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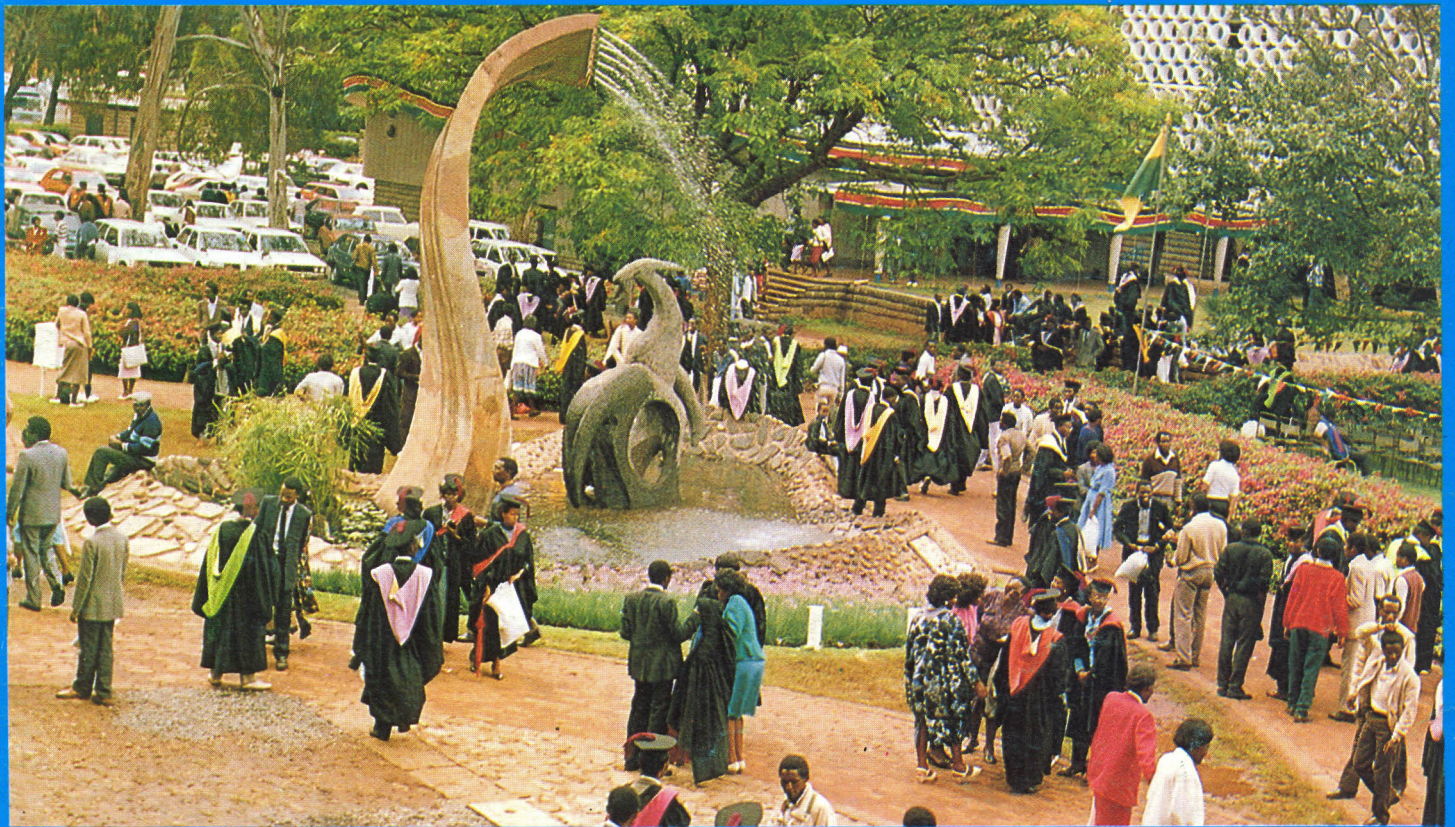
# Varsity Focus

A Newsletter from the Office of the Vice-Chancellor

No. 69

University of Nairobi

JAN/FEB. 1990



The Fountain of Knowledge, which symbolises the University's search for truth, has become 'the Academic Mecca' of our time, as scholars flood the monument annually to take historic pictures

The Kenya Government has allocated KShs.100 million this financial year for the construction of various 8:4:4 physical facilities at the University of Nairobi... P 2

## INSIDE

The Vice-Chancellor Prof. Philip M. Mbithi outlines the challenges facing university education in Kenya, in a speech to fellow Vice-Chancellors, during a recent National Universities Planning workshop... P 8



*Bracing up for 8:4:4: Members of the University management Board (UMB) discusses the progress of construction work in the 8-4-4 facilities.*

## IT'S A HISTORIC FACELIFT

Construction Work to cost Kshs. 100 million

**The Government has allocated £.5 million (Kshs. 100 million) this financial year to be used in the first phase of the construction of various 8:4:4 physical facilities at the University of Nairobi**

The construction is part of the University's preparation for this year's 8-4-4 double intake and a response to the general increase in student intake in recent years.

Early this year, the University Management Board (UMB) made on site inspection of construction work going on and the renovations of existing facilities

in all the campuses and expressed general satisfaction with the progress so far made.

The construction work involves the building of 8-4-4 physical facilities such as lecturer theaters, tutorial/offices, seminar rooms, libraries, halls of residence, recreation facilities and catering units.

During the 1990/91 Academic year, the University will admit about 6,000 students from the last A level group and the first 8-4-4 group. In 1987, the University admitted 4,600 undergraduate students in its first double intake that was widely seen both as an acid test and a dress rehearsal for this year's double intake.

The Vice-Chancellor Prof. Philip Mbithi described the first double intake as a historic success in which the university

met both its goals of satisfying increased demand for higher education among the Kenyan Youth and fulfilling its mission as an institution of training researchers and producing high calibre manpower.

According to the estimates prepared by the clerk of works, the university will need at least one extra hall with a 650 bed capacity in every campus to cope with the projected increase.

At the College of Education and External Studies (CEES), Kikuyu Campus, the scene of major construction, work is already in progress at the new site along Kikuyu-Waithaka Road. Two halls of residence, a kitchen/dinning Hall, a Library, two Lecturer theatres, eight offices, 30 offices/tutorial rooms, seminar

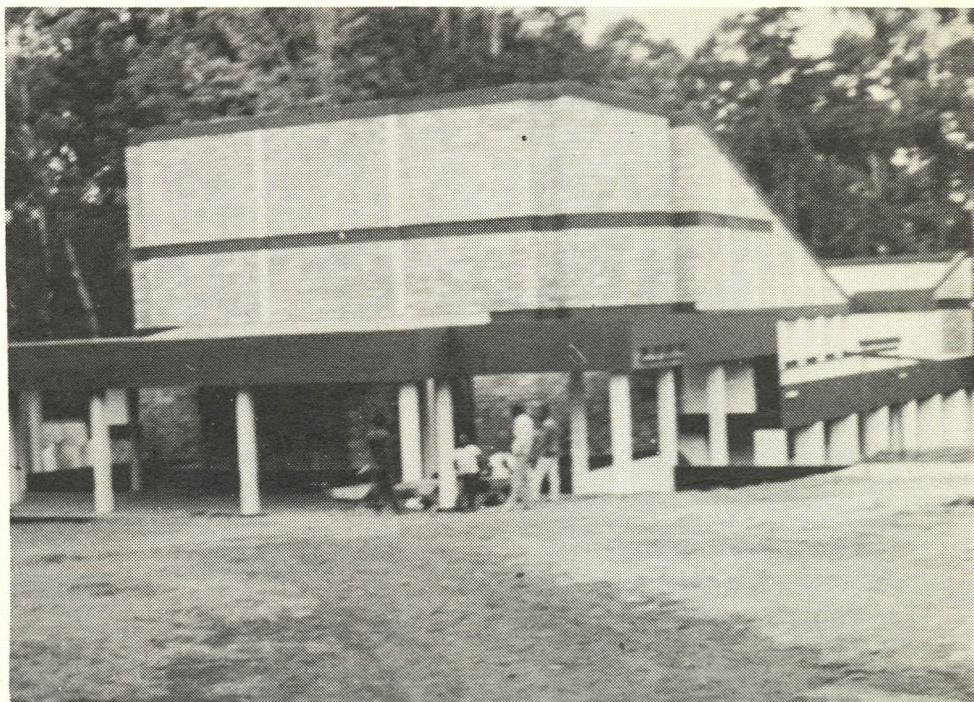
rooms will be built giving a major facelift to one of the oldest campuses of the university.

Late last year, a new multipurpose hall with a 600 sitting capacity was built to cater for the current needs of the College. The Multipurpose Hall was the venue of the college's first anniversary celebrations and a national education symposium involving leading academicians, educationists and intellectuals in the country held last year.

In Lower Kabete Campus, originally housing the Kenya Institute of Administration, but currently occupied by the faculty of commerce the University has embarked on an expansion programme of virtually all the physical facilities to cater for both the double intake and the general increase in student intake. The buildings were initially planned for very few government trainees.

The University is currently expanding class-rooms by extending the existing classes to accommodate the estimated 100 students for each class, in addition to building new lecture theatre to cater for 400 students. The library is also being expanded to cope with this unprecedented increase.

In addition 3 seminar rooms, 24 staff offices/tutorial rooms are being put up in preparation for the expected increase in student numbers. To complete the infrastructure, the university will build oxidation ponds/sewerage system for the college.



**Centre for creative and cultural studies:** The new multipurpose Hall and venue of last year's anniversary celebrations.

At Chiromo, four laboratories for 120 students each are being put up as part of the 8-4-4 Physical facilities. The college of Biological and Physical Sciences is a key campus in the success of the 8-4-4 university cycle as most of the common undergraduate courses will be taught from here.

In addition two lecture theatres each with a sitting capacity for 500 students are also being constructed. Some offices/tutorial rooms will also be built during the first phase.

In Upper Kabete campus (college of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences)

a lecture theatre for 500 students is being put up together with 2 laboratories, and 24 offices/tutorial rooms.

Parklands campus, housing the faculty of Law, fondly referred to by students as the "college of jurisprudence and legal studies", is also experiencing the historic facelift craze currently sweeping across all the campuses.

## Department

The campus library is being expanded, and a 250 capacity lecture theatre is undergoing construction as part of the overall university expansion programme.

Nearer home, opposite Gandhi Memorial Library and Uhuru Highway, the University is constructing a lecture theatre for 600 students for the Faculty of Arts. It is anticipated that this facility together with those vacated by the Faculties of Commerce and Law at the Main Campus, will meet the needs of the Art based common courses in addition to the normal needs of the Faculty of Arts PSRI, Diplomacy and School of Journalism



**Preparing for 8-4-4:** Constructing new laboratories at Upper Kabete campus

## NEW GRADUATION VENUE TO BE NAMED GIANT COURT

The new graduation Venue, with over 22,000 sitting capacity will cost KShs.22 million to construct, the clerk of works, Mr. Gitonga has disclosed.

The money has been raised through a funds drive involving all Government Ministries and 14 parastatals each contributing KShs.700,000/=. Mr. Gitonga told *Varsity Focus*.

Construction work on the new graduation venue to be named Giant Court and which will also serve as the main campus playground, started in November 1989 and is expected to be completed by March 1990.

The Giant court will replace the famous great court now overtaken by events due to its small size and increase in the number of graduands. The giant court will comprise a general graduation court with a 20,000 sitting capacity, a VIP stand sitting 70 people and 2 separate VIP stands each with a 650 sitting capacity.

The construction of the giant court will also involve tarmacking of access roads such as Mamlaka road and Chiromo Walkway. There will also be a new access road to Museum roundabout. The Wooden bridge across Chiromo river



**Building a giant:** construction work on the new graduation venue.

linking main and chiromo campuses will be re-built to create another access to the giant court through chiromo campus.

The united Kenya club access road, which will serve as the VIP entrance

will also be renovated for this purpose.

Early this year, the University management Board and Deans' Committee toured the construction site and expressed satisfaction with the progress.

## Wood Fuel for Varsity Kitchens

The University will spend nearly one million Kenya shillings this financial year to purchase and install firewood boiling pans and jikos in all the catering units of its campuses.

The Chairman of the Vice-Chancellor's Committee on alternative sources of energy, Dr. S.K. Senei said woodfuel will be use to suplement other

sources of energy currently being used in various kitchens".

He said "what we are doing is to enhance the capacity of our catering units under the student welfare authority to provide quality and reliable services to the student community at all times".

The University which currently relies on gas and electricity, has

experienced periodic gas shortages and power failures in the past disrupting the provision of catering services to students.

The student welfare authority has already acquired 19 boiling pans together with charcoal jikos and sufurias for installation in all the campuses. The equipment are produced in Kenya by two locally based research foundations - specialised Engineers foundation and Bellerive foundation.

Dr. Senei said, the university under the auspices of SWA is renovating and restructuring the kitchens to "integrate woodfuel into the overall university cooking system".

He said the university will strengthen its forest station at Ngong and other field stations to ensure adequate and constant supply of woodfuel.

The adoption of woodfuel in varsity kitchens is a move in the right direction. For apart from its cheapness and availability, when used to supplement other sources of energy, wood come in handy in times of emergency.



**Modernising the old system:** Prof. Karani, the Principal of CEES explains how the Jiko's operate to a member of the UMB.

