



The University of Kabianga

Newsletter

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ReDEAL Project partners from Lancaster University, visits University of Kabianga for collaboration.



Highlights

Toponimi ina maana gani?

UASU Elections

Exams Cheating

ReDEAL Project partners from Lancaster University, UK (Prof. Mariana Rufino & Prof. John Quinton) along with DVCs Prof. Erick Koech, Prof. Elijah Omwenga and Prof. Maurice Oduor (A&F, A&SA and PRD respectively), UoK staff and participants during launch of the ReDEAL project training course on "Restoration of Degraded Lands for Climate Resilience" on 17th January 2022. **Photo/ Nicholas Lang'at**

The University has also received donations in form of laboratory materials and equipment that will be instrumental in facilitating research work within the university. Besides, training of technologists in using

Climate change has a domino effect on our food and livestock production systems. In addition, our natural environment continues to deteriorate due to land degradation. We need viable restoration strategies to reverse this calamity.

activities. UoK community appreciates the efforts made by the teams to achieve the objectives of the project. Through activities such as training courses, academic seminars and experimental studies, the project has complimented the University in capacity building and dissemination of knowledge through scientific and research-based information.

equipment received has also been undertaken.

Since the start of UoK-Lancaster Partnership through ReDEAL Project in September 2019, this is the 2nd time UoK and Lancaster University officials are meetings as Project partners. Understandably so, due to the unforeseen challenges that were brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic.

UoK is also grateful for the linkages and partnerships that have been forged through this project. UoK is better placed to collaborate with all project partners for example, Lancaster University, University of Manchester, International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) and the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR).

Given the University's proximity to vulnerable and protected areas like Mau Forest, we are strategically positioned in dealing with natural resource management and conservation. Therefore, we look forward to furthering our partnership with the project and its partners in research aimed at sustainable use of natural resources and improving the livelihoods of communities affected by degradation, even after 31st March 2022 when ReDEAL phase will end.

By: Nicholas Lang'at.

INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE

DVC A & F, leads staff in tree-planting

DVC'S Speech

In Kericho County, especially at University of Kabianga and its' environs, we have not experienced significant loss of rain. This can be attributed to continuous planting of trees that we have been doing. Trees bring people together and are planted for a common goal to establish a friendly environment for the posterity and unity of all communities.

We are gathered here today to enhance the protection of the environment through tree planting exercise to mitigate against the effects of climate change by increasing the forest cover besides protection of the riparian land.

As we do tree planting today, we need to know that the environment remains the bedrock of our development: every sector of our economy depends upon it. Healthy environment remains vital in its own right. Forests account for 4 percent of our Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Much of our water, for domestic and industrial use, comes from the towers of Mt Kenya, the Aberdares and South West Mau.

If our forest cover remains low then it cannot supply the goods and services required for our development. The signs are clear: water is scarce and getting scarcer. At this time unusual drought is being experienced in other frontiers of the Republic.

In a move to increase our forest cover, we have to respect the wisdom of the past – wisdom now enshrined in our Constitution article 69 which requires that we grow our tree cover to 10 per cent of Kenya's land.

Under the Medium Term III, the government has committed to protect natural forests in the water towers and continued rehabilitation of landscapes to increase and sustain water flow and ecological integrity. The strategy provides for a series of interventions towards achieving and maintaining 10% tree cover by 2022. That is why we are here today as patriotic citizens to plant trees to improve our forest cover for sustainable development.

The University of Kabianga has set a side this day that the three divisions can come together to conduct this exercise. This enhances inclusivity in our diverse cultures as we participate as an institution towards partial fulfilment of sustainable development which is part of national values enshrined in Article 10 of the Constitution. We cannot protect our forests, and mitigate climate change unless we teach our sons and daughters how to manage our natural resources.

I am grateful for your participation. I urge everyone to take this exercise seriously and it is my concern that you ensure 100% survival of the trees we are planting today and nurture them to maturity. **The speech Captured by :Nicholas Lang'at**



The Deputy Vice-Chancellor In-charge of Finance and Administration, Prof. Erick Koech led the staff, stakeholders and students in tree-planting. **Photo/Nicholas**

UoK SIGNS MoU WITH BTVTC



Signing of MoU by Prof. Kipngeno (UoK Vice-Chancellor) and Mr. Cheruiyot.(Principal BTVTC). **Photo/ Nicholas Lang'at**

On Wednesday February 23, 2022 University of Kabianga and Belgut Technical and Vocational College (BTVTC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding which will see learners enhance their progression in developing their academic capacity in various fields of specialization.

