



# Varsity Focus

A Newsletter from the Office of the Vice-Chancellor

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University of Nairobi

JULY, 1988



**The Chancellor of the University of Nairobi, President Daniel arap Moi officially opens Kabete Sports Complex.**

## INSIDE

- Christian Union thanks President ..... 2
- Minister Nyaga at Varsity Tree Planting Day ..... 3
- Trust Fund donates Mini-bus ..... 5
- Focus on launching of Varsity Press ..... 12
- Vice-Chancellor closes Diplomacy Seminar ..... 21



# From the Vice-Chancellor's Desk



*Prof. P.M. Mbithi.*

As we begin the new academic year, I would like to welcome all students and staff while wishing them a successful 1988/89 academic year.

This academic year, as approved by Senate and outlined in the schedule of dates for the implementation of the double intake, runs from 27--6-88 up to 24-6-89. The year begins at a time when the students from most of the colleges of the University are well represented in the University through College Students Associations. The elections of officials to run these student organizations were finalised during the last term of the 1987/88 academic year for College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences, College of Biological and Physical Sciences, College of Humanities and Social Sciences and college of Health Sciences and we look forward to yet another successful year.

Following the recent admission exercise, the University of Nairobi expects to receive some 2890 students in September this year. The University Senate has already made adequate arrangements for the provision of the necessary academic facilities following the enlarged intake. The University also expects to receive additional facilities from the Government, over and above the usual budgetary allocations.

We have already made arrangements for the Faculty of Commerce to be transferred to the former Kenya Institute of Administration while the Faculty of Law will move to the former Government Secretariat College following the Government decision that these facilities be taken over by the University of Nairobi to enable us admit the additional students. The College of Adult and Distance Education will initiate a Bachelor of Education (Arts) programme during this academic year. Right now, arrangements are being made for the completion of the necessary physical facilities and the provision of all other resources before September when the students will join the University at the Kikuyu Campus.

With the the above new physical facilities, and the commitment from the members of the University Community, the University of Nairobi is well placed to meet the challenges of the new academic year while preparing for the introduction of the 8-4-4 education programme at the University in 1990. I would like therefore to appeal for more dedication, tolerance and hard work as we grapple to make the University of Nairobi a source of pride to us all and to our Nation.

Once again, I wish you a successful 1988/89 Academic Year.

**PHILIP M. MBITHI**  
**VICE-CHANCELLOR**  
**AND**  
**PROFESSOR OF SOCIOLOGY**



# President Opens Kabete Sports Complex

The recent visit by His Excellency, President Daniel arap Moi to the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences, marked a turning-point in the history of the College. Apart from officially opening the Kabete Campus Sports Complex, the President, who is also the Chancellor of the University of Nairobi, directed that Nyayo buses extend their services to the College. Thus ended one of the most Persistent problems that staff and students of the campus have had to live with for a long time. And in what has come to characterize his style of leadership, the Chancellor responded to the students' plea for a place to worship by promising to preside over a mammoth fund-raising meeting to collect funds to build a chapel at the campus.

During the occasion the President presented electronic Musical Instrument to Kabete Campus Choir and stressed the need for African youth to rediscover themselves and the values that sustained their ancestors in an effort to rid themselves of misguided ideologies from other societies. He pointed out that foreign ideology had remained the single most serious detriment in the Social and intellectual development of the African people adding that time has come for them to rethink about themselves.

He called upon Africans to rethink and try to avoid fighting one another because of ideological differences imposed by foreign Powers who showed no hostility among themselves.

The ground on which the Sports Complex is built was donated by the President two years ago. He said that he would ask the Kenya Army and the office of the Provincial Commissioner, Nairobi, to make a terrace on the western side of the field for spectators.

On research going on at the College, the President congratulated staff for the breakthroughs so far registered noting that many Kenyans were now benefitting from such research findings.

During the occasion, the President was presented with various gifts including a carton full of *Maziwa Lala*, a young heifer and a computerized Camera donated by the Soka University of



*The Chancellor admiring gifts presented to him during the visit.*

Japan, which has signed an exchange agreement with the University of Nairobi.

Present during the occasion were the Vice-President and Minister for Home Affairs and National Heritage, Dr. J. Karanja, Minister for Education, Hon. Oloo Aringo, The Chairman of Council, Mr. Sagini, the Vice-Chancellor, Speaker of the National Assembly,

Hon. M. Keino, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Administration and Finance, Prof. S.O. Wandiga, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic, Prof. F.A. Mutere, the then Principal of the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences, Prof. S.O. Keya and staff and students of the College.

## Vice-Chancellor Thanks President

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Philip M. Mbithi, has said that plans are under way to make the college of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences a regional centre for higher staff training. In his address during the official opening of the Kabete Campus Sports Complex, Prof. P.M. Mbithi said that the college already runs 12 master of science programmes and seven more will be started soon. He said the college provides higher staff training for local research institutions such as KARI, KETRI and provides a sound academic base for other International Research Institutes in the country.

Prof. Mbithi thanked the Chancellor for his continued support and the frequent interactions he accords staff and students of the University. Said the Vice-Chancellor, "These have provided the staff and students with your fatherly advice which has greatly moti-

vated them as they continue with their academic pursuits."

The College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences houses a major national project in biotechnology research through which staff in the college and related fields are setting up the basics on which the country can exploit biotechnology techniques to develop new varieties of both food crops and cash crops.

Prof. P.M. Mbithi requested permission for significant Physical facilities at the University to be officially opened during this year as Kenyans celebrate ten years of Nyayo Era and twenty-five years since Independence. These include the Jomo Kenyatta Memorial Library, the Kabete Campus Library, the Loresho staff houses, Kabete Science Complex and the teaching and research Infrastructure at Kibwezi.



## Musical Equipments: Christian Union Thanks Moi

The Chairman of Christian Union, Kabete Campus, Mr. Nelson Githinji, has thanked the President for presenting musical instruments to the group. He assured the President, who is also the Chancellor of the University of Nairobi, that the Christian Union sincerely appreciate the gifts and that they will be used for the furtherance of the word of God both within and outside the campus. The chairman said that Kenya would continue to be blessed as long as our leadership continues to follow biblical principals.

Mr. Githinji appealed to the President to assist the college to put up a chapel where students can worship. He paid tribute to the President's wise leadership which has continued to safeguard freedom of worship and assured him of students support in all his endeavours to lead the country.

In his speech the chairman of Kabete Campus University Students Organisation (KCUSO), Mr. Maingi, thanked the President for visiting the college frequently saying the visits have been a source of encouragement to the students. He particularly thanked the Chancellor for initiating the construction of the Kabete Campus Sports Complex. Mr. Maingi informed the President that the students were making the best use of the complex and at the moment Kabete Campus soccer team was the best.

The Chairman also thanked the President for directing the public Universities to admit all students who had met University admission requirements. That, said Mr. Maingi, is a clear demonstration of the President's concern for the youth of this nation. He informed the Chancellor that in accordance with the recommendations of the Kareithi report, the students of Kabete campus had formed a college students organisation to handle students problems as stipulated in the constitution.

Saying that students of Kabete have been chosen by the International Association of Agriculture Students (IAAS) to host the 32nd congress, the chairman asked for the President's support so that the congress could succeed. Mr. Maingi requested Nyayo buses to



*The Christian Union Choir entertaining the President.*

extend their services to the college so that Kabete campus commu-

nity is not exposed to the dangers of walking to the bus terminus at night.

## Prof. Onyango Appointed 8:4:4 Co-ordinator

The Vice-Chancellor has appointed Prof. F.N. Onyango joint Co-ordinator of 8:4:4 Education at the University for a period of three years. Prof. Onyango, who has been Dean of the Faculty of Science for two terms, is a seasoned administrator and is Professor of Physics.

Since the establishment of the office

of the 8:4:4 Co-ordinating office, Prof. Abdulaziz has been the sole Co-ordinator. With the appointment of Prof. Onyango, it is expected that the Planning for the implementation of 8:4:4 Programme will be completed by 1990. The new joint Co-ordinator is expected to make an input from the point of view of Science and Science based Professions.

We wish Prof. Onyango every success in his new responsibilities.

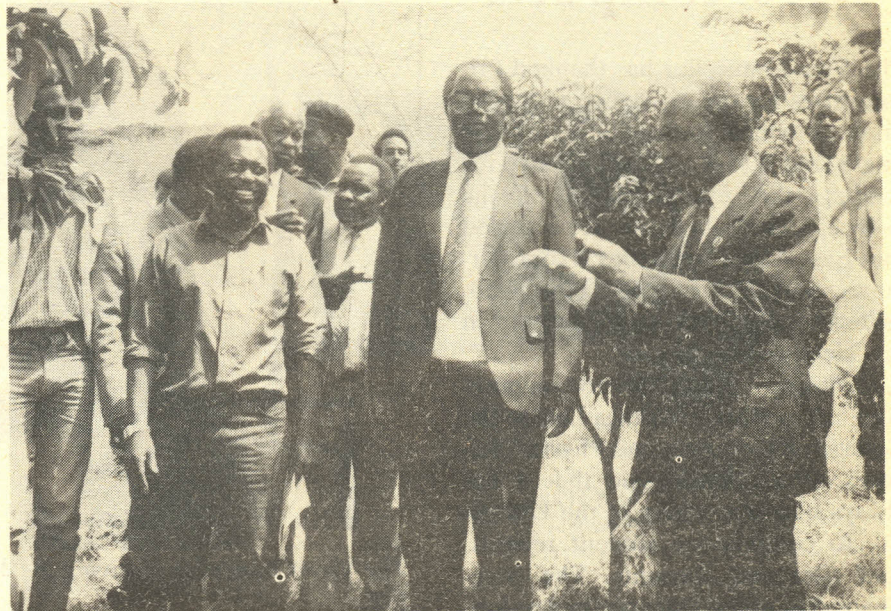


*Prof. F.N. Onyango.*

In future issues, Varsity Focus will carry a picture of Baby of the Month. For more information ring Ex. 2258 or 2263. A token prize will be given to the baby whose picture will be published.



# Minister at Varsity Tree Planting Day



*Minister J.J. Nyaga during the tree Planting Day.*

The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources has pledged to support the University in its efforts to develop the University Forest at Ngong. Speaking during this year's University tree-planting ceremony, the Minister for Environment and Natural Resources, Mr. J.J. Nyaga, said he was impressed by the work the University has done at the site so far.

The Minister said that the tendency to see the University as an Ivory Tower has gradually been eroded because of the University's involvement in national activities. Remarked the Minister, "University staff and students are today to be found in every part of Kenya either carrying out research or simply teaming up with wananchi in the every day tasks of nation building". He said that his Ministry will soon liaise with the Department of Crop Science to train forest officers on Modern tree planting methods.

Commenting on the need to conserve our environment for future generations, Hon. Nyaga said the main enemies to a stable environment are human energy needs and growing population. He said that the tree planting event was a sign of the University's

commitment to the President's call to conserve the environment. Saying that his Ministry is committed to raising the level of environmental awareness particularly of factors associated with environment degradation, Minister Nyaga pointed out that uncontrolled cutting of trees, over-growing and intensive farming are the main factors leading to the destruction of the environment. He

singled out the indiscriminate destruction of vegetation as the most important factor leading to desertification.

Hon. Nyaga, asked the Department of Forestry to involve University students in looking after Presidential tree sites located in different parts of the country. During the ceremony, the Minister planted an indigenous tree to mark this year's tree-planting week.

## Afforestation: Vice-Chancellor Gives Pledge

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. P.M. Mbithi, has expressed the University's Commitment to the national ideals and goals relating to afforestation and preservation of a viable environment. Welcoming the Hon. J.J. Nyaga, Minister for Environment and Natural Resources during this year's University tree planting ceremony at University Forest, Ngong, Prof. Mbithi said the University Community regards tree planting as an important national activity geared towards safeguarding the country's environment and natural resources.

The Vice-Chancellor said that as an academic institution, the University's involvement however goes beyond tree planting and includes research leading to discovery of new methods,

approaches and alternatives of conserving a stable environment. He said the Department of Botany is in the process of establishing a specialized protected plot of medical plants to make the forest a place where rare and valuable tree species can be conserved.

Since the Chancellor donated the 500 acres at Ngong in 1978, the University has secured by chain link progressively large areas of the forest to ensure faster growth of trees, established a tree nursery and planned on college basis the total development of the entire 500 acres so that the activities of each college are reflected within the forest.

Prof. Mbithi said that when the current development is completed, Uni-

versity Forest, Ngong will become a truly wet out station to complement the dryland farming station at Kibwezi. He thanked everybody who had been involved in running the forest especially the Ad-hoc committee headed by Prof. D.N. Mukunya.

Those present during the occasion included an assistant Minister for Environment and Natural Resources Hon. J. Kimemia, the Chairman of the University Council, Mr. L. Sagini, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry, Mr. S. Lesrima, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Administration and Finance, Prof. S.O. Wandiga, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic, Prof. F.A. Mutere, Mr. E. M'rabu, the Chief executive, PPCSA, Principals of colleges, academic staff and students.