## PHYSICS PROFESSOR TO HEAD NEW BOARD



Preparing for 8-4-4: Constructing new laboratories at Chiromo Campus

Prof. F.N. Onyango a senior lecturer in the Department of Physics has been appointed the Director of the newly formed Board of undergraduate studies, the Vice-Chancellor Prof. Philip Mbithi has said.

Prof. Onyango, who is also the current Chairman of the joint 8:4:4 Committee will oversee the efficient implementation of the 8:4:4 system of education, which begins this year in all public universities.

The Board was formed by Senate in consultation with the University Council, to Monitor, evaluate and coordinate teaching and examination of the common undergraduate courses to be undertaken by all 8:4:4 students beginning this year.

A major aspect of the 8:4:4 system of education as it will apply at the University is the mandatory common courses to be undertaken by all undergraduate students.

Prof. Mbithi said, the sheer volume of work occasioned by the number of students taking the common courses "required a new organ charged with the task of organizing service teaching, examination and coordination".

According to the University Senate regulations, all 8:4:4 undergraduate students will have to satisfy the examiners in the common courses as a condition for awarding degrees in their various disciplines.

The new Director, who is also the Chairman of the Board will administer the common undergraduate courses, organise the teaching, monitor and evaluate the curriculum and process examinations of the common undergraduate courses.

The Board will be composed of all full time academic staff teaching the common courses, including at least a senior lecturer from each college nominated by the relevant academic board, four senate representatives and the University Academic Registrar.

The Board will carry the status of a faculty, institute or school.

The concept of the 8:4:4 system of education emanated from the Mackay

report of the Presidential working party on the second public university in Kenya. The report emphasized practical education with special emphasis on Agriculture and technology. It laid special emphasis on the importance of socio-cultural studies as the basis for appropriate use of science and technology for socio-economic development and political integration.

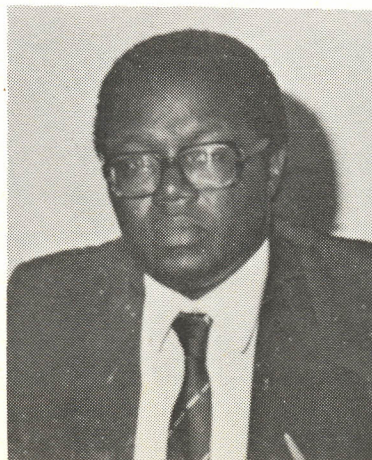
The report recommended the provision of the so called "foundation teaching" for all undergraduates in cultural and development studies "to enhance the interaction between arts and science students" for their mutual benefit.

The third cycle of the 8:4:4 system of education which will be implemented in the national universities this year, is expected to produce mature conscientious graduates with a flare for participation in national development, foster national consciousness and unity and promote our national cultural heritage.

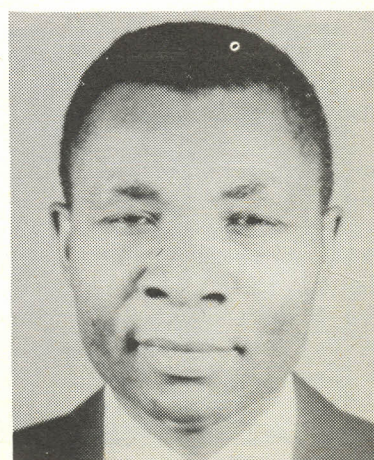
The contents of the common courses are "envisaged not only to be broad, to equip the students with an education that will help them respond positively to the challenge of national development, but will also be academically sound and intellectually stimulating". The Vice-Chancellor Prof. Mbithi said.

The common courses have been evolved under several headings:

- (A) Development studies-covering economics, Ethics, Law, Environmental studies, Science and Socio-Cultural studies, Trade and Diplomacy, Language and Literature, Philosophy and History of Science.
- (B) Communication skills
- (C) Computer science
- (D) Research methodology



Prof. Mbithi: New organ



Prof. Onyango: New portfolio

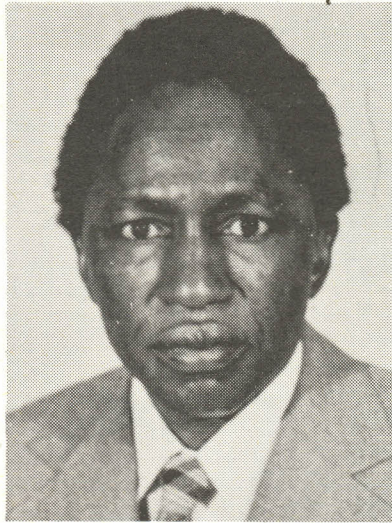
## VARSIY IN SEISMIC DEAL

The University of Nairobi will this year, receive Seismic equipment for monitoring earthquakes associated with the Rift Valley, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration & Finance) Prof. Shem Wandiga has said.

The instruments will form part of an agreement signed this year between the University of Nairobi and the University of Karlrushe, West Germany, to "expand existing professional contact" through joint research.

Speaking after signing the agreement, [on behalf of the University,] Prof. Wandiga said the University continued to treasure its exchange links with over 40 universities in Europe, North America, and Japan. He said the links have helped the university strengthen its research and teaching capacity through "exchange of students, staff and the provision of teaching and research facilities".

Prof. Karl Fuchs who signed the agreement on behalf of the University of Karlrushe, expressed optimism that



Prof. Wandiga: Pledged support

"greater research collaboration will flourish between various departments of the two institutions" within the framework of the agreement.

Prof. Wandiga assured his West German counterpart, that the University will fully support and co-operate with the project's Directors to realise the goals of the agreement, "we shall do everything possible to facilitate the realisation of the project's objectives".

Under the terms of the agreement, the two institutions will collaborate in the fields of Geology, Geophysics, Geodesy, Petrology, Geochemistry and remote sensing.

The two institutions will exchange information on Scientific Research projects, researchers, students and study programmes with the goal of solving "joint Scientific problems".

Dr. Gaciri, the Chairman of the Department of Geology, said the agreement is an outcome of the wider and more established Kenya Rift International Seismic Project (KRISP).

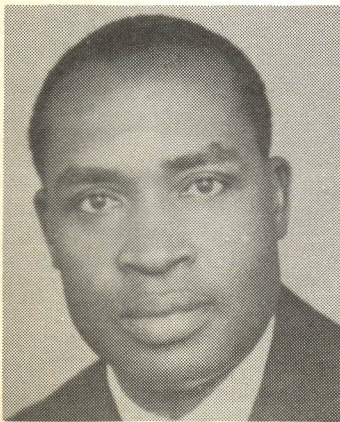
The KRISP project aims at investigating the Seismic causes of the Rift Valley and brings together researchers from Kenya, Europe and America.

## British Council aid for Bio-Chem Department

The Department of Bio-Chemistry recently received equipment worth KShs.1.08 million, from the British Council, to boost its training and research programmes.

Receiving the equipment, at the Chiromo Campus, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) Prof. Nimrod Bwibo thanked the British Council for its continued assistance to the University.

A representative of the British Council Mr. Ted Edmundson, said Britain cherished its close ties with Kenya adding



Prof. Bwibo: Links vital

that his country will strive to bolster its assistance to Kenya's universities through training and provision of teaching and research facilities.

He said the equipment was part of a programme of co-operation between the University of Nairobi and the University College London, through the British Council.

The equipment, in 16 different components, will be used in teaching post graduate students and in research particularly in the field of recombinant DNA technology.

In his speech, read by Prof. Bwibo, the Vice-Chancellor Prof. Philip Mbithi, said the teaching of Bio-chemistry and other related sciences required highly sophisticated equipment which was expensive to buy and maintain.

He said the university through the government had continued to equip its departments with relevant equipment in its efforts to strengthen the infrastructure necessary for teaching and research.

Meanwhile, a new society named Bio-chemical society of Kenya (BSK) has been formed, the Society said in its first press release.

BSK will serve as a forum of exchanging scientific information, techniques and achievements among Bio-chemists in the country, the press statement said.

The office bearers include Prof. R.M. Njogu (Chairman) Dr. D.W. Makawiti (Secretary) and Dr. J.K. Kiara (Treasurer).

The Society's aims include among others to:

- (b) identify suitable but inexpensive techniques for use in medicine, Agriculture and Industry for national Development.
- (b) Provide a forum for exchange of ideas between industrial, clinical and agricultural bio-chemists.
- (c) promote research and training programmes in Bio-chemistry for members in collaboration with national and international research institutes.
- (d) promote awareness of Bio-chemical knowledge as an essential tool for development.

## DOCUMENTATION CENTRE ON LAW OF THE SEA LAUNCHED

The Belgium Government, through the University of Ghent, recently donated a computer network, to the University of Nairobi as part of an agreement signed by the two institutions last year.

The equipment, whose estimated cost is KShs.480,000/- will be used to set up a documentation centre on the law of the sea, marine policy and ocean management.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Philip Mbithi who received the equipment, said " the documentation center will play a central role in the implementation of the projects planned activities".

He said, the University will strive to maintain and expand its over 40 academic links with Universities in North America, Europe, West Germany and Japan, adding that "the links have proved very useful in keeping our academic programmes competitive".

According to a memorandum of understanding signed by the two Universities last year, the joint project will:

- (1) Provide a framework for competitive advanced research and training in law of the sea, ocean management and marine law.
- (2) Facilitate exchange of students in these fields; and
- (3) Establish a documentation centre to facilitate effective research, training and policy making.



**It works like this:** Prof E. Sommers explains how the computer network operates to Prof: Bwibo, who received the equipment on behalf of the V.C.

Prof. Mbithi said that although the project is multi disciplinary and will involve other Universities, "our faculty of law and marine specialists will play a leading role".

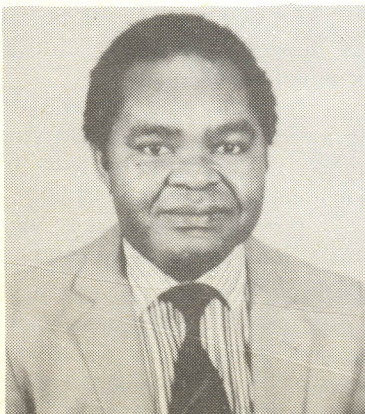
He praised the University Management Team, lead by Dr. K.M. Mavuti (Chairman), Mr. S.C. Wanjala and Dr. A.M. Jama for the excellent progress they have made so far. He also

hailed the Ghent University Project Director, Prof. E. Sommers for his dedication and interest in seeing the project successful.

Prof. Mbithi called for increased collaboration on research projects between universities in the third world and developed countries" only through such contacts, can we be partners in the pursuit of knowledge to benefit mankind", he said.

## Nyasani elected Dean of Arts

Prof. Joseph M. Nyasani, was recently elected the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, replacing Prof. Godfrey Muriuki whose term expired.



**Prof. Nyasani: New Dean.**

He is an associate Professor in the department of philosophy, and served, until his election, as its chairman.

He has been instrumental in over-



**Prof. Muriuki: Term Expired.**

seeing the tremendous growth, both in student numbers and staff development, that the department has experienced in recent years.

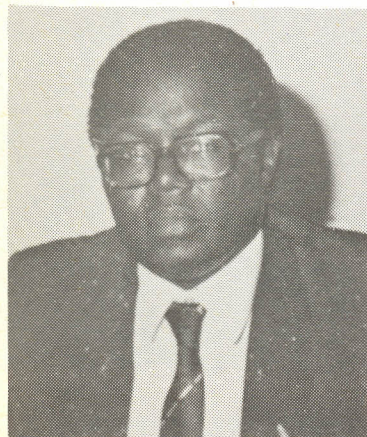
Prof. Nyasani first joined the Department of Philosophy in 1970 as a lecturer. In 1973, he was appointed Associate Professor in City University New York.

He received his Bachelor of Philosophy degree at Urbanian University in 1962. He was awarded Ph.D degree in 1969 from Cologne University. In 1974 he received an LL.M. degree from New York University.

He has published extensively, and some of his known publications include a book on logic and 'a Treatise on Metaphysics'.

# FACING THE GREAT CHALLENGE

The spectre of unemployed graduates, inadequate teaching staff and lack of relevant books compounded by unprecedented thirst for higher education among Kenyans remain the key issues of University Education in the 1990s, says Prof. Mbithi in a speech to fellow vice chancellors during a recent National Universities Planning Workshop.



Facing the future with confidence:  
*the Vice-Chancellor*

On behalf of myself and the University of Nairobi, I would like to thank the organisers of this Planning Workshop for inviting me to talk to you on "Challenges of University Education in Kenya".

The issue of University education is very important to us as is underscored by frequent statements by His Excellency the President, who is also Chancellor of the Public Universities. In the last four years, the number of public Universities has increased from one to four. At the same time, students population has risen from 6,000 to 24,000. This dramatic increase has generated tremendously amount of pressure on University administration. It is therefore most appropriate that Egerton University has organised this Workshop to deal specifically with planning for future development.

In most parts of the world, the biggest problems (which I prefer to see as a challenge) facing University is related to pressure for admission and available places. Although some quarters tend to restrict this problem to third world countries, it is now manifestly clear that developed countries are faced with same problems, of either very high or very low pressure.

