



MARCH 2015

# Varsity **FOCUS**

*A magazine of the University of Nairobi*

## THE SEVENTH UoN VICE-CHANCELLOR



**Prof. Peter Mulwa Felix Mbithi**



## **OUR VISION**

A world-class university committed to scholarly excellence.

## **OUR MISSION**

To provide quality university education and training and to embody the aspirations of the Kenyan people and the global community through creation, preservation, integration, transmission and utilization of knowledge.

## **OUR CORE VALUES**

- freedom of thought and expression;
- innovativeness and creativity;
- good governance and integrity;
- team spirit and teamwork;
- professionalism;
- quality customer service;
- responsible citizenship;
- national cohesion and inclusiveness.



## VarsityFocus

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A RESPLENDENT GROUPING OF PEOPLE FROM BUSINESS, BANKING, ACADEMIA, SECURITY, STUDENTS, GOVERNMENT, indeed various sector coming together to witness the installation of Prof Peter Mulwa Felix Mbithi, as the seventh Vice-Chancellor of the University of Nairobi.

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The Web Ranking of Universities has ranked the University of Nairobi in positions 7 in Africa and 855 in the world,

AHEAD OF ALL OTHER UNIVERSITIES IN THE REGION CONFIRMING ITS PLACE AMONG THE ACADEMIC GIANTS WORLDWIDE.

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**Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi, led the University management board and top managers in his inaugural visit to the colleges to** ENGAGE MEMBERS OF THE COLLEGES AND RECEIVE THEIR MEMORANDA ON HOW TO MOVE THE UNIVERSITY FORWARD.

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**PRESIDENT UHURU KENYATTA OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED THE PRESIDENTIAL DIGITAL TALENT PROGRAMME AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI, TAIFA HALL.** The Presidential Digital Talent Programme aims at enhancing service delivery to citizens through effective and efficient use of information communication technologies (ICT).

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# Editorial

**T**HE MARCH 2015 EDITION OF THE VARSITY FOCUS IS A PREMIER 2015 EDITION AND BRINGS YOU UP TO SPEED WITH ACTIVITIES THAT WILL DEFINE THE CORPORATE PROFILE OF THE UNIVERSITY IN THE COMING YEARS.

First is the appointment of the seventh Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter M.F. Mbithi that took effect from January 6, 2015. The appointment was through a competitive process that involved three other applicants and was conducted by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology and the University Council. Prof. Mbithi's appointment is for the initial period of five years with an option of a further five-year extension as per the Universities Act 2012 and the University of Nairobi Statutes.

Prof. Mbithi was installed in a colourful ceremony held at the Main Campus, on January 14, 2015, conducted by the Chancellor, Dr. Vijoo Rattansi, Chairman of Council Dr. Idle Farah and witnessed by among others the Cabinet Secretary for Education, Prof. Jacob Kaimenyi, the Attorney General Prof. Githu Muigai,

Speaker of the Senate Hon. Ekwe Ethuro, several members of Parliament, chancellors and vice-chancellors from sister universities and Council members. The ceremony also marked the special commendation of the immediate former Vice-Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha for his exemplary performance in the last 10 years. Prof. Magoha's tenure of two terms ended on January 5, 2015.

The installation of Prof. Mbithi has ushered in a new era that will strive to make impact in several areas. As per the pledges made during the installation ceremony, the main focus areas will be ensuring the production of quality and holistic graduates, strengthening research, improvement of infrastructure and strengthening alumni, among

**PROF. MBITHI  
WAS INSTALLED AS  
THE 7TH VICE-  
CHANCELLOR AND  
PROF. MAGOHA  
COMMENDED  
FOR HIS STERLING  
PERFORMANCE  
DURING HIS TENURE**

others. He has already met various College academic boards to receive their memoranda and has promised to give a State of the University address quarterly basis.

We also highlight the launch of the Presidential Digital Talent Platform by H.E President Uhuru Kenyatta at the University of Nairobi last month, in an event that brought together many ICT players.

The Edition also brings you highlights of the 52nd graduation ceremony which raised our alumni to 174,414 and recorded 104 PhDs, the highest number to be conferred in a single Congregation. The Ceremony was also used to award honorary degrees to the Chancellor, Dr. Vijoo Rattansi for her role in supporting education and as the fourth Chancellor of the University of Nairobi. Also awarded for entrepreneurial skills and successful local investments was Media mogul and businessman, Dr. Samuel Macharia.

We also highlight student activities, scholarship awards from Mitsubishi Corporation and the celebration of the 10th anniversary of the University of Nairobi Alumni Association.

Enjoy reading our inaugural 2015 Edition and please do not hesitate to give feedback.

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# United to serve the university

## Message from the Vice-Chancellor



**Prof. Peter Mbithi, Vice-Chancellor.**

**T**HIS YEAR, PROMISES TO BE YET ANOTHER MILESTONE IN OUR QUEST TO ADDRESS THE ISSUES OF GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP.

During my installation as the Seventh Vice-Chancellor, I promised to reach out to all staff and students and to other stakeholders in joining hands and building this University as epitomised in our motto, *Unitate et Labore*. I am happy that so far we have remained focused on achieving this objective.

For us to continue producing quality products, we must compete with the very best in the world. I congratulate our staff and students for their effort in ensuring a marked performance in webanking results released last month in which we

emerged 7th in Africa up from the previous position of 9. We also improved in the global rankings and rating of our repository.

We have plans to improve academic and social facilities for our students with more attention to student mentorship, orientation beyond classroom extracurricular activities and social life. In addition to refurbishing existing student hostels, we shall construct hostels to accommodate over 5,000 students through the Public Private Partnership, to address the perennial problem of inadequate accommodation for our students.

In providing holistic education including addressing students' experience on Campus, we will address the quality and production of graduates in diverse fields of study, meeting the expectations of the market and providing solutions to the challenges affecting our society. To achieve this, we will review academic processes in order to ensure quality programmes and increase the relevance of our graduates to industry.

World over, it is accepted that research is the cornerstone of the existence of a university. In our case we will not rest until we enhance the quantity, quality and relevance of research. In the past 10 years, the University research fund has increased tenfold from KES 350 million to KES 4 billion, due to increased research activities. With more support, the research docket should experience exponential growth.

In order to develop a visionary, innovative and creative leadership, we will strive to professionalize resources management, including human resources and facilities, in order to increase staff productivity as well as to improve institutional efficiency and effectiveness; we will devolve more power, resources and decision-making to the University basic operating units ensuring total compliance to policies and standards. I am happy that we are attracting strong collaborations. Recently we hosted H.E President Uhuru Kenyatta during the launch of the President Digital Talent Platform, which also featured key stakeholders in the ICT.

We are also calling on alumni to help their alma mater in nurturing and developing the next generation of leaders through student mentorship, sponsorship and internship and in the establishment of endowment funds, creation of a university advancement foundation, partnering with the private sector to finance capital projects and increasing involvement of alumni in fundraising for the alma mater.

*IN ADDITION TO REFURBISHING EXISTING STUDENT HOSTELS, WE SHALL CONSTRUCT HOSTELS TO ACCOMMODATE OVER 5,000 STUDENTS THROUGH THE PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP*

# Prof. Mbithi takes over in style

*They came from the west, they came from the east, and they came from the valleys of the land...*



**I**N A GATHERING OF CLOSE TO 1200 PEOPLE, THEY THROGGED TAIFA HALL, OVERFLOWING FROM THE TERRACES, THE BALCONY, THE WILLOUGHBY HALL, AND THE TAIFA SQUARE.

Branded, in suits, in uniform, in academic regalia, it was a resplendent grouping of people from business, banking, academia, security, students, government, indeed various sector coming together to witness the installation of Prof Peter Mulwa Felix Mbithi, as the seventh Vice-Chancellor of the University of Nairobi.

And the event did not disappoint, from the marching, the band and their renditions of anthems of glory including chariots of fire, race to the end by Demis Roussos, Kweli Musa, Hinde by Safari Sounds, even hymns like Amazing Grace and with the Mace bearer, Prof. Wambui Kogi-Makau leading the academic procession round the Great Court, a flight past the

old Gandhi library, the precincts of the Varsity Tower, Education Building, the Jomo Kenyatta Memorial Library- citadel of knowledge, past Hyslop, the building with its age old impression of secrets buried, and then past the Fountain of Splendour, with its iridescent light filtering through the waters from the fountain head, past the old book store and then winging their way into the grand Taifa Hall, the dons in full attire, were a sight to behold, but it was not just dons from the University of Nairobi, there were peers from other universities joining the procession.

The gathering had a purpose, indeed for many; the installation ceremony had come as a surprise because many did not seem to understand it. But the installation ceremony for a new Vice-Chancellor is only a new practice at the University of Nairobi, but in leading Universities worldwide it is common practice, serving as an opportune moment for



**Clockwise: UoN Scouts in a march, the police band in action, Chancellor, Dr. Vijoo Rattansi, Vice-Chancellor, Peter Mbithi and former Vice-Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha and some dignitaries during the installation ceremony on January 14, 2014.**

## PROF. MBITHI PAID ACCOLADES TO HIS PREDECESSORS

### 1970-1979

**Dr. Josephat Njuguna Karanja,**  
**first Vice-Chancellor,**  
*For defence of intellectual freedom*

### 1979-1985

**Prof. Joseph Mungai**  
*For opening up the administration to students*

reflection, forging new relationships and understanding and for making new commitments to service and to the ideals, mission and core values of the alma mater.

So the installation ceremony was historic because it seemed a first in the history of UoN and perhaps in public universities and thus why Chancellors, and Vice-Chancellors and VIPs such as Attorney General, Prof Githu Muigai, Cabinet Secretary for Education, Science and Technology, Prof. Jacob Kaimenyi, Engineer Njoroge, Speaker of the Senate, Hon, Ekwe Ethuro, members of parliament, governors and people from all walks of life had come to witness. The installation ceremony was a pleasant reminder of the role and place that the CEO of a public university must play in advancing, in a very personnel way, the advancement and the future of his/her university. Behind the razz matazz, the colour, the entertainment, and the speeches, is a history, which the University of Nairobi is replete, with ideas on how to manage the university, which no doubt Prof Mbithi will borrow.

One of the other memorable features of the installation ceremony was the moment of the handing over of the instruments of power. These instruments, are often kept under lock and key and very few individuals know of them nor appreciate them: so one by one we witnessed the Mace, the University Standard, the Seal, the Charter and the Statutes being handed carefully and with pomp by the Chancellor, Dr Vijoo Rattansi to Prof Mbithi, with the former Vice Chancellor, George Magoha, the Chairman of Council Idle Farah, the Chief Legal Officer, Rebecca Ngondo, in the line-up, and then they unobtrusively were promptly removed for safe keeping.

The installation ceremony was successful; it offered a great lesson on what universities can accomplish. There were staff who worked tirelessly behind the scenes with the logistics, the nightmare of invitations, seating plan, the programme, catering, protocol etc. it took about a month of meetings and consultation and hard work for the installation

## 1985–1991

**Prof. Philip Mbithi,**

*For being a great organizer and working through small teams to achieve corporate goals.*

## 1991-2002

**Prof. Francis Gichaga,**

*For increasing access to higher education and diversification of revenue streams of the University.*

to be arranged, but the results spoke for themselves in what has been acclaimed as a magnificent ceremony. The magnificence was evident in the number of dons in the procession, arguable one of the biggest gathering of dons in any university ceremony in the recent past. But again there was real history being made.

