the Minister of Education and the Principal of University College, Nairobi, in formally taking possession, in a few moments, of this building will wish to say some appropriate words on behalf of the Kenya Government and the College respectively. Therefore, let me bring my opening remarks to a close here by saying once again how grateful we at this College are that you, ladies and gentlemen, our honoured guests, have so considerately accepted our invitation to come and share with us this afternoon's ceremony.

11.12.68.