



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

**VARSAITY FOCUS**

A General Information Sheet from the Vice-Chancellor

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1. NEW CHAIRMEN OF DEPARTMENTS:

1.1. Department of Medical Physiology

Prof. M. Mugambi has been appointed Chairman of the Department of Medical Physiology for a period of three years with effect from 1st July 1984.

Prof. Mugambi takes over from Prof. K. Thairu who has been granted leave of absence to take up a post with the Commonwealth Secretariat in London.

Prof. Mugambi first joined the Department in 1972 and was appointed Director of Kenya Medical Research Institute in April last year.

1.2. Department of Biochemistry

Dr. R.M. Njogu has been appointed Chairman of the Department of Biochemistry for a period of three years with effect from 1st May 1984. He has been Acting Chairman since July 1983 when he took over from Prof. G. Maina.

2. THE LATE MR. J.W.G. KARURI

The University has learnt with great shock of the untimely death of Mr. J.W.G. Karuri who was until his death a Lecturer at the College of Adult and Distance Education. He died on 4th May 1984 after a short illness and was laid to rest at his Nyeri home on 12th May 1984.

Born on 25th February 1936, the late Mr. Karuri's association with the University dates back to 1965 when he was initially appointed Course Organiser in the Extra Mural Section of the then Institute of Adult Studies at Nyeri. In 1967, he left the University to join Makerere University and after a four year study leave, he rejoined the University as

a Lecturer, a post he held until his untimely death on 4th May 1984.

As a member of the University community, the late Mr. Karuri was respected and his contributions in academic work will be dearly remembered. He leaves a widow and several children. On behalf of the University, we extend our condolences to his family, relatives and friends.

#### METEOROLOGICAL EQUIPMENT DONATED TO THE UNIVERSITY

The University of Nairobi has received new meteorological equipment worth about U.S.\$50,000 donated by the Canadian Atmospheric Environment Service. The equipment was formally received, on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, by Prof. S.O. Wandiga, Principal of the College of Biological and Physical Sciences from the Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Nairobi, Mr. Peter Metecalfe on 11th May 1984.

The new equipment known as Dobsons Ozone Spectrophotometer will be used to measure the quantity of ozone in the atmosphere. Ozone is one of the rare gases in the atmosphere and the total depth of atmospheric ozone is only about 5 mm. which is just sufficient to cut-off ultra-violet radiation known to cause cancer of the bone and destruction of human skin. Ozone acts as a shield to protect human beings from the harmful effects of solar ultra-violet radiation.

Recent years have witnessed much concern about the possible destruction of the atmospheric ozone through the injection of oxides of Nitrogen by commercial aircraft-flying in the stratosphere. Injection of fluorocarbons that are used in containers of insecticides cosmetics and refrigeration plants are also suspected to lead to the ultimate destruction of ozone. Monitoring

of atmospheric ozone has therefore become a matter of necessity.

Hitherto, ozone data was difficult to come by in the tropics. The equipment now installed at the Department of Meteorology in the University of Nairobi will be the first observing station directly on the equator. The equipment will also be used to study how equatorial weather systems interact with those in the middle latitudes.

The new equipment forms a part of an international project for strengthening the global network ozone monitoring stations. This was initiated by the World Meteorological Organisation with its headquarters in Geneva. Along with similar stations in Cairo and Aswan, this equipment will now enable meteorologists to prepare north-south oriented ozone profiles along Cairo-Aswan-Nairobi.

Present during the presentation ceremony was Dr. J.K. Nganga, Chairman, Department of Meteorology, Dr. J.K. Muriithi, Director of Meteorological Department and other members of academic staff. The Department of Meteorology is the only centre in Africa that provides advanced training in modern meteorological techniques.

#### 4. STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN COMMUNITY HEALTH ACTION AT BARINGO

Over 150 medical students participated in this years Community Health Action Programme at Kampi Ya Moto in Baringo District and over 1000 patients were treated. Accompanying the students was the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. J.M. Mungai, the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Prof. Ogada, the Chairman of the Department of Dental Surgery Dr. C.K. Wagaiyu.

The students were later entertained by the Chancellor of the University, His Excellency President Daniel arap Moi who thanked the students for their efforts.

5. STUDENT ACTIVITIES

5.1. Sport

Despite the financial constraints which have curtailed the University's ability to provide enough sporting facilities, the University based teams have performed well in all their competitions. The following is a summary of the major highlights of this term's sporting season:-

(a) RUGBY - Mean Machine won the Impala Floodlights Tournament. Won the best losers plate in the Gestetner Sevens and reached the finals of the Black Rock Easter Festival Tournament. Started the Kenya Cup nicely by beating the tough Barclays Bank Team.

(b) SOCCER - Won most of the friendlies and has produced first class players some of whom are playing for the Super League Teams. A case in point is William Ombwaka who plays for Gor Mahia.

(c) HOCKEY - Since the beginning of the academic year, the University team has not lost a single match. Organised an Inter-Colleges Tournament which was a big success.

(d) SWIMMING - The University swimming team had a fairly successful term which culminated with the University 'Sharks' coming second in the Nairobi Relay Championship. The swimming team Captain later capped the Kenya National Team that toured Zambia in April.

- (e) BASKET BALL - The University team has only lost 3 matches during their League competitions and has also successfully won a number of friendlies.
- (f) VOLLEY BALL (Men) - The University team went to the finals of most of the NIVO and Kenya Volley Ball Association Tournaments. Won most of the friendlies.
- (g) VOLLEY BALL (Women) - Brought the NIVO cup home. Went to the finals of most NIVO and KVA tournaments. One of the best Nairobi Women's Volleyball teams.

VISITORS TO THE VICE-CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE

- 16.4.84: Prof. C. Dominice, Graduate Institute of International Studies, Geneva.
- 26.4.84: Dr. J.K. Fugate,  
Director of Foreign Studies,  
Kalamazoo College, U.S.A.
- 30.4.84: Dr. A. Rix,  
Director of Fellowships & Awards,  
ID.R.C., Ottawa, Canada.
- 9.5.84: Prof. A.S. Msangi,  
Tanzania National Scientific Research Council,  
DAR-ES-SALAAM.