In welcoming Prof Mbithi to serve, the Chairman of Council, Dr Idle Farah noted that there was a new opportunity to serve and to commit to making a difference, implicitly, a challenge for the University community and stakeholders in the higher education sector to take their place and reaffirm our position and role in moving the University to greater heights of development. In his response, Prof Mbithi affirmed that he was committed to address the task of raising the University's academic, research and development, and not to relent in the endeavour to realise a

# The installation ceremony was successful; it offered a great lesson on what universities can accomplish

horizon of opportunities for exploiting and competing with reputable universities worldwide.

In paying accolades to his predecessors, Prof Mbithi singled out Dr. Josephat Njuguna Karanja, first Vice-Chancellor 1970-1979 for his defence of intellectual freedom. Prof. Joseph Mungai, 1979 to 1985, for opening up the administration to students. Prof. Philip Mbithi, 1985-1991, for being a great organizer and working through small teams to achieve corporate goals. Prof. Francis Gichaga, 1991-2002, for increasing access to higher education and diversification of revenue streams of the University. The fifth Vice-

Chancellor, Prof. Crispus Kiamba, 2002 to 2004, for enhanced student and staff awareness and involvement in governance of the University. Prof. George Magoha, Vice-Chancellor 2005-2015, for his robust transformative leadership that led to many structural and infrastructural developments.

During the luncheon, the University, feted former Vice Chancellor, George Magoha, with a cake cutting interlude, where he was served up, by his wife Dr Barbara Magoha with a big piece of cake, which to the mirth of onlookers he took in his stride, of course vowing revenge. The colleges and central administration units presented Prof Magoha with several gifts of monetary, sentimental and symbolic value. There was a sense of commendation to Prof Magoha, who in his on powerful way handed over in a democratic and open process. This only portends great leadership and excellence and it also signifies that the University is a transformed entity, able to discharge its duty and mandate and fully cognizant of its maturing and mentoring role. Great generals do no die; they simply fade out, letting others come up and continue to serve society. Magoha was also commended for sustaining good governance in the University. During his tenure, he made unparalleled contribution to transforming the University and outstanding visionary leadership. Even as the University bid him adieu, it was in full knowledge that he would have lasting and bigger impact to make in the new society that he has gone out to serve.

## 2002-2004

**Prof. Crispus Kiamba,**

*For enhanced student and staff awareness and involvement in governance of the University.*

## 2005-2015

**Prof. George Magoha,**

*For his robust transformative leadership that led to many structural and infrastructural developments.*



# Speech by Prof. Mbithi during his installation as the the 7th Vice-Chancellor

**IT IS MY GREAT PLEASURE TO WELCOME YOU TO THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI AND MOST IMPORTANTLY TO THIS FUNCTION TO WITNESS MY INSTALLATION AS THE 7TH VICE-CHANCELLOR OF THIS AUGUST INSTITUTION.**

This is a momentous occasion for this University as we usher in a new era in governance and leadership. It also accords us the opportunity to commend the outgoing Vice-Chancellor for his outstanding stewardship of this University over the last 10 years. I am happy that the Cabinet Secretary, Chancellor and the Chairman of the University Council have found it appropriate to commend him for the excellent achievements. I personally thank him for a job well done, full of landmark results. I wish him the best as he pursues his academic and other endeavors.

I also take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the Government and the University Council for appointing me the 7th Vice-Chancellor of the greatest and most prestigious University in the region. I am astounded by the enormous goodwill and support that I have received from Council members, colleagues, students, members of staff and our stakeholders. I truly thank you all.

On the journey to my appointment, I competed with three of my worthy colleagues – Prof.

*My vision thus is to ensure that we become a top-ranked, sustainable, world-class institution with enduring and valuable scholarly excellence.*



**Prof. Peter Mbithi, Vice-Chancellor.**

Isaac Mbeche, Prof. Lucy Irungu and Prof. Agnes Mwang'ombe – all top managers. From my experience with them in management, they are all competent. However, only one vacancy was available and I was the one who was appointed. I therefore, thank them for taking part in the recruitment process, and most important for the support that they have accorded me in the past and remarkably since my appointment was announced. I reach out to you, all staff, students and other stakeholders. It is time for us to join hands in building this University as epitomized in our motto: *Unitate et Labore*. Indeed, our first task is to remain united and to focus our energies on running the University.

The word 'University' derives from Latin, '*Universitas*', meaning a kind of universe and a self-contained whole. By the late 14th century, the word '*universitas*' had come to refer to the idea of a self-regulating community of scholars and students whose corporate existence was sanctioned by civil or ecclesiastical authority.

The idea of the university's separateness, independence, autonomy and entitlement to a special kind of freedom is one of the enduring articles of principle we subscribe to. It is these tenets that we hold supreme, advocate and wish to defend with renewed focus and zeal in the next phase of the transformation of the University

of Nairobi. My assurance to you is that I will defend the University's tradition and rights of autonomy, independence, and academic freedom within the tenets of the law established. I am determined to ensure that the University of Nairobi becomes the ultimate.

A university today is regarded by society as the home for the pursuit of truth and independent oracle, to which the Government and Industry find answers to meaning, and values that propel societies to prosperity. A university is expected to take on the role of moral loadstone, an ideal the University of Nairobi under my firm stewardship will endeavour to align with.

The history of this University since 1970 is replete with ideas on how the management has surpassed hurdles and forged ahead with the agenda of the University. My six predecessors had their own challenges and all of them have recorded in the annals of history great achievements.

The late Dr. Josephat Njuguna Karanja, the first Vice-Chancellor between 1970-1979, when I was a student in my formative undergraduate studies, is remembered for his defence of intellectual freedom. The late Prof. Joseph Mungai (1979 to 1985), is remembered for opening up the administration to students.

Prof. Philip Mbithi (1985-1991), is remembered for being a great organizer who worked through small teams to achieve corporate goals.

Prof. Francis Gichaga, the fourth Vice-Chancellor (1991-2002) left

his footprints in the sands of time by increasing access to higher education and diversifying revenue streams of the University through the introduction of module II programmes.

The fifth Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Crispus Kiamba (2002-2004), is remembered for enhancing student and staff awareness and involvement in the governance of the University. More importantly, staff and student organizations became an integral part of the university governance system.

My immediate predecessor, Prof. George Magoha, Vice-Chancellor 2005-2015, will be best remembered for many structural and infrastructural developments, among them the University towers, which is nearing completion.

A reflection on these achievements of my predecessors over the past 45 years, accounts for the present University of Nairobi.

As the 7th Vice-Chancellor, I set the tone by quoting Cardinal John Henry Newman who had great ideas about university education. He said "the University teaches to see things as they are, to go right to the point, to disentangle a skein of thought, to detect what is sophistical and to discard what is irrelevant."

For this University to continue producing quality products, we must compete with the very best in the world.

My vision thus is to ensure that we become a top-ranked, sustainable, world-class institution with enduring and valuable scholarly excellence.

***"the University teaches to see things as they are, to go right to the point, to disentangle a skein of thought, to detect what is sophistical and to discard what is irrelevant."***

*Cardinal John Henry Newman*

My immediate priorities will be to shape the alignment to achieving the strategic objectives.

My first priority is to ensure that the University of Nairobi produces quality and holistic graduates in diverse fields of study to meet the expectations of the market and to provide solutions to the challenges

**My reform agenda will revolve around ten (10) major strategic issues:**

- 1. World class University Status**
- 2. Fundraising, Resource Mobilization and Sustainability Strategy**
- 3. Infrastructure Development**
- 4. Graduate Skills Enhancement Program**

- 5. Students' Experience in Campus**
- 6. University Research**
- 7. Develop Visionary, Innovative and Creative Leadership**
- 8. Image and Competitiveness of the University**
- 9. Our Alumni, Our Strength**
- 10. Community Service**

affecting our society. To achieve this, my administration will review academic processes in order to ensure quality programmes and increase the relevance of our graduates to industry. The areas that we will target include: upscaling the integration of ICT into teaching and learning, in-building experiential learning in all our programmes, implementing all-round student mentorship by faculty, and sustained faculty training on pedagogy and andragogy.

My second priority is to enhance the quantity, quality and relevance of research. In the past 10 years, the University research fund has increased tenfold from KES 350 million to KES 4 billion, due to increased research activities by our members of staff and collaborators. With more support and increased focus on this function, the research docket should experience exponential growth in the University and especially given the many challenges that our society is facing. It will thus be necessary for interventions by researchers in almost every facet of life, and therefore to achieve this goal, my administration will focus on enhancing the capacity of researchers, improve the management of research funds, enhance dissemination of research

outputs to society, incubate research efforts and partner with industry to commercialize research outputs. Indeed, in the course of this year, we intend to hold a conference for industry stakeholders to exchange views on how to grow research at the University. My administration also intends to increase internal research funding starting with at least KES 1 million funding to any staff with a fundable proposal.

My third priority is to improve academic and social facilities for our students with more attention to student mentorship, orientation beyond classroom extracurricular activities and social life. In addition to refurbishing existing student hostels, we shall construct hostels to accommodate over 5,000 students through the Public/Private Partnership, to address the perennial problem of inadequate accommodation for our students. Also lined up for construction through the same model is the School of Law tower at Parklands, which will house the increasing academic activities of the School, and give it the profile befitting its status as the leading Law School in the region; construction of a building for the Computing Centre of Excellence and incubation lab (C4D Lab); construction of the University of Nairobi teaching and

referral hospital to specialize in chronic diseases and of course completion of ongoing projects, among them the University tower. Apart from the physical revamping of facilities, we shall also focus on an effective structure for their management and also progressively evolve governance.

My fourth and last priority is around governance. We will professionalize resources management, including human resources and facilities, in order to increase staff productivity as well as to improve institutional efficiency and effectiveness; we will automate all core business processes and ensure managers make decisions informed by computer-based information and analysis. We will devolve more power, resources and decision-making to the University basic operating units. We will ensure total compliance to policies and standards.

All these proposals in my administration's four priorities require financial resources which we intend to enhance through the establishment of endowment funds, creation of a university foundation, partnering with the private sector to finance capital projects and increasing involvement of alumni in fundraising for the alma mater.

My administration will also work very closely with the Government and lobby her to support our reform agenda, and preferably increase capitation to cater for the payroll in order to free some of our internally generated funds to be used for revamping our facilities.

The task ahead of us is challenging yet, the University

will not relent in its endeavor to realize a horizon of opportunities for exploiting and competing with reputable universities worldwide. As we move forward and into the future, we need to build synergies, based on our various strengths and experiences, to place UoN in a prime spot on the global map.

I reiterate that we are aiming for the skies and are determined to be daring with caution, wisdom and history informing our steps. We are not afraid to re-imagine the prospects of the University of Nairobi afresh without side-stepping the University act and conscious choices. Together, I have no doubt we shall conquer the barriers that limit our innovation and creativity, tower head and shoulder above others in academic, research and community service and claim the primacy of place in excellence across all spheres of human endeavour.