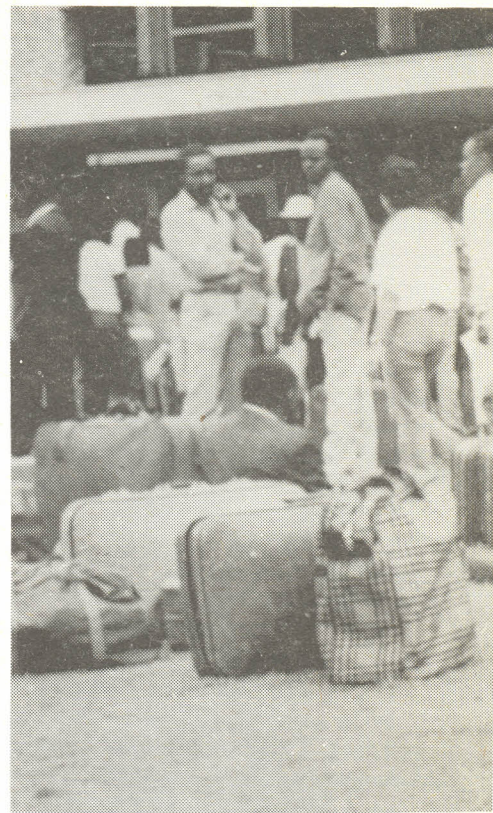
In the Federal Republic of Germany, for instance, there is tremendous competition for available University places which has led to congestion in classrooms. But whereas competition for available University places in Kenya is primarily a direct consequence of population growth, the pressure German Universities face is related to change of values and attitudes towards education in general and University education in particular. The changing pressure in Britain, especially the low numbers of foreign students is related to increase in fees.

The increase in students numbers in Kenya present public universities with the problem of maintaining acceptable academic standards i.e. training of Doctors, Agriculturists, Engineers, Accountants, Administrators, etc. who are competent. The issue of maintaining academic standards revolves around variables such as teacher-student ratios, library books and space per student, total contact hours per student, total laboratory, practical tutorial hours and field experience etc.

## Employment

Another serious problem facing University Education is the capacity of the economy to absorb all the graduates. In spite of our continued effort to produce graduate in all fields, there are strong indications that there are still areas in which there are not enough skilled manpower. In the field of agriculture for instance, ISNA Report indicated that there is a serious shortage of research scientists and that we need to readjust our strategy towards producing masters agricultural graduates. Other areas such as general bachelors degree have apparent surpluses.

I would like to suggest that the general approach out of this dilemma is to strategically produce more graduates that are needed by the economy in each sector until such a time that we can clearly discern the direction of economic growth. It is naive to limit student numbers on a



Insatiable thirst for University

short run absorption model if the model is not a true reflection of trends in the economy. However the surplus itself must be carefully managed.

The area of staff training and staff development is the other source of challenges facing universities. Due to obvious historical reasons, most of our specialist are trained in overseas countries. This training is to some extent, irrelevant and on the whole very expensive. To illustrate how important this is, I will give an example. Last year a student returned from Europe with a Ph.D. in some field in Biochemistry. We employed him as a Lecturer and encouraged him to initiate his own research programme. However, we soon found out that he could not start any research programme as his training had relied on extremely sophisticated equipment which we could not afford to maintain. His was a case of "Trained incapacity" to adapt, to relate, to be productive. He is now in America, unwinding, unlearning!

Whereas it is tempting to prescribe that training, especially for first and second degrees be done locally, such an approach is fraught with problems of internal capacities of various departments because of staff maturity and young departments. This leads to a vicious cycle of further staffing incapacity. The approach may be to insist on local 1st





**Education:** *Freshers registering for admission at the University of Nairobi's main campus*

degree and to an increasing extent local 2nd degrees with options for split programmes. The Ph.D should increasingly be a split Ph.D.

### Teaching

With increased number of students both undergraduate and postgraduate, access to books and other information materials to support learning teaching and research functions of the universities is a vital and worrisome issue. The task of building strong academic programmes, especially undergraduate programmes at the Universities will depend on strong self-reliance in preparing relevant texts which are purposeful, inexpensive and accessible.

Internationally, Universities in third world countries especially in South East Asia and Latin America, have moved from dependency on publishing and book imports based in the west. Owing to realities of shortage of foreign exchange, high cost of imported books the problem of irrelevancy of such books to specific courses; most Universities in these regions are attempting to produce all books for courses taught themselves. Indeed, in Universities where such a strategy has been followed, it has been possible to produce all required teaching materials cheaply. The Public Universities are currently establishing printing units which would produce quality but affordable reading materials.

We would, however, welcome assistance in this area to complement our efforts.

Mr. Chairman, the provision of equipment is very expensive and perplexing in any university particularly in a developing country. Most of the required equipment such as microscopes, electronic counter-balances, other laboratory equipment, surgical, engineering and office equipment need care and replacement.

This problem is compounded further by the ever changing technology particularly in the computer industry. Public universities are therefore finding themselves in difficulties in providing and servicing equipment to support teaching and research programmes. An approach where support in training maintenance technicians, and setting up maintenance workshops is provided, would be useful.

### Hybrid

The social-political environment is another challenge that our universities are facing. As you are undoubtedly aware public opinion indicates that university education is given very high priority in our country. Joining the University is nowadays prime consideration for every family. Universities are therefore facing a lot of pressure from parents. That society is always ready to increase spending at the university level is indicative of the high premium our people attach to University Education. Universities therefore have no

choice but to live up to peoples expectations.

I am certain that you all appreciate that our University system is increasingly becoming a hybrid of both European and American systems where basically we tend to borrow a lot from the British system, the increasing number of American trained local scholars joining us has meant that our Universities are benefitting from both worlds. For instance, we have found the external examination system, which is essentially a British tradition and the American accreditation system extremely useful. On our part, we have introduced the accreditation system through the Commission for Higher Education and through the Vice-Chancellor's Committee which are concerned with such issues as staff terms of service, recruitment and training and academic standards. At the regional level, we are members of the Inter-university Council, (IUC), through which we organise joint subject meetings and debate the - state - of - the art of various academic fields.

### Education

The concept of the 8:4:4 system of education emanated from Mackay Report of the Presidential Working party on the second public university in Kenya.

The Report emphasized practical education with special emphasis on Agriculture and Technology. In

particular, it laid special emphasis on the importance of socio-cultural studies as the basis for appropriate use of science and technology for social and economic development as well as political integration. The Report further insisted on the provision of what it called "foundation teaching: for all undergraduates in Cultural and Development Studies in order to enhance "interaction between Arts and Science students" for their mutual benefits. Accordingly, future leaders of this country should understand its development strategies irrespective of their areas of specialization.

The third cycle of the 8:4:4 system of education, therefore while developing and transmitting knowledge and skill through research and training at undergraduate and postgraduate level, should inter alia:

- Produce mature conscientious graduate with ability and desire to contribute to the development of the country.
- Provide for national service and development which reflect the National Cultural Heritage;
- Foster national consciousness and unity.

In order to meet the goals outlined above, it is desirable to evolve well through-out courses dealing with issues of development, culture social,

ethics, quantitative (statistical) methods, and communication skills which must be followed and passed by every 8:4:4 student during the course of his studies before an award of a Bachelor's degree, can be effected. Indeed at its meeting on 4th September, 1987, Senate resolved to set up a board-based Committee to consider the content, contract hours, examination procedure and syllabi for these common courses.

The contents of the common courses are envisaged to be a broad as possible so as to expose the 8:4:4 students to the various development issues in the national life of their country, and to equip them with necessary tools to handle such issues. This is indeed the philosophy of the 8:4:4 education programme which strives to equip the youth with an education that will help them respond positively to the challenges of national development and instil in them a sense of national identity, unity, mutual respect, patriotism and responsibility. The multidisciplinary courses, which should be academically sound and intellectually stimulating, are intended to help the students in the pursuit of their specialised studies with a much broader base of understanding of the general problems facing their country and the solutions being advocated in the hope that on their graduation, they can appreciate their own roles and contribution in nation building efforts.

A good deal of effort has been made to evolve the common courses under several headings:

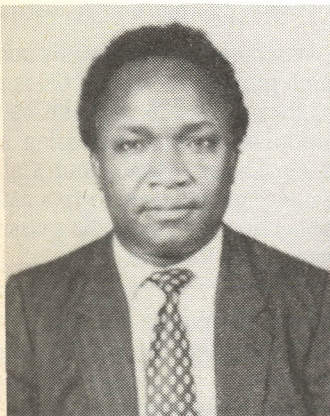
- (a) Development Studies - covering Economics, Ethics, and Law Environmental Studies, Science and Technology, political science and government socio-cultural studies, trade and diplomacy language and literature, philosophy and history of science.
- (b) Communication Skills
- (c) Computer Science
- (d) Research Methodology

For the first time in the history of University Education in Kenya, Universities will therefore be teaching courses which lay more emphasis on the practical aspects. This shift in emphasis calls for new approaches in the design of syllabuses and local data to provoke and sustain students' interest.

These challenges I have enumerated are not unique to Kenyan University System. Our task is therefore to show increased sensitivity to make our universities strong while at the same time producing skilled manpower for our economy. The day to day problems of any Vice-Chancellor in any University in the world are similar - admissions, examinations, staffing, ethics, financing etc. I have not therefore outlined anything unique to Kenya.

Thank you

## Professorial Appointments



*Prof. Alfred Vincent Otieno has been appointed on promotion as a full Professor in the Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering.*

### Education Background.

Prof. Otieno attended Alliance High School before joining Oxford University where he received his B.A.

(Eng.) Honors, and M.Sc. in Electrical Engineering. He also received a M.Sc. honours award in Electrical Engineering at the University of California at Berkeley.

In 1973, he was awarded Ph.D in Electrical Engineering at the University of California - Berkeley.

### Teaching and Supervision Record.

Prof. Otieno started University teaching as Assistant Lecturer in Electrical Engineering in the then University of East Africa, Nairobi University College in 1968.

He joined the University of California as Research Assistant in Electrical Engineering in 1972 for one year. He joined the University of Nairobi as Lecturer in the same Department in 1973. In 1975, he was promoted to Senior Lecturer in Department of Electrical Engineering.

In 1976, he was appointed Chairman of the Department of Electrical Engineering, rising to the position of

Dean of the Faculty in 1979. He was first appointed Associate Professor in 1980.

### National Activities

He has served as adviser to the Kenya Bureau of Standards technical committee on Symbols, Signs, Definitions; Consultant in teaching equipment for the Mombasa Polytechnic and Consultant for equipment of the Kajiado Water Training School.

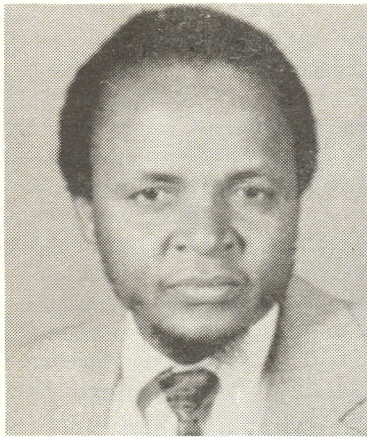
### Publications:

He has jointly or singly authored over 15 papers some of which have been published in highly respectable international journals.

### Current Research:

Prof. Otieno has shown keen research interest in the field of quantum electronics and telecommunications.

# Professorial Appointments



**Prof. Felix Makau Luti:**

*Prof. Luti has been appointed on promotion as full Professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering. He was first appointed Associate Professor in 1987.*

Prof. Luti holds a Bachelors and Ph.D degrees in mechanical Engineering from the University of Waterloo in Canada.

**Teaching and Supervision:**

Prof. Luti taught as special Lecturer (1970) at the University of Waterloo. He joined the University of Nairobi as Lecturer in 1972.

He taught as Lecturer, for four years at the University of the West Indies, Trinidad and Tabago. In 1980 he was appointed Senior Lecturer in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania.

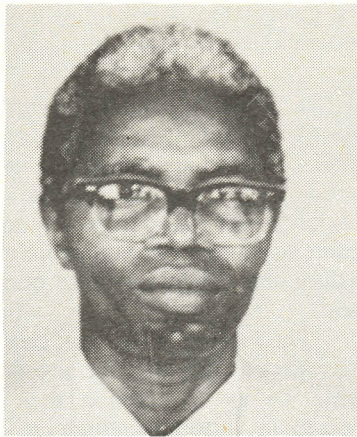
He re-joined the University of Nairobi as Senior Lecturer (1983) in the Department. He is currently the Chairman of the Department.

**Publications:**

He has a large number of papers to his credit and is currently preparing a manuscript for a text-book entitled 'Fundamentals of Engineering Thermodynamics'.

**Administrative Experience:**

He is currently the Chairman of the Department of Mechanical Engineering and Acting Dean of the Faculty of Engineering.



*Prof. Philip N. Nyaga has been appointed on promotion as professor in the Department of Veterinary Pathology and Microbiology.*

**Education Background**

Prof. Nyaga received his Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine (BVM) from the University of Nairobi in 1973. He joined the University of California Davis graduating in MPVM and Ph.D.

Because of his exceptionally outstanding performance at the university of California Davis, Prof. Nyaga received the awards of M.P.V.M. and Ph.D within a record two years.