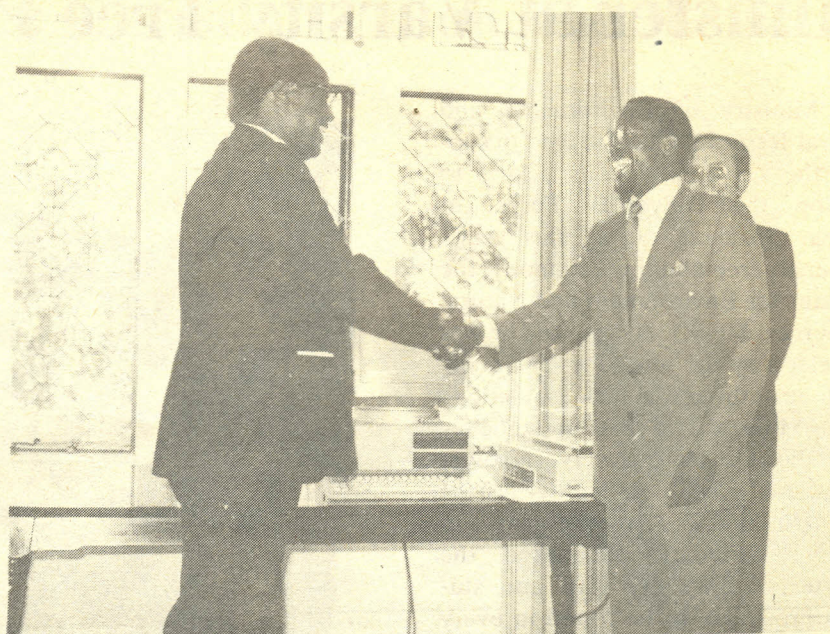


## Chiromo Gets Micro-computer

The Vice-Chancellor has thanked Private firms for the assistance they continue to extend to the University and singled out B.A.T., Kenya Limited for funding the establishment of the Nairobi University Press. He revealed that East Africa Industries is considering the possibility of funding the establishment of a Professorial position in the Faculty of Commerce.

Receiving a Micro-computer donated by BML Holdings Ltd. to the College of Biological and Physical Sciences, Prof. Mbithi said that it has always been the policy of the University to computerize student records, staff files and accounts. The Vice-Chancellor noted that even in developing countries Universities derive most of their financial support from the private sector and thanked Mr. Kombo, the executive Chairman of BML Holdings Limited, for responding positively to the request to furnish the college of Biological and Physical Sciences with a Micro-Computer.

The new computer worth K.Shs. 200,000, has the capacity for net-working and several key-boards from vari-



*The Vice-Chancellor receiving the Micro-computer from the Chairman of B.M.L. Ltd.*

ous sections of college can be attached to it.

In his remarks, Mr. Kombo said that the University needs every assistance particularly at this time when student enrolment has shot up. The Chairman observed that the second industrial revolution is taking place at the present time with society changing from an industrial to an information society. In

this revolution the Principal aspect is the massive infusion of computers in society. Mr. Kombo said information data base is a prerequisite for faster development.

The occasion was attended by the college Principal, Prof. Hyder, the Dean of the Faculty of Science, Prof. Munavu, Chairmen of Departments and staff from the college.

## College Link Programmes Swell

The Principal of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Professor Onesmus O. Mutungi, has said his college had 27 link programmes with other universities throughout the world.

Prof. Mutungi, who was receiving four Epson computers worth over K.Shs. 225,000 from Mr. Kent Smith of the Canadian High Commission in Nairobi, praised the link programme existing between the Geography Departments of McGill University, Canada and the University of Nairobi. The Principal described the link as "tangible" and "a living testimony" saying it had already produced fruitful results. He said the link had facilitated

the development of the teaching staff in the Department of Geography of the University of Nairobi.

Mr. Kent in his brief remarks observed that the Canadian Government would continue to encourage and expand link programmes between the University of Nairobi and to other Canadian Universities in addition to McGill University.

A beneficiary of the programme from McGill University, Professor Tom Meredith, congratulated Kenya's environmental protection policies and added that Kenya was ahead of many developing countries on environmental protection. Prof. Meredith praised president Daniel arap Moi, who he

described as the country's 'leading architect' on environmental protection and conservation. This, he said, had enabled the Canadian Government to make Kenya and indeed the University of Nairobi a priority for the computer donation.

The computers, which were funded by C.I.D.A., are to form 'a computer laboratory' to be used in teaching and research by both staff and post graduate students.

The occasion was also addressed by the Chairman of the Department of Geography, Dr. Elias Ayiamba and the project co-ordinator Prof. Francis Ojany.



# Uhuru Trust Fund Donates Mini Bus

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Philip Mbithi, has stressed on the importance of students visits to life projects in the field in an effort to improve their skills. The requirement, he said, puts workshop facilities, work placement and provision of tutelage among the items that make training in engineering special and expensive.

Receiving a Nissan Mini bus worth Shs. 454,245/- from Uhuru Trust Fund through their Chairman Sir Michael Blundell, Prof. Mbithi noted with appreciation that the donation came at a time when the university was in urgent need of extra physical facilities and equipment to cope up with the additional students poised to join the campus next september.

The Vice-Chancellor hailed Uhuru Trust Fund for the donation saying it had since its inception 24 years ago donated over Shs. 300,000/- and three vehicles to the university. The money, Prof. Mbithi explained, had greatly facilitated in the construction and improvement of various facilities and in purchasing vital equipment especially in the Faculty of Engineering.

The Chairman of Uhuru Trust Fund, Sir Michael Blundell, in his brief remarks, recalled that his trustee was formed in 1964 to celebrate Kenya's hard worn independence and support engineering students at the then Royal Technical College. Flanked by a member of the trustee, Mr. A. Anderson, Sir Blundell said Uhuru Trust Fund had since been steadily assisting the Faculty of Engineering despite its limited funds. He informed the Vice-Chancellor that his trustee gets its funds through donations from engineering firms in Nairobi.

The Vice-Chancellor expressed gratitude to the Treasury for waiving sales tax for the mini bus which he said shall greatly ease the transport situation at the faculty of engineering.

The occasion which was held at the college of Architecture and Engineering was attended by among others the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (academic) Prof. Festo Mutere, the College Princi-



*The Vice-Chancellor trying out the New-Mini-bus flanked by Sir Blundell.*

pal, Prof. F. J. Gichaga, the Dean of Faculty of Engineering, Prof. J. K.

Musuva and the University Transport Officer, Mrs. J. Mogere.

## Principal Opens Population Seminar

The Principal of the College of Adult and Distance Education (CADE), Mr. Peter Kinyanjui, recently appealed to family planning experts to put more emphasis on population education in an attempt to provide an understanding of the family situation.

He said population education could help in the development of rational and responsible attitudes in the community and the entire nation.

Opening a two-day seminar on 'Basic ethical values and moral practices in East Africa today' in Nairobi, Mr. Kinyanjui told the participants that 'it is population education rather than publicity and propaganda which works best in community based settings'. He told the seminar that population education had the greatest impact in a community with non-formal education.

The Principal further explained that it was the integrated approaches to the delivery of population education and related services that could work best and stressed that they should be seen as part of the national development prog-

ramme.

Mr. Kinyanjui added that effective family planning solutions could be sought within the context of social-cultural and economic environment of the people themselves. 'This calls for an understanding and respect for people as human beings with basic ethical and moral values and practices' he said.

The Principal urged the experts to explore and give recommendations to complex family planning issues such as ethical values and moral practices militant to family planning, whether or not contraceptives should be provided to school pupils and aspects of morality and ethics which could be taught in schools, colleges and universities.

The Seminar was jointly sponsored by the Philosophical Association of Kenya and the Association for Education and Development, representing professors of World Peace Academy. It was convened to discuss ethical and moral values and attitudes which affect family planning as a means of population control.



# Test-Tube Plants Coming Soon

By Prof. Kimani Waithaka—  
Dept. of Crop Science

Many people in this Country are familiar with the controversy of the test-tube babies but very few, if any, know about the origin of research by an indigenous Kenyan researcher, Prof. Kimani Waithaka to produce test-tube trees. Although test-tube trees and indeed test-tube plants in general are already a reality in many European Countries, the idea is still new in Kenya. But according to Prof. Waithaka of the Department of Crop Science who leads a research team in Plant Tissue Culture Biotechnology, it is not too long before Kenyans have home-bred test-tube trees. When the Project is fully operational, it will save the country the much-needed foreign exchange spent in buying some varieties of exotic Plants.

Tissue Culture is done by taking a small piece plant tissue and placing it in a test-tube with a Chemical Medium of Nutrients, hormones and other Chemicals. The Chemicals stimulate the growth of cells of the tissue and induce it to produce roots and a shoot. Within

a Short Period, a new plant has been produced within the Laboratory. The new plant produced in the test-tube will be an exact replica of the Parent Plant and all the tissue cultured from the plant will produce exact copies of the same Plant.

According to Prof. Waithaka, the technique can also be used to produce new crop varieties through mutations and can also be put into use to produce disease free-plants.

## Ongoing Research Projects

The Citrus Research Project which is funded by International Foundation for Science aims at producing Citrus tree from the Citrus greening disease. This disease is responsible for great reductions in yield, quality, vigour and longevity of *Citrus* in Kenya. Scientists elsewhere have reported successful use of *in vitro* ovule culture, nucellar culture and shoot-tip grafting in eliminating viral diseases of *Citrus*. We have successfully produced Citrus seedlings using these *in vitro* techniques on our local cultivars. We intend to test them

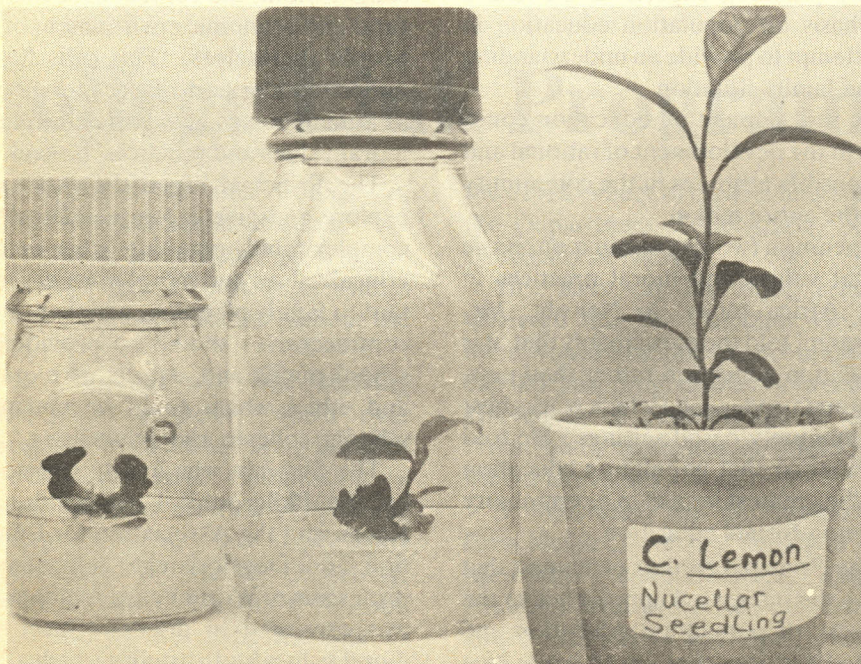
for uniformity and freedom from the greening disease," says Prof. Waithaka.

The Cassava Research Project (funded by the University of Nairobi Dean's Committee) aims at producing Cassava someclones resistant to Cassava Mosaic Virus from the susceptible cultivars. Somaclonal variability has been reported by various Scientists as a mean of producing plants resistant to various diseases. So far we have successfully initiated, maintained and organized cassava callus into roots. Presently we are investigating the possibility of producing complete Cassava plantlets either through direct shoot induction or through somatic embryogenesis. If successful the plants will be tested for resistance to the Cassava Mosaic Virus.

Other on going research projects involve *in vitro* rejuvenation and mass propagation of strawberry carnations and African Violet. The Tissue Culture Laboratory also trains Post-Graduate Students in various aspects of plant biotechnology.

The following are some of the projects going on in plant bio-technology.

- (1) The influence of low temperature treatment on dormancy release in *in vitro* regenerated strawberry plants.
- (2) *In Vitro* plant regeneration through somatic embryogenesis in sugar-cane.
- (3) *In Vitro* plant regeneration through somatic embryogenesis in cassava.
- (4) Distinction of *in vitro* produced nucellar and zygotic Citrus seedlings by means of electrophoresis.
- (5) "Somaclonal Variation of *in vitro* produced pyrethrum plants" for Ph.D. in Horticulture in the Department of Crop Science.



Test-tube Plants in the Plant Tissue Culture Laboratory.



# Deans' Committee Awards

The Deans' Committee continue to give grants to academic members of staff to enable them attend conferences and conduct research. According to records availed to *Varsity Focus*, the following people have been given grants to enable them conduct research and attend conferences.

Prof. P.N. Nyaga—Department of Veterinary Pathology and Microbiology, K.Shs. 37,806.00 to attend and present a paper entitled "Acquisition of Disinfectant Resistance in Escherichia Coli and other Bacteria Found in Poultry operations in Kenya" in Hong Kong.