To our government and donors, we will be your strongest and most

reliable partner in the achievement of vision 2030. We are ready to contribute in providing solutions in such areas as national security, cleaning our cities, tapping the huge body of energy in our youth, population growth, research and policy formulation and chronic traffic jams among others. We intend to make the University of Nairobi a hub of higher education in the region and in Africa.

To our corporate partners and the private sector, we invite you to be our partners though endowing research chairs and improving our physical infrastructure via public/private partnerships and philanthropy.

To our alumni, help us in nurturing and developing the next generation of leaders through students' mentorship, sponsorship and internship.

To our students, you are the only reason we are here. Your welfare will be put first, academically,

physically and spiritually – through student centered programmes.

As I conclude my speech, I leave you with another thought from Cardinal Newman, and which captures the value of what we do.

“University training is the great ordinary means to a great but ordinary end; it aims at raising the intellectual tone of society... It is the education which gives a man a clear conscience view of his own opinions and judgments, eloquence in expressing them and a force in urging them.” I truly believe that you and I can make the University of Nairobi to deliver this product to our society.

**God bless our labour in search for knowledge, in search for truth and in search for excellence.**

**God bless the University of Nairobi, Our staff, Our students, Alumni, Partners, Friends, Our stakeholders spread throughout the world.**

**God bless our motherland and our home land of Kenya. Thank you.**

An abridged version of Prof. Peter Mbithi's speech delivered during his installation as the 7th Vice-Chancellor.



**Education cabinet Secretary Prof. Jacob Kaimenyi and Chancellor, Dr. Vijoo Rattansi follow proceedings during the installation ceremony.**

# Prof. Magoha hands over office to the new Vice-Chancellor

**P**ROF. GEORGE A.O. MAGOHA, THE SIXTH VICE-CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI, HANDED OVER OFFICE TO THE NEWLY APPOINTED VICE-CHANCELLOR, PROF. PETER M.F. MBITHI AFTER A SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF HIS TENURE. PROF. MBITHI BECAME THE SEVENTH VICE-CHANCELLOR SINCE THE INCEPTION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI IN 1970.



**Prof. Peter Mbithi receives the mace from the immediate former Vice-Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha.**

Speaking during the brief handing over ceremony to the new the Vice-Chancellor, Prof Magoha said “it is better to leave when your time is right.” He handed the instruments of authority among them; the University Mace, Seal, Statutes, Charter and official vehicle.

Prof. Magoha, the first Vice-Chancellor to be appointed competitively ten years ago, had played a key role in transforming the University. Magoha’s major contribution to the University in a decade of service include restructuring the University, entrenching performance contracting, performance appraisal systems, launching a service charter, carrying out intense training for change management, pursuing ISO certification, and review and revitalizing the University of Nairobi’s Strategic Plan. In his ten years of service, the University has recorded

## MAGOHA’S MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO THE UNIVERSITY IN A DECADE

- **Restructuring the University**
- **Entrenching performance contracting**
- **Performance appraisal systems**
- **Launching a Service charter**
- **Carrying out intense training for change management**
- **Pursuing ISO certification and reviewing and revitalizing the University of Nairobi’s Strategic Plan.**

**IN HIS TEN YEARS OF SERVICE, THE UNIVERSITY HAS RECORDED EXCELLENT PERFORMANCE IN LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL RANKINGS, EXPONENTIAL INCREASE IN STUDENT POPULATION**

**In 2014, a record 123 students graduated with PhDs**

excellent performance in local and international rankings, exponential increase in student population from 30,000 to 79,000, alumni numbers from 74,429 to 174,414 research fund has grown from Kshs. 350

**STUDENT  
POPULATION**

FROM 30,000 TO  
79,000,

**ALUMNI**

FROM 74,429 TO  
174,414

**RESEARCH  
FUND**

FROM KSHS. 350  
MILLION TO OVER KSHS.  
4 BILLION

**ASSET  
PORTFOLIO**

STANDS AT KSHS. 102  
BILLION UP FROM KSHS.  
20 BILLION.

million to over Kshs. 4 billion and the asset portfolio stands at Kshs. 102 billion up from Kshs. 20 billion. In 2014, a record 123 students graduated with PhDs.

He said that the University has made great strides in all aspects including but not limited to fiscal discipline, academic excellence, infrastructure development and capacity building.

Prof. Mbithi, a Professor of Veterinary Medicine, has served as the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Administration and Finance, having been appointed to the position

in 2005. He has also served as Principal, College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences, Dean, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Chairman, Department of Veterinary Studies.

Prof. Mbithi thanked the University Council and the government for appointing him as the seventh Vice-chancellor and promised to build on the achievements of his predecessor.

While serving as the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, in charge of finance and administration Prof. Mbithi's achievements include: steering the institution to ISO certification, leading performance contracting,

rapid results initiative, strategic planning and the launch of the service charter. Prof. Mbithi has been instrumental in tidying up the general physical appearance of the University and upgrading its infrastructure. He was also in-charge of staff welfare and discipline, including industrial relations.

The handing over was witnessed by the Chairman of Council, Dr. Idle Farah, Vice-Chairperson of the University Council, Dr. Betty Gikonyo, and members of the University Management Board.

## Prof Mbithi relinquishes leadership of IPUCCF committee

The Vice-Chancellor, University of Nairobi, Prof Peter M.F. Mbithi has relinquished his position as the Chairman, Joint Negotiations Committee (JNC) of the Interpublic Universities Council Consultative Forum (IPUCCF) following his appointment as the seventh Vice-Chancellor. Prof. Mbithi has served as the Chairman of JNC since its inception in 2006.

IPUCCF deals with the management of public universities and constituent colleges including terms of service and staff welfare. JNC is a working committee of the IPUCCF that specifically deals with negotiations with unions on behalf of IPUCCF.

The Chairman of IPUCCF Prof. Rosalinda Mutua, Chairman of Council, Maseno University, thanked Prof. Mbithi for his outstanding service to the Forum and congratulated him on his appointment as the seventh Vice-Chancellor of the University of Nairobi.

The announcement was made in consultative meetings held by the Vice-Chancellors and in another one held between IPUCCF, Federation of Kenya Employers (FKE) and the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology. Both meetings were held at the University of Nairobi's, Council Chamber.

# University of Nairobi ranked 7th in Africa

**THE WEB RANKING OF UNIVERSITIES HAS RANKED THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI IN POSITIONS 7 IN AFRICA AND 855 IN THE WORLD, AHEAD OF ALL OTHER UNIVERSITIES IN THE REGION CONFIRMING ITS PLACE AMONG THE ACADEMIC GIANTS WORLDWIDE.**

The University recorded a marked improvement internationally by emerging 855 out of over 25,000 ranked universities – jumping 52 places from its previous ranking in July 2014, when it emerged 907. The University of Nairobi’s performance is the best result posted by any university in the region since the advent of web ranking in 2004.

Compared to its peers worldwide, UoN emerged ahead of some top US universities such as California State University that holds position 862, Illinois State University 915, and Florida Institute of Technology 880, among many others. In the United Kingdom, UoN emerged ahead of famous higher learning institutions such as London Business School at 1432, University of Hull 944 and Middlesex University 994. In Africa, UoN emerged ahead of University of the Western Cape ranked at 8, University of South Africa 10, Mansoura University 11, Makerere University 13, and University of Dar es Salaam 37. Overall in Africa, the University of Cape Town emerged first followed by Stellenbosch University. The

first position worldwide went to the renowned Harvard University.

According to web ranking indicators, the University of Nairobi improved in overall web presence to position 330 up from 1109. In the rich file category, which accounts for the published works in dedicated websites and institutional research repositories, the University improved to position 29 up from position 44 from the July 2014 Webometrics Rankings.

The ranking confirms the scholarly competitive edge UoN has steadily maintained in Kenya, Africa and in the world. Over the years, it has established itself as a world-class University committed to scholarly excellence and offering programmes in diverse fields of specialization.

In another development, the University Digital Repository was ranked top in the region. According to the Ranking Web of Repositories results, the repository was ranked 6th out of 57 in Africa and number 257 worldwide. Last year, the repository was ranked 7th in Africa. The improvement is a clear indication of the University’s academic and research growing portfolio. According to the results, the University of Pretoria Repository has been ranked best in Africa. In Kenya, Kenyatta University and Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology repositories were ranked second and third respectively.

## Top ten universities in Africa

Africa Rank	World Rank	University
1	328	University of Cape Town
2	462	Stellenbosch University
3	474	Cairo University
4	494	University of Pretoria
5	563	University of the Witwatersrand
6	830	University of Kwazulu Natal
7	855	University of Nairobi
8	1022	University of the Western Cape
9	1050	American University in Cairo
10	1074	University of South Africa

# UMB receives Colleges' memoranda



**Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi with members of UMB during a recent tour of Mombasa Campus.**

**T**HE VICE-CHANCELLOR, PROF. PETER MBITHI, LED THE UNIVERSITY MANAGEMENT BOARD AND TOP MANAGERS IN HIS INAUGURAL VISIT TO THE COLLEGES IMMEDIATELY AFTER HIS INSTALLATION AS THE SEVENTH VICE-CHANCELLOR.

The aim of the visit was to engage members of the Colleges and receive their memoranda on how to move the University forward. The visits took place between January 15 and 31, 2015.

The visit kicked off at the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences where the Principal, Prof. Agnes Mwang'ombe detailed the pertinent issues affecting her College. In her memoranda, Prof. Mwang'ombe revealed that the College had

CAVS had committed to grow its income by **20%** during the current financial year as well as save on costs, and enhance revenue as per the recent performance

committed to grow its income by 20 percent during the current financial year as well as save on costs, and enhance revenue as per the recent performance contracting commitments. She said that the College has come up with innovative ways of revenue generation which include advertising its programmes in local and international exhibitions. The College has in place various income generating activities including commercialization of research output and products and offering consultancy services in different skills sets. In addition, the College is exploiting various government funding channels such as the Women, Youth and Uwezo Funds' initiatives as well as bidding for centers of excellence that are being sponsored by the World Bank. Under student mentorship, CAVS organizes annual student leaders training sessions with professional bodies thereby creating



*College seeks to reduce turnaround time and cutting costs by at least*

**15%** of its budget.

an informed and composed student leadership.

At the College of Engineering and Architecture, the Principal Prof. Bernard Njoroge touched on the College's activities including revenue enhancement strategies that include the introduction of a new Bachelor of Science degree in petroleum engineering, a May intake for specific programmes and offering diploma courses in the University's Mombasa and Kisumu campuses. In addition, the College is bidding and securing engineering consultancies as well as partnering with industry to generate more revenue. In its operation, the College seeks to reduce turnaround time and cutting costs by at least 15 percent of its budget.

At the College of Biological and Physical Sciences, the Principal, Prof Bernard Aduda, cited the College's commitment to enhance its revenue through various strategies which include increasing the student numbers by introducing new programmes and scheduling different intakes within an academic year. At the moment, the College has over 5,000 students with

postgraduate students accounting for about 16 percent. However, in order to accommodate the growing student numbers, the college should deal with the limited infrastructure such as laboratories, lab equipment, lecture halls and student hostels. He noted that refurbishment of some of the existing facilities and acquisition of modern equipment is important. Other avenues for enhancing revenue include offering short courses, sourcing for grants by academic staff, consultancies and engaging in income generating activities such as production and sale of detergents by the Department of Chemistry. To cut on costs, the College is exploring various cost cutting options.

