

UMB briefed on progress of the UoN Tower

Members of the University Management Board were today briefed on the progress made by the contractors of the iconic tower, the University of Nairobi Towers.

The UoN towers when complete will have several lecture theatres with 2 giant theatres with a seating capacity of 500 people, and a centre of performing arts – Chandaria Center of performing arts, named after the business man, Dr. Manu Chandaria who donated generously towards the construction of the tower.

The state of the art tower takes into consideration the 'green architecture' that will go a long way in reducing energy use since there is no need for mechanical ventilation and artificial lighting in most of the rooms. The theatre walls are clad with sound attenuating material.

The tower, probably one of its kind in the city, has a helipad. The helipad can accommodate a seven seater passenger helicopter and has obtained approvals from NEMA, Nairobi City Council among others.

Speaking during the tour, the Vice-Chancellor noted that the intention was to see how far the project has gone and to ascertain how far it was from completion. According to the contractor, the tower will be completed in the second quarter of 2016. The main reasons for delay have been the reduced working duration, from 24 hours per day working duration to 13 hours per day and secondly, the scope of work was increased.

The team also visited Taifa Hall which has been undergoing refurbishment over the last 2 months. Among the improvements to be done include the sound acoustics, panels on the side displaying the hall of fame- The greats who have given speeches at the venue, among other improvements.

Refurbishment of Taifa Hall has been funded by the FORD foundation while the Tower has been funded from the internally generated funds -IGUs. The pace of completion of the University Towers is within the target put in the University's performance contract for 2015/2016.