**Teaching and supervision record**

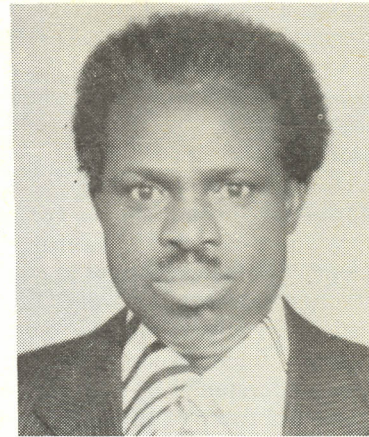
Prof. Nyaga has taught both undergraduate and postgraduate students since he joined the department in 1975. He has supervised 30 Msc. and 15 Ph.D students.

**Publications**

He has published 26 papers in nationally and internationally reputable journals in addition to other papers currently in process.

**Research**

Prof. Nyaga has conducted various research projects and actively engaged in the dissemination of research findings through publications. His current research in the Development of monoclonal antibodies to hepas virus antigen may give lead to the control of the deadly disease - AIDS.



*Prof. Joshua Wandera of the Department of Veterinary Pathology and Microbiology has been appointed on promotion as full professor.*

**Education Background**

Prof. Wandera studied at Makerere University and Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine graduating with a diploma in Veterinary Medicine, M.Sc. and Ph.D in Veterinary Pathology respectively.

**Teaching and supervision record**

Prof. Wandera joined the Department of Veterinary Medicine as Lecturer in 1965. He was promoted to Senior Lecturer in 1971, and to associate Professor in 1974, a position he held until his promotion to full professorship.

By specialization, Prof. Wandera is a functional pathologist. Since he joined, the Department, he has supervised eight M.Sc. students and one Ph.D student.

**Publications**

Prof. Wandera has published 27 papers in reputable journals.

**Research**

Prof. Wandera has successfully conducted research projects in various fields ranging from the study and classification of pneumonias of food producing animals such as Sheep, Goats and Calves in Kenya, cancer in cattle to fish pathology in connection with periodic massive fish deaths in Lake Victoria.

## Promotions

*Dr. P.O. Ayiecho, of the Department of Crop Science has been appointed on promotion as Senior Lecturer.*

**Education Background:**

Dr. Ayiecho holds a B.Sc. (Agriculture) and M.Sc. (Plant Breeding) from the University of Nairobi. In 1989 he was awarded a Ph.D (Genetics) from the University of California, Davis.

**Teaching and Supervision**

He has served as tutorial fellow in the Department from 1980 until he was appointed Lecturer in 1985. He has supervised 4 M.Sc. students and has 6 others currently under his supervision.

**Publication:**

He has submitted 8 papers for publications.

**Research:**

Dr. Ayiecho has developed Research interests in two areas - Field Bean screening for Dryland conditions and the survey of oil/protein seed in Crop Production.

*Dr. Maria W. Nzomo has been promoted to Senior Lecturer in the Department of Government.*

**Education Background:**

She attended University of Nairobi (1974), McMaster University 1975 and Dalhousie University (1981) where she received her B.A. (Political Science), M.A., and Ph.D respectively.

**Teaching and Supervision:**

Dr. Nzombo has taught several third year students and supervised a number of M.A. students. She joined the

International Symposia and Seminars are important avenues of promoting international scholarship and enables scholars to assess their research approaches and methodologies.

Through such conferences, participating scholars have the rare opportunity of exchanging ideas, putting theirs to test and grasping the trend of research interest worldwide.

Each year, the University of Nairobi spends about Shs.1.5 million on travel grant to enable her scholars participate in local and international symposia and seminars.

The Deans Committee is the body responsible for processing applications and requests for research and travel grants.

Mr. M. D. Nyarangi, Secretary to the Committee recently disclosed to varsity focus a list of the latest recipients of travel and research grants. The awards were approved by the committee during its resumed 179th and 180th meeting.

Such grants intended to meet Conference expenses, are awarded on the understanding that concerned scholars must give a report and make available any printed/published documents to the committee. Such documents are legally regarded as the joint property of the University of Nairobi and the involved scholar.

Dr. Andrew A. Okeyo, a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Meteorology was awarded Shs.44,348 to attend and present a paper during the fifth Scientific Assembly of International

Association of Meteorology and Atmospheric Physics' held at Reading, United Kingdom.

Dr. Okeyo presented a paper on the importance of a systematic forecasting of Hailstorms in Kenya. The paper was the culmination of research carried out in Kenya and United States, sponsored by the World Meteorological Organization Fellowship.

The paper will be published in the journal of the Royal Meteorological Society.

Dr. Markandey Rai, of the Department of Mathematics was awarded KShs.39,812 to attend and present a paper entitled "Mathematical Model for Rainfall Data in Kenya" at the Statistics, Earth and Space Science Conference held on August 26th at Leuren, Belgium.

The paper, the product of self sponsored research carried out in Nairobi, is an attempt to develop a mathematical model for rainfall data in Kenya. It lays emphasis on the distribution of rainfall with special reference to non-rainy season.

The paper will be published in the Journal of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics.

Prof. A.G. Tumbo-Oteri, of the Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Medicine received KShs.43,583/- to attend the 4th International Congress of Reproductive Immunology held at Kiel, West Germany on July 26.

The paper was the culmination of investigation into the possible utilization of early pregnancy factor (EDF) for the detection of continued pregnancy in

livestock in Kenya.

The findings of this paper, according to the author, will help deal with unnecessary foetal wastage critical in the development of our livestock industry. The research was conducted in the Department of Bio-chemistry.

The paper will be published in the journal of Reproductive Immunology and Micro-Biology.

Dr. R.S. Bhalla of the Department of Commercial Law was awarded KShs.43,836/- to attend the 14th world congress in Philosophy held at Edinburgh Scotland U.K. on August, 17th. During the Congress, Mr. Bhalla presented a paper entitled "The Right of Self-Determination".

According to Dr. Bhalla the right of self-determination is applicable only to the colonial territories and is a legal right and not a human right.

The paper has been accepted for publication in one of the volumes to be published by Aberdeen University Press.

Mrs. J.H. Adhiambo Oduol, Lecturer in the Department of Linguistics and African Languages received KShs.26,320/- to attend the '4th Nilo-Saharan Conference' held at Bayreuth, West-Germany, last August.

Mrs. Oduol presented a paper entitled "Sexist Ideology in Dholuo: some Linguistic evidence. In her paper, Mrs. Oduol discusses the Linguistic evidence of Sexist Ideology in Dholuo by identifying vocabulary and expressions in Dholuo associated with women but which have sexist preconceptions. She asserts that

## Promotions

department in 1979 as a tutorial fellow and was first appointed Lecturer in 1982. She is a specialised in the political economy of Third World Countries.

### Publications:

She has published six scholarly papers and has eight unpublished ones.

### Current Research:

Dr. Nzomo has embarked on a research project - "The Impact of Foreign Assistance on Women Projects in Kenya. The Project is sponsored by the Ford Foundation.

In addition, she has two other Research Projects on the "External Influence on the political economy of Kenya: The case of MNC's" and the Foreign Policy making process in Tanzania.

*Dr. Aggrey O. Nyongo of the Department of Human Pathology has been appointed Senior Lecturer.*

### Education Background

Dr. Nyongo attended Alliance High School before he joined Indiana a University, Bloomington. He received a B.Sc. degree from Indiana before he joined the University of Chicago for his M.Sc. in Microbiology (1973). He also attended the University of Michigan and University of Kansas and received awards of M.Med. Hons (Pathology).

### Teaching and Supervision

In 1981, he joined the Yale University Medical School as instructor in Pathology. In 1982 he joined the University of Health Sciences at Kansas City also as Instructor in Pathology.

He first taught as Lecturer in Environmental Medicine before being promoted to Assistant Professor at the University of Health Sciences.

He joined the University of Nairobi in 1988 as Lecturer in the Department of Human Pathology.

### Research

He has conducted research in Immunology, Pregnancy and Cancer Diagnosis. He is currently doing research on Cancer of the Cervix based at Kenyatta National Hospital; Acute Respiratory Infection in Young Children and Human Virus Infections in AIDS.

### Publications

He has jointly or singly published three papers and submitted six others for publication.

# WATCHING THE OZONE HOLE

by Muthama, N.J.

Department of Meteorology,  
University of Nairobi

Ozone is present in the atmosphere in very small quantities. If compressed to sea level pressure and temperature the thickness of its layer would vary from about 1.6 mm to 4.0 mm. This gas is principally photochemically formed in the stratosphere where about 90% of it resides. The rest is found in the mesosphere and troposphere. The ozone layer is important to man since it shields the surface of the earth from a portion of

ultra-violet rays of the sun which is biologically harmful. Ozone also is an integral part of the global climate system, due to its role in global radiation and energy balance.

The existence of the ozone layer in the present form is due to a sensitive balance between natural processes of creation and destruction. Man-made factors now threaten this balance. We are not capable of altering the incoming ultra-violet radiation but our technology (such as high altitude flights, stratospheric nuclear testing, registration, air

conditioning, use of spray cans, soil fertilization, and probably other unknown to us) is generating substantial amounts of substances that attack it. These substances include chlorofluorocarbons, methane, oxides of nitrogen, etc.

The increasing activities of man have prompted many scientists to study various characteristics of atmospheric ozone as indicated in the next section. Space and time Characteristics

The threat of the depletion of the ozone layer has prompted scientists all over the world to study its spatial and

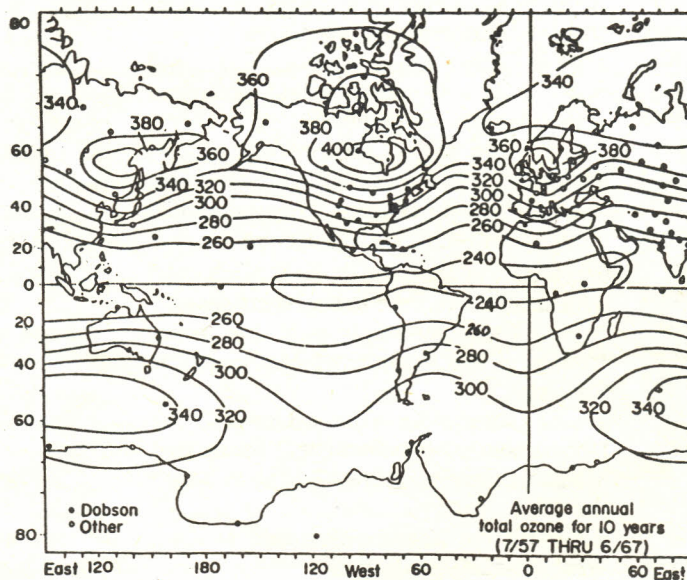


Fig 1: Global average total ozone distribution for the years 1957-1967, expressed in m-atm-cm (Dobson units). The dots and small circles indicate station locations. (London and Bojkov, 1976)

## DONS TOUR

language and culture are intertwined, and an examination of people's language reveals their cultural beliefs and practices.

Dr. S.O. Warfa of the Department of Economics received KShs.30,628/- to attend the '3rd International Conference on tradition and modernization in Africa today' held at Budapest, Hungary on August last year.

In this paper, to be published in the East African Economic Review, Dr. Warfa asserts that technological changes in Africa benefit mainly the modern urban sector, while contending that 'Industrialization dream' in Africa is slowly becoming a nightmare, Dr. Warfa's vision suggests that 'the salvation of Africa lies in scientific and technical progress.

Mrs. F.M. Olubayo, of the Department of Crop Science was awarded

KShs.53,200/- to attend the just concluded 2nd International Symposium on Bruchids and Legumes in Okayama, Japan.

During the Symposium, Mr. Olubayo presented a paper on "Comparative study of life cycle of the Bruchid in bean, cowpea and pigeon pea seeds".

The paper was the product of research carried out at the National Agricultural laboratories and funded by the German Academic Exchange Programme (DAAD).

The Symposium was jointly organized by the Japanese society of Applied Entomology and Zoology, Foundation for Zoology and the Foundation for Advancement of International Science.

Mr. Mairura Omwenga of the Department of Urban and Regional

Planning of the Faculty of Architecture, Design and Development (ADD), received KShs.45,540/- to attend the International Council for Building Research held at Stockholm, Sweden last September.

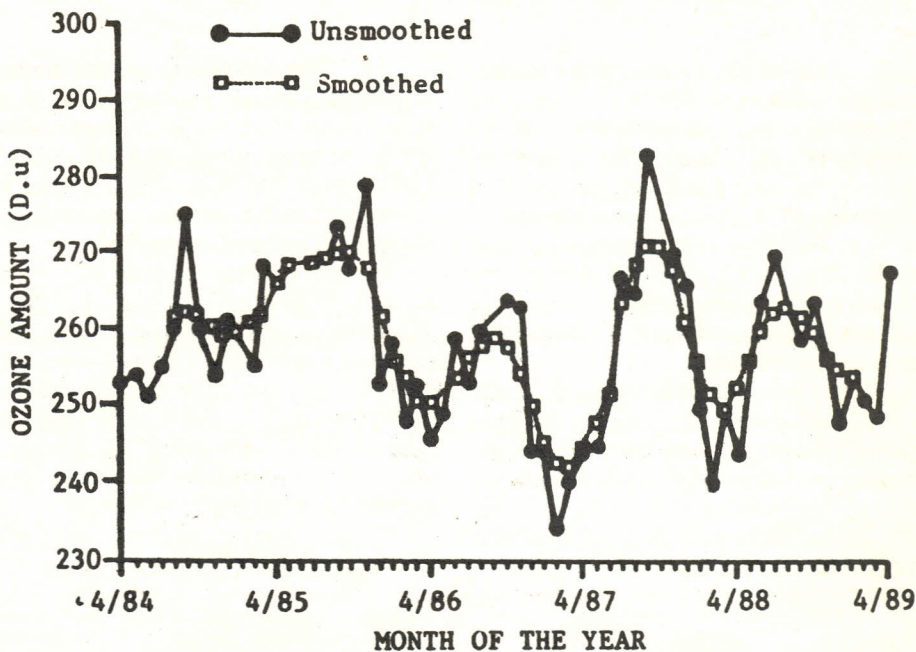
Mr. Omwenga presented a paper entitled 'A review of Policies on the Development of water and sanitation services in unplanned low income urban settlements'.