At the College of Education and External Studies, the Principal, Prof. Isaac Jumba, highlighted the path the College has taken in implementing the University policies including development of high quality programmes, teaching and research, as well as development of learning and training materials. He shared some of the challenges affecting the College's operations including inadequate office space for teaching staff as well as teaching venues, maintenance of the existing facilities, such as lecture halls and student hostels and improvement of ICT infrastructure. In addition, Prof. Jumba highlighted the need to relocate the Nairobi Extra Mural Centre to a modern and spacious location within the Main Campus since the centre serves over 3,500 students. He also requested the management to consider refurbishing all the Extra Mural Centres as they represent the University in the regions. In order to curb examinations'

malpractices. The Principal proposed the construction of a modern examination venue that will accommodate 1000 students. Other areas of concern include the construction of a modern administration block, development of a state-of-the-art gymnasium and Extra Mural Centre in Kasarani and improving on the transport system within the College.

At the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHSS), the Principal, Prof. Enos Njeru said that the College is exploring increased enrolment by introducing new programmes in emerging areas that are affecting the development of the nation. In addition, the College will revamp the existing short courses to include executive development programmes and open new learning centres. Other channels of revenue enhancement include grants, consultancies as well as establishing partnerships and collaborations with industry. Soon, CHSS will launch a capital campaign to raise funds for the School of Law Tower. Prof. Njeru highlighted the need to deal with the limited office and classroom space in the College. He noted that the refurbishment of some of the existing facilities and acquisition of modern equipment is important.

On matters of austerity and cost containment measures, the College has ensured efficient use of resources and implemented the use of ICT to automate deliverables.

With a student population of 40,000, plans are underway to establish a career placement office at the College. In addition, CHSS will engage students in research programmes, implement student



**Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi inaugurates two buses at the College of Health Sciences.**

exchange programmes with partner universities, secure student internships, organize for career mentorship talks and hold joint outreach activities for students and staff.

At the College of Health Sciences, the Principal, Prof. Isaac Kibwage, also presented the College's memorandum highlighting its operations. In his presentation, Prof. Kibwage said that the College will introduce new degree programmes as well short courses which are market oriented in order to enhance its revenue. He noted that the medical field is diverse thereby creating a need for diverse skills and competencies. In addition, Prof. Kibwage said that CHS will continue operating around its values and timelines as outlined in its service charter while

**PROF. KIBWAGE ASKED MANAGEMENT TO CONSIDER SETTING UP LECTURE HALLS THAT CAN HOLD UP TO 500 STUDENTS**

cutting on costs. A major challenge the College is facing is that of inadequate office space and lecture halls. Prof. Kibwage asked the management to consider setting up lecture halls that can hold up to 500 students. He revealed that some of the physical facilities and equipment in the College are dilapidated, old and obsolete. Again, he appealed to management to facilitate the

acquisition of modern equipment and refurbishment of the existing infrastructure as well as see to the completion of the stall School of Pharmacy building and construction of student hostels.

Prof. Mbithi assured the colleges that the management will discuss the issues presented and create a database that will be the basis for implementation. The management will also come up with a strategy for the devolvement of academic powers and resources to all the units.

He said that the deliberations with the various academic boards will facilitate the management in making pertinent decisions in line with the University's strategic plan. In addition, the Vice-Chancellor urged all academic members of staff to embrace various website strategies in place. He called on them to consider publicizing their work on the internet, make an impact in their research by acknowledging the University whenever they publish in online journals, and encourage students to refer to their online resources.

Prof. Mbithi also announced that he will be giving a state-of-the-University address after every three months based on the information received from the colleges.

# KUPSA to promote innovative research

**T**HE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI (UoN) AND THE KENYA UNIVERSITIES POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION (KUPSA) HAVE ENTERED INTO TALKS ON COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIP.

Among the areas discussed include the promotion of innovative research among postgraduate students in order to create sustainable development for the country.

In the meeting with KUPSA officials, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi noted that one

*National Research and Innovation Conference in 2015*

*The University called upon to play a key role*

of the University's key strategies is improving the student experience on campus. Prof. Mbithi said that Kenya needs postgraduate students to change the face of research and produce solutions that will bring about national development.

KUPSA Chairperson, Mr.

Jeremiah Muia, revealed that the newly constituted association's mandate is to bring Kenyan Postgraduate students together. According to Muia, plans are underway to hold a national research and innovation conference in mid 2015. He called on the University to play a key role in supporting the initiative.

During the meeting, it was agreed that as a way forward, the Association will meet with the Deputy Vice-Chancellors, Research, Production and Extension, Prof. Lucy Irungu, Student Affairs, Prof. Isaac Mbeche and the Director, Board of Postgraduate Studies, Prof. Lydia Njenga.



**Vice-chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi with KUPSA Chairperson, Jeremiah Muia, during collaboration talks aimed at improving the quality of postgraduate education in the country.**

# Partnering with the private sector

## **T**HE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI HAS ENTERED INTO TALKS ON PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CO-OPERATIVE BANK OF KENYA.

In a meeting between the two, areas of partnership such as bank deposits and staff access to loan facilities were discussed.

In his remarks, Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi said that the University is seeking to develop

strong partnership that will develop the welfare of young Kenyans. While welcoming the initiative, Prof. Mbithi challenged the bank to partner with the University not only in creating and doing business but also in research. In addition, Prof. Mbithi highlighted the importance of supporting the teaching on the cooperative movement in the University and in creating and applying new knowledge that will support the banking Cooperative sector.

While congratulating the Vice-Chancellor on his appointment, Mr. Maurice Matumo, Cooperative Bank's Retail and Business Banking Director said that the bank is

looking to strengthen the existing relationship. Already the University and Chuna Sacco have accounts with the bank.

During the meeting, the Vice-Chancellor charged the Finance Officer, Mr. Michael Karue, Chief Internal Auditor, Mr. Peter Igiria and Deputy Finance Officers, Mr. Peter Busienei and Mr. Patrick Agutu to firm up the talks on partnership with the bank.



***Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi with Maurice Mr. Matumo, Retail and Business Banking Director, Cooperative Bank.***

# UON to host Carnegie African Diaspora Scholar

**T**HE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI HAS BEEN SELECTED BY THE CARNEGIE AFRICAN DIASPORA FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM TO HOST AN AFRICAN DIASPORA SCHOLAR FROM THE UNITED STATES TO WORK ON A COLLABORATIVE PROJECT ON REFINEMENT OF MANUFACTURING ENGINEERING CURRICULUM TO INCULCATE MANUFACTURING AUTOMATION.

Prof George Rading, School of Engineering, will lead the project, together with Prof Andrew Otieno from Northern Illinois University. Among other things, the program will refine the curriculum of the Department of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering to include the latest developments in Manufacturing Automation. Prof Otieno will also act as an external examiner to PhD thesis entitled "A Multi-Scale Dislocation Model Applied to Metal Plasticity." In addition, he will teach a graduate course on Destructive testing and identify areas of future collaboration. This collaboration may take the form of co-supervision of graduate students, short time student/Faculty visits, access to experimental facilities, etc.

The project with the University of Nairobi is one of the 59 projects that will pair African Diaspora



*The American Wing, one of the buildings housing activities of the School Engineering.*

scholars with higher education institutions in Africa to collaborate on curriculum co-development, research, graduate teaching, training and mentoring activities. Prof Otieno is one of sixty African Diaspora scholars who have been awarded Fellowships to travel to Africa to conduct the projects, which span an impressive range of fields across the arts and humanities, social sciences, education, sciences, technology, engineering and mathematics.

The winning projects in this second round of awards were submitted by 47 institutions drawn from Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda.

## 59 Projects

*The project with U.O.N is one of the projects that will pair African Diaspora scholars with higher education institutions to collaborate on curriculum co-development, research, graduate teaching, training and mentoring activities.*

This innovative Fellowship program facilitates engagement between scholars born in Africa who are now based in the United States or Canada and scholars in Africa on mutually beneficial academic activities. The program is managed by the Institute of International Education (IIE) in collaboration with Quinnipiac University, which chairs the Advisory Council, and is funded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York.

The Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship (ADF) Program Advisory Council, comprised of academic leaders from Africa and prominent

African Diaspora academics, has embarked on the quick growth, increased quality, impact, and uniqueness of the program, which allows African universities to take the lead in hosting African diaspora scholars at their institutions.

**ADF PROGRAM  
ADVISORY COUNCIL  
COMPRISES OF ACADEMIC  
LEADERS FROM AFRICA  
AND PROMINENT  
AFRICAN DIASPORA  
ACADEMICS**

According to the program’s Advisory Council, “The program contributes to brain circulation and global networking of ideas creating new knowledge in a non-hierarchical empirical manner—the exchanges are grounded in equality. The pool represents the future of the U.S. and Africa with new talents who represent their fields and the future of their disciplines. Creating large constituencies across the Atlantic reinforces collaboration instead of domination, strategic partnership instead of academic distancing, and the various projects contribute to rethinking the epistemologies of knowledge.”

**CRISSP partners with Beyond Zero Campaign**



**A UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI PROJECT KENYA CENTRAL PROVINCE RESPONSE INTEGRATION STRENGTHENING AND SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT (CRISSP) HAS PARTNERED WITH THE BEYOND ZERO CAMPAIGN TO OFFER SERVICES AND EXPERTISE IN THE ELIMINATION OF MOTHER TO CHILD HIV TRANSMISSION.**

CRISSP project ensures that no child of a HIV positive mother in Kiambu County is born HIV positive. In conjunction

with Kiambu County Health Management Team (CHMT), the project intervenes in cases where a pregnant woman tests HIV positive by ensuring that the woman is enrolled in its program in collaboration with health centers in the County. In addition, CRISSP has been involved in the launch of the Kiambu Health Strategic Plan.

CRISSP is working in partnership with the United States Centre for

Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), University of Maryland - Institute of Human Virology (UOMSOM-IHV), Futures Group International and the Ministry of Health (MOH) Kenya.

**CRISSP PROJECT ENSURES THAT NO CHILD OF A HIV POSITIVE MOTHER IN KIAMBU COUNTY IS BORN WITH HIV.**

# AIESEC shares student exchange opportunities

By Ivy Kiarie



fields including education, engineering, marketing, Finance and Information Technology, while at the same time offering a unique cultural experience and the opportunity to integrate into a new environment. With Global partners such as Microsoft, PWC and DHL, the internships offered at AIESEC are the perfect avenues to kick-start your career.

Now more than ever, economies and countries are being shaped by global thinkers. Those who are able to see from different perspectives, appreciate diversity, create innovative solutions and make informed decisions. These are all guaranteed competencies that one can enjoy after going on an exchange program with AIESEC.

The world is a Global village, which makes youth citizens. When you see it, then you begin to understand it and once you understand it then you begin to change it.

Think Global. Think AIESEC.

**2,000**  
**SCHOOLS AND LOCAL INSTITUTIONS TO RUN VOLUNTEER PROJECTS THAT RECRUIT PARTICIPANTS ALL OVER THE WORLD THROUGH AIESEC.**

*Ivy Kiarie is the Vice-President, Business Development, AIESEC, UoN.*

**T**ODAY'S COMPETITIVE WORLD DEMANDS ONE TO EXPLORE AVENUES THAT WILL KEEP THEM AHEAD OF THE GAME. THAT IS WHY YOU WILL CHASE A CERTIFICATE HERE, A DIPLOMA THERE, A TRAINING HERE.