"The MoU will see the two institutions benefit in their homegrown products as they utilize human and physical resources," said Prof. Kipngeno.

On his part, Mr. Ernest Cheruiyot; Principal of BTVTC said "The MoU brings in a lot of excitement in terms of Joint Research venture in various technical areas."

Present during this occasion were Prof. Wilson Kipngeno; Vice-Chancellor of University of Kabianga, Mr. Ernest Cheruiyot; Principal of Belgut Technical and Vocational College, Dr. John Rotich the institutions' Board Chairman, Prof. Elijah Omwenga; Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Academic and Student Affairs. Others present were staff of UoK and BTVTC.

By Nicholas Lang'at



Prof. Kipngeno (right) Dr. John Rotich (middle) and Mr. Ernest Cheruiyot (left) - all front row. **Photo/ Nicholas Lang'at**

UoK marks International Day of Women and Girls in Science.

The International Day of Women and Girls in Science was established in 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly through resolution A/RES/70/122 to recognize the critical role women and girls play in science and technology.

Since then, February 11 is the day women in organizations around the world gather each year to share their experiences in science and technology. To honor this important day and the goals it seeks to advance, UOK, on Friday 11th February 2022 joined the international community from main campus, Kabianga, in observing the 7th International Day of Women and Girls in Science, which day was designated by the UN, starting from 2015. The School of Science and Technology of University of Kabianga, together with Directorate of Gender, organized and

participated in various activities to mark the day, which were streamed online. The activities included speeches and experiences by UOK's women scientists, presentation by UOK students, and motivational talks from invited Guests. Exhibits were also prepared for the occasion illustrating the contributions that can be made by women and girls in Artificial Intelligence use in Education via chatbots (Knowie), noting that it is a cutting edge focus area of computing and currently only one in five professionals (22%) is a woman. Guests included invited schools, among them Gorgor High, Getarwet Girls, and Getarwet Mixed Day. With such exposure and activities to professional, in-training, and upcoming women scientists, the drive for equity and inclusion throughout the whole of society continues.

By: Dr. Bii P.K (SST)



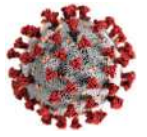
Some of the local girls' schools invited follow proceedings. **Photo /Sharifa Rigga**



Facilitators led by Dr. Joyce Kiplimo the Dean School of Science and Technology(SST). **Photo/ Sharifa Rigga**



University of Kabianga Cares



PROTECT YOURSELF, YOUR FAMILY AND COMMUNITY FROM **CORONAVIRUS**



Dont shake hands



Avoid close contact with anyone



Cover your mouth and **nose** with tissue or cough and sneeze into your flexed elbow



Stay Home and **avoid unnecessary travels**



Wash your hands frequently with soap and running water

FOR MORE INFORMATION FOLLOW MINISTRY OF HEALTH GUIDELINES

UNIVERSITY OF KABIANGA | INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE

University creates awareness of its service charter to the public.

English version of Service Charter

UNIVERSITY OF KABIANGA CITIZENS' SERVICE DELIVERY CHARTER

	Service	Requirement	Charges	Timelines
1.	Serving students with letters of admission.	Duly completed prescribed application form plus relevant academic credentials.	Free	Two months before the reporting date.
2.	Processing and issuing of academic transcripts.	Completion of specified academic courses and written request.	Free	Within two months after release of examinations.
3.	Issue University Certificates	Clearance certificate. National identity card.	Free	Within two months after graduation.
4.	Fill all advertised posts.	As per the advertisement.	Free	Within a period of three months after close of advertisement.
5.	Make cash payments.	Cash payment voucher.	Free	Within a week from time of receipt of a voucher.
6.	Open University of Kabianga libraries in all Campuses.	Staff/Student Identity card.	Free	From 8.00 a.m.- 10.00 p.m. weekdays From 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. on Saturdays.
7.	Respond to queries from library users.	Registered query.	Free	Within a day.
8.	Reply to routine correspondences, compliments and complaints.	Receipt of correspondence, compliment or complaint.	Free	Within seven days from the date of receipt.