Dr. M. Shamin—Department of Chemistry, K.Shs. 41,000.00 research grant to carry out research project on "An instrumental investigation of irregular magnetic field on Kenya Highways".

Dr. M.P. Tole—Department of Geology, K.Shs. 23,640/00 travel grant to attend and read a paper at the V.M. Goldschmidt Conference in Baltimore, Maryland, U.S.A.

Dr. S.M. Mbiuki—Department of Clinical Studies, K.Shs. 81,400/00 grant to conduct research on "General Anaesthesia in Donkey using Xylazine and Ketamine".

Prof. F.J. Gichaga—Principal, College of Architecture and Engineering, K.Shs. 49,780.00 grant to travel to University of Missouri—Rolla, U.S.A. to attend and read a paper on "Horizontal and Vertical Movements of Red Clay Highway Embankments at the Second International Conference on Case Histories in Geotechnical Engineering."

Dr. E.N. Waindi—Department of Zoology—K.Shs. 76,300.00 research grant to fund research on "Molecular Biology of Nile Perch Eggs".

Dr. I.O. Kibwage—Department of Pharmacy, K.Shs. 1,140.00 travel grant to attend and present a paper at the Annual Symposium of the Pharmaceutical Society of Kenya at Mombasa.

Dr. G.O. Kokwaro, Department of Pharmacy, K.Shs. 1,140.00 travel grant to attend and present a paper at the Annual Symposium of the Pharmaceutical Society of Kenya at

Mombasa.

Dr. J.W. Mwangi, Department of Pharmacy, K.Shs. 50,000.00 research grant to enable him finalise his Ph.D. Research Project.

Dr. G.C. Gitao—Department of Veterinary Pathology and Microbiology K.Shs. 113,200.00 grant to finance his Ph.D. research on "The Development of a Camel pox Vaccine"

Mr. Okech-Owiti—Department of Commercial Law, K.Shs. 32,468.00 travel grant to enable him travel to Rome, Italy to attend the Fourth International Congress on Law and Computers.

Dr. J.P.O. Wamukoya—Department of Clinical Studies, K.Shs. 74,562.90 research grant to carry out a research on "Toxic effects of the Plant (Ajugá Remota) to Calves, Pigs and Rabbits".

Miss E.W. Wanjohi—Department of Mathematics, K.Shs. 85,740.00 grant to conduct research on Kenya Manpower Systems.

Mr. P. Kungu—Department of Architecture, K.Shs. 6,570.00 to enable him attend a Symposium on "Architectural Education Policy and Cooperation" in Lagos, Nigeria.

Dr. G.E. Krhoda—Department of Geography, K.Shs. 42,717.00 travel grant to attend and present a paper at the 6th Congress of Water Resources at Ottawa, Canada.

Dr. H.S. Ubhi—Department of Mechanical Engineering K.Shs. 34,438.00 travel grant to attend and present a paper at the 6th World Conference on Titanium in Cannes, France.

Dr. J.R. Oluoch—Department of Medicine, K.Shs. 51,075.00 grant to enable him conduct research on "Sickle Cell Disease in Kenya".

Dr. J.B.C. Chek—Department of Biochemistry, K.Shs. 54,177.00 grant to carry out a research project on "Estimation of Fibrinogen and Products of its Degradation in Blood Plasma of Malaria Patient".

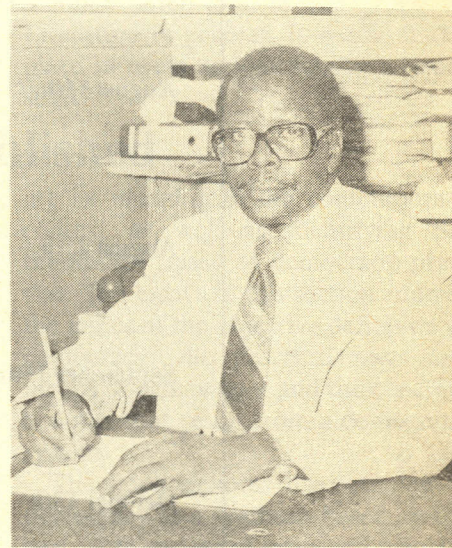
Dr. J.E.D. Rege—Department of Animal Production, K.Shs. 40,000.00 grant to fund research on "The

Relationship between Paramete Estimates of Milk yields, Growth and Reproductive performance with inbreeding in a closed Sahiwal Herd".

Dr. Francis Acholla—Department of Chemistry, K.Shs. 32,000.00 to cover cost for equipments and chemicals required in his ongoing research on "Lead Pollution Studies".

Dr. J. Bhattacharjee—Department of Veterinary Anatomy, K.Shs. 42,722.00 to cover costs of chemicals, glassware and equipment for his research on "Comparative Morphometric Study of the Retina of Some Deep-Sea Density and Visual Summation".

Prof. N.O. Bwibo—Principal, College of Health Sciences. K.Shs. 19,544.00 grant to enable him travel to New Delhi, India to attend and Present a paper entitled "Early Diagnosis, Prevention and Management of Jaundice" at the Inter-Regional Training for trainers on Prevention and Management of Birth Asphyxia in Developing Countries.



*Prof. Oduor-Okello has been appointed Ag. Principal of the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences taking over from Prof. S.O. Keya now Vice-Chancellor of Moi University.*



## RESEARCH ABSTRACT

# New Information, Technology and Quality Education in Kenya: The Potential and Problems of Computers in Schools

By **B.M. Makau**

Preliminary research findings on an NGO-funded secondary level computers in education project in Kenya are presented. The project, which has sought to introduce the computer as an educational technology in the study of existing school disciplines, is shown to have achieved a degree of success. Data are discussed to show that the computers are enhancing student learning as an active and individualised

process, as well as encouraging peer interaction. With regard to teacher education, use of the technology is reported to be resulting in the development of pedagogical constructs which place the student at the centre of the teaching-learning transaction. A Number of factors which are inhibiting the innovation are discussed, with the most important being identified as the existence of an authoritarian and hierarchical school system; learning within this system is shown to be domi-

nated by memorisation of facts dictated by the teacher. It is argued that a major outcome of the project should be widely-based moves, with or without computers, to make learning a natural process whose main objective is the development of problem-solving skills. In conclusion, it is recommended that, because the Kenya economy and educational institutions are increasingly acquiring computers, the Government planning process should fully take into account the new technology.

## PSR 1 Seminar Notice

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|-----------------------|---|
| <b>May 12th</b>       | Dr. J. Achwal, F.P.A.K., University of Nairobi,<br>"Current Trends of Surgical Contraception Practices in Kenya".   |
| <b>June 16th</b>      | Mr. B.E. Oduor-Otieno, Principal Economist,<br>Ministry of Labour.<br>"Population and Employment Planning in Kenya".  |
| <b>July 14th</b>      | E.N. Ngugi, Department of Community Health,<br>University of Nairobi.<br>"Effect of an AIDS Education Programme on Increasing Condom use in a Cohort of Nairobi Prostitutes". |
| <b>August 11th</b>    | Mr. E. Keyonzo, Pathfinder Fund,<br>University of Nairobi.<br>"An Evaluation of Population Policies in Kenya and the Implications for Planning."                              |
| <b>August 25th</b>    | Dr. G. Sunny, Economics Department, University of Nairobi.<br>"Is Population An Asset or a Liability".  |
| <b>September 15th</b> | Dr. R.A. Obudho, Geography Department, University of Nairobi.<br>"The Nature of Urban Demography in Kenya."   |
| <b>October 13th</b>   | Mr. J. Mwaniki, Director, C.B.S.<br>"Demographic Data Collection in Kenya. An Overview".  |
| <b>November 17th</b>  | Dr. E.H.O. Ayiemba, Geography Department, University of Nairobi.<br>"Implications of Population Growth on the Social Security System".  |
| <b>December 1st</b>   | Drs. Z. Muganzi/A.B.C. Ocholla-Ayayo.<br>PSRI, University of Nairobi.<br>"Marriage Patterns And Fertility Differentials in Kenya."  |



### A Fresh Look of Kikuyu Oral Literature

The Department of Literature, which championed the introduction of Oral Literature in the Secondary School Syllabus is, currently involved in ensuring that there are enough Oral Literature text-books for both the University and Secondary students. When Oral Literature was first introduced in Secondary Schools, critics argued that it was just a matter of time before it died a natural death due to shortage of reading materials. But the enthusiasm with which the Department argued the case for inclusion of Oral Literature in the Secondary School Syllabus is still being displayed resulting in publication of new text-books now and then.

The latest book on Oral Literature comes from scholars who have already made a mark on literacy circles. Wanjiku Mukabi Kabira and Prof. Karega Mutahi, both Lecturers at the University of Nairobi, have teamed up to come up with the 167-page book entitled "*Gikuyu Oral Literature*".

The new textbook looks at different genres of *Gikuyu Oral Literature* and analyses some literacy texts in order to show their relevance and functions in society. Each genre is treated individually and questions are put at the end of

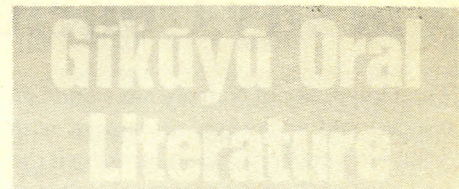
each section in order to test the students' understanding of the issues raised and also stimulate the students' critical faculties so that they can both enjoy the texts in the appendix as well as analyse them.

The book is the result of a research carried out mainly in three districts of Central Province, namely Kiambu, Murang'a and Nyeri. But the work is only a small fraction of the material collected by the authors.

The authors assert that Oral Literature can only be fully appreciated within its cultural context and performance. It is the cultural context that gives the audience the total picture of the implications of the Literature itself. During the performance, they add, the extra-linguistic features enhance the messages contained in the language used.

The two Lecturers are of the view that in the Kenya situation, the study of Oral Literature offers the students and researchers ample opportunities to understand the values of the different communities.

*Gikuyu Oral Literature*, which is a worthy contribution to the study of Oral Literature, will certainly appeal to



**Wanjiku Mukabi Kabira  
Karega wa Mutahi**



students of Literature and other scholars interested in the study of Literature in general. It should find a place in every serious scholar's book-shelf.

### Seminar Proceeding Now Published

Democratic Theory and Practice in Africa, is the outcome of a Workshop which was held by the Department of Government in June, 1988, at Naivasha. The theme, the Democratic Practice in Africa, from which the title of the book derives, was chosen by the Department to facilitate a clear reflection on the transformations that have occurred in Africa, especially since independence and to assess, in the process, the effect the said transformations have had on the practice of democracy in Africa. The seminar and consequent publication of the book was sponsored by Konrad Adenauer Foundation, one of the political foundations of West Germany.

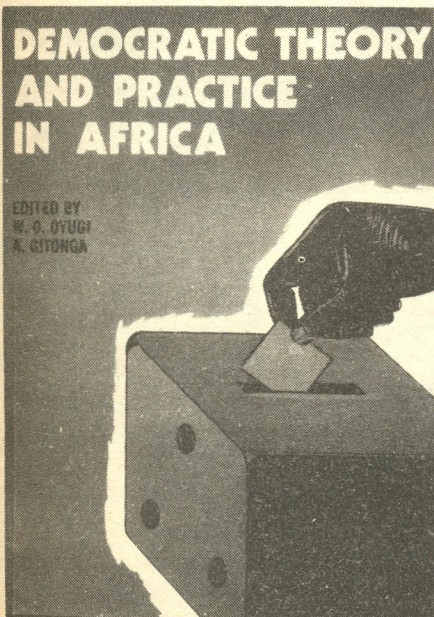
The 208 page book is divided into three parts. The first part deals with the conceptual and theoretical dimension of democracy. It is devoted to up-dating the concept with the aim of clarify-

ing its meaning in the contemporary context as well as identifying the theoretical bases of democratic practice. The essays in this section address the issues of the objective definition of democracy, the practical ways and means of achieving it and the concrete benefits that result from a democratic system.

The book denotes the meaning of democracy as a synthesis based on the very wide variety of proposed theories and practices. This definition seeks to give the core meaning and essence of the concept. It is argued that the core or quintessential meaning of democracy is "good, fair and just Government"

Part two of the book concerns itself with the formations on which a democratic system is or can be built. It seeks to identify the social, political as well as economic conditions and factors that

**Continued on page 11**





# Varsity Concludes Link with Soka University

The University of Nairobi has signed an educational exchange agreement with Soka University of Japan, making it the first such exchange agreement between a Kenyan University and a Japanese University. The agreement was signed on May 13th 1988 by the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Nairobi, Prof. Philip Mbithi at a function witnessed by Mr. Kazuichi Namura, then a Visiting Lecturer at the School of Journalism, Principals and Deans from the University of Nairobi.

The agreement provides for exchange of staff and students in addition to teaching and research materials. It will initially run for 3 years and may be renewed on mutual agreement.