Dr. Maria Nzomo of the Department of Government was awarded KShs.53,420/- to attend the "Association of Women in Development Conference" on November 17th at Washington D.C.

Dr. Nzomo orally presented a paper entitled political participation and empowerment of women in Kenya.

temporal patterns. Some findings of importance include the gas's geographical distribution, which is found to differ with latitude. The ozone distribution is highest in temperate climate (where most developed countries are located), ranging from 300 to 400 Dobson units. The ozone layer is thinnest over the tropical region, where developing countries are mainly situated, ranging from 240 to 290 Dobson units (see figure 1). This has an implication that if the ozone layer is decreased by for instance 10% through human activities, the ozone layer in the sub-tropics will vary from 270 to 360 Dobson units; while that above the tropics may go down to about 216 Dobson units. The resulting ultra-violet radiation will be more acute in the tropical countries, which are already less protected by the ozone layer.

Investigations of any possible depletion of this vital layer have been done over the years. The most recent of such study show a decrease from 1969 to 1986 in the annual average of total columnar ozone ranging from 1.7 to 3.0% at latitudes between 30 and 80 degrees in the northern hemisphere. These decreases have been found to be more pronounced during winter months, ranging from 2.3 to 6.2 per cent. In the tropics, despite the afore-mentioned threat, there does not exist sufficient data to determine total ozone changes over the entire region. This is because very few ozone monitoring stations are operational over this region. One such station is situated at Chiromo Campus, University of Nairobi. A study on total ozone' temporal patterns has indicated a non-significant ozone layer depletion over Nairobi (Figure



**Fig 2: Trend of total atmospheric Ozone**

2).

However, this study is based on 5 years of data as opposed to studies in temperate climates where over 30 years of data are available. Other results obtained from the study indicate that the ozone layer undergoes a seasonal fluctuation over this region, being a minimum around January-February and maximum in September to October. This seasonal fluctuation has been attributed to the seasonal change of tropopause (the layer between the troposphere and stratosphere) due to earth's rotation around the sun (Figure 3)

A unique phenomena which has been linked to the global depletion of ozone is the 'Ozone hole'. It is briefly described below.

In 1985 a British team reported that ozone concentration in the Antarctic atmosphere had shown a significant decrease since the commencement of the observations there in the late 1950's. The decrease was observed during the southern hemisphere spring. This October thinning of ozone layer over the Antarctic Continent, usually termed as the 'Ozone hole' gave extreme losses in 1987. The 1987 loss reached 50% of total ozone over the region but the loss within the hardest hit part soared to 95%.

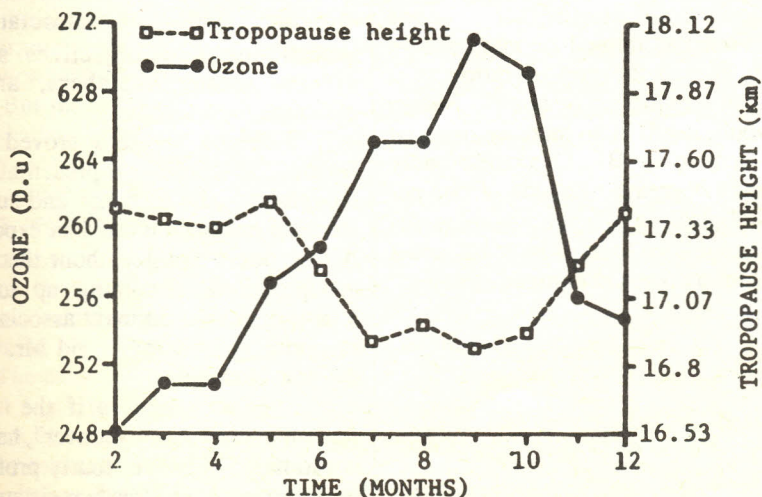
Another hole in the atmospheric ozone has recently been observed above the arctic from the US Nimbus - Weather satellite records.

The causes of the 'Ozone hole' have not been well understood. Some of the recent hypotheses have generally been based on the atmospheric ozone chemistry and seasonal atmospheric circulation patterns.

Both observational and theoretical studies indicate that significant change in atmospheric ozone concentrations would have severe biological and climatological consequences. This is the subject of the next section.

#### Impact of Ozone Depletion

A reduction in the ozone layer would result in an increase in biologically harmful ultra-violet-B (uv-B) radiation received at the earth's surface. The effects of uv-B radiation exposure to man include sun-burn, skin cancer, eye damage, aging and wrinkling of skin, among others



**Fig 3. Seasonal variation of Ozone and tropopause height.**

# THE DAWN OF A NEW ERA

The establishment of the student welfare authority (SWA) and its incorporation as a department of the University will boost the power of professional student associations, the Vice Chancellor Prof. Philip Mbithi has said.

The move to give students greater say in the running of the University follows the recommendations contained in a report by special Senate, committee on student representation.

The recommendations which were heavily influenced by student leaders, who formed part of the committee, guarantees student representation in the various governing councils of the University including Senate and the University council.

"The decision to involve students in various University management bodies is a triumph of student power and a challenge to all of us" said Mr. Kolumn M.K., one of the student leaders who was in the Student-Senate select committee on restructuring of welfare services.

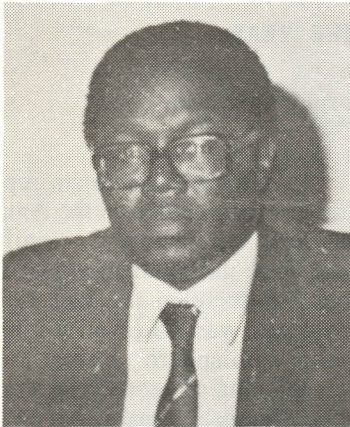
"The new system will enable students to greatly influence the day to day running of this University and the direction it will take in future" says Prof. Mbithi. In particular, under the new arrangement, students will now be represented in such areas like planning, provision of welfare services, key appointments and academic affairs.

Professional Student Association, which are the officially recognized

organs of student representation were set up in the past by students, and recognized by Senate, to pursue purely academic interests of its members. This was consistent with the prevailing attitude at the time in which the University pre-occupied itself only with academic pursuits, leaving welfare services to the defunct University Students Accommodation Board (USAB).

Following the recent restructuring in which the University recognised the 'inseparability of body and mind' (Welfare and Academics), the University Senate has moved swiftly to encourage professional student groups to adopt to changed circumstances.

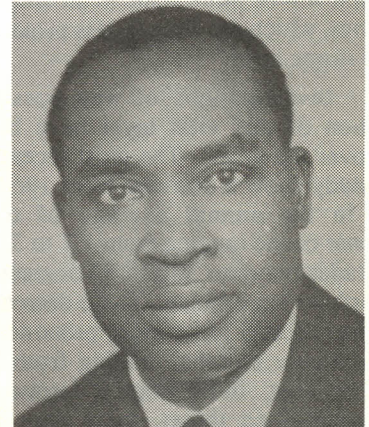
"We want leaders of these



Prof. Mbithi: *New thinking*



Prof. Wandiga: *Accountability*



Prof. Bwibo: *New vision*

## ATMOSPHERIC OZONE

Uv-B increases due to ozone layer depletion also has adverse effects on farm animals, plants and even the aquatic creatures. These damaging effects have been found to cause a reduction farm animals' production, crop and timber yield which have a direct social and economic impact.

Climatically ozone plays a major role in determining the radiative balance of the atmosphere, particularly in the stratosphere. Any changes in ozone amounts would alter the stratospheric heating rates which would have a direct influence on the temperature distribution

in the troposphere with the consequences of altering atmospheric pressure patterns, sea level and rainfall distribution.

These climatic and biological consequences of stratospheric ozone depletion need an immediate international attention due to the consideration of a finding that a reduction of one per cent in ozone would result in an increase of about two per cent of uv-B. This can broadly imply that a decrease of ozone of one per cent would result in two per cent increases in decreases related to uv-B increase, and a two per cent increase in climatic stresses.

associations to restructure their organisations to reflect the new thinking, new realities and to serve their members more forcefully," said prof. Mbithi.

Part of this restructuring involves the redrafting of the constitutions of already established associations to incorporate new objectives and new vision, recruit members, and hold elections.

Since Senate approved the new format of student representation last November, the response and support of students has been more than expected. "A day doesn't pass without this or that group of students coming up to register a new or revive dormant association, the response is amazing," said Mr. Kariuki, the dear of students.

"One wonders if the era of student apathy is not yet over", he said. It is estimated that over forty professional student groups are already registered by the dean of students.

*The article first appeared in the Journal Science News. It is reproduced here with the permission of the Editor.*



**Rehearsing the future: students performing a play in one of the University theatres.**

Under the new format various student associations will federate to form a faculty college organization. It is the federal representatives who will then be nominated by members to the various University governing bodies.

"What we are establishing is a kind of grass roots approach to student representation as opposed to the creation of a monolithic, dehumanized and centralized structure of student representation. We want each and every student to have a say in the affairs of this University" said Prof. Mbithi. Professional student associations are therefore more accessible to all students as they are small (in terms of membership) and guarantee direct and democratic participation by each member.

But the new system constitute a greater challenge to student leaders, who will now shoulder additional burden of looking into the welfare needs of their members, and cultivate socially desirable student culture.

In the past, the associations have performed below expectations of their members, in many cases existing only on paper. The associations have experienced financial woes, arising out of ineffective leadership, discontent within the ranks, apathy of members and a general lack of initiative, drive and creativity.

Mr. Muriithi, the editor of the students law journal, the mouth piece of law students association, lamented in the editorial of its current issue "the lack of reliable financing results to uncertainty in the release of issues and an inability to maintain a contended class of subscribers".

The University encourages professional groups to generate funds on their own to fund their activities. "only this way can they cultivate a sense of responsibility, and vision as leaders of tomorrow," said Prof. Nimrod Bwibo, the Deputy Vice Chancellor, in-charge of Academics.

However, student professional groups may breath a sigh of relief, following the approval by Senate to allocate Ksh 5,000/- to each association to start off. The University has also agreed to allocate office space to the associations to conduct their activities.

"Besides we shall financially support programmes of groups that have proved effective and viable, so long as we are assured of appropriate financial accountability by the leaders. We can not commit public funds to programmes which are not viable and whose motives are suspect," said Prof. Wandiga, the Deputy Vice Chancellor (A&F).

Some established professional groups have in the past proved very effective. Such groups include

Agriculture, Economics, Medical, Law, Accounting Literature, Literature, Swahili, Architecture, Engineering and Geography.

For instance, in August last year, Nairobi University Agriculture Student Association marshalled over one million shillings to successfully host an international Agricultural Symposium.

The symposium, attended by members of the International Association of Agriculture Students (IAAS) greatly boosted the morale and prestige of its members locally and Internationally. the Economics Students Associations (AIESEC) has also been successful in organizing international conferences and giving its members invaluable international exposure.

Literature and Medical Students Associations have also been very active, engaging members in various community oriented projects such as artistic performances, provision of free medical services to wananchi among other things.



**Gracefully surrendering the things of youth: students engage in tree planting at the University Forest Station, Ngong**





*Youthful vision: A delegate from Poland listens attentively during one of the conference presentations*

## YOUTHFUL DIPLOMACY

The delegates, most of them below 26 years old graced last year's symposium with their brilliant contributions and optimistic vision

No elaborate security arrangements was visible, no sleek cars waving national flags parked by, only buses donated by the University of Nairobi; no elaborate displays or exchange of diplomatic niceties, only an informal exchange of youthful jokes; no three piece suits and briefcases only delegates clad in tight jeans, jackets, sports shoes and buggy pullovers waving academic files.

But the casual appearance of the delegates and the informal and relaxed atmosphere that pervaded last year's 32nd International Association of Agriculture Students Congress only concealed the global significance of the congress.

"It was amazing", said Prof. Mukunya, the dean of the Faculty of Agriculture and patron of Nairobi University Agriculture Students Association, the hosts of the Congress, "It was a mini united nations conference".

About 200 students from over 30 countries worldwide attended. The highest attendance in the history of the 28 year old association.

The association is the umbrella organisation of National Agricultural Student Organisations worldwide, with the mandate to promote mutual interests of Agriculture Students by facilitating the flow and exchange of vital information to members.



*A helping hand: the vice-chancellor Prof: Mbithi and Hon. Mwangi Gachuhi, assist Minister for Agriculture during the opening of the conference at KICC*



**Youthful Jokes:** Mr Henning Scroll, the president of IAAS shares a joke with one of the delegates

The delegates, most of them below 26 years old, graced last year's symposium with their brilliant contributions and optimistic vision on matters relating to Agriculture.

