

Engineering students in soil conservation exercise

For the past three years, the Engineering Students Association (E.S.A) has been conducting soil conservation exercise all over country as their contribution to this worthwhile national exercise. This year, the Association chose Karai in Kiambu District for this annual exercise. Mr. K.K. Masau, the Chairman, E.S.A., filed the following report to the Varsity Focus.

"Friday, 19th February 1988, to the politically-minded Kenyans, marked the beginning of a long hectic weekend which culminated on the following Monday when the K.A.N.U. members all over the country queued behind their favourite parliamentary candidates.

But to the student engineers of the University of Nairobi, that Friday meant much more than that. Once again, as in the past two years, the Engineering Students Association participated in a soil conservation exercise, this time at Karai, Kikuyu, about 25 Kms from the City Centre. That was the day the student engineers pushed aside the everyday mental karate with their books and replaced it with thoughts of "serve our society". This was not only in keeping with soil conservation as an area falling under our academic discipline but also in line with His Excellency the President and the Government's efforts to inculcate in Kenyans a sense of responsibility towards environment.

The local "wananchi" of Karai were already hard at work when we arrived at 8.30 a.m. led by our Principal, Prof. Gichaga. Without wasting any time, we heartily joined them. Gullies, trenches and other soil conservation structures appeared all over the hilly area in the short space of time that the work lasted. Some members of staff from the Faculty of Engineering and some officers from the Permanent Presidential Commission on Soil Conservation and Afforestation (PPSCA) not only chipped in to lend a hand but also set a good example.



Engineering Students in action during the Soil Conservation exercise.

At the end of the day, not duly worried by the blisters on our hands and our dirty clothes matted to our bodies by sweat, we sat down to a baraza called by the Kikuyu Division D.O. Several dignitaries, including the Chairman of PPCSCA Dr. M'Rabu, the Chief Executive of the PPCSCA, Mr. Njagi, the local D.O. and the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Prof. Musuva, addressed the baraza. All expressed their appreciation for the good work that had been done and gave the student engineers a special commendation for enthusiastically carrying out such a noble and worthwhile exercise annually. It was even suggested

that the PPCSCA help in organising such exercises for the whole University on a selected day each year and label the occasion "The University Environmental Day". The PPCSCA authorities agreed to follow up the idea with the University authorities.

After the hard day's work and the speeches, we then left for Kikuyu Country Club where we were treated to refreshments as we rested, before heading back home, tired but happy after such an interesting day.

We therefore cannot forget to take this opportunity to express our sincerest gratitude to all those who contributed to the Day's success."

V.C thanked

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of Commerce, said the family was extremely touched by the closeness and understanding shown by members of the University Community at the time of bereavement. She particularly thanked the Vice-Chancellor and the Dean of the Faculty of Commerce for their two consoling messages of condolences, the Principal of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences for

granting her one month compassionate leave, her colleagues in the Faculty for their contributions and the University for providing transport to take the body to Karachuonyo.

The late Mr. Onguss, who passed away shortly after sitting for his "O" level examinations obtained a Second Division.

We all join the family in praying to God to rest his Soul in eternity.