

UoN to introduce course in human rights education



(Left) Mrs. Nardos Bekele- Thomas, UN Resident coordinator and Prof. Lucy Irungu, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research, Production and Extension sign copies of the MOU.

The University of Nairobi (UoN) will soon introduce a human rights course in the undergraduate curriculum following the signing of an agreement with the United Nations. In the memorandum of understanding, the two institutions agreed to jointly develop the human rights course curriculum as well as develop staff capacity in human rights education.

Speaking on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research, Production and Extension, Prof. Lucy Irungu said that the move was indeed timely as it will empower young Kenyans in the front of understanding their human rights. Prof. Irungu noted that the University of Nairobi has several centres of excellence focusing on pertinent issues affecting Kenya including the Centre for Human Rights and Peace (CHRP) which will steer the provision of the Human Rights Education course in UoN as well as build a vibrant programme. Already through CHRP, the first cohort of Masters of Arts degree programme in Human Rights is set to graduate later this year.

On her part, UN Resident coordinator, Mrs. Nardos Bekele- Thomas said that the partnership will provide an excellent platform to build the capacity of leaders of tomorrow to engage with human rights from a multi-sectoral, multi-dimensional, inter-disciplinary perspective and most importantly as a cardinal pillar of good governance and a just society.

The University of Nairobi has envisioned that human rights is an important course that will meet the capacity needs of the future and will align the skills of its students to the demands of an evolving world where human rights is an integral component of governance.

The partnership will be coordinated by the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) who will provide technical support as well as provide a forum

for partnership and collaboration in identifying, highlighting and developing responses to human rights challenges.

Present during the ceremony was a delegation from the United Nations, Prof. Enos Njeru, Principal, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Prof. Preston Chitere, Dean, Faculty of Arts, Dr. Stephen Akaranga, Chairman of Department, Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies and Dr. J.B. Ndohvu, Programme Coordinator, CHRP.