

ARCHITECTS URGED TO 'BEAUTIFY' RURAL AREAS

By NATION Reporter

KENYAN architects must help to modernise the buildings in rural areas, Prof. Douglas Odhiambo said yesterday.

The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Nairobi was officially opening the newly formed Architectural Students' Association in Nairobi.

He said that in the rural areas "one finds a chain of monotonously identical buildings" at market place and elsewhere.

"If only we could have different architectural structures, the countryside would be a beautiful place," he added.

He urged architects to go to the countryside and help in reconstructing some of the "bad-looking" premises.

People would think that the University was training city architects because of too much concentration in the towns. Prof. Odhiambo said many universities did not have faculties of architecture and added that Nairobi was lucky to have one.

The formation of the association, he noted, was an indication "that there was an awareness about the role architects should play".

Earlier, the students complained that they did not have enough money for tuition.

Prof. Odhiambo told the students that their problems would be considered by the University administration.

On vocational employment, Prof. Odhiambo said students should take the challenge to get practical experience in firms during the holidays. It was only realistic, he said. "Go and contribute to national development", he urged.



PROF. Odhiambo signs on a T-square as he opens the Architectural Students' Association at Nairobi University. Also in the picture are Mr. W.S. Wesonga, chairman of ASA (second left), Prof. R.H. Nelms, Dean of the Faculty of Architecture, and Prof. Henry Wood, chairman of Department of Architecture.