Allow me to turn you to something completely different-Exchange. Did you know that prospective employers in almost every field look favourably upon experience gained studying overseas and knowledge obtained of another language and culture?

AIESEC, the largest youth-run organisation in the world which operates in over 110 countries and territories, gives young people from all walks of life a chance to explore and develop their leadership potential. AIESEC gives

you the chance to explore new cultures, build your leadership skills and drive societal impact by going on exchange within these territories. AIESEC offers two types of exchange:-

- Global Community Development Programme which provides short-term volunteering experiences for students and recent graduates in community projects centred on key issues such as health, education and entrepreneurship. Over 2,000 universities worldwide work with NGOs, schools and local institutions to run volunteer projects that recruit participants all over the world through AIESEC.
- Global Internship Program which provides valuable professional experience for graduates across a variety of

# President Kenyatta launches digital talent programme at UoN



**President Kenyatta presents an award to one of the top beneficiaries of the Presidential Digital Talent Programme.**

programme is in line with Kenya's vision of creating a globally competitive and prosperous nation. He challenged the graduate trainees to come up with novel innovations and infuse that knowledge into Government operations. He thanked the private sector stakeholders for partnering with the Government in this initiative. In his remarks, the President congratulated Prof. Peter Mbithi on his appointment as Vice-Chancellor and wished him well as he steers the

University to greater heights.

Speaking during the ceremony, Prof. Mbithi noted that the programme is an expression of innovation trained on how best to nurture and tap the potential of our young people, themselves an assailable bulwark of solutions to challenges related to the quality of service delivery to the public. He revealed that the University in collaboration

## **P**RESIDENT UHURU KENYATTA OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED THE PRESIDENTIAL DIGITAL TALENT PROGRAMME AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI, TAIFA HALL.

The Presidential Digital Talent Programme aims at enhancing service delivery to citizens through effective and efficient use of information communication technologies (ICT). Through internships, the programme offers participants an opportunity to understand government services, giving them an opening to contribute towards improving service delivery to Kenyan citizens.

President Kenyatta noted that the

***President Kenyatta challenged the graduate trainees to come up with novel innovations and infuse that knowledge into Government operations. He thanked the private sector stakeholders for partnering with the Government in this initiative.***



with the ICT Authority has collaborated with the Computing for Development Lab (C4DLab) to carry out specialized training for the private sector and to partner with the private sector to implement some of the projects in the ICT Master Plan. Prof. Mbithi also thanked the Government for appointing him the seventh Vice-Chancellor.

The Presidential Digital Talent Programme is in line with the country's Vision 2030, the Jubilee Manifesto and the ICT Master Plan developed by the ICT Authority. It is a transformative initiative that should see ICT managed as a business in Government.

Cabinet Secretaries, Devolution and Planning, Ms. Anne Waiguru and Information, Communication and Technology, Dr. Fred Matiang'i are among those who spoke during the ceremony.

1. **President Kenyatta presents an award to one of the top beneficiaries of the Presidential Digital Talent Programme.**
2. **President Uhuru Kenyatta inspects the ongoing work on completion of the University of Nairobi Towers.**
3. **President Uhuru Kenyatta with beneficiaries of the Presidential Digital Talent Programme.**
4. **President Uhuru Kenyatta with UoN management.**
5. **Students who turned up during the launch of the Programme.**





**Students stage a presentation during the celebrations to mark the World Aids Day in December 2014.**

# Marking of the World AIDS Day

**T**HE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI RECENTLY JOINED THE REST OF THE WORLD TODAY IN COMMEMORATING THE 2014 WORLD AIDS DAY. HIV TESTING, COUNSELING, BREAST AND CERVICAL CANCER, PROSTATE CANCER, DIABETES AND HYPERTENSION SCREENING ARE AMONG THE ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THE DAY.

The event, themed “Getting to zero; zero new infections, zero AIDS related stigma and discrimination and zero AIDS related deaths,” held at the Kenya Science Campus, had local artists who entertained students, members of staff and the general public throughout the day.

Presiding over the ceremony,

the chief guest and Chairman of Council, Dr. Idle Farah noted that the University of Nairobi continues to adopt a multi-faceted approach focusing on clinical practice, research and policy formulation. Dr. Farah said that much work remains to be done in a multidisciplinary approach focusing on risk groups to prevent new infections.

The University of Nairobi HIV/AIDS policy helps in implementing various interventions thus allowing the University to make progress in HIV/AIDS control and management. UoN has continued to partner with other stakeholders on research, training and dissemination of HIV/AIDS information. Through its networks, UoN provides sponsorship for HIV fellowship programs to enhance capacity building and management

## Getting TO ZERO

- ZERO new infections
- ZERO AIDS related stigma
- ZERO discrimination
- ZERO AIDS related deaths

of HIV/AIDS.

Speaking on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, Principal, College of Health Sciences, Prof. Isaac Kibwage, said that the University provides holistic care using primary, secondary and tertiary prevention strategies. Prof. Kibwage noted that the university will continue to play a leading role in HIV research, training, dissemination of information and providing prevention, care and treatment services.

# A record 104 PhDs graduate



**Some of the PhD graduands during the 52nd Graduation Ceremony held on December 5, 2014.**

**8,803 GRADUANDS WERE CONFERRED AND AWARDED WITH DEGREES AND DIPLOMAS DURING THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI'S 52ND GRADUATION CEREMONY, BY THE CHANCELLOR, DR. VIJOO RATTANSI WHO WAS ALSO CONFERRED WITH HONORARY DEGREE IN HUMANE LETTERS.**

Royal Media Group Chairman, Samuel Macharia was also conferred with a doctor of letters. During the ceremony, a record 104 PhDs were conferred bringing the total Phds awarded by the University in 2014 to 123.

The graduation featured graduands from the Colleges of

Health Sciences and Humanities and Social Sciences.

While congratulating the graduates, Dr. Rattansi challenged them to be heroes and the light that Kenya needs. She noted that the University's research portfolio which has grown to Kshs. 4 billion is indeed a fitting tribute to the true purpose of a university's existence, research and knowledge advancement. Dr. Rattansi challenged the University to review its quest for sustainability and look at solutions beyond module II in order to ensure the University serves its true mission for existence.

On his part, Chairman of Council, Dr. Idle Farah, revealed that the Council and Chancellor have been working as a team

52<sup>nd</sup>  
graduation

**8,803 graduands were conferred and awarded with degrees and diplomas by the Chancellor, Dr. Vijoo Rattansi**

104 PhDs were conferred bringing the total Phds awarded by University in 2014  
123



**Chancellor, Dr. Vijoo Rattansi being conferred with a doctor of letters (Honoris Causa) during the 52 graduation ceremony.**

to develop a common vision for the University. He noted that the management will embark upon a process of ensuring that the student experience of the University is wholesome. Dr. Farah appealed to the government to continue to provide finances for the recurrent expenditure that is required to run the institution so that internally generated funds can be directed towards research and infrastructural development.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha urged the government to consider

**UNIVERSITIES TO UNDERTAKE RESEARCH THAT IS GEARED TOWARDS INNOVATION AND KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER THROUGH INCUBATION CENTERS AND HELP IN SPURRING DEVELOPMENT IN THE COUNTRY**

**Prof. Collete Suda, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology.**

implementing unit costing in higher education to reduce the deficit which has continually affected universities offering courses that require a lot of investment in learning materials and personnel. He said that universities offering courses that require more resources should be financed at a level that is commensurate to their running costs, as opposed to uniform funding for all government sponsored students.

Prof. Magoha addressed his last graduation ceremony as Vice-Chancellor and thanked all stakeholders, family, members of staff and students who have played a leading role in ensuring that he delivered on the objectives of the university. The 7th Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi, assumed office on January 6, 2015.

Prof. Collete Suda, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, who represented the Cabinet Secretary during the occasion, challenged Universities to undertake research that is geared towards innovation and knowledge transfer through incubation centers and help in spurring development in the country. She said that the University of Nairobi Research, Production and Extension division should be critical for end users, providing opportunities for uptake to solve societal problems through extension and other outreach activities.

Varsity Focus congratulates the class of 2014.



Guests and university management cutting the 10th Alumni anniversary commemoration cake.

# Alumni celebrate 10th anniversary

**T**HE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI ALUMNI ASSOCIATION HELD CELEBRATIONS TO MARK THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY SINCE ITS INCEPTION.

The colourful ceremony, complete with a gala dinner for its members, was held at the Great Court, Main Campus.

Addressing members during the dinner, the Association's Chairperson, Dr. Betty Gikonyo said that the Association has had a positive co-existence with the University of Nairobi and contributed to the advancement of higher education within the University and the community at large.

Dr. Gikonyo mentioned the landmark achievements by the Association during its 10 year existence including the launch of 12 chapters among them, the MBA, Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, Range Management, Journalism, Agriculture, IDIS, ADD/ Engineering, Computing, Pharmacy

and Chiromo chapters. The School of Law and College of Education and External Studies, will soon launch their chapters. The chairperson challenged other disciplines to roll out their chapters in the future.

Also implemented by the Association include: networking forums, students' prizes, corporate social responsibility activities, students' concrete benches and the renovation of the Kenya Science Campus offices. It has also invested over Sh50 million towards the construction of the Alumni Centre Project. The Alumni Centre will act as a focal point for interaction. It will also host public lectures and distinguished scholars speakers forum, distinguished service awards and other student awards for excellence. The association also plans to establish an endowment fund for students' bursaries, scholarships and research grants and to develop assets such as hostels for students, a talents academy and a research and innovation centre.

Officiating at the dinner, the CEO

## 10Year

Land mark achievements

## 12 chapters

The **MBA**, **Medicine**, **Veterinary Medicine**, **Range Management**, **Journalism**, **Agriculture**, **IDIS**, **ADD/ Engineering**, **Computing**, **Pharmacy** and **Chiromo Chapters**

of Equity Bank Dr. James Mwangi challenged the Association and the University to partner with the private sector to realize faster development. Dr. Mwangi graduated from the Faculty of Commerce in 1984.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter M. F. Mbithi revealed that the University has created a Directorate of Advancement and Institutional Development whose mandate is to leverage internal and external relationships to maximize external support, create a process to deliver the vision and strategic institutional goals and opportunities to diversify income and produce better outcomes for students and researchers.

The University of Nairobi has graduated more than 174,414 alumni, since it attained full fledged university status in 1970.

The University of Nairobi Alumni Association was launched in February 2005 by the then Minister for Education Science and Technology, the late Prof. George Saitoti.



# Refurbishment of Taifa Hall set to commence

**THE RENOVATION AND MODERNIZATION OF TAIFA HALL IS SET TO KICK OFF SOON. THIS WAS REVEALED WHEN THE VICE-CHANCELLOR, PROF. PETER MBITHI MET THE FORD FOUNDATION TEAM LED BY THE FOUNDATION'S REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE, MR. MAURICE MAKOLOO.**

In 2012, Ford Foundation awarded the University of Nairobi a grant of \$500,000 to renovate and modernize Taifa Hall.