For compliments and complaints, please refer to:

The Vice-Chancellor, University of Kabianga
P. O. Box 2030-20200, Kericho Kenya
Tel: 020-2172665;
Website; www.kabianga.ac.ke; email; vc@kabianga.ac.ke

If not satisfied please contact:

Commission on Administrative Justice (CAJ)
Commission on Administrative Justice
West End Towers, 2nd Floor, Westlands
P.O. Box 20414-00200 Nairobi
Website: www.ombudsman.go.ke
Tel: 020-2270000

OR

Public Relations Office
proffice@kabianga.ac.ke

Complaint Channels

- Complaints Register Books - Hard copy
- Suggestion Box - Hard Boxes
- Website e-portal of Compliments/Complaints
- Website e-Suggestion Box and
- Website e-Customer Feedback form
- Email address - proffice@kabianga.ac.ke
- Phone: 020-2172665

Pictorial: Director Gender and Development, Dr. Phanice Wangila leads UoK students and staff in walk to mark 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence



Mkataba wa Huduma za Chuo

CHUO KIKUU CHA KABIANGA MKATABA WA HUDUMA

	HUDUMA	MAHITAJI	MALIPO	MUDA
1.	Kuwapa wanafunzi barua za usajili	Fomu zilizojazwa kikamilifu pamoja na vyeti mahsusi vya kufuzu	Bure	Miezi mitatu kabla ya kuripoti
2.	Uandalizi na utoaji wa nakala za matokeo ya mitihani	Cheti cha kumaliza masomo. Kitambulisho	Bure	Ndani ya miezi miwili baada ya kutolewa kwa mujibu wa mitihani
3.	Kutoa vyeti vya Chuo	Cheti cha kumaliza masomo Kitambulisho	Bure	Ndani ya miezi miwili baada ya kufuzu
4.	Kujaza nafasi za kazi zilizotangazwa	Kwa mujibu wa tangazo	Bure	Ndani ya miezi miwili baada ya kfungwa kwa tangazo
5.	Kutayarisha malipo ya kifedha	Vocha ya malipo ya fedha	Bure	Ndani ya juma moja baada ya kupokea vocha ya malipo
6.	Kupata huduma za maktaba katika Chuo cha Kabianga na mabewa yake yote	Kitambulisho cha mfanyikazi/mwanafunzi	Bure	Kuanzia saa mbili (2) – Kumi (10) Jumatatu – Ijuma Kuanzia saa tatu (3) – Kumi na moja (11) siku ya jumamosi
7.	Kujibu maswali ya watumiaji wa maktaba	Kupokea mawasiliano, malalamishi na pongezi	Bure	Ndani ya siku moja
8.	Majibu kwa malalamishi, mawasiliano na pongezi	Kupokea mawasiliano, malalamishi na pongezi	Bure	Ndani ya siku saba ya upokezi

Kwa mawasiliano, malalamishi na pongezi tafadhali ripoti, andika kwa:

The Vice-Chancellor, University of Kabianga
O. Box 2030-20200, Kericho Kenya
Tel: 020-2172665;
Website: www.kabianga.ac.ke; email: vc@kabianga.ac.ke
ama Afisi ya Uhusiano Mwema proffice@kabianga.ac.ke

Iwapo hujaridhika wasil

Commission on Administrative Justice (CAJ)P.
West End Towers, 2nd Floor, Westlands
P.O. Box 20414-00200 Nairobi
Website: www.ombudsman.go.ke

Njia ya kuwasilisha Malalamishi

- Vitabu vya Usajili wa Malalamishi (Nakala Ngumu)
- Sanduku la Maoni
- Kiunganishi-pe cha Pongezi/Malalamishi
- Sanduku la Maoni-pe
- Fomu ya Mrejesho wa Mteja-pe
- Baruwa pepe proffice@kabianga.ac.ke
- Simu: 020-2172665

Toponimi Paṭe ina maana gani?

Dkt. Mohamed Karama,

Baada ya kuchapishwa makala yethu ya *Toponimi za Mithaa ya Mambasa* (2021) maswali yamezuka kuhusu maana na nyusuli za toponimi za miji mengine katika Kenya. Mojawapo ya maswali hayo ni Paṭe au Paṭṭa yamaanisha nini? Katika makala hayo tuliyoyataja awali, tulipendekeza hoja kuwa majina ya