

JKML jobs for students

By Mwihaki Ruth

Jomo Kenyatta Memorial library is using students to offer services due to the recent down-sizing of its staff.

According to the chief librarian, Ms Salome Mathangani, the library has recruited eight students who will work daily from 5-7pm. The students will be involved in collecting and sorting out books, which will be reshelved by the staff. The University will pay the students who are in the work study program.

In an earlier interview, a librarian who sought anonymity said the staff can no longer shelve the books on an hourly basis. Mathangani said the library was in a crisis as piles of books were left lying on the table and in shambles on the shelves. This forced the library to close for two weeks in a number of sections

to enable the staff rearrange the books.

Security in the library has also lapsed, leading to an upsurge of theft cases. According to a B.A student, Salma Qudir, recently, three students lost their bags which cannot be left in the cloakroom, since there is no one working there. One student was caught stealing and taken to the security officer who asked the suspect to return the stolen bag. A law student, Paul Magu said he lost three books and a briefcase. Another lost foodstuff.

While admitting that there is a security problem, Mathangani urged students to assist by being alert and reporting any suspicious looking persons.

➤ It will take almost four years to complete automation of all the University libraries due to financial constraints. However, the library is soliciting for donor support to speed up the process.