Speaking during the meeting, Prof. Mbithi said that the refurbishment of Taifa Hall will be completed in due course. He also asked the Foundation to partner with the University in training management on leadership and strengthen higher education, its practice and governance.

Describing Taifa Hall as a platform, and a safe place that has been a meeting point for many conversations, Mr. Makoloo thanked

the management for prioritizing the project. He welcomed the proposal on training management on leadership and said that the Foundation is ready to discuss the proposal.

The partnership between the Ford Foundation and the University dates back to 1962 when the first grant was given. Recently the Ford Foundation has supported the following projects: The Elimika programme spearheaded by Prof. Judith Bahemuka, the study of the history and nature of civil movements in East Africa and working with civil

society to strengthen and sustain them by the Institute for Development Studies (IDS); researching on and writing of popular biographies of six prominent Kenyan women, providing training and mentoring on autobiography and biography writing and production of a short documentary on selected women by the School of Journalism.



**Ford Foundation officials and UoN top managers.**

**1962**

*First grant was given to the University of Nairobi by Ford Foundation*

**2012**

*Ford Foundation awards the University of Nairobi a grant of*

**\$500,000**

*to renovate and modernize Taifa Hall*

# Korean government to enhance cooperation

**T**HE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI (UoN) AND THE KOREAN EMBASSY HAVE ENTERED INTO DISCUSSION ON STRATEGIES THAT ENHANCE THE EXISTING COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO. This was revealed when the Korean Ambassador to Kenya, H.E. Choi Donggyou, paid a courtesy call on the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi.

Speaking during the meeting, Prof. Mbithi invited the Ambassador to consider the University of Nairobi as a strategic partner in higher education. He said that through the cooperation, the University will contribute to the realization of the Embassy's mandate of enhancing international relations. Prof. Mbithi said that among the things he will pursue is increasing the number of international students and faculty.

The University hosts the Korean Studies Centre that offers a Bachelor of Arts degree and a certificate course in Korean Studies through the Korean Studies Programme launched in 2014. In addition, staff and student exchange programmes are being actualized with seven UoN postgraduate students studying in Korean Universities and five Korean students pursuing various programmes in UoN. Plans are underway to introduce a masters degree in Korean Studies and establish a regional centre for



*Korean Ambassador to Kenya, H.E. Choi Donggyou with Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter M.F. Mbithi.*

## 2014

**➔ Korean Studies Programme launched at UoN**

Korean Studies in East Africa.

Ambassador Donggyou thanked the University management for their passionate support of the Korean programme. The Ambassador said that the mutual cooperation between the two countries, has enrolled citizens to share their experiences and to learn each

other's cultures.

Present during the meeting was Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs, Prof. Henry Mutoro, Principal, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Prof. Enos Njeru, Principal, College of Education and External Studies, Prof. Isaac Jumba.

***Plans are underway to introduce a masters degree in Korean Studies and establish a regional centre for Korean Studies in East Africa***

# UoN and EP Global Energy discuss renewable energy

**EP GLOBAL ENERGY IS ENGAGING THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI ON THE POSSIBILITY OF ADAPTING AND USING RENEWABLE ENERGY AND TO BUILD CAPACITY AMONG TECHNICIANS TO RUN THE SYSTEMS.**

EP Global is a renowned international company specializing in renewable energy.

During the meeting, the Managing Director, EP Global, Dr. Tara Lindstedt, said that by tapping into renewable energy, the University will save on power bills. EP Global is keen on transformational projects that require engagements through which academia can innovate.

The key strategy being adopted

by EP Global Energy is Community Social Responsibility, where they partner with the local communities to develop systems that will power the health care and education sector. Through the initiative, the key role for the University would be the development of the human resource

**TAPPING INTO THE RENEWABLE ENERGY LIKE SOLAR AND BIO ENERGY, THE UNIVERSITY WILL ACHIEVE SOME OF ITS PERFORMANCE CONTRACT INDICATORS SUCH AS COST REDUCTIONS**

that will help in maintenance of already constructed power stations. EP Global Energy aims at having the University showcase adoption of universal power and becoming self-sufficient.

Speaking on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbiti, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Student Affairs, Prof. Isaac Mbeche, welcomed the proposal noting that by adopting renewable energy, like solar and bio energy, the University will achieve some of its performance contract indicators such as cost reduction.

During the meeting, it was agreed that EP Global energy will develop a prototype and work on a draft Memorandum of Understanding for presentation and consideration by the University Management Board.



Members of the EP Global Energy delegation with Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Student Affairs, Pro. Isaac Mbeche



# UoN to strengthen collaboration with IGAD

## THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI WILL STRENGTHEN ITS COLLABORATION WITH IGAD BY OFFERING MORE COURSES IN SOMALILAND.

Currently, the University offers a degree program in dry-land economics and agro-ecosystem management through the IGAD Sheikh Technical Veterinary School (ISTVS) based in Somaliland.

Following the success of this program, the IGAD Executive Secretary, Amb (Eng.) Mahboub

*“THE COURSES WILL BUILD CAPACITIES OF THE LECTURERS AT THE SCHOOL AND THE CIVIL SERVANTS EMERGING FROM CONFLICT SITUATIONS”*

*Amb (Eng.) Mahboub Maalim*

Maalim has requested the University to consider offering post-graduate degree courses and establishing a distance learning facility for the under-graduates and civil servants in the war-torn country.

“The courses will build capacities of the lecturers at the school and the civil servants emerging from conflict situations,” stated Amb Mahboub. He also pointed out that the school was receiving similar support from Makerere and Mekelle Universities in Uganda and Ethiopia, respectively.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter

Mbithi recalled being part of the team that conceived the partnership and assured IGAD of continued commitment from the University.

“It is part of our mandate to tackle the many challenges that Africa and the region faces including poverty and food insecurity”, reiterated Prof. Mbithi. He added that the Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies provides courses relevant to Somalia and other countries in the region emerging from conflict situations. The University has seconded Prof Laban Ogallo and Dr. Munyua Muchina to serve as directors of the IGAD Climate Prediction and

Application Centre and the IGAD Centre for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development respectively. The University of Nairobi will strengthen its collaboration with IGAD by offering more courses in Somaliland. Currently, the University offers a degree program in dry-land economics and agro-ecosystem management through the IGAD Sheikh Technical Veterinary School (ISTVS) based in Somaliland.

Amb Mahboub also congratulated Prof Mbithi on his appointment as the 7th Vice-Chancellor and the University of Nairobi for emerging position 7 in Africa in the latest webometric ranking.



*Vice-Chancellor Prof. Peter Mbithi with IGAD, Executive Secretary, Eng. Mahboub Maalim.*

# FROM OUR GALLERY



**1. President Uhuru Kenyatta with Chancellor, Dr. Vijoo Rattansi and Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi.**

**2. Devolution Cabinet Secretary, Hon Anne Waiguru with SONU leaders led by the Chairman, Mr. Babu Owino.**

**3. Speaker of the Senate, Ekwe Ethuro and Attorney General during the installation of Prof. Mbithi as the seventh Vice-Chancellor.**

**4. Prof. George Magoha, Dr. Adelaide Mbithi, Dr. Barbara Magoha and Prof. Peter Mbithi during the Installation and Commendation ceremony.**



**5. Senator Mutula Kilonzo Jnr with former head of public service, Ambassador, Francis Muthaura during the Installation Ceremony.**

**6. Chairman of Council Dr. Idle Farah hands over a commendation certificate to Prof. George Magoha for his tenure as the 6th Vice-chancellor of the UoN.**

**7. Student leaders with the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi during the installation and commendation ceremony.**

**8. Deputy Vice-Chancellor Prof. Lucy Irungu joins staff in launching the book 'Professional Social Work in East Africa: Towards Social Development, Poverty Reduction and Gender Equality', edited by Helmut Spitzer, Janestic Twikirize and Gidraph Wairire.**



**9. Ford Foundation Resident Representative, Mr. Maurice MacOloo with Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi, and UNITWIN Chair, Prof. Judith Bahemuka.**

## Faculty of Arts and BPS get new bosses



*Prof. Peter Wasamba, Dean, Faculty of Arts.*



*Prof. Lydia Njenga, Director, Board of Postgraduate Studies*

**P**ROF. PETER WASAMBA IS THE NEW DEAN AT THE FACULTY OF ARTS. PROF. WASAMBA WHO WON THE DEANSHIP ELECTIONS TAKES OVER FROM PROF. PRESTON CHITERE WHOSE TENURE AS DEAN ENDED ON JANUARY 17, 2015.

Prof. Wasamba has previously served as Chairman, Department of Literature and Associate Dean, Faculty of Arts.

As the new Dean, Prof Wasamba is expected to increase student's enrolments, improve income generating activities and distribution, and improve the general learning environment.

The Vice-Chancellor also appointed Prof. Lydia Njenga the Director, Board of Postgraduate Studies (BPS) for a term of three years. Prof. Njenga replaces Prof. Eunice Mutitu whose second term as Director ended on January 2, 2015 after serving for 6 years.

Prof. Njenga, is a holder of a Doctor of Philosophy degree in analytical/environmental chemistry is an associate professor in the Department of Chemistry having risen through the academic ranks since 1983 when she first joined the department as a Tutorial Fellow. Prof. Njenga brings along with her a wealth of academic and administrative experience, having served as Dean, School of Physical Sciences. She has also served in several college and faculty committees and was the advisor to the Nairobi University Chemical Club, among other responsibilities.

Varsity Focus congratulates Prof. Wasamba and Prof. Njenga and wishes them well in their new appointments.

## UoN staff receive funding for innovation

**A** TEAM FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI LED BY DR. BENSON WAMALWA, A LECTURE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY, HAS BEEN AWARDED KSHS.10.9 MILLION FOR AN INNOVATION THAT HANDLES CHILD DEATHS AND FOOD SECURITY.

In the project dubbed 'Vaccination/Mother and Child Wellness Card', mothers whose children are vaccinated get an incentive of discounts on farm inputs.

The card uses a bar-code that a health worker attaches to a clinic booklet, to keep track of vaccinations. The bar-code is later scanned through a phone scanner that recognizes Quick Response (QR) codes for discounts on farm products.

The scheme also keeps track of vaccine stocks available so that a health facility knows when to restock so that mothers are not turned away for lack of vaccines. This information can be shared on a central database.

More than 2,000 rural families in Mt Elgon and Kitale have seen their lives improved through the initiative that also impacted on more than 9,500 others. The pilot project will be expanded to Bungoma and Trans Nzoia. In order to reach 50,000 children aged under five and 14,000 pregnant women by 2017.

The award for this year is worth Sh91 million and will be shared among four African health initiatives. The other winners were from South Africa, Zambia, and Uganda.

**THE SCHEME ALSO KEEPS TRACK OF VACCINE STOCKS AVAILABLE SO THAT A HEALTH FACILITY KNOWS WHEN TO RESTOCK SO THAT MOTHERS ARE NOT TURNED AWAY FOR LACK OF VACCINES**

Indeed, the University of Nairobi has established collaboration with industry, academic and professional fields in the search for solutions and strategies to better society. To date, the University annual research kitty stands at Kshs. 4 billion.

Varsity Focus congratulates Dr. Wamalwa and his team on this achievement and wishes them well.