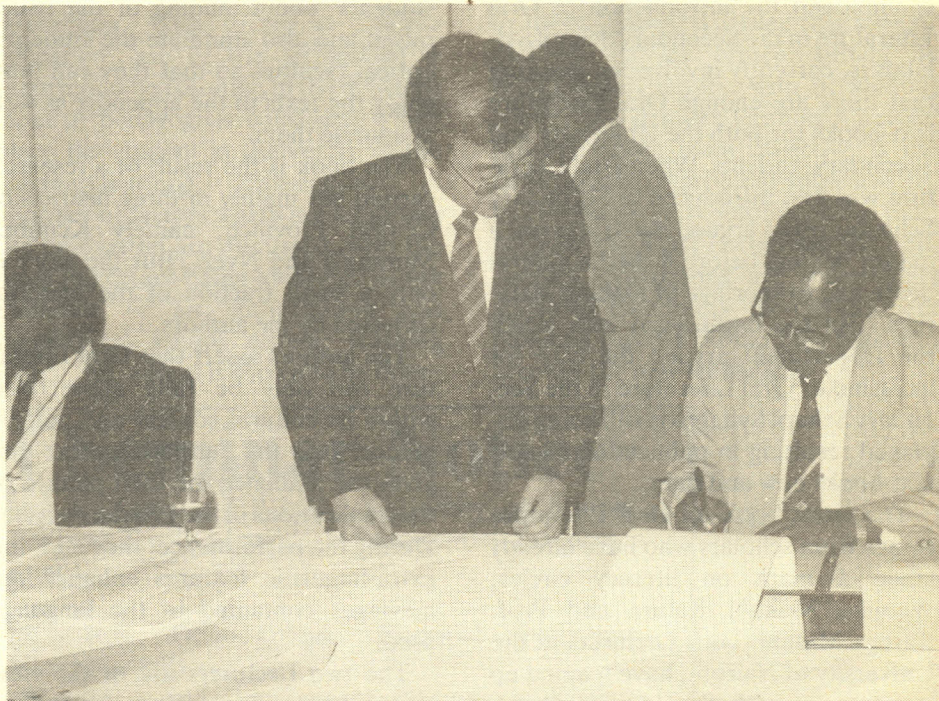
The agreement comes at a time when all the public universities in the country have been requested by the Government to admit most of those students who qualify for admission. The University of Nairobi has over 40 such links with other universities. The links are used to train university staff who are earmarked for substantive academic positions.

During the function, Prof. Mbithi said that the University values these exchange programmes as they ensure that the academic standards of the University are comparable with other international institutions of higher learning. He said that the University would identify suitable staff to be trained under the programme.

Prof. Mbithi emphasized that admission of the additional 1987 'A' level students as requested by the Government would not lead to the lowering of academic standards. He said that the standard would not be compromised.

During the function Mr. Namura presented Education and Culture Awards of Soka Gakkai Foundation to Prof. Shem Wandiga, Prof. Festo Mutere, Prof. Nimrod Bwibo and Dr. Joseph Mbindyo. Soka Gakkai Foundation has its headquarters in Japan and is dedicated to promotion of international peace and culture through education. They were awarded because of their contributions in the field of education.

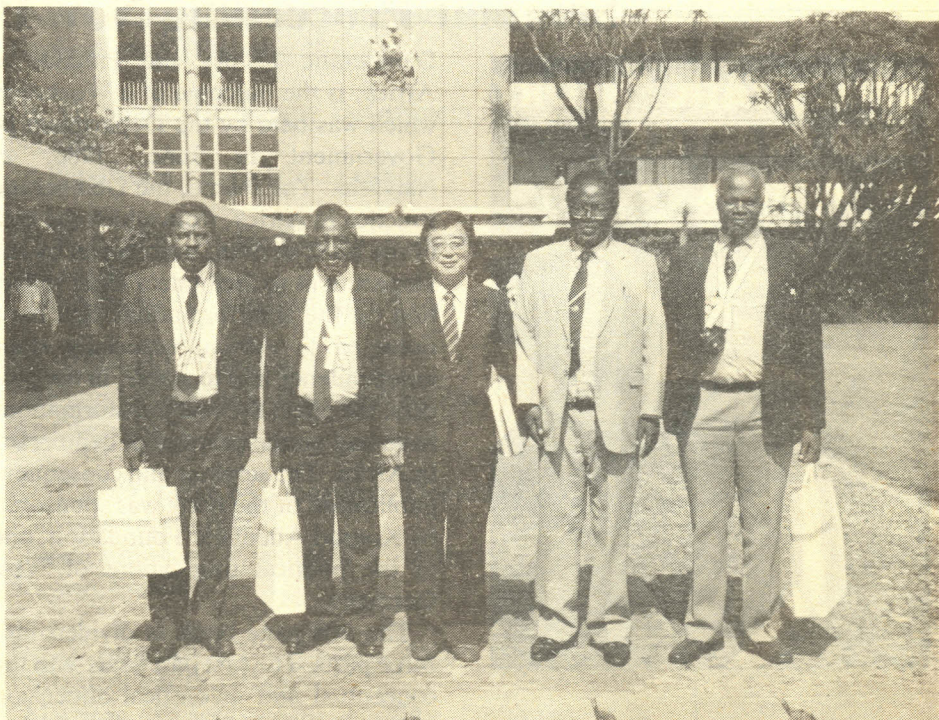
Mr. Namura, who is also a Managing



*The Vice-Chancellor Signs agreement linking Soka University and University of Nairobi. Looking on is Mr. K. Namura of Seikyo Press.*

Editor of Seikyo Press which publishes a daily newspaper with a circulation of 4.7 million, said that the exchange

agreement would enhance the educational and cultural ties between the people of Japan and Kenya.



*The recipients of the Soka Awards.*



# Vice-Chancellor: Family Planning is Voluntary

The success of any population activity is based on individual decisions of reproducing couples, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Philip Mbithi, has said. Such couples must make their decisions voluntarily and on the basis of sound information and education.

Prof. Mbithi, in an opening speech during the District Officers' Seminar on Population and Development held at a Nairobi Hotel, stressed that couples must have the freedom to debate on population matters with their peers and leaders. He called on District Officers to articulate Government policy on population to communities to enable them to make viable decisions.

The Vice-Chancellor, who is also the Chairman of the National Council for Population and Development (N.C.P.D.), informed the administrators that Kenya's population growth of 3.8 per cent per annum was among the highest in the world, saying the population rose from 19.5 million in 1984 to the current 22.5 million. He attributed the rapid population growth to the development and modernization

which the country had achieved in recent years.

The country's development, he said, had created a situation of declining mortality and rising fertility without changing people's desire for many children. 'Schooling, improved health care, better food supply, community development activities', he added, had led to significant declines in mortality and increased life expectancy.

Prof. Mbithi observed that infant mortality decreased from 119 deaths per thousand in 1969 to 92 deaths per one thousand in 1979. He said during the same period life expectancy moved from 49 to 53 years.

But the Vice-Chancellor lamented that 50 per cent of Kenya's population was below the age of 18 and noted that "such high dependancy ratio combined with a youthful population place an unprecedented pressure on our resources! This, he said, 'handicaps the Government's declared goals of rapid economic growth and raising the standard of living for the entire population'.

The Vice-Chancellor stressed that the Government policies on population growth were guided by the principles of safeguarding the freedom of individu-

als and producing couples to make fertility decisions voluntarily.

Professor Mbithi cautioned that any use of coercion in family planning was not allowed, saying 'all policy statements to date affirm a faith that the motivation for spacing and limiting births will come through the cumulative efforts of intensifying information and education, socio-economic development, improved family planning services and improved health care'.

The Vice-Chancellor praised President Daniel arap Moi who, he said, had remained 'the most assertive advocate of Kenya's family planning and population programmes' and urged all to join him .

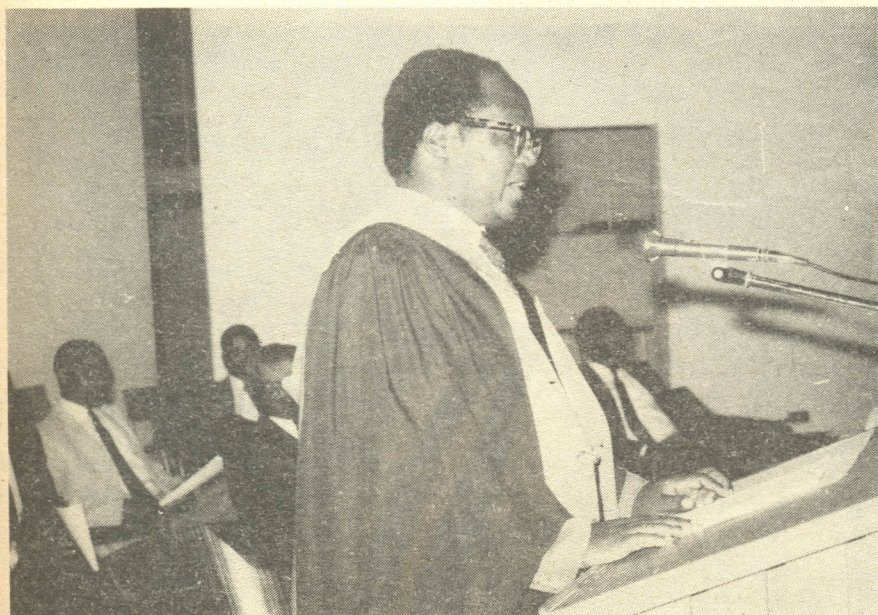
He said N.C.P.D. since its inception had financed and nurtured many population programmes among them; the traditional maternal child health and family planning programmes of the Ministry of Health, Family Planning Association of Kenya, the Protestant Churches' private clinics, information, education and communication programmes of over ten national N.G.O.'s and five key Ministries, community-based programmes and private sector family planning programmes.

The Vice-Chancellor reminded the District Officers that the high population growth rate 'seems to produce competitiveness and an ethic of survival for the fittest and inequality' and urged them to address themselves to the issues of isolating, supporting and expanding rural non-agricultural and petty trade as a matter of priority.

## Continued from page 9

make it possible and conducive for democracy to exist, survive and prosper. These conditions, the book says, include a healthy and prosperous economy, simple and open electrol rules and procedures and a political culture based on the values of equality; liberty and human dignity.

The book is a useful contribution to the continuation and integral part of that Universal and timeless tradition of observation, analysis and reflection which is the hallmark of intellectualism.



*The Vice-Chancellor opening the Family Planning Seminar.*



## Dr. Gecaga Congratulates Varsity Press

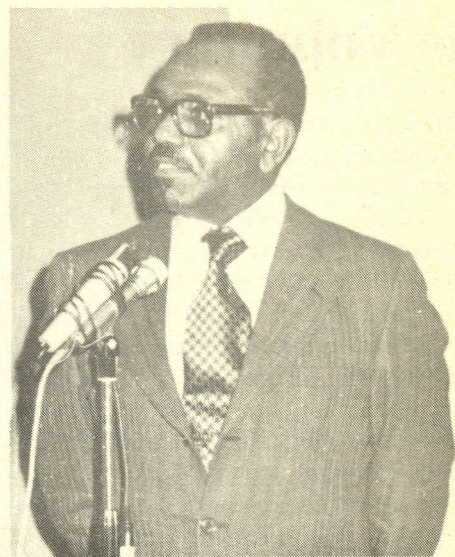
The Chairman of B.A.T., Dr. B. M. Gecaga, has hailed the decision of Nairobi University Press to publish academic books and scholarly journals aimed at University and College students. Noting that publishers have been reluctant to publish in those areas, Dr. Gecaga hoped that the lack of academic publications would be a thing of the past once Nairobi University Press is fully operational.

Launching the Nairobi University Press and its first title, Dr. Gecaga, who has served in the past as Chairman of the University Council, noted with appreciation that the K.Shs. 750,000/- donated by his firm in 1983 has been used judiciously. He appealed to other firms to assist the Press to enable it expand its publishing activities. The Chairman, who has been at the helm of one of the most successful firms, observed that with the increased student enrolment the market for publishers will expand considerably. Dr.

Gecaga said that one way of publishing profitably is through co-publishing.

On "Casebook on Kenya Customary Law", Dr. Gecaga congratulated the author for the effort he put to prepare the manuscript, saying it is compulsory reading for the Bar and Bench. He wished Nairobi University Press every success in the future publishing endeavours.

In his address during the occasion, Prof. F. A. Mutere, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), who is also the Chairman of the Editorial Committee of the Nairobi University Press, said that his Committee has approved the publication of a Swahili Medical Dictionary, an Introduction to Research Methodology and Hydatid Disease in Kenya. In addition, the Editorial Committee has started processing 45 units of the materials for external degree prepared by the College of Adult and Distance Education. Prof. Mutere assured the University Community that the



*Dr. B.M. Gecaga addressing guests.*

Press is now in full operation and has manuscripts at every stage of production.

## Dr. Cotran Comments on S.M. Otieno Saga

The launching ceremony of Nairobi University Press and its first title was a climax of a series of activities dating back to 1983 when the University decided to set up a press to engage in publication of academic books and scholarly journals. At that time, the thinking of the University was to establish a press that would enable the institution achieve its cherished goals of research, publishing and discovery of new frontiers of knowledge.

