

NO UNIVERSITY IN THE WORLD can claim an international reputation if it lacks linkages and collaborations with other institutions and organizations. In the last five years, Centre for International Programmes and Links (CIPL) has experienced remarkable growth. According to the Director, Prof Simeon Mitema, "this growth can be attributed mainly to our aggressive marketing and fund raising activities abroad".

Speaking to *Varsity Focus*, Mitema noted that as a vehicle for international-

International collaborations comes of age

ization of the University, the Centre has provided a focal point for international activities in the university, we have been initiating, promoting, facilitating and coordinating international programmes and links, staff/students exchanges and mobility, collaborative research projects as well as world-wide networking.

It is not in doubt that the Centre has been at the forefront in assisting the University achieve its strategic goals. This role has become more critical considering the fact that one of the key pillars of university ranking world wide is the number of links and collaborations that the university has with other institutions in the world. Consequently with the rolling out of the current University of Nairobi Strategic Plan, whose aspiration is to be a world class university, the responsibility of the Centre has increased with time.

According to records, the Centre has witnessed the greatest growth in the programmes and links which have now exceeded 257. The collaborative programmes and links are relations which the University of Nairobi establishes with other universities/organizations. The Centre is also a focal point in strengthening existing partnerships and links established by faculty.

In the last two years, the Centre has organized its data base of international students, conversely, the centre has organized International students days, bringing together students from the East, central and southern Africa region, with others from the Far East, Europe, and the America's. The Centre has also maintained links with students participating in study exchange programmes abroad. Information for international students has been circulated widely in an international student's information booklet and via the Web.

At another level, the Centre has been responsible for maintaining a data base on visiting professors and research fellows.



President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Manitoba Dr. David Bernard when he paid a courtesy call on the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha. Dr. Bernard was inspecting projects funded by the University of Manitoba.