

MEET ICTC'S OUTSTANDING GRANDMOTHER FIGURE

Date and time:

Wed, 2014-04-02 15:04



Mrs. Margret Adura in her office.

When walking into the [ICT Center](#), you will certainly bump into young individuals actively learning and using modern-day technological devices in research activities. Every so often, it becomes challenging for guests to distinguish students from young staff members and it is this kind of atmosphere makes it easy to notice Mrs. Margret Adura Nyagoha; the ICT Center's exceptional grandmother figure.

Her grey hair and gently curving wrinkles delightfully show her smile and project her beauty like no other. The cheerful matriarch sustains a silent yet salient family spirit among the staff members and students even as her retirement time beckons. From her enthusiasm at work and interminable love for modern technology, one gathers that nobody grows old merely by living a number of years. We grow old by deserting our ideals. Years may wrinkle the skin, but to give up enthusiasm wrinkles the soul. On seeking her opinion on this, she gladly whispers to me,

‘Old age, believe me, is a good and pleasant thing. It is true you are gently shouldered off the stage, but then you are given such a comfortable front stall as spectator’.

On completion of her one year data entry course at Pason College in Nairobi, Mrs. Margret joined the [University of Nairobi](#) as a data entry officer in the year 1976. By then, she was absorbed as a Grade 3 level staff and took home a salary of Ksh 750; a comparatively good pay in those days. This was a deal that saw her bond with the University to date. She has worked in all University Colleges and her diligence in performance of duty saw her rise to the prestigious Lecturer equivalent grade. To add on that, she has been tasked with the delicate role of facilitating [Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Service \(KUCCPS\)](#) data administration at the University. KUCCPS replaced JAB (Joint Admissions Board) and is expected to sponsor all qualified candidates, who will be admitted by the service in either public or private universities or colleges.

She is a perfect witness of the genesis and evolution of ICT in Kenya and Africa. During her old times in office, she started off by using 1900 series machines and became familiar with the Cray 1 series computers of 1976. To be precise, she saw the University using computers from the ancient *Akili* and *Kamili* server generation to the present sophisticated internet epoch. The ICT Center was, by then, known as Institute of Computer Science and was under the Faculty of Engineering. It had about 50 members of staff.

Margret is not only an ICT guru, but a family person. She juggles her time at work and at home with her family members in a way that the two hardly ever mix. Proudly having a loving husband, seven children and three grandchildren; she admits that they equally stimulate her life. The grandchildren will have to be contented with a grandma who is aware of facebook and twitter in place of the ordinary ones that are associated with farm work in the rural settings. Some of her greatest hobbies are cooking, singing, listening to gospel music and her favorite meal...*ugali kwa Sagaa (Kienyeji)*. She also loves reading widely and concurs with Henry Ford's proverbial note that says, 'Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at twenty or eighty and anyone who keeps learning stays young. The greatest thing in life is to keep your mind young'.

So, she isn't old after all.