The launching ceremony was preceded by a public Lecture by Dr. Eugen Cotran, the author of "Casebook on Kenya Customary Law". In a thought provoking paper, read to an attentive audience at Taifa Hall, Dr. Cotran, an eminent Law Practitioner who had a five-year stint as High Court Judge, said judges have an important part to play in the development of Customary Law. He argued that the task should not be confined to the Law Reform Commission only.

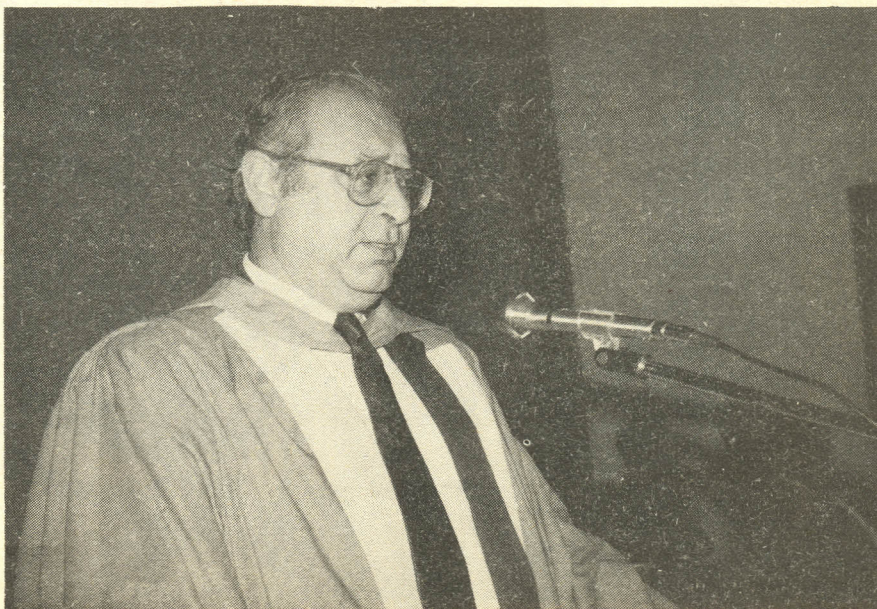
Commenting on the celebrated judgement on the S.M. Otieno case, Dr. Cotran observed that the case left

disturbing implications on Customary Law, saying the judgement neither considered the deceased wishes nor the position of his widow. He described the long drawn out burial saga as constituting the first time since independence

that the highest court in the land attempted to find the real place of Customary Law in the country's legal system.

Addressing guests who attended the

*Continue on page 13*



*Dr. Cotran delivering the Public Lecture.*



# Varsity Press Finally Comes of Age

The search for academic excellence at the University of Nairobi took an upturn with the launching of the Nairobi University Press and its first title, *Casebook on Kenya Customary Law*, by Dr. Eugene Cotran. Speaking during the launching ceremony, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Philip M. Mbithi, said that the launching of the Press and the first title is yet another milestone in the development of the University of Nairobi.

Saying that the mandate of the University is to engage in the Process of discovery and Preservation and transmission of knowledge, Prof. Mbithi said that there is no better way of doing that than through publishing, a task for which Nairobi University Press was established. He said the Press, which is the publishing arm of the University, was set up to publish text-books, academic books and scholarly journals.

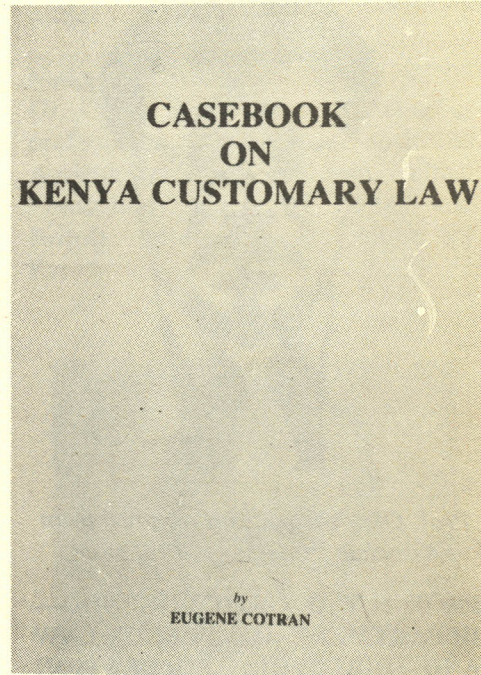
The Vice-Chancellor said the Press would strive to help academic staff to publish their works and live up to the University motto: "Publish or Perish". He noted that promotions and personal

development for academic staff in Universities depend on the ability to publish.

Prof. Mbithi thanked B.A.T. Kenya Limited for giving a grant which enabled the University start its own Press and appealed to other well-wishers to assist the Press publish more works. Prof. Mbithi, who has published extensively in Sociology, congratulated Dr. E. Cotran, the author of the title describing him as "a renown academic in his own right".

During his tenure as a Law teacher at the University of London, Dr. Cotran compiled a report on *Customary Criminal Offenses* and published the *Restatement of African Law* in 1969. The two works have continued to guide all Kenyan Courts in matters related to Customary Law. He served as Judge of the High Court of Kenya from 1979 to 1982.

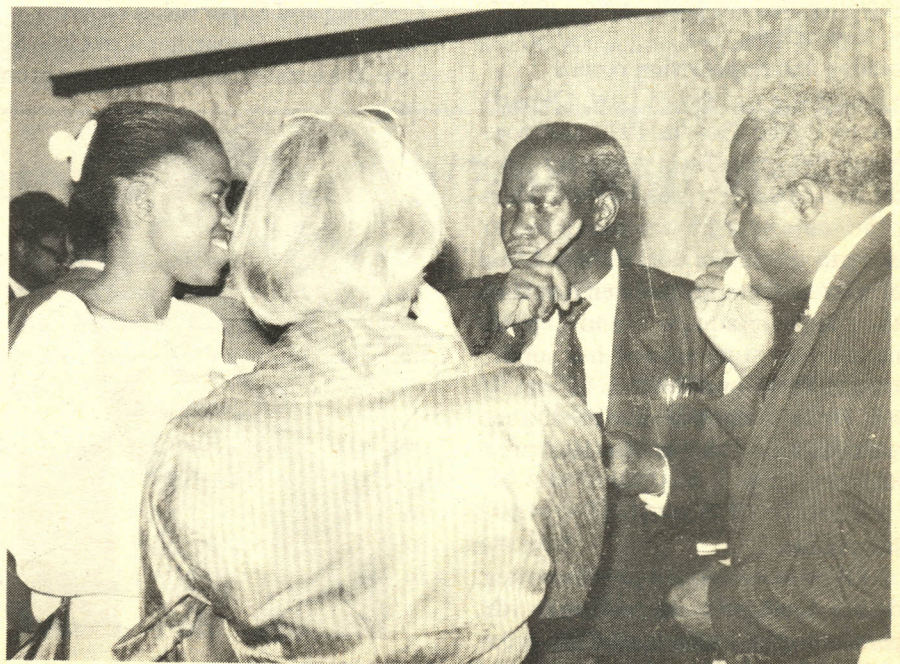
The Vice-Chancellor said the Nairobi University Press was happy to publish such an experienced lawyer and authoritative academic.



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launching ceremony later in the evening, Judge Cotran thanked the Nairobi University Press for accorded him the honour of being the author of its first title. He called upon the University community and publishers to support the Press.

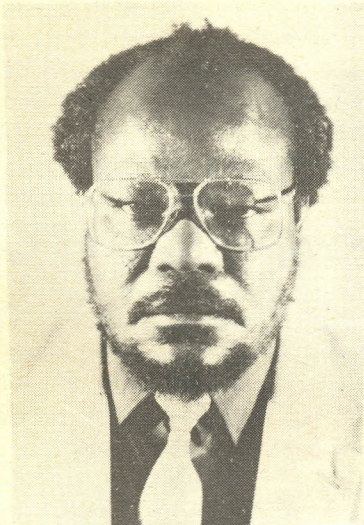
The launching ceremony was attended by judges of the High Court and Court of Appeal, the Chairman of B.A.T. Kenya Ltd., Dr. B.M. Gecaga, Chairman of University Council, Mr. L.S. Sagini, leading lawyers, Prof. F.A. Mutere, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic, Prof. S.O. Wandinga, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Administration and Finance, Bookshop Managers, Publishers and University Staff.



Guests who attended the Launching Ceremony.



# Professorial Appointments



*Prof. Okoth-Ogendo: Promoted from Associate Professor to Professor.*

**PROF. H.W.O. OKOTH-OGENDO—DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LAW AND DIRECTOR, POPULATION STUDIES AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

**Education Background:**

Prof. Okoth-Ogendo holds L.L.B. from the University of East Africa obtained in 1970, L.L.M. from Oxford University obtained in 1972 and Doctor of Science in Law from Yale University, Law School.

**Teaching and Supervision record**

He joined the Faculty of Law, Department of Public Law in 1970 and rose through the ranks from Assistant Lecturer to Senior Lecturer in 1984. During the same year he was promoted to Associate Professor of Public Law. Prof. Okoth-Ogendo has been teaching both under-graduate and post-graduate Law students and has supervised one Ph.D. and five L.L.M. candidates. He is at the moment the Director, Population Studies and Research Institute.

**Publications:**

Prof. Okoth-Ogendo is a prolific writer and has authored 48 authoritative papers, some of which have been published in International refereed journals. He has published four books and is working on three more.

**Current Research:**

Some of his research interest is in the fields of Agrarian Planning and Legislation, Constitutional Politics, Development Administration Law, Human Rights and the Law of Property in Land.

**National Activities:**

Prof. Okoth-Ogendo is a member of Commission for High Education, The National Council for Population and Development and Kenya National Academy of Sciences. He has served as External Examiner in Common Law and Roman Law Courses in the Universities of Dar-es-Salaam, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

**DR. K. WAIHAKA—DEPARTMENT OF CROP SCIENCE**

**Educational Background:**

Dr. Waihaka, 38, holds a B.A. (Biology and Chemistry) of the University of California obtained in 1971, and M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Wisconsin, Madison obtained in 1973 and 1976 respectively. He is a Horticulturalist by profession.

**Teaching and Supervision record:**

He joined the Department of Crop Science as Lecturer in 1978 and was prom-



*Dr. Waihaka: Promoted from Senior Lecturer to Associate Professor.*

oted to Senior Lecturer in 1980. Apart from teaching both undergraduate and postgraduate students, Dr. Waihaka has supervised 16 M.Sc. candidates and one Ph.D. candidate.

**Publications:**

Dr. Waihaka has an impressive publishing record and has to his credit published 32 scholarly papers with 18 of them appearing in peer refereed journals. He has also read papers in international conferences and seminars.

**National activities:**

Dr. Waihaka participates in advising small-scale farmers on fruit, vegetable and cut-flower production. He has done consultancy for the Ministry of Agriculture, Kerio Valley Development Authority and International Trade Centre. Dr. Waihaka is a member of Agricultural Society of Kenya, International Society for Horticultural Science, International Society for Plant Tissue Culture and American Society for Horticultural Science.

**Current Research:**

Dr. Waihaka has three current research projects, all in plant tissue and cell culture biotechnology which is funded by International Foundation for Science.

**DR. H.N.B. GOPALAN—DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY**

**Educational Background:**

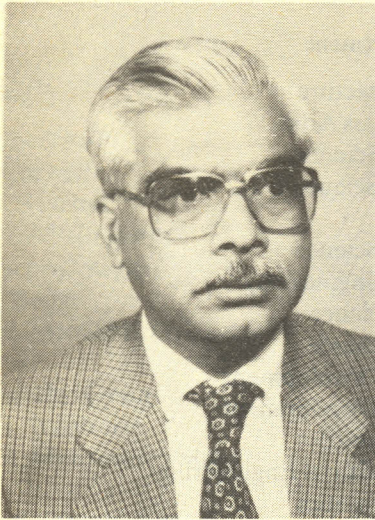
Dr. Gopalan, 45, holds B.Sc. and M.Sc. degrees from Mysore University and Ph.D. from the University of New Delhi, India.

**Teaching and Supervision Record:**

Since joining the Department of Botany in 1979 as Senior Lecturer, Dr. Gopalan has been teaching general genetics, evaluation, Molecular and Microbial Genetics and Biochemical regulation and genetics to both undergraduate and postgraduate students. He has taught in leading Universities in India, West Germany and Kenyatta University and has successfully super-



## ON THE MOVE



*Dr. Gopalan: Promoted from Senior Lecturer to Associate Professor.*

vised several M.Sc. and Ph.D. candidates.

### **Publications:**

Dr. Gopalan has jointly or individually authored 35 scholarly papers which have been published in refereed journals and read others in international conferences.

### **Current Research:**

He has three ongoing research projects on chemical Mutagens and Carcinogens, Regulation on Gene action and Molecular Mechanism of action of tumor promoters.

### **National Activities:**

Dr. Gopalan is a member of numerous professional associations in his area of specialisation and has served in University Committees at the then Kényatta University College and University of Nairobi.

