

The meeting of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Student Affairs) (DVC (SA)), Prof. Isaac Mbeche, with students of Kisumu Campus was held on Thursday, March 19, 2015, at Mega-City Campus. Present in the meeting were Campus Coordinator, Mr. Alex Jaleha, and Administrator, Mr. Fred Wasao, the Assistant Dean of Students (ADS), Kisumu Campus, Ms Teresia Okumu, the Associate Dean, School of Law, Kisumu Campus, Okech-Owiti, Coordinator, College of Education and External Studies, Kisumu Campus, Dr. Nyonje and the students from both the Mega-City and Town Campuses of the University of Nairobi (UoN).

The main things discussed in the meeting were: the upcoming Students Organization of Nairobi University (SONU) elections and the management view of, and plans for, satellite campuses. The DVC began his speech by informing the meeting that he was visiting all the campuses to address students on the elections. On SONU elections, he stressed that:

1. The management of the UoN does not have any official candidates and is not supporting any candidate; any claim by any candidate that he or she has the management's support has no basis in policy or fact and should be ignored
2. The elections are strictly a student affair and the role of the management is to facilitate the process, including supporting the Commissioners to oversee the elections effectively
3. The management has an interest in free, fair and transparent elections and hopes that the students will conduct themselves in a manner that meets these standards
4. It is the students' duty to ensure that they elect leaders who will pursue their (the students'), and not their (the leaders') personal, interests
5. The management was keen on sensitizing the students on the processes of elections so that the students operate from a point of knowledge
6. The students should ensure that there is no violence at all during the campaigns and elections, and after, and that the management will play its role in achieving peaceful elections.

On management plans for satellite campuses, the DVC informed the meeting that the management had held a meeting in the Town Campus in February this year, inspected the upcoming building and resolved to ensure that the satellite campuses of the UoN have standards at par with the main campuses. He, further, said that the management had agreed on *student-centred management and service delivery* and that *cooperation* between the management and students in resolving challenges facing the campuses will be the hall-mark of this process. He stressed that *dialogue* must have prominence in interactions between management and students. He further stated that the management had plans to:

1. Seek funds to put up decent and affordable accommodation for students in Kisumu and Mombasa
2. Improve welfare services and facilities, including those relating to transport for official activities, sports and games, medical services and supplies, and meals facilities.

As part of the meeting, the students were provided with an opportunity to raise their issues and make comments on any matter of interest regarding their studentship at the campus and the university generally. The students variously raised issues in respect of:

1. Personnel for sports, the clinic and counseling
2. Transport, including promises which had been made in the past but which have not been fulfilled
3. In-patient medical facilities, ambulance and emergency medical care, and interim arrangements for these services pending implementation of the university's plans
4. Massive rigging in the last SONU elections
5. Offices for officials of student organizations
6. Institutional development
7. State of facilities in general

8. Number of computers in relation to the student population
9. Slow and unreliable internet service
10. Weak and limited WIFI
11. Delays in processing identification cards for students, yet their access to services depended on having one
12. Number of books and space in the libraries and networking of Town and Mega-City campus libraries
13. Swimming facilities
14. University support where a student dies.

On the issues raised by the students, the DVC responded as follows:

1. There were already plans to employ more personnel and advertisements had already been placed in newspapers
2. Purchase of a bus and a utility van for Kisumu Campus was in process
3. The management of the University Health Services was already in discussions with health service providers to negotiate provision of in-patient and other medical facilities and services in Mombasa and Kisumu
4. It is the duty of students to elect upright and service-oriented SONU leadership and the management would not interfere but only facilitate
5. The university had invested heavily on institutional and human resource development as seen in the Kisumu and Main Campus complexes and the advertisements
6. Pending the completion of the Kisumu complex, the university will develop facilities, including offices, in the vacant spaces at Mega-City it currently leases
7. Support where a student dies was dependent on the UoN policy and that a situation which was not covered by the policy could be looked at and addressed on its own merits
8. Many of the issues which students had raised were legitimate and would be the subject of management discussions and decision-making in the very near future.

In conclusion, the DVC stressed the need for dialogue in addressing challenges facing the university, respect for and commitment towards the UoN on the part of students, and a promise to address the issues raised.