

Proposed 1 billion University Towers



In a bid to increase its physical facilities to cope with the rising demand for higher education, The University of Nairobi is set to put up a 15-storey building at the Main Campus to accommodate increasing academic activities and administrative services.

The University aims to develop a visionary state-of-the-art tower block leading the way in ecologically sustainable design in its Main Campus. It is envisaged that the Tower will not only provide the much-needed teaching space but also assert and affirm the position of the University of Nairobi as the leader in architectural thought, innovation and champion towards the provision

of environmentally friendly-solutions. The proposed building will be situated in the open space between the Gandhi Building and the Education Building, just adjacent to the Norfolk Fairmont Hotel and Kenya National Theatre.

According to the Vice-Chancellor, the University of Nairobi, is seeking to construct an ecologically sustainable building design to house the top university administrators and several teaching facilities. The building will be world class particularly in its aesthetics and its environmental design considerations. It is expected to meet stringent carbon foot print criteria achieving close to 100% carbon neutrality. The new building will meet the indicated spatial requirements and demonstrate leadership in the development of a holistic green environment and must attain the highest green rating standards globally. The building will also demonstrate a new approach to workplace design and create a model for others to learn from and follow. Its indoor spaces will demonstrate world-class acoustic treatment.

The building will enhance the quality of outdoor space and the balance between indoor and outdoor spaces. The University of Nairobi Tower is expected to be an inspiring and attractive showcase of "green" buildings and once realized, the final facility should attain signature status in all aspects of cutting-edge architecture. The facility will be a place where users shall be proud to undertake world-class scholarly work, receive global leaders, scholars, the private sector, as well as other prominent guests.

The building will be 15 floors and is expected to cost about one billion. The project will house the following facilities: the Vice Chancellor's Suite, All the Deputy Vice-Chancellor's Suites, Senate Boardroom, Council Meeting Room, two lecture theatres of 500 persons, four lecture theatres of 300 persons, several lecture rooms to cater for a minimum of 60 persons, a floor for the Graduate School and a floor for the Graduate School of Business.

The winning design by Waweru and Associates was unveiled after a competition, the firm also won Kshs 750,000.00 in the process, presided over by an international jury, comprising of various experts. The Permanent Secretary, Fisheries Development, Prof. Micheni Ntiba was the Chief guest.