### **DR. A.B. CARLES—DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL PRODUCTION**

### **Educational Background:**

Dr. Carles, 56, holds B.A. in Natural Sciences from Cambridge University, England, M.A. from University of Cantabery and Ph.D. from the University of Nairobi. He is a member of Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons.

### **Teaching and Supervision Record:**

Dr. Carles University career goes back to 1961 when he was a Lecturer in the Department of Animal Husbandry at the then Makerere University College. He joined the University of Nairobi as Lecturer in 1962 and promoted to Senior Lecturer in 1985. He has successfully supervised nine M.Sc. and four Ph.D. candidates.

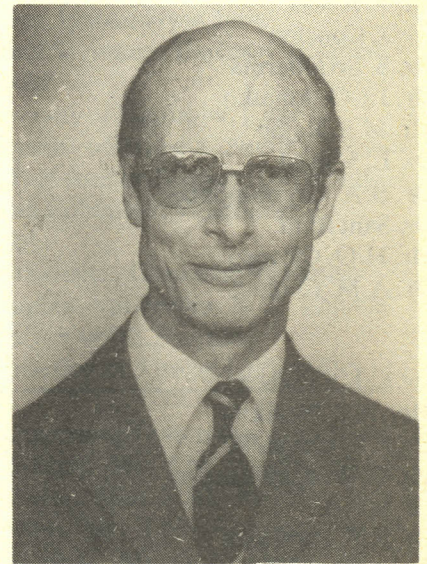
**Publications:** Dr. Carles, whose academic interest is in the fields of sheep and goat production, the performance of Animal Production and related fields, has authored 47 highly learned papers either individually or jointly that have been published in peer-refereed scholarly journals.

### **Current research:**

He has several ongoing research projects in sheep fertility, body composition of indigenous African sheep, milk production by indigenous goats and the chronology of incisor eruption in cattle.

### **National Activities:**

Dr. Carles is a member of numerous professional associations such as Agricultural Society of Kenya, Animal Production Society of Kenya and British Veterinary Association of Kenya.



*Dr. Carles: Promoted from Senior Lecturer to Associate Professor.*

## Study Leave Granted Between 10/2/88 and 10/6/88

**Dr. P.G. Kioy**—Senior Lecturer, Medical Physiology. One year's study leave from 5/9/88 to enable him study applied and Clinical Neurophysiology at the Institute of Neurological Sciences, Glasgow under the Commonwealth Medical Fellowship Scheme.

**Mr. S. Obukasia**—Assistant Lecturer, Department of Crop Science. Three years' study leave from 23.8.88 to enable him undertake a Ph.D. programme in Genetics at Pennsylvania State University.

**Mr. B.O. Odera**—Lecturer, Department of Mechanical Engineering. Four

month's study leave to enable him attend Machine Design and Manufacturing Method Course at Ibadan, Nigeria from 16th May upto 5th August, 1988.

**Mr. S.O. Akach**—Lecturer, Department of Urban and Regional Planning. Three and a half years' study leave from 6.6.88 to enable him undertake Ph.D. degree at Federal Republic of Germany.

**Mr. J.P.M. Mwangi**—Lecturer, Department of Civil Engineering. Three years' study leave from 12.9.88 to ena-

ble him undertake a Ph.D. programme in Civil Engineering at the University of California.

**Mr. S.K.M. Ndiritu**—Lecturer, Faculty of External Degree Studies. Four month's study leave from 1.4.88 to enable him undertake a short course on Distance Teaching at the University of London.

**Mr. D.N. Mungai**—Lecturer, Department of Geography. Fifteen months' study leave to enable him embark on a Ph.D. Studies both locally and at the University of Wageningen.



# STAFF MATTERS

## NEW APPOINTMENTS

Name	Post	Department
Dr. M. Naslas	Senior Lecturer	Architecture
Mr. P. Arap C. Kapsoot	Lecturer	Business Adm.
Mr. P.M. Njuho	Lecturer	Crop Science
Dr. A. W. Mwangombe	Lecturer	Crop Science
Mrs. P. Kurji	Lecturer	Crop Science
Mr. J.P.M. Mwangi	Lecturer	Civil Engineering
Dr. A. Rab	Lecturer	Soil Science
Dr. C.K.K. Gachene	Lecturer	Soil Science
Mr. M.A. Swazuri	Lecturer	Land Development
Mr. W.H. Olima	Lecturer	Land Development
Mr. J. Haruischfeger	Lecturer	Linguistics
Dr. P.G. Kaumbutho	Lecturer	Agricultural Engineering
Dr. M. Muzere	Lecturer	Mathematics
Dr. P.T. Vaz	Lecturer	Mathematics
Dr. J. Conclon	Lecturer	Mathematics
Dr. S. Sri Dharma	Lecturer	Mathematics
Dr. J.I.O. Jondiko	Lecturer	Chemistry
Mr. M.S. Rajab	Lecturer	Chemistry
Dr. L. Villard	Lecturer	Physics
Dr. B.A. Orfanoponlas	Lecturer	Physics
Dr. Sant Ram	Lecturer	Physics
Mr. H.O. Okonyo	Lecturer	Electrical Engineering
Dr. A.M. Chol	Lecturer	Electrical Engineering

## RE-APPOINTMENTS

Dr. C.L. Coulson	Senior Lecturer	Botany
Mrs. A.L.N. Akita	Senior Lecturer	Advanced Nursing
Dr. P.E. Coughlin	Senior Lecturer	Economics
Mr. G.W. Kamulegeya	Lecturer	Accounting
Dr. S. Lal	Lecturer	Public Law
Dr. R.P. De'Costa	Lecturer	Clinical Studies

## PROMOTIONS

Dr. G.N. Lule	Senior Lecturer	Medicine
Dr. A.M. Adam	Senior Lecturer	Medicine
Dr. J.R. Aluoch	Senior Lecturer	Medicine
Dr. A. Abate	Senior Lecturer	Animal Production
Dr. W. Oluoch-Kosura	Senior Lecturer	Agri. Economics
Dr. P.M. Kimani	Senior Lecturer	Crop Science
Dr. A.P. Tyagi	Senior Lecturer	Crop Science
Dr. T.I. Kamui	Senior Lecturer	Animal Physiology
Mrs. A.N. Guantai	Senior Lecturer	Pharmacy
Mr. J.O. Ogeto	Senior Lecturer	Pharmacy
Mr. C.O. Ondari	Senior Lecturer	Pharmacy
Dr. C.M. Kiamba	Senior Lecturer	Land Development
Mr. K. Arap Sinei	Lecturer	Biochemistry
Dr. J.N. Munene	Lecturer	Clinical Studies
Dr. P.M.F. Mbithi	Lecturer	Clinical Studies
Miss A.M. Muasya	Assistant Registrar	DVC, A & F
Miss E. Mbebe	Assistant Registrar	DVC, A & F
Mrs. B. Wanjala	Assistant Registrar	DVC, Academic
Mr. F.K. Araigua	Assistant Registrar	Faculty of Science
Miss M.S. Lugonzo	Assistant Registrar	College of B.P.S.
Mr. N.P. Onaya-Odeck	Assistant Registrar	College of H.S.S.
Mr. H.P. Ipu	Research Fellow	Institute of African Studies



# VISITORS TO VICE-CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE

## Visitors

Name	Date	Address
Michael Mills	6/4/1988	World Bank, Nairobi
N. Corwell	6/4/1988	World Bank, Nairobi
F.K. Gachui	6/4/1988	Project Implementation Unit
Z.M. M'Ringeera	6/4/1988	Project Implementation Unit
Eugene Cotran	20/4/1988	2 Paper Buildings Temple, London EC4
S.J. Segal	22/4/1988	Rockefeller Foundation
Prof. Donald E.U. Ekong	26/4/1988	Secretary-General, Association of African Universities, Accra—Ghana
Kazuichi Namura	11/5/1988	Managing Editor, The Seikyo Press
H.P. Williams	23/5/1988	British Council, Nairobi
Prof. Mohammed Musa	26/5/1988	Vice-Chancellor, University of Juba, Sudan
Dr. G. Tombe Lako	27/5/1988	Dean, College of Social & Economic Studies, University of Juba
Mr. Omar M.A. Sidding	26/5/1988	Second Secretary, Embassy of Sudan, Nairobi
Drummond H. Bowden	26/5/1988	University of Manitoba, Canada
Bruce D. Owen	21/6/1988	University of British Columbia, Canada
Prof. Robert Blair	21/6/1988	Dept. of Animal Science, University of British Columbia, Vancouver B.C., Canada
Michael D. Pitt	21/6/1988	Plant Science, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, B.C., Canada
J.M. Nazareth	23/6/1988	P.O. Box 40532, Nairobi
Prof. Donald E.U. Ekong	24/6/1988	Association of African Universities

## New Students Leadership Ushered In

Four Colleges have successfully conducted elections which have ushered in new student leadership as provided for under the rules and regulations governing the organisation, conduct and discipline of students of the University of Nairobi which were prepared by the University of Nairobi Senate in December, 1987.

The rules and regulations provide that there shall be established in each campus College of the University a student organisation whose objectives would be the promotion of the social and academic welfare of students of that College, the development and encouragement of worthy traditions on the Campus and the establishment of co-operation with such other students organisations within the University as may be recognised by the Senate and University Council.

In the College of Biological and Physical Sciences, the month-long campaign for leadership ended with the election of Mr. K.C. Chitala as Chairman, Mr. H.M. Kinyanjui, Secretary-General

and Mr. E.M.F. Rainji went in as Secretary for Academic Affairs.

Members of Students Representative Council of the new Students Organisation officially known as Organisation of Nairobi University Science Students (ONUSS) are Miss N.M. Swaleh, Mr. M.K. Abdullabhai, Mr. M.B. Dhidha, Mr. S.O. Owuor, Mr. D.O. Odero, Mr. C. Okadia and Mr. S.M. Mwaura.

The new students organisation in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences is known as Students Organisation of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (SOCHSS). The new office-bearers are Mr. N.W. Murila, Chairman, Mr. N.N. Wambugu, Secretary, Mr. S.K. Oboso, Treasurer and Mr. Y. Amoro, Secretary for Catering and Social Affairs.

Students of the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences have also formed an organisation referred to as Kabete Campus University Students Organisation (KCUSO). Mr. F.M. Maingi is the Chairman of the new organisation. Other members of the

Governing Committee are Mr. A.S.M. Kimani, Mr. J.M. Nduu, Mr. W.O. Bwire, Miss R.M. Maloba, Mr. B.J. Oloo, Mr. J.M. Wambua, Mr. S.W. Muriuki, Mr. R.A. Orina, Mr. D.E. Ethuro, Miss A. Nishu, Mr. K.R. Shimekha, Mr. E.N. Momanyi, Mr. P.W. Mulwa, Mr. B.C. Were, Mr. W.K. Wahome and Mr. G.N. Kariuki.

In the College of Health Sciences, the new Students Organisation known as College of Health Sciences Organisation is headed by Mr. G.C. Akeche, Chairman, Mr. A.I. Ali, Vice-Chairman, Mr. J.N. Muiru, Treasurer while the post of Secretary was captured by Mr. Chalo.

Meanwhile all the College Students Organisations have held detailed consultations with the Vice-Chancellor. In all these meetings, the Vice-Chancellor has urged the new officials to promote responsible student leadership. He asked them to ensure that they are in touch with all students to enable them solve their problems effectively. He said that students interests and their academic welfare are paramount in the University.



# Closer Look At District Focus Strategy

Kenyans of African origin, regardless of where they live for the large part of their lives, always return to the district where they have chosen to have their permanent homes. Kenyans of European and Asian origins, on the other hand, usually reside permanently in the more comfortable urban areas such as Nairobi, Mombasa and Kisumu.

In the 1984/88 Districts Development Plan the Government's stated policy identified several issues which needed to be addressed. Among these were:

'Ways in which Kenyans can be induced to exercise greater initiative in helping themselves through individual and collective efforts'.

'Means by which the costs of Government services can be shared more extensively and equitably with those who benefit'.

'Measures which will improve the utilisation of the nation's existing productive capacity in the form of land, labour and capital in both the public and private sectors'.

'Means for promoting foreign and domestic investments'.

Kenyans of African origin are only temporary urban dwellers. Therefore, of all development projects that are carried out in the country, the Kenyans of African origin are mostly interested in those that are carried out in their district. They are proud if their district is well-developed, or is developing rapidly; they are negatively humble and dejected if their district is lagging behind in development.

Using this principle, therefore, the Government could place the development of the districts partly in the hands of the people who have their permanent homes in those districts and leave the development of Nairobi area to the Government itself and the permanent dwellers of the city so as to quicken development in the districts and attract the attention of the temporary urban dwellers to the need for greater development in their districts.

The Government could, for instance, ask every Kenyan to contribute one-twentieth (five per cent) of his salary and/of business earnings to a

'District Community Development Fund' owned by the district people and run by the District Development Committee. The benefits from such an arrangement would be many and wide-ranging.