For two weeks they deliberated on a broad range of topics including the theme of last years symposium: Agriculture; under production and prospects in developing countries".

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Philip Mbithi told participants during the opening ceremony at Kenyatta International Conference Centre (KCC) that their presence in Kenya symbolized the important place Agriculture holds in our country, schools and universities. He said, Kenya's modest agricultural performance had won international recognition noting that the I.A.A.S. congress took place barely seven months after Kenya hosted the Royal Commonwealth Societies of Agriculture.

Mr. Mwangi Gachuhi who represented the Minister for Agriculture Mr. Maina Wanjigi stressed the need to weave agricultural practices with national environmental policies if developing countries are to realise sustainable development.

For members of NUASA, Organising the conference was not a bed of Roses. For nearly six months, the leaders of the Association spent sleepless

nights, making preparations while grappling with their normal academic work. It was a period of great personal sacrifice, satisfying the demanding university of Nairobi examiners and their equally demanding guests.

In 1988, for instance, when Italy hosted the congress, the student who were involved in the preparations were given a year off their studies, to enable them concentrate in organising conference. University of Nairobi does not have such provisions.

Dr. Njoka, a lecturer in the Department of Agriculture disclosed to Varsity Focus "Our students surprised us. They all passed their exams very well".

Within a period of six months, the students, who were mainly finalists, sent invitation letters to delegates and other guests, marshalled over one million shillings from different companies, and individuals, organised for accommodation and transport for their guests. The students had one strategy in their bid to see the congress successful. "It was a no nuisance approach", said Prof. Mukunya, the dean of the faculty of Agriculture and patron of NUASA.

But NUASA was not a newcomer in the game of youthful diplomacy. In 1979, the association set a record by becoming the first African Association to host the congress.

Mr. G.H. Rugalema, a student of Sokoine University, Tanzania and immediate former President of the Association told varsity focus "when it was proposed at the 30th I.A.A.S. congress in France, that the 1989 Symposium be held in Africa, it was obvious. We had no alternative but to

come back to Kenya".

He cited NUASA's successful hosting of the 1979 conference, excellent conference facilities in Kenya, a good communication network, impressive agricultural performance and varied natural heritage.

During the congress delegates toured other universities, visited small scale farms in the countryside and various touristic sites in the country.

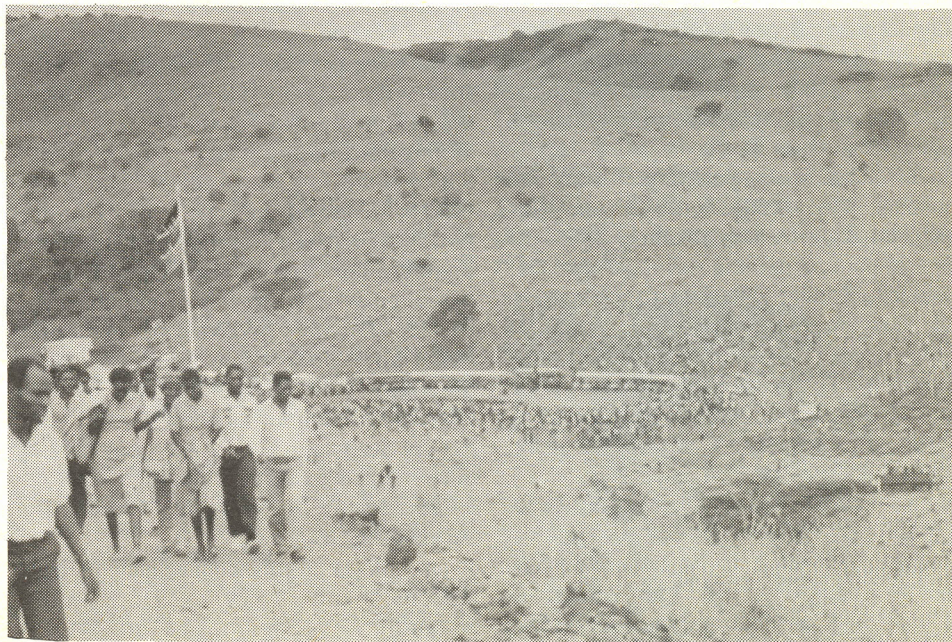
It was during their excursions that Kenya's magnetic appeal to visitors struck again. Several delegates remained behind for almost two weeks after the conference ended while others vowed to make it back on private visits in future.

"I will definitely stay behind for two weeks at the coast. It is so fascinating" said Mr. Henning Scroll a student of the Royal University of Veterinary and Agriculture at Copenhagen-Denmark and current president of the Association.

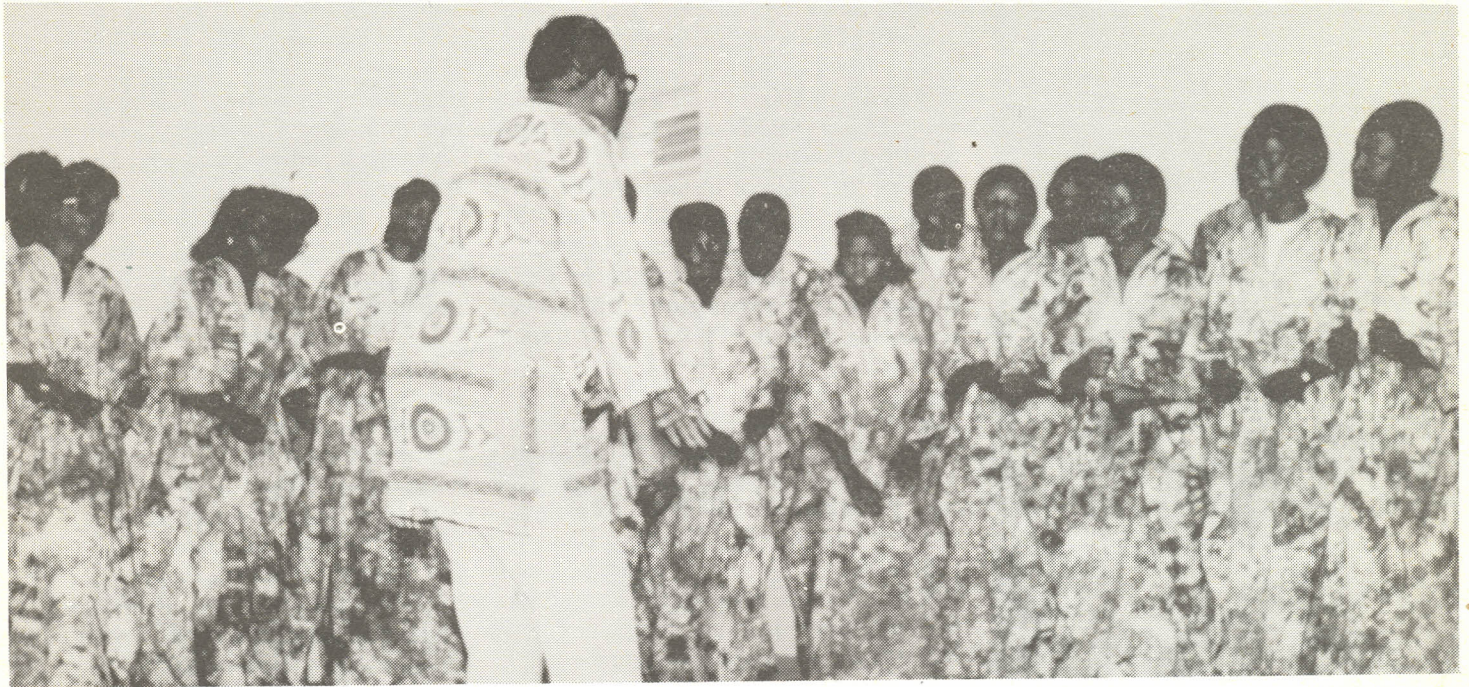
Miss Laura Gualdi of Perugia University, Italy said she was impressed by Kenya's small scale farms. Speaking after touring coffee farms in Kiambu, she said "small is beautiful. The farms are neat, the crops are well tended and easily manageable".

For most students, attending the conference in Kenya was like killing two birds with one stone - a chance to know one another and a golden opportunity to have first hand information on Kenya, one of the world's most coveted tourist destinations.

Antonio Brunori, a forestry student at Florence University, Italy, said Kenya's afforestation drive had made most parts of the countryside so beautifully



**Impressive environmental conservation record:** planting trees at the University forest station, Ngong.



*Exploiting the untapped potential: Dr. Authur Kemoli with the CEES choir during the college's first anniversary celebrations last year.*

## SEASON OF HARVEST

*Manoah Esipisu looks at the upturned fortunes of the University's Free Travelling Theatre and the formation of Students Music Association of the University of Nairobi*

Nairobi University theatre workshop ended last season with a rich harvest of plays, prompting speculation that the drought of the 1980s may be gone once and for all.

The harvest, dubbed a "festival of plays" was organised by the Free Travelling Theatre of the University of Nairobi, which brought together some ten theatre companies presenting thirteen plays.

Among the performers were the Cultural Group of Kikuyu Campus (CCG), Theatre Workshop Kenya, Chelepe Arts, Amandla (all the way from Kisumu), Kenyatta University's Creative and Performing Arts Centre, Wadada, Mbalamwezi players, Chama cha Kiswahili Nairobi (Chakina), For Your Eyes Players, Hemisphere Players from Meru, and inevitably the Literature Students Association (LSA).

The harvest opened its doors to the public on October 22 with the Poetry Nite, an event that is first in the LSA calendar every year. The men who stole the show on that first night included Gad Ayal (Africa my Beginning and Ending), Okoth K'Obonyo (The Five Year Development Plant), Samuel Kimayu

(where I will Hang, and 2 where shall I live when I die?), Michael Ogari (Aid) and Chilloh Onyango.

Perhaps one of the most exciting plays to watch during the harvest was Francis Imbuga's *MAN OF KAFIRA* presented by Kikuyu Campus, under the direction of G. Outa-Odera.

That such a new group, could sustain the play, keep the audience on its toes with a vivid and illustrious show, was a sign of what amount of sacrifice the College of Education and External Studies was willing to give to make "University efforts" a grand success. The Cultural Group of Kikuyu Campus had originally prepared the play for their Open Day. It was a remarkable show of workmanship.

Theatre Workshop, presented Nigerian Nobel Prize Laureate Wole Soyinka's *THE ROAD* directed by Oby Obyero-Odhiambo but their second play, Robert Serumaga's *A PLAY* could not be put up since its dates coincided with the abrupt closure of the main, Chiromo and Parklands Campuses.

Two groups from outside Nairobi presented some very exciting pieces. Amandla of Kisumu put up *WOZA ALBERT*, a tale of what life would be like if Jesus Christ, making his second coming, would land in South Africa. It is

a satire of the coming of Christianity to the racist Nation. Related to that is *MWOKOZI* presented by Chelepe Arts, based at Our Lady of Visitation Catholic Church, in the suburbs of Nairobi. This is a social commentary on the nature of life, its challenges, and possible ways of handling them.

Other plays were Francis Imbuga's *BETRAYAL IN THE CITY* and *BURNING OF RAGS*, Ebrahim Hussein's *KINJEKETILE* (the remittance of the Hehe against German rule in Tanzania), John Ruganda's *COVENANT WITH DEATH* and *BLACK MAMBA*, Chilloh Onyango's *MAISHA YA AMBA*, *SALT ON THE WOUND* by Mak'Ogwang and Athol Fugard's *THE ISLAND*.

In overall charge were Gachugu Makini and Opiyo J. Mumma, both of the Department of Literature and Co-Directors of the Free Travelling Theatre. The Festival, which was in many respects a star parade, revealed the 'artistic goldmine' that awaits exploitation.

Meanwhile, Nairobi University students have launched a new music association to be named Students Music Association of Nairobi University (SMAUON) with the objective of promoting music in the University. The association whose patron

## PUBLISH OR BE DAMNED!

*Dr. J.N.K. Mugambi, is the Chairman of the Department of Religious Studies and author, Co-author and editor of several books. In 1989 alone, he jointly or singly managed to publish seven books locally. Last week he spoke to the Editor of Varsity Focus, Mr. B.O. Gogo, on his experience as an author. He also discussed the 'intricate mathematics' of publishing and considered how much persistence is needed to get a work into print.*

### Excerpts:

#### FOCUS:

Last year, you managed to publish seven books. This is a remarkable achievement by any standards.

#### MUGAMBI:

It was a feat. It doesn't normally happen. It involved a combination of very many factors to achieve this.

#### FOCUS:

What were some of these factors.

#### MUGAMBI:

Firstly, my concern in publishing these recent works has been my response to the present challenge facing University and college education in Kenya, that is, the lack of relevant, locally available and affordable reading materials for our students. As a teacher in a department [Religious Studies] where the problem was acute, I felt, I had an obligation to contribute in my small way, to the alleviation of this problem

Secondly, I am a firm believer in thorough written preparation of lecture notes, research projects and conference presentations..

Most books by scholars are developed from lecture notes, research projects and conference papers. No publisher will reject a viable and promising manuscript that is publishable. Thirdly, I have had an opportunity to know, to build rapport with many of the local publishers. Fourthly, I was keen to publish my works locally rather than abroad.