## Students to benefit from work study programme

### **T**HE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI'S NEEDY BUT BRIGHT STUDENTS WILL BENEFIT FROM A WORK STUDY PROGRAMME AT BETA HEALTHCARE INTERNATIONAL.

This follows an agreement signed between the University, the University of Nairobi Alumni Association and Beta Healthcare.

Through the programme, the students will not only garner work experience but also earn an extra income. The students will gain the much needed work experience and discover their abilities and potential.

Speaking during the signing ceremony for the partnership, Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbitihi said the University is committed to ensuring that the terms of the understanding are implemented

**HE NOTED THAT IN ORDER TO PRODUCE QUALITY AND HOLISTIC GRADUATES, STUDENTS MUST WORK AND INTERACT WITH INDUSTRY AND MASTER THE VARIOUS PROFESSIONS**

and that bright but needy students benefit fully. He noted that in order to produce quality and holistic graduates, students must work and interact with industry and master the various professions.

The Chief Executive Officer,

Beta Healthcare, Dr. Advani Sanjay said that student welfare and mentorship is important. Through the programme, Beta Healthcare will appoint at least one employee to mentor students.

The Vice-Chairman, UONAA, Prof. Robert Obudho noted that the initiative was a way of the Association support to its alma mater. He said that the Association will work towards implementing the terms in the partnership agreement.

Prof. Lucy Irungu, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research, Production and Extension, Prof. Henry Mutoro, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs, Mr. Johnson Kinyua, Executive Director, UONAA, Mr. B.M Waweru, Academic Registrar are among those who witnessed the signing of the partnership agreement.

# Stakeholders participate in development of incubation policy

## OUR VIEW OF INCUBATION



**T**HE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI (UoN) HAS ENTERED INTO DISCUSSIONS WITH STAKEHOLDERS ON ITS DRAFT INCUBATION POLICY. THE INTENDED UNIVERSITY INCUBATION POLICY IS TO GUIDE THE ESTABLISHMENT AND SUSTAINABLE operation of incubation centres in the institution thereby achieving the commercialization of technological innovations strategies and outcomes of its 2013-2018 strategic plan.

Speaking during the forum, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi said that the Universities Act 2012 demands that universities should play a more active role in national development over and above their traditional teaching and research mandate. He noted that the University recognizes that research,

innovation and technology transfer have great potential for wealth creation and contribution to sustainable national development with a key outcome of increased innovations and impact of research output, hence sustainable national economic growth.

The overall goal of the Incubation Policy is to nurture new enterprises that have innovative products and services for local, regional and global markets and to grow them into sustainable and competitive businesses that contribute to the realization of Kenya Vision 2030 as well as the mission of the University of Nairobi.

Through the provisions of this policy, the University will create incubation centres in different academic disciplines. The University also commits to provide new enterprises with infrastructure services, various forms of

business assistance services and funding in order to nurture them and grow them into sustainable and competitive businesses.

Prof. Lucy Irungu, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research Extension and Production, said that the University will monitor the development of the business enterprises against set and agreed business targets as well as monitor the incubation graduates to ensure that enterprises thus incubated are contributing to national development. Prof. Irungu noted that for successful technology transfer, the University needs to work with the government and industry.

The forum which was held in Serena Hotel in February 2015 brought together officials from Vision 2030 Secretariat, Treasury, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Ministry of Information, Communication and Technology, Konza City, among other partners from the private sector and the public sector.

Prof. Henry Mutoro, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs and Prof. Timothy Waema, School of Computing and Informatics, were among those who spoke during the forum.

**THE UNIVERSITY WILL MONITOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE BUSINESS ENTERPRISES AGAINST SET AND AGREED BUSINESS TARGETS AS WELL AS MONITOR THE INCUBATION GRADUATES TO ENSURE THAT ENTERPRISES THUS INCUBATED ARE CONTRIBUTING TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

# Relations with International Potato Centre



**CIP's Regional Operations Director, Dr. Adiel Mbabu with Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Prof. Henry Mutoro and Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research and Extension, Prof. Lucy Irungu.**

**T**HE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI (UoN) HAS SIGNED A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE INTERNATIONAL POTATO CENTRE (CIP) THAT WILL ESTABLISH ACADEMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO.

As per the agreement, the collaboration will among other things, promote joint research activities, publications, source for research funding and provide internships and job opportunities for students. In addition, the two institutions will conduct breeding work and potato trials at the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences (CAVS) fields and engage staff and students in building research through

exchange programmes and short courses.

CIP is an international organization mandated to work with partners to achieve food security, well-being, and gender equity

**DR. MBABU HIGHLIGHTED THE IMPORTANCE OF RESEARCH IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NATION SAYING THAT RESEARCH CAN BE ABSTRACT BUT IT NEEDS TO BE CONTEXTUALIZED**

for poor people in root and tuber farming and food systems in the developing world. This is done through research and innovation in science, technology, and capacity strengthening.

Speaking during the signing ceremony, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbiti welcomed the initiative saying that the University is keen on strategic partnerships that will promote its core business of teaching and research. He noted that through the partnership, CIP and UoN will embark on a rigorous programme that will ensure research output that improves the lives of Kenyans particularly in food and commerce for farmers. Prof. Mbiti welcomed the proposal by CIP to enhance the University's teaching curriculum by providing professionals to teach at the crop science department. In order to diversify teaching and research, the University will pursue and implement the honorary and visiting professors programme. To this end, student mentorships through sound and well delivered curriculum within a framework of values will be realized.

CIP's Regional Operations Director, Dr. Adiel Mbabu said that in order to realize its vision of improving the lives of the poor through research on roots and tubers, the organization needs support from key institutions such as the University of Nairobi. Dr. Mbabu highlighted the importance of research in the development of a nation saying that research can be abstract but it needs to be contextualized.

Prof. Lucy Irungu, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research, Production and Extension, Prof. Henry Mutoro, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs, Prof. Agnes Mwang'ombe, Principal, CAVS, Prof. Bernard Aduda, Principal, College of Biological and Physical Sciences, Prof. John Kimenju, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture and Prof. Julius Mwabora, Chairman Department of Physics were among those present.

# UON and USAID launch Geographic Information Systems Lab

**T**HE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND VETERINARY SCIENCES (CAVS) AND THE UNITED STATES AGENCY INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (USAID) HAVE LAUNCHED A GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION (GIS) LAB AT THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY (LARMAT).

USAID Kenya has extended support to the University through UoN-Colorado State University (CSU) partnership amounting to \$656,000 from 2011 to

## 2011 to 2014

*UoN-Colorado State University (CSU) partnership amounting to \$656,000*

2014. The support covers many activities cutting across teaching and training, staff and student exchange, postgraduate and faculty research and community engagement/outreach to dry land communities.

Speaking during the launch, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi commended the strong partnership between the Universities noting that the establishment of the GIS Lab at the University is a significant step in the use of new technologies to build the capacity of students and faculty in addressing emerging issues and challenges facing the Country and Africa as a whole especially in arid and dry lands.

On his part, Mr. Isiah Parnell, Deputy Chief of Mission, US Embassy, noted that through the partnership, lecturers have been trained to share their knowledge of drylands management with a new generation of Kenyan scientists and researchers, many of whom come from the pastoralists communities that are most affected by climate change.



**Vice Chancellor, Prof. Mbithi (right), with Mr. Isiah Parnell, Deputy Chief of Mission, US Embassy (2nd Right) and Prof. Agnes Mwang'ombe, Principal, CAVS (Left) during the launch of the Geographic Information (GIS) Lab.**

Prof. Mwang'ombe, the Principal, CAVS, reaffirmed the College's commitment to address food insecurity and poverty and create sustainable livelihoods in Kenya and the region through adoption of new technologies in training and research programmes. The College, will work closely with other stakeholders, development agencies and knowledge-based institutions taking into consideration emerging global and regional trends to improve livelihoods.



# Operationalization of the Centre For Self-Sponsored Programmes (CESSP)

**T**HE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI HAS RESOLVED TO OPERATIONALIZE THE CENTRE FOR SELF SPONSORED PROGRAMMES (CESSP). CESSP WAS ESTABLISHED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI VIDE STATUTE XXXV IN 2005.

It however, remained un-operational as its functions were being carried out by the University of Nairobi Enterprises and Services (UNES) Limited, a fully-owned subsidiary company of the University. UNES was formed by the University in 1996 with the mandate of carrying out commercial activities on behalf of the University.

To refocus UNES to its core mandate, the University Council, in consultation with the UNES Board, resolved in 2014 to transfer to the University the management of student fees, which was being carried out by UNES on an agency basis. Consequently, the University has undertaken to operationalize CESSP so as to assign the management of student fees to it as it was established for that purpose. This decision was also made in order to enable UNES to reposition itself on its original mandate and to better exploit emerging business opportunities, thereby creating greater value for the University.

The transfer of students fees to the University is aimed at enabling UNES to discharge its

original mandate of carrying out income generating activities. The main function of CESSP will be to coordinate and promote activities of self-sponsored programmes. Specifically, CESSP will be in charge of fees collection, disbursement of funds to various units of the University, payment to service providers and provision of other financial management for student fees for self-sponsored students in accordance with applicable University of Nairobi policies.

## THE CORE FUNCTIONS OF CESSP SHALL BE

1. Promotion of the self-sponsored programmes of the University.
2. In conjunction with the respective Colleges, maintain accurate records and statistics for self-sponsored students.
3. To constantly liaise with the academic units and the Directorate of Quality Assurance on matters relating to quality assurance and quality maintenance of the academic programmes.
4. To review and make recommendations on appropriate fees and other charges for the self-sponsored programmes.
5. To collect fees from all self-sponsored students in conjunction with the various academic units.
6. Disbursements of funds to various units of the University in accordance with the existing University policy.

7. Payments to Direct Service Providers (DSPs) in accordance with prevailing university policy.

8. To perform any other functions as may be assigned by the University Council from time to time.

Operationalization of CESSP will involve implementation of appropriate policies and procedures, transfer/renaming of bank accounts, use of appropriate Financial Management Information System and establishing essential financial reporting mechanisms.

To ensure uninterrupted service to students and service providers, it has been planned that there will be seamless change over, with minimal changes to the human resources, physical and ICT infrastructural designs and operations. Indeed, it is envisioned that CESSP will work with higher efficiency. It has therefore been arranged that the main offices for the Centre will be located at the current UNES Headquarters along Arboretum Drive, off Kolobot Drive. Other premises will include the current student fees collection offices at G3 Office, Gandhi Wing, Main Campus and the Queensway House Offices.

Prof. Julius Ogeng'o former MD UNES, was appointed the new Director of the Centre. While John Kenduiwo former Deputy to Prof. Ogeng'o is now the Managing Director, UNES.



*The President, Women for Africa, Ms Teresa Fernandez with Prof. Henry Mutoro, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs.*

# UoN and Women for Africa discuss partnership

**T**HE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI (UoN), AND WOMEN FOR AFRICA HAVE ENTERED INTO TALKS ON DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING A PROJECT THAT WILL ECONOMICALLY EMPOWER KENYAN WOMEN.

The project will comprise of entrepreneurial training and mentoring thereby empowering women to create businesses, record profits and contribute to the country's GDP.

During the meeting between the two institutions, it was proposed and agreed that the UoN and Women for Africa will jointly carry

out a study in the first phase of the project and the findings will act as a baseline for implementation of the programme. To this end, a memorandum of understanding will be developed and implemented.