Let us, for example, take the District of S. Nyanza and try and illustrate what effect this arrangement may have. According to the 1984/88 District Development Plan it is 'estimated that in S. Nyanza District 75,000 people derive a substantial portion of their income from wage employment and that some 27,000 people derive their income from small business'. This gives a total of more than 100,000 income earners from the district. If the five per cent of each income earner is received by the DCDF each month and it is found that the average amount contributed per person is fifty shillings then this would mean that every month the DCDF received K.Shs. 5 million for development of the district.

Emphasis may initially be laid on income generating projects. For example, the S. Nyanza DCDF may decide to operate a bus company. The current cost of a 58 seater bus is about K.Shs. 2 million. If the DCDF raises K.Shs. 5 million every month then by the end of the year it would be operating about 25 buses, and by the end of two years it would be operating 50 buses.

The bus company would then be allowed to operate itself. It should buy more buses and build its own garage and bus station the size of the KBS or NYS-owned garages in Nairobi. The fleet of buses should be expanded to some 300 buses. By the end of such a project the bus company could be making profits to the tune of K.Shs. 50 million or more annually.

While the bus company is running itself the DCDF may meanwhile decide to build a community-owned primary teachers' training college and to expand the harambee-funded Moi Institute of Technology into a Moi Institute of Fisheries, Agriculture and Technology, serving secondary school leavers from the district mainly. For the primary teachers' college K.Shs. 20 million, collected in four months at the

rate of K.Shs. 5 million per month, will be enough. For the institute of technology some K.Shs. 100 million, collected in twenty months may be enough.

The community may decide that they need to have one village polytechnic in every sub-location to absorb students who do not fare well in the K.C.P.E. The cost of each may be approximately one million Kenya Shillings. S. Nyanza District has got 186 sub-locations, so the total cost of building the village polytechnics would be about K.Shs. 186 million, raised in about 38 months, or just more than three years. Emphasis in the village polytechnic studies would be placed on agriculture and horticulture; fishing, fishing boat construction and repair, repair of fishing nets; masonry, woodwork, mechanics and metalwork.

By beginning with the teachers' college, the institute of technology and the village polytechnics we are first preparing the places where the primary and secondary school leavers who do not qualify for secondary and University education, respectively will go after completion of their school studies. The next plan, therefore, could be to improve secondary school education in the district. South Nyanza District has got 46 locations, and the DCDF may decide to improve or build, if one does not exist, a harambee school in every location in the district. The DCDF may, for instance, decide to construct proper teachers' houses, dormitories, a dining hall and kitchen, laboratories, and to expand or improve the classrooms, at a total cost of K.Shs. 5 million per school. The total cost would be about K.Shs. 230 million, raised in 46 months, or just about four years. The schools so developed would be owned by the community via the DCDF. The remaining nineteen harambee schools (the district has sixty-five harambee schools) may be similarly improved within 19 months, or one and a half years.

Emphasis may now shift to the development of the primary schools. South Nyanza District has got 989 primary schools. Each primary school may need to construct better teachers'



## STUDENTS' CORNER

houses, classrooms, Home Science laboratories, workshops and lavatories. Since at the rate of K.Shs. 5 million per month the DCDF would be collecting K.Shs. 60 million per year, each school would get about K.Shs. 60,000 every year for the required developments. This may be done for five years, after which the bus company would take over further development of the primary schools using its profits, while the DCDF shifts its thrust to 'health for all'. The DCDF may decide that there should be one health centre, each constructed at a cost of K.Shs. 500,000, in each of the 186 sub-location, at a total cost of about K.Shs. 93 million, raised in 19 months or one and a half years.

The decision for a small hospital, costing about K.Shs. 30 million shillings, to be constructed in each of the eight divisions may follow. The total cost would be about K.Shs. 240 million shillings, raised in four years.

The next move may be towards the eradication of cattle tick diseases, and the DCDF may decide to construct a cattle dip in each of the 186 sub-locations. The current cost of building a cattle dip is about K.Shs. 60,000. The total cost would therefore be less than K.Shs. 12 million, raised in three months. Next may be the decision to have a tractor (approximate current cost is K.Shs. 500,000) in every sub-location for a DCDF-run tractor-hire service aimed at increasing agricultural production within the district. The total cost would be about K.Shs. 93 million, raised in 19 months or one and a half years.

If a foreign investor is interested in putting up a manufacturing or processing plant in the district, and this investor is seeking a partner in the country, the DCDF could decide to act as the partner. If the joint-venture project requires the Kenyan partner to raise K.Shs. 200 million then the South Nyanza DCDF, with its monthly contribution of K.Shs. 5 million per month, could raise this amount in 40 months, or just less than three and a half years. For South Nyanza District such a joint-venture could be a fish-processing plant. The DCDF could, also, with help of the Kenya External Trade Agency, export fish for the local fishermen.

When the bus company has completed the development of the primary schools it may now use part of its profits to provide scholarships and partial financial aid to poorer students from the district who are studying in tertiary institutions of learning within the country.

Many other income-generating projects could also be funded by the South Nyanza DCDF: passenger boats, freight boats, rental houses in the urban centres, sports stadia in the urban centres, etc.

All this does not mean that the Government should withdraw altogether funds allocated for development in the districts; it should rather, lay emphasis on rural electrification, water development and the bitumenisation or construction of roads in the districts which require these services.

The Government could also aid the less fortunate districts, such as Turkana District, by initiating the process of development and formation of DCDF, for example, by introducing projects which will generate income rapidly and provide employment for the people of such districts.

With the smell of oil currently in the air, the Government could also offer the DCDF of each district, two per cent of the shares in the National Oil Corporation. With such an arrangement the Government would retain the power to appoint directors and employees and the DCDF would acquire the power to appoint the auditor. This would help in developing the districts uniformly.

Also, whenever the Government wants to privatize a parastatal it should offer shares (two per cent each) to the DCDF, rather than to individual citizens. No DCDF would be allowed to own more shares than the others. If it is two or one per cent then let it be so for all DCDFs.

The plans for development must not necessarily follow the order shown above, nor must they necessarily be undertaken one following the other. They can run concurrently, or as the DCDF for each district chooses. Since there are forty districts in the country there (could be as many as forty districts in the country there) could be as many as forty variations of the DCDF plan. The plans are presented as they are here—one following the other—only

to show with clarity the benefits that could be reaped by the formation of the DCDFs.

The benefits for the districts and the Government, reviewed, would be as follows:

Most projects in the country would be undertaken by the DCDFs hence the Government would borrow less from foreign countries. This would ease the high rate of borrowing by the Government from foreign lending institutions.

The DCDFs would generate many jobs for their respective districts, e.g. drivers, teachers, conductors, artisans, mechanics, nurses, doctors, accountants, architects, engineers etc.

The DCDFs may require that a larger portion of those employed in its projects be people from their districts of operation. Therefore, as more and more district people get employed, more and more contribute five per cent of their earnings to the DCDFs, and the DCDFs' account keeps on expanding. Income generating projects would also enhance further development. Preference in the allocation of jobs in the district may be given to those applicants who come from poor families. This will raise the standard of living of everyone in the district, and make it relatively more uniform. The indigenisation of the construction industry could be speeded up if the DCDFs demand that a majority of contractors for their projects come from their districts of operation.

The indigenisation of the general, manufacturing and processing industries could be speeded up if the DCDFs require that they be the Kenyan partner in all joint-venture undertaken in their districts of operation with foreign companies.

The contributors to the DCDF will be paid dividends commensurate with their monthly contributions if a joint-venture firm in which the DCDF is the Kenyan partner makes profits from its operations.

The rural to urban migration especially to Nairobi and Mombasa—will be curbed since there will be more jobs in the districts and the standard of life there will have improved.



The people of the districts will have themselves only to blame if their district lags behind in development.

Road accidents will be reduced if the DCDFs require that the community-run buses be run on strict timetables.

If the DCDFs invest in consumer commodities producing firms then they could effectively control the prices of consumer commodities, since their main interests would be with the people. A good example would be to imagine that the DCDFs owned 40% of the shares of EAI.

The DCDFs' contributions could be alternatives to the service charges which the Government wants to introduce on urban areas.

By taking part in joint-ventures DCDFs could become companies in their own rights.

The Government could work towards the limiting of aid from foreign countries to technical assistance.

The Government could be left to concentrate on industrial development, especially when oil revenues begin flowing in.

The Government will benefit in the form of revenues from taxes.

We will be defeating the efforts by foreigners to make Africa the battleground for their ideologies, for if the plan is implemented then will have found the better middleground between capitalists and communists ideologies: private enterprise without the philosophy of 'he who falls by the wayside must be left to die', for the poorer will be given preference in job allocations and larger scholarships and financial aid in tertiary institutions of learning; no nationalisation or collectivisation of property, but rather introduction of district community owned services which are not politicised.

The rate of industrial development within the country would increase since there would be more parties in the country willing to participate in joint-venture projects, and competition for such projects between the DCDFs will be stiff.

The people will actually see the fruits of their own efforts and may be more willing to participate in self-help projects. The benefits would be more direct and more visible for it is the

people who will have chosen the projects they want to be given preference.

Other parties, such as vehicle assembling plants, banks, etc. will benefit indirectly.

If the DCDFs are formed, all employers will be required to send the names of all employees and labourers to their districts of origin. Nobody will be exempted. He who earns ten shillings a day would be required to contribute fifty cents a day; he who earns one hundred thousand shillings per month would be required to contribute five thousand shillings per month.

### The DCDF: An Extension of the Concept

Instead of the DCDF demanding that the contractor come from its district of operation, it may form its own construction company to undertake all its projects. This construction company could compete with those owned by private individuals for national projects initiated by the Government, or by individual entrepreneurs. This would place the construction industry squarely on the hands of indigenous contractors, and it will enable the DCDF construction companies to grow through stiff competition, and may be to be able to export their services.

Since Nairobi is a temporary district for most Kenyans, and since it may get more than half the joint-venture projects, all DCDFs would be allowed to contribute one per cent each for joint-venture projects undertaken in Nairobi, and thus to own 39 per cent of the total shares, while the Nairobi DCDF would be allowed to own 16 per cent of the total shares. All DCDF construction companies would be allowed to compete for construction projects in Nairobi other than those undertaken by individual DCDFs. All DCDFs would be allowed to undertake projects in Nairobi and wherever else they may wish and be allowed to do so. Individual entrepreneurs, whatever their base district, must advertise their contracts country-wide.

Because each district would be having an institute of technology and village polytechnics there would be enough skilled personnel to operate the DCDF business.

Of course, projects which are carried out in a certain district by the Government or by individuals from anywhere in the country will not be subject to conditions mentioned above, such as 'jobs for the district people'. They can employ anybody from anywhere. Therefore the spirit of free enterprise will not be killed.

Some costs above may have been underestimated and some may have been overestimated, but the main idea is to give a general overview of the possible benefits of the DCDFs if they are formed.

For the joint-venture projects, the DCDFs may only demand that half the number of jobs go to the people of their district of operation. The rest of the jobs may go to any wananchi from anywhere within the country. The DCDFs may not demand for job quotas in joint-venture projects in Nairobi, neither may the construction company that wins the tender import workers from its home base. In these cases, everyone would be considered equally.

Mergers of DCDFs would be *strictly* forbidden! DCDFs could be allowed to form their own co-operative societies, encompassing all their business, but they may not own farming land since land is a very sensitive issue in Kenya. Only the institutes of agriculture and technology may be allowed to own such land.

The DCDFs could also be of help to the local music industry if they owned modern recording studios.

The DCDFs may decide not to directly undertake the long-spanning development of the primary schools, but to do this via the profits obtained from their business, e.g. buses, construction firms, real estate, industries, etc., while they themselves concentrate on the development of these business.

The profits from the DCDFs' business could be used as follows: 25 per cent declared as dividends, 25 per cent retained and 25 per cent used for development of the district of operation.

Owallah, W.O.  
University of Nairobi.



# Vice-Chancellor Closes Diplomacy Seminar

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Philip Mbithi, has said the University of Nairobi is committed to the development of diplomatic training through the proposed Institute of International Studies. The current Diplomacy training programme of the University of Nairobi, he said, is a co-operation venture between the University and Kenya's Foreign Ministry.

Closing a week-long seminar on 'Training of Third World Diplomats' at a Nairobi hotel, the Vice-Chancellor noted with satisfaction that the University of Nairobi has successfully trained 300 Diplomats from 20 countries of the continent since the inception of Diplomacy training in 1973. The trainees, he said, initially qualified for the award of a post-graduate Diploma in International Relations. Prof. Mbithi explained that 'a further course for a Master of Arts in International Relations was added in 1981'.

The Vice-Chancellor noted that 'with this development, the Diplomacy training programme is expected to engage in research, publication, documentation and consultancy'. Prof. Mbithi disclosed that plans to convert the Diplomacy training programme of the University of Nairobi into an Institute of International Studies are being finalised. 'We have now received very strong support from the Government of Kenya, Switzerland and more lately from Japanese Institutions', he said.

Professor Mbithi told the participants that the University Senate supports the Diplomacy training programme and the seminar because 'it believes that such gatherings would mould Diplomats and academics who would contribute effectively to the furtherance of international peace and understanding'.