The major problem for publishers is whether they can penetrate the market which an author aims to reach with his proposed book. Established publishers normally provide a review of Manuscripts submitted for publication. If the Manuscript is good but difficult to market, the publishers will advise the author accordingly, and jointly they can plan a marketing strategy to facilitate the publication.

#### FOCUS:

Many scholars, especially young and upcoming ones, often complain of indifference or lack of interest by publishers in their (scholars") works. What precisely is at the root of this problem and what is the way out.

#### MUGAMBI:

Publishers are like banks. They do not refuse to sign contracts with customers whose projects, they know, are viable. Many scholars have not developed the gruelling habit of preparing manuscripts that would meet the needs of the market. An author needs not be unduly discouraged if his/her first manuscript is rejected. Although many publishers concentrate on certain academic areas, there are still new aspects to be explored. Younger authors may be encouraged to know that most established authors are turned down when they submit their first manuscript. I had the same experience, but this was many years ago.

### Continued from Page 18

green and added, "from what I saw, I think the woman folk have played a leading role in the afforestation campaign".

To others, a visit to Kenya widened their horizon and raised their aspirations outside their home countries! said Mr. Antonio "I wish I could find a job and settle here in Kenya"

But for local participants, the congress provided a rare and invaluable international exposure. "The deliberations were intellectually very enriching and the opportunity of meeting students from so many countries is an unforgettable experience" said Mr. J.K. Ngossossey, a student of Jomo Kenyatta University College of Agriculture and Technology.

Mr. Scroll, the current president of the association told participants during the farewell party, hosted by the Vice-Chancellor Prof. Mbithi in honour of the delegates "N.U.A.S.A. successfully hosted the 1979 conference. They have done it a gain in 1989. It is only logical that we come back in 1999"

### Continued from Page 19

is the dean of the faculty of Arts Prof. Joseph Nyasani will represent the University in all music competitions and festivals in the country.

Prof. Nyasani told varsity focus that the association will strive to promote music among students.

Prof Nyasani who is a pianist will also combine his largely ceremonial role of the patron of the club with the more taxing job of part time choir master.

"We intend to sing a different song, and to deviate from the traditional mass choir approach to singing" We want to compose and sing songs with a message and purpose.

The association os already registered with the Dean Office of the Dean of students a a professional student Association. It currently has 40 members.

According to the choir of the Association Mr. Seneja the association has opened its doors for membership. "We intend to register 100 members by the end of the term"

The association has the uphill task of competing in national music festivals with the already established group" in Kenyatta and Moi Universities.

"The University will give all the necessary support ti the group in their activities " said Miss Mwagiru, the assistant Dean of Students. Such support will involve provision of instruments, uniforms and choir master.



Prof Nyasani patron of the club

## FOCUS:

**How much persistence does an author require to find a publisher.**

MUGAMBI:

Publishing is not a field of the faint-hearted. It requires of an author to carefully prepare his manuscript and identify, the potential publisher and readership as accurately and as early as possible.

However the beginning is not publishers. The beginning is preparing publishable materials. The so called indifference of publishers, is not a sufficient excuse for a prospective author to give up on publishing. Many scholars tend to leave their manuscripts in very raw form, so that publishers would be reluctant to undertake the revising, refining and editing process.

For the very young scholars, the tragedy comes when, a publisher returns a manuscript with suggestions on what modifications need to be made before the work can be published. Many see the suggested modifications as a distortion and overlooking of their original ideas. They give up and blame it all on the publisher. It is the same old story of the chicken and the egg, which came first.

FOCUS:

**If publishers are like banks, hoping to reap the highest profit from every single investment made, aren't they inclined to put their money in the more profitable projects like school text books at the expense of scholarly publications targeted at the tiny tertiary market.**

MUGAMBI:

Undoubtedly, the problem of the audience and therefore the market is an issue of concern both to the publisher and the author. If the author takes time to study his intended audience/readership well in advance, the publisher would find it easier to do business with him. It is true that what sustains most publishing houses in Kenya are the school text books. The tertiary sector in this country has remained small and cannot yet sustain a viable publishing market. At the same time, most established publishers are willing to publish a few titles per year, for less lucrative markets.

FOCUS:

**With the rapid expansion of university education in Kenya, particularly the increase in student numbers, one would expect the market for books to equally expand. What is your view!**

MUGAMBI:

Sustaining a viable publishing industry requires a well established reading culture. The increase in student enrolment in national and private universities is statistically significant, but may not have a major impact on the publishing industry. The success of publishing lies in the cultivation of a reading culture. It is necessary to devise methods to encourage university and college students, as well as working professionals to buy and read more books.

FOCUS:

**Evolving such a reading culture may require a carefully calculated campaign. What campaigns would you recommend to develop that reading culture, say at the university level.**

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**'The most unsuccessful works are textbooks, because as an author you write what the syllabus dictates not what you think'**

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MUGAMBI:

National Universities should consider treating student Book allowances as part and parcel of tuition fees. The money, should be kept by the various university bookshops, so that students can actually spend it on the purpose for which it was intended. The money should not be given to students in cash. The way it is currently administered to our post graduate students is commendable, but it should be strengthened and the practice extended to undergraduate students. This adjustment should be accompanied by an increase in the allowances, considering that the cost of books kept rising.

FOCUS:

**Assuming an author has prepared his/her manuscript well and identified a number of publishers likely to be interested in it, what criteria would he use to make a better informed choice of the appropriate publisher.**

MUGAMBI:

An author's choice of publishers depends on his interests and knowledge of available publishers. But in principle one needs to consider, the general reputation of the publisher; Book promotion prospects; international links; duration of the publication process contract terms, say the royalty rates.

FOCUS:

**Last year alone, you managed to see seven of your works in print. This was a very taxing exercise and perhaps very profitable**

MUGAMBI:

If you write to make money you will probably die a poor man. The economics of publishing does not augur very well, for an author of works that are not prescribed school textbooks. Preparation of the typescript and review copies can be so expensive that royalties do not actually compensate for it. The motivation to publish, at least the overriding motive, should not be to make money. An author of books for the tertiary market gets returns after a very long time, in some cases after he has died, if the book remains in print. The primary motive ought to be to share with others the fruits of one's research. It is important to remember that most scholarly books are published in very small editions and are often not reprinted.

FOCUS:

**Which of your publications do you consider most successful.**

MUGAMBI:

It all depends on the yardstick you use. Personally I don't think the success of a publication should be based on the sales figures. It is certainly the case that people buy books for very different reasons, not necessarily because an author's ideas are popular.

In my case, I think the yardstick, should be to what extent the author has accomplished his original intention. On this basis, I regard each of my publications as successful in its own way. Each time I write, I write for a different audience with a specific objective in mind. As every artist will tell you, once his painting is completed and framed, that is a mission accomplished.

The most unsuccessful works are textbooks, because as an author, you write what the syllabus dictates, not what you think.

FOCUS:

**Books are by their very nature controversial and subject to, at times, very harsh criticisms with regard to quality, originality, and academic value.**

Have you encountered such criticisms and do they worry you MUGAMBI:

I welcome constructive criticism because it helps to further knowledge. This applies wherever I express myself, in writing, orally or in the electronic media. As far as these recent works are concerned, the response from fellow professionals in the subject has been very encouraging, and I have received written comments from various parts of Africa, Europe and North America.

## FOCUS

Despite this publishing record, you have not been very much in the news. Are you publicity shy.

MUGAMBI

Scholarship and journalism do not go well together. I recognise that the business requirements of journalism (selling news) may not be compatible with the professional and ethical demands of scholars. For that reason I prefer to restrict myself to scholarship, even

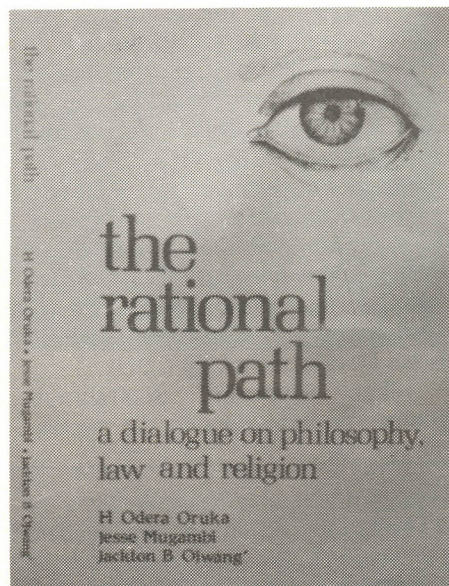
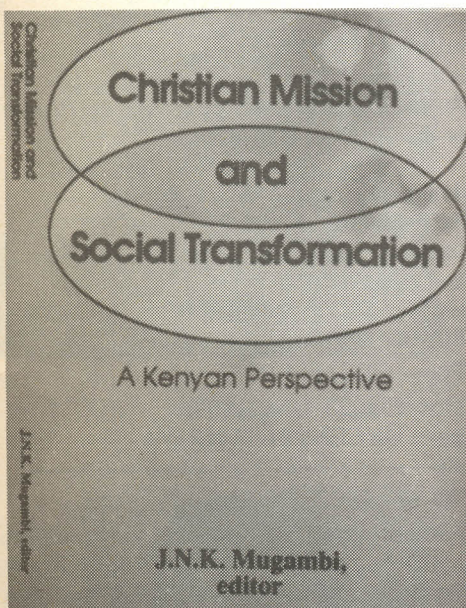
though I have some training in communication policy and planning.

## FOCUS:

What are your next plans with regard to publishing.

MUGAMBI:

I hope to publish, if possible, several scholarly titles within the coming years. Plans are under way also to translate my published works into French, Portuguese and other languages. Preparation of teaching materials for tertiary education continues to be one of my priorities.



This book of dialogue arises from a concern about the contradictions of designs, expectations and purposes which mark human life in general. Human instinct often dictates situations which can hardly be reconciled with social necessity, or with such important considerations as the ideal condition of the environment. Contradictions of this kind have a destabilising effect on the institutions of community life, and ultimately on the due fulfillment of human life itself.

This dialogue treats the practice of philosophy - a practice which involves the deliberate identification of rational lines of choice - as an approach to the resolution of negative contradictions in human life.

Philosophy's scope, in that respect, is considered mainly with regard, firstly, to norm-setting originating from the public domain, through *law*; and secondly, to norm-prescription emanating from the private domain, through *religion*.

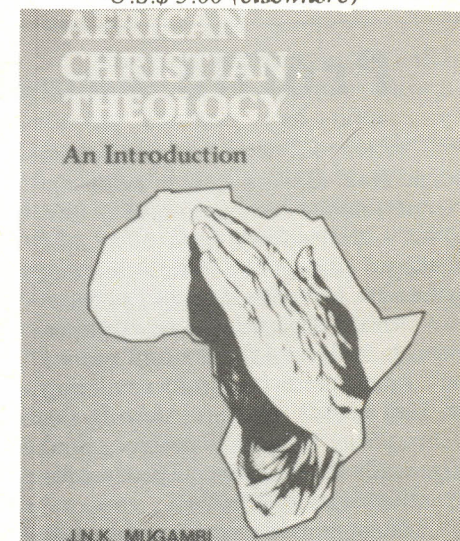
This dialogue hopes, firstly, to present a framework for a better understanding and for an improvement of man's social life, and secondly, to provoke further thinking in relation to the many

problems attending the management of human life.

Insofar as the subject of the book is unlimited in disciplinary terms, it will certainly interest not only students and practitioners of philosophy, law and religion, but also intellectuals in general, persons responsible for systematic instruction in other disciplines, and those in public or other leadership positions.

Price: KShs.80.00 (in East Africa)

U.S.\$ 5.00 (elsewhere)



This book contributes to the growing literature on African Christian theology, with a significant emphasis on the East African Perspective. It presents the Author's researched theological findings on a wide range of topics, and invites the reader to reflect on the issues it raises, within the context of contemporary Africa and with the Bible as a basic source of reference. The book will be useful for pastors, teachers and tutors of Religious Education, and also for students and trainees in theology at all levels. Internationally, it adds a new dimension to Christian theology in African scholarship.

PRICE: K.Shs.99.50

Theologically, Christian mission in the past has tended to be associated with proclamation of the Gospel, and this proclamation has almost invariably been interpreted in terms of perching the Christian message. However, it is an observable fact that Christian missionary activity has almost always included aspects of social service-schooling, medical care, vocational training, agricultural improvement, relief work, counselling and so on. These social services have often been considered as means to an end - the end being to win converts. In the public ministry of Jesus, there is no clear distinction between preaching, teaching and social services. Thus Mission in His ministry is service. The emphasis of this book is that in consistency with this integrated approach, Christian mission ought to be understood as total witness for the whole person in a holistic society.

Kenya Shs.100.00

## ABOUT THE UNCRD

The United Nations Centre for Regional Development was set up in 1971 in pursuance of the terms of ECOSOC resolutions 1086C (XXXIX) and 1141 (XLI) which called for global action to promote regional development, and resolution 1582 (L) that provided guidelines for its establishment. The principal aim of UNCRD is to enhance the capabilities of the developing countries in local and regional (subnational) development and planning. Towards this aim, UNCRD organizes training courses, promotes collaborative research on substantive issues in regional development, extends technical advisory services, serves as a forum for exchange of experiences, and fosters exchange of publication and information on local and regional development and planning.