Speaking on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs, Prof. Henry Mutoro welcomed the move saying that the University is keen on addressing issues affecting women and already; the University has established the African Women Studies Centre.

On her part, the President, Women for Africa, Ms Teresa Fernandez said that the Spanish

based organization has developed four projects in Kenya. She noted that the partnership with UoN will act as a pilot for future projects with other African institutions of higher learning.

Present during the meeting were representatives from Women for Africa and the Director, School of Economics, Prof. Jane Mariara.

**4PROJECTS**

**HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED BY THE SPANISH BASED ORGANIZATION IN KENYA**

# The no glove, no love campaign

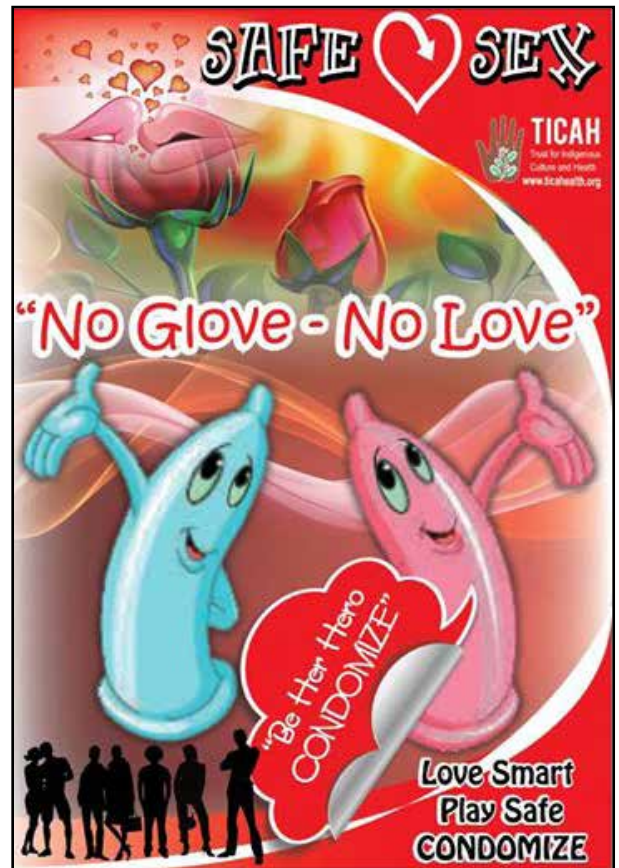
By Mickey Ochieng

**T**RAIN A CHILD IN THE WAY THEY SHOULD BEHAVE, AND WHEN THEY GROW OLDER THEY WILL NOT DEPART FROM IT"

The backlash on the “condom for kids campaign” launched by President Uhuru is inconceivable. This was timely coming barely three days after the launch of the “No glove, No love” campaign in three universities in Nairobi. Trust for Indigenous Culture and Health (TICAH) runs a sexuality and reproductive health programme in partnership with WOSWA - University of Nairobi, Office of the Gender Affair Secretary – Kenyatta University and Office of Miss. JKUAT – Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology. As Ticah, we realize the importance of including “safe sex” education as part of the campus sexuality programme because of the age of students in campus. The freedom that students enjoy when they join campus is full of consequences. Most of these students are very young and naïve. In between lectures, assignments and group work they find themselves with a lot of time on their hands to explore the exploits of the sin city. Sex education, if at all received was in primary and secondary where each word and demonstration was carefully calculated, with no room or confidence to ask the most burning and critical questions.

There were several omissions for fear of bordering on obscenity and perversion. However, there is need for age appropriate sexuality education as children grow up with additional information and build up as they progress into their teenage and adulthood. Young people should be made aware of the reality of irresponsible sexual behavior and the consequences associated with it.

The “No glove, No love



**THE “NO GLOVE, NO LOVE CAMPAIGN WAS THEREFORE DELIBERATELY LAUNCHED TWO DAYS BEFORE VALENTINE’S DAY TO PROMOTE “SAFE SEX” BECAUSE IT IS THE TIME THAT STUDENTS TEND TO COUPLE UP.**

campaign was therefore deliberately launched two days before Valentine’s Day to promote “safe sex” because it is the time

that students tend to couple up. Gullibility that comes with the need to love and to be loved clouds many a judgment rendering some



**UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ENGAGE IN DIFFERENT ACTIVITIES TO PROMOTE THE "NO GLOVE NO LOVE" CAMPAIGN THAT WAS STAGED IN PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES TO PROMOTE SAFE SEX AMONG STUDENTS.**

a fellow student came about that money or what they had to do to make this magical night happen. "You can't possibly say no to that now, can you?"

8.00 p.m. on the dot, prince charming awaits outside your hostel in a yellow cab. You disappear into the twilight for a night to remember. Everything passes in a miasma, you are drunk in love and it's time to retire for the day. You go back to this cozy hotel, one thing lead to another and in the heat of the moment, you ask your partner if he has a condom and he suddenly looks at you like you have two heads. Not only does he not have one but he doesn't understand why you would even suggest that



vulnerable to "team mafisi". This valentine's was incredibly long as pointed out by a student during the campaign. So imagine one fine gentleman going out of their way to show you love as never experienced before. Hot red bouquet of flowers delivered to your room. A box of Swiss chocolates, a bottle of red Fragolino Rosso, a huggly, snuggly teddy bear; a promise of warmer nights in the absence of prince charming and a card with a note of picking you up at 8.00 p.m. Forget how

in the first place. Are you crazy! Now, you have two choices: make an exception — just this one time — and do it anyway or say “not tonight, bye.” And risk losing him if at all he was yours in the first place.

This whole condom thing is about standards more than anything else. Many women compromise their standards to please somebody else due to lack of confidence. May be you are embarrassed by the conversation, confrontation in general, or you fear losing him if you remain firm. Author and Relationship Expert Mathew Hussey says that “Confidence is having that standard and competence in knowing how to speak that standard in a way that doesn’t make you seem annoying, over the top or aggressive. Knowing how to communicate and combining it with the desire to please and you have someone doing something they’re not really comfortable with.”

This campaign, just like the one launched by the President is not meant to encourage immorality as misunderstood in some quarters during the campaign. Its main objective is to educate university students on the importance of sexual responsibility. We receive views and perspectives from students about their sexual and reproductive health, sexual gender based violence and healthy relationships. We provide a forum to discuss power in relationships and demystify myths, negotiation for safer sex, consent, value of abstinence and good

**THIS CAMPAIGN,  
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IN SOME  
QUARTERS DURING  
THE CAMPAIGN**

communication. We also try to create links with service providers and important contacts that can be used when in trouble such as the Dean’s office, Students Welfare Authority, Security office, Placement officer, Student’s Special Advisor, Nairobi Women’s Gender Violence Recovery Centre, Police Control room number just to mention a few.

We may continue to bury our heads in the sand and pretend that the youth/young people are not having sex. And that creating awareness and advocating for safer sex is a tad bit immoral and perverting the younger generation, but the tough reality is they are, probably more than we care to imagine. What is the percentage of students joining university who are still virgins? What is the

percentage of school drop outs due to pregnancy? Tell me please, since when is silence about a topic good teaching? Go figure and you just may realize that giving out free condoms is not such a bad idea. The silent treatment that surrounds sexuality and reproductive health is what ails our society. We frown upon individuals who are vocal about sex matters. In most communities, the topic is taboo. We shy away from teaching our children about healthy sexual activities, and then we turn around and castigate people who make an effort to create awareness on such topics.

Me thinks, if parents took the time to candidly and freely speak to their kids about sex and sexuality, or any other topic for that matter, no amount of condoms given to them would inspire them to engage in sex if that was not in their to-do list. I strongly believe that the more knowledge you have over a subject, the better in making an informed decision.

Discussing and teaching your kids on issues sexual matters may be embarrassing and awkward, but this exposure is critical in bringing up confident young individuals who can face social challenges.

*Mickey Ochieng is the former Chairperson, Women Students Welfare Association (WOSWA)*



# Master plan to guide development

**THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI HAS EMBARKED ON DEVELOPING A MASTER PLAN THAT WILL ACT AS A GUIDE TO THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE INSTITUTION.**

In a meeting with the technical committee tasked with the development of the master plan, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi said that the aim of the initiative is to guide the future development within the university in order to enhance distinctness and excellence in form, function and design by facilitating coordinated development and management of university properties and other resources. Prof. Mbithi noted that the University Master Plan will be vital in among others enabling the University provide leadership in infrastructure development within a spatially planned framework.

The committee chairman, Prof. Peter Ngau says that the team has already drafted a work plan that requires them to engage and collect views from the University stakeholders. The stakeholders' consultations will act as guide to the drafting of the master plan.

The master plan is being prepared under the leadership of the University Management Board and the technical committee which is a multi-disciplinary team of 15 members consisting of planners, architects, engineers, land

experts, designers, educationists, social scientists and administrators drawn from various departments within the University. The Committee is organized into 7 thematic groups covering key master plan sectors – institutional, land surveying, planning and environment, architecture, socio-economic, infrastructure and utilities and land development. The committee which has been working since July 2014 is expected to deliver the first University of Nairobi Master Plan by April 2015.

The University of Nairobi master plan is being prepared in fulfilment of the requirement by the Commission for University Education (CUE) established under the Universities Act 2012, which requires each university to prepare a master plan.

The University of Nairobi Master Plan is based on University community input,

surveys, planning workshops, existing development and physical characteristics. The approach adopted by the committee participatory and includes consultations with cross-section of University stakeholders including administrators, faculty, staff, and students. The output will comprise two and three dimensional images and models, texts, diagrams, statistics, reports, maps and aerial photos that describe how specific areas of the university will be developed and an implementation strategy. The plan will make recommendations and proposals for the University community's population, accommodation, education facilities, social/recreation facilities, transportation and circulation, and land use.

The general approach of preparing the University of Nairobi master plan is on the basis of the campuses. The planning process is being carried out in three distinct phases covering all the campuses. The first phase covers Main, Chiromo, and Parklands campuses. The second phase will cover the city nuclear campuses and their auxiliary properties which are Upper Kabete, Lower Kabete, Kikuyu, Kenya Science and the College of Health Sciences. The last phase will cover regional campuses including Kisumu and Mombasa.

Based on guidelines given, the first phase should be finalized within the first quarter of 2015. The overall output for this project is a detailed 20-year Master Plan which will guide the future development of the University.

**THE COMMITTEE WHICH HAS BEEN WORKING SINCE JULY 2014 IS EXPECTED TO DELIVER THE FIRST UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI MASTER PLAN BY APRIL 2015**

## QUALITY POLICY STATEMENT

THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI IS COMMITTED TO QUALITY AS THE GUIDING PRINCIPLE IN ITS DECISION MAKING AND LEADERSHIP IN THE PROVISION OF UNIVERSITY EDUCATION AND RELATED SERVICES TO ITS CUSTOMERS.

TO REALISE THIS, THE UNIVERSITY MANAGEMENT SHALL REGULARLY MONITOR AND REVIEW ITS PERFORMANCE FOR CONTINUAL IMPROVEMENT AND SUITABILITY BY IMPLEMENTING AN EFFECTIVE QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM BASED ON ISO 9001 STANDARD.



Varsity**Focus**

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