He said the University has been keen to see that the Diplomacy training programme rises to greater heights in its quality of teaching, research and in the quantity of trainees produced annually.

The Vice-Chancellor reminded the Diplomats that they are national representatives within and outside the boundaries of their countries and urged



*Some of the Participants at the Diplomacy Seminar.*

them to reflect the image of their Governments and to silently fight for the interests of their nations. 'You are soldiers without guns', he said.

Prof. Mbithi further stressed that priority themes must receive serious coverage in the training of Diplomats in the Third World countries. Such themes, he suggested, should include bargaining and negotiations, macro-economic policies and practices, technological innovations and implications for all states, strategic studies not only in war but in food reserves, race-ethnic relations and national integration and conflict resolution.

The Vice-Chancellor cautioned that

the training of the Third World Diplomats should not ignore their peculiar historical and economic realities in a world where, he said, basic economic survival, political and military dependence co-exist with international co-operation.

The seminar, which was jointly sponsored by Kenya's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the United Nations Development Programme, attracted participants from Africa, Latin America, Asia and Europe. It was opened by the Hon. James Muliro, an Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation.

## Departments Get New Chairmen

The Vice-Chancellor has appointed Prof. J.N. Maina and Mr. J. Gecaga Chairmen of the Departments of Veterinary Anatomy and Civil Engineering respectively for a period of three years. Prof. Maina takes over from Prof. Oduor-Okello who has been appointed acting Principal of the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences while Mr. Gecaga is taking over from Prof. Onsongo who has ceased to be Chairman.

Mr. Kamau Karogi has also been appointed Chairman of the Department of Architecture for a period of three years.

The Vice-Chancellor has also renewed Dr. Kungu Kimani's Chairmanship in the Department of Medical Physiology for another three years.

Varsity Focus wishes the new Chairmen every success in running their Departments.



# Dr. Oucho Gets Top Continental Position

A senior lecturer at the Department of Population Studies, Dr. John O. Oucho, was recently elected to the post of Secretary-General of the Union For African Population Studies (U.A.P.S.). Dr. Oucho is to head the Pan African Professional body of demographers and population scientists with its headquarters in Darkar, Senegal for two years.

The union was created in 1984 to act as a forum where scholars, policy makers, planners and other population experts of the continent could exchange information on population development. The information available to the union would then be utilised to advice african governments in the area of population development.

Speaking to the 'Varsity Focus', Dr. Oucho stated that U.A.P.S. urges and provides funds to its members to undertake research especially on neglected areas crucial to Africa's policy makers. The union, he said, provides funds for the publication and dissemination of research extracts.

Dr. Oucho further revealed that the topics under research this year includes

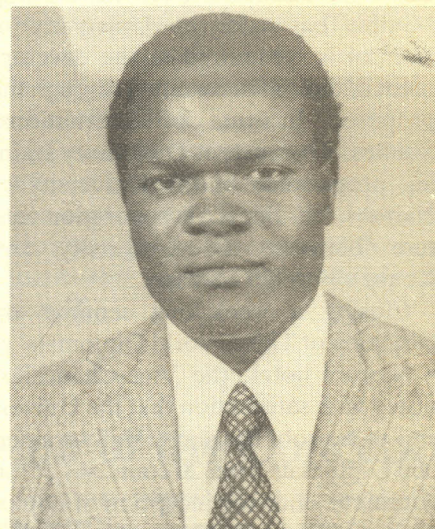
sub-fertility and sterility, efficiency of population policies in Africa, adolescent fertility in Africa and abortion in urban zones. The union, he noted, had allocated over \$ 40,000 for research on the topics.

The lecturer went on to say U.A.P.S. received its funds from international donor agencies among them Ford Foundation, C.I.D.A. and the Rockfellar Foundation with members paying \$ 25 annually.

Dr. Oucho however, lamented that most donor agencies tied their funds to conditions and policies that do not reflect the actual situation in Africa.

The union which has 300 registered members is to hold a symposium on family planning next October in Darkar, Senegal. The symposium would attempt to address itself to social-cultural environment where family planning operates, why family planning in Africa and legal and militant policy issues that affect family planning in the continent.

Dr. Oucho is also the current secretary of the Population Association of Kenya and a member of the Interna-

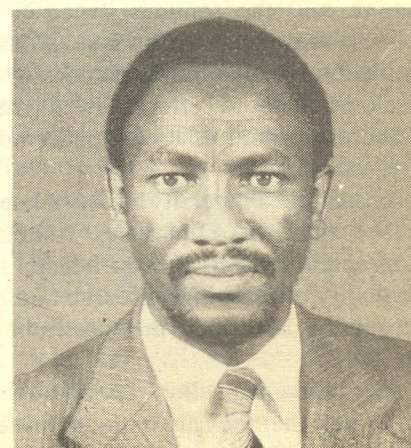


*Dr. J. O. Oucho.*

tional Union for the Scientific Study of Population. Population experts wishing to join U.A.P.S. can contact Dr. John O. Oucho, Institute of Population Studies, University of Nairobi, P.O. Box 30197, Nairobi—Tele. 334244. Extension 2031. Varsity Focus congratulates Dr. Oucho on his appointment and wish him success.

## Dr. Njeruh Now A Fellow

Dr. F.M. Njeruh, Lecturer in the Department of Public Health, Pharmacology and Toxicology has been elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene. He holds B.V.M., M.Sc. and is set to be conferred with a Ph.D. of the University of Nairobi this year.



*Dr. F. M. Njeruh.*

# Chemists To Form An Association

A chemical society of Kenya is to be formed soon to give Kenya's chemists a forum for discussion of chemical and professional matters.

In an open letter to chemists the Chairmen of the departments of chemistry in the Universities of Nairobi and Kenyatta, Dr. A.H.S. El-Busaidy and Professor H.M. Thairu, lamented that it was a great pity that the country has had no functioning chemical society for a long time.

The proposed chemical society, the letter says, would serve as a forum for interaction of the various chemists involved in academic and professional pursuits in the four national universities, research organisations, government laboratories, teaching profession and in industry.

The letter, copied to the four vice-chancellors of the public universities, noted that the chemical society could help in giving considered opinion on government policies concerning Kenya's industries, education, research, technology and environment. The society could also start a journal to facilitate the dissemination of chemical research findings, scientific knowledge and ideas that could be pertinent to the country and Africa as a whole.

Dr. El-Busaidy and Prof. Thairu called on chemists throughout the country to facilitate the formation of the proposed chemical society. A proposed consultative meeting had been scheduled to be held at the University of Nairobi Chemistry Department in May to elect a steering committee.



# The Late Philip Kisaka: An appreciation

There is a saying that a long journey starts with the first step. So when Philip Kisaka came to the world on 29th October, 1954, he began his 35 year long journey which sadly ended on 23rd May, 1988.

At 9.15 p.m. instant, the clock stopped thus marking the end of the late Kisaka's chequered life.

His death was as dramatic as the things he accomplished during his short life on earth. Kisaka taught at Mother of Apostles Seminary, Eldoret, Lectured at Mosoriot Teachers College and worked as an assistant Municipal Education Officer at Eldoret Municipality.

When he joined University service in December, 1987, little did he know that his star was on the rise. His performance as a senior Administrative Assistant at the Institute of Development Studies, in the words of Prof. S.O. Wandiga, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Administration and Finance "was outstanding". It was no wonder that six months later he was promoted to the level of Assistant Registrar in the office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Administration and Finance. His new duties were mainly legal matters which called for a lot of concentration. Said Prof. Wandiga, "Although the late Kisaka was a teacher by training, he performed his new legal duties with distinction and was an officer of high integrity".

For purposes of collecting funds towards maintenance and education expenses for the late Kisaka's six Children, all aged below 12 years, the family has opened a joint Savings Account No. 9:797/1 with Barclays Bank, Eldoret which reads in the deceased first two daughters: Damaris/Christine Kisaka. And as a sign of solidarity with the bereaved family, Prof. Wandiga presented a cheque of K.Shs. 22,000 from the University community towards the education of the late Kisaka's children.

We are all headed for the same destination. The late Kisaka is already there

and next it may be you. May God rest his soul in Eternity.

In his message of Condolences to the bereaved family, the Vice-Chancellor described the deceased as a friendly and social person who displayed a high degree of responsibility and commitment to his duties.

The late Mr. Kisaka joined University service on 29th December, 1986, initially as a Senior Administrative Assistant in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. He was later promoted to an Assistant Registrar in July, 1987 and posted to the Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Administration and Finance.

Meanwhile, we regret to report the death of the late Mr. Lawrence Mbugua who was an Animal attendant in the Department of Animal Production, College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences. The late Mr. Mbugua joined University services in April, 1965 when he was appointed an Animal attendant in the Department. The deceased was involved in student Practicals and demonstrations.

The late Mbugua was described by the Vice-Chancellor in his message of condolences as a conscientious and thorough worker.

At this time of sorrow, we join the bereaved families of the late Mr. Kisaka and Mr. Mbugua in praying to God to rest their souls in eternity.

## DAAD Scholarships

DAAD, one of the biggest donor of Postgraduate Scholarships to the University, has given 40 Postgraduate Scholarships to be utilised during 1988/89 academic year. The bulk of the Scholarships will be allocated to students on Staff Development Programme to strengthen the basis on which the University can recruit academic members of staff. Ten of the Scholarships are ear-marked for Ph.D. students.

Over the years, DAAD has continued to assist the University of Nairobi to increase its postgraduate intake. Last year it gave a similar number of Scholarships to the University. Unlike in the past, all the 40 Scholarships will be given to Kenyans.

## Mrs. Atito Thanks Varsity Community

Mrs. H.A. Atito, the wife of late Mr. Atito, has thanked the University Community for assisting the family to organise the funeral of the deceased. In a vote of thanks conveyed to the Vice-Chancellor, Mrs. Atito thanked everybody who in one way or another assisted in organising the funeral of her late husband. She particularly thanked the University administration for providing a coffin and transport to take the body home.

The late Mr. Atito was a Senior Microcomputer Operator in the Institute of Computer Science. He passed

away on 9th April, 1988 after a short illness. In his message of condolences, the Vice-Chancellor described the late Mr. Atito as a conscientious, dedicated and friendly worker who would be missed by the entire University Community. Prof. Mbithi prayed to God to comfort the bereaved family for the loss of their loved one.

May God rest his soul in Eternity.

Meanwhile it has been pointed to by Mrs. M.E. Ndiege that the late Mr. Onguss obtained a first division and not a second division as indicated in April issue of Varsity Focus.



# Varsity Students Make A Bid For Olympics

A score of University of Nairobi sportsmen and sportswomen are certain of being selected to join the national contingent for the 1988 Summer Olympic Games to be held in Seoul, South Korea, this year. Speaking to *Varsity Focus*, the Games Tutor, Mr. J.N. Ngugi, said there are several University Students training with the national team. They are:

Simi Goyal	—	Hockey
Amit Goyal	—	„
Victor Owino	—	„
Claudio Owino	—	„
Kiboi Githinji	—	„
Paul Ouma	—	„
Andrew Okallo	—	Tae Kwon-do
James Kiragu	—	„
Baggorett Kiptoon	—	„

The Games Tutor said that if Rugby, Swimming, Hon Hwa Do, Basketball and Cycling ladies were disciplines Kenya was taking to the Seoul Olympics, the University would have landed 20 students in the National contingent. Meanwhile, some University teams took part in tournaments to mark Madaraka celebrations in Nairobi and Mombasa. The team did very well especially Tae Kwon-do and cycling



*University of Nairobi cycling team at a Mombasa Meet.*

and won trophies and certificates. The Tae Kwon-do team was runners-up to Moi Air Base in the 14 team tournament and was awarded a trophy.

In a related development Miss

Wambui Ngunya has been declared the best swimmer in the country. Miss Ngunya, who also takes part in Tae Kwon-do, is a weight-lifter and the University's best female cyclist.

## Prof. Mutere Closes Philosophical Conference



*Prof. F.A. Mutere.*

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic, Prof. F.A. Mutere has thanked the Knorad-Adensauer-Foundation for sponsoring the first International Regional Conference in Philosophy hosted by the Department of Philosophy. The conference, held on 23rd to 27th May was attended by eminent Philosophers from East and Central Africa, Southern Africa (except South Africa) West and North Africa.

Closing the five day conference, Prof. Mutere said that the success of the conference was an indication of the fact that Africa can work together in spite of political, cultural and economic diversities. He asked African Philosophers to complement the achievements of the Pan-Africanism by articulating ideas that can shape the destiny of the continent. Noting that

organising a conference of such magnitude requires a lot of money, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor asked African Philosophers to strive and localise the effort noting that the Dar-es-Salaam Philosophical club was thinking along such lines.

Prof. Mutere observed that Philosophy was becoming an increasing popular with students although it was not a "bread and butter subject" and challenge African Philosophers why that was so. He asked the Department of Philosophy to find ways of having the conference papers published that other people can have access to them.

He appealed for more financial assistance so that the Press can publish the numerous manuscripts received from Academic staff. Prof. Mutere pledged that the Press will soon release a second title as part of its concerted effort to provide quality academic texts at affordable prices.