UNCRD recently reorganized its programmes into seven major operational

units. UNCRD also launched a new programme known as its Strategic Assistance Programme. Although the projects focus primarily on research and training, they also include advisory services and information dissemination components.

The seven operational units provide a framework within which UNCRD can identify, design, and manage research and training projects. These units include: (a) Urban Development and Housing Unit (UDHU); (b) Regional Development Management Unit (RDMU); (c) Environmental Planning and Management Unit (EPMU); (d) Regional Disaster Prevention Unit (RDPU); (e) Information Systems Unit (ISU); (f) Social Development Unit (SDU) and (g) Industrial Development Unit (IDU).

The Strategic Assistance Programme provides support for specific

activities in local and regional development and planning that are of demonstrated importance to the developing countries. Projects include: (a) Training Seminar in Regional Development Planning for the Wuxi Area of China; (b) Rural Development Alternatives and the Role of a Local-Level Development Strategy in East Africa; and (c) Regional Training Course in Local-level Development Planning and Management for the South Pacific Region.

**For further information, please write to:**

The Director,  
United Nations Centre for Regional Development  
Nagano 1-47-1, Nakamura-ku, Nagoya  
450, JAPAN  
Phone: (052) 561-9377  
Telex: J59620 UNCENTRE  
Cable: UNCENTRE NAGOYA

## Profile MAGOTHE LITHO

After 15 years of dedicated accident free driving career with the University, nobody wants to hear of Mr. Magothe Litho retiring, least of all, the handicapped students he ferries each day from the halls to lecture theatres and back.

Mzee Magothe who has been on the wheels for over 15 years told *varsity focus*. "I have never had accidents during those 15th years". Besides driving the students, Mr. Magothe delivers and collects mails for the university. He does these with exemplary efficiency.

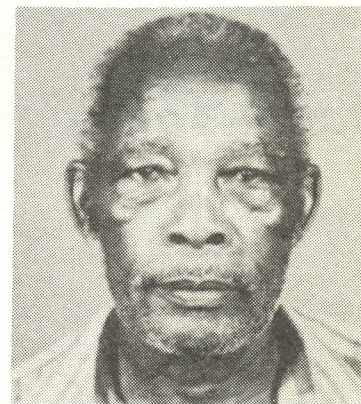
Now that his services are still required, he will have to organise himself, without sacrificing one for the other. A day in Mzee Magothe's working programme tells it all. The old man arrives at the university at 7.30 a.m. He collects the keys to his vehicle and drives to the halls to collect the students for the early morning lectures. After dropping them, he goes to the post office to collect letters. On return, he goes back to the halls to pick other students for the 9.00 a.m. lecture. Shortly before 1 p.m. he must be there to drive them to the halls for lunch. He oscillates between these two assignments like they have become part of his life. Indeed they have.

Thus runs Mzee Magothe's day. He does not find it hectic but concedes "all you need is a bit of self-discipline. He told *Varsity Focus*, "those who stand in for me when I'm off duty, find it impossible even to take time off for lunch".

It is probably because of his commitment to duty and excellent relations with the disabled students that the students and the University won't hear of him retiring. When he was due for retirement in 1987, the students promptly requested the Vice-Chancellor to keep Mzee Magothe around for a while. He did it just that.

The old driver has all praises for the students, "the male students are time conscious. When you agree that it is 8.00 a.m. they will be there. But not for the girls. They are a bit too slow" With characteristic humour he adds, "I don't know what goes on in their rooms. It must be the mirror".

Magothe has served the University under the administration of three Vice-Chancellors, Dr. J.S. Karanja, Prof. J. M. Mungai and Prof. P.M. Mbithi. Referring to Prof. Mbithi Mr. Magothe said "When you do your work

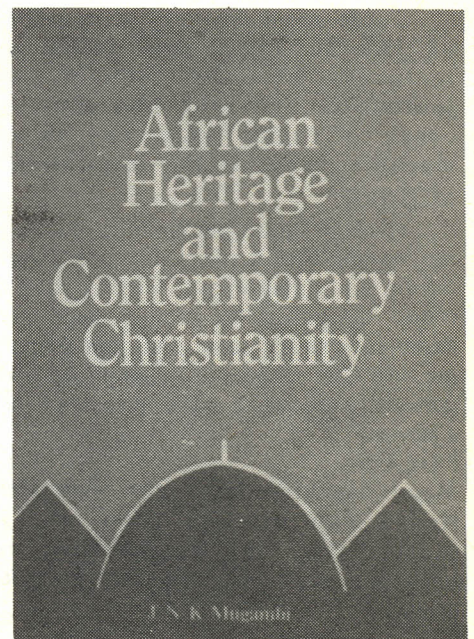
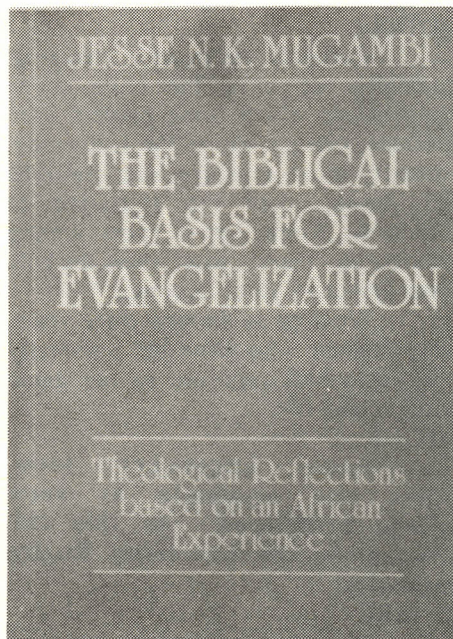
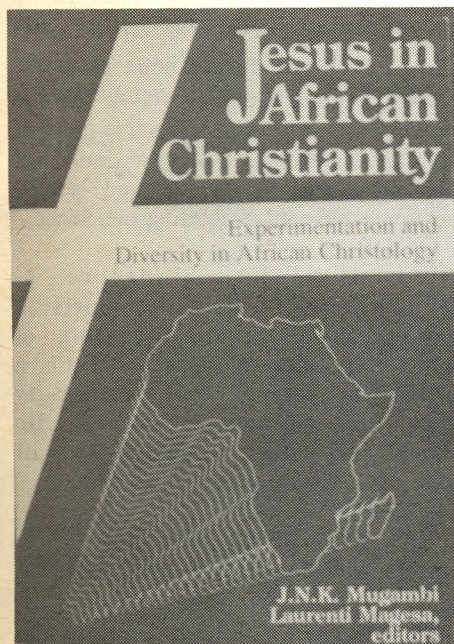


**Distinguished career on the wheels:** Mzee Magothe

properly he takes a deep personal interest in you".

Magothe recalls how one time he complained about his salary in a letter addressed to the Vice-Chancellor. To his amazement, the salary was adjusted. He told *Varsity Focus* that his love for work partly springs from his respect for the Vice-Chancellor, adding "he won't betray trust".

Not many drivers will be keen to take on Magothe Litho's work. He drives only around Nairobi. This means no allowance drivers get when they take students for trips. Allowance or no allowance, Mr. Magothe is an excellent worker for the university to treasure.



Christology is, in the final analysis, the most basic and central issue of Christian theology. The faith, the hope and the praxis of love that Christian theology attempts to explicate, and which Christians endeavour to witness to by their life, must have Christ as their foundation and goal. Without Jesus Christ as this cornerstone and final aim, nothing in Christology counts; nothing in theological thought is of any significance from the Christian point of View. In fact, to be precise, theology is not Christian at all when it does not offer Jesus Christ of Nazareth as the answer to the human quest, and as the answer to people who ask the reason for the hope that all Christians hold through faith.

This book is the first in a series of volumes exploring various aspects of contemporary African Christianity and promoting creative theological reflection amongst African scholars. The other volumes will focus on ecclesiology, missiology, homiletics, pastoral care and any other themes that will be identified as being of central importance for African Christians. The book has evolved from a symposium convened in March, 1989 in Nairobi, where the papers contained herein were first presented and discussed.

This book provides theological reasons and biblical references for Christian missionary involvement, with particular focus on contemporary Africa. It explores a wide range of aspects of Christian mission and offers suggestions on how best to conduct the process of evangelization without undermining people's cultures: The book will be useful to pastors, teachers and college tutors of Religious Education, undergraduates in Philosophy and Religious Studies, students and trainees in theological colleges and seminaries. At the international level, the book contributes to the continuing discussion on cross cultural evangelization.

This book responds to the widely expressed need amongst pastors, religious education teachers and tutors, for suggestions to help them discern effective and meaningful relationships between the African heritage and Christianity today. It will be useful as a textbook for teacher trainees at all levels and also for those undergoing pastoral training. Serving teachers, pastors and social workers will find many suggestions to follow up their teaching, preaching and counselling. The book will also be useful for the general undergraduate course on culture and development studies in Kenya's universities. At the international level, the book invites scholars to appreciate the cultural context within which Christianity has been introduced and continues to thrive in Africa.

Price: KShs.100.00



After nearly a decade of missed chances, mean machine RFC bounced back on the national Rugby scene in grand style and promises to shape the future of the sport in Kenya.

## FOCUS:

It must be very demanding of you to fulfil your duties as lecturer at the school of journalism and still find time to coach a rugby team like mean machine. What is the inspiration.

## MUTERE:

It is quite demanding, but you see, having been a mean machine player during my college days, I feel I have a moral obligation to plough back my experience to the same club that trained me. In this respect it is inspiring and personally rewarding and so it ceases to be a burden.

## FOCUS:

Mean Machine last year won the Kenya cup after a spell of 11 years. Why did it take then so long and what was the secret this time

## MUTERE:

Last season we were lucky in two areas. First, we had a crop of players who had had exposure to club rugby during their high school. We used these players as the backbone of the entire team. Secondly, as opposed to the past where polarization among players, and internal squabbles were the order of the day, we moved swiftly to quash all these and built a team whose devotion and loyalty was to nothing but pursuit of sporting excellence.

## FOCUS:

In the past, several students have complained that mean machine rugby club is patronised by a clique of players who came from certain high schools and exhibit elitist tendencies. Are these allegations genuine.

## MUTERE:

The complaint to a great extent has been genuine. But the situation arose not by design but through historical accidents. Very few schools had rugby as a sport in their extra-curriculum. Naturally, students who came from schools where it was played found it easier to identify with mean machine more than other. Students who came from Lenana and Nairobi School were better placed. But the problem is not confined to University alone. Nationally, Rugby as a sport has been so elitist and heavily urban biased.

## FOCUS:

Is the trend likely to change and in what specific ways.

## MUTERE:

Certainly the trend is changing. Currently we have the coke seven competitions which bring players from different colleges within the University. Secondly mean machine and mwamba RFC have taken the initiative to popularise Rugby as a sport among schools - up-country, from where the bulk of our university students come.

We hope in the next three years, every student who joins the university must have had exposure to the game during school life.

## FOCUS:

Some observers view sports and academia as very strange bedfellows. Is this the view among the University Rugby fraternity.

## MUTERE:

Sports and academia are mutually supportive. Where proper organisation and personal discipline is established then the two are highly complimentary. High personnel discipline is crucial because both sports and academia demand great concentration for excellence to be realised.

University of Nairobi in the past developed a strong and heavily biased academic tradition vis-a-vis games and sports.

## FOCUS:

Has the tradition changed and in what specific ways.

## MUTERE:

The games department has been expanded both qualitatively and quantitatively. Facilities have increased, and we have highly qualified staff - graduates from Kenyatta University.

Officially, the administration currently views games as an integral part of the academic aspect of the University. The Vice-Chancellor when addressing last year's freshers devoted a great deal of his speech to the need for students to engage more in morally and socially desirable extra-curricula activities. The creation of inter-university games is an important step in the recognition of the role of sports in University education.

## FOCUS:

In what other specific ways should the University promote games among students than it currently does.

## MUTERE:

There is need to schedule our

academic programmes with greater sensitivity to student games requirements. It should be possible, for instance, to accommodate players within the

University even during none academic period, especially when representing a university team. There is need to generate special incentives to sportsmen and women such as prizes and proper acknowledgement of sporting excellence.

## FOCUS:

A major hindrance to students involvement in sports at college level is the question of what next after college! This is a question which the university may not adequately solve. Do you see any possibility of external assistance.

## MUTERE:

Most of our star rugby players have faced that difficulty. What do you do with it once you've finished college? The private sector should support our sportsmen because ultimately they end up working for them.

A closer link between varsity and industry not only in the field of research but in sports would help brighten the future of our sportsmen. Private sector should be encouraged to take practical interests in their future employees much earlier. Barclays Bank and Kenya Commercial Bank, for instance, have tried to absorb former players. This gave hope of guaranteed employment more companies should join them. Otherwise currently the job market militates against sports at college level. When the private sector recognises this dimension of their future employees then we will be on a positive trend.

## FOCUS:

Do you think it would make any difference in the performance of our teams if they were coached by lecturers rather than outsiders hired specifically for that.

## MUTERE:

My experience is that students identify a lot more with a coach who is a lecturer than an outsider who is merely hired to train. Besides that Interaction creates more understanding between staff and students. I know of several lecturers who were good in many games and sports, who could double up as coaches, but who have hanged up their boots. It is difficult to coach and teach, but with one or two incentives, a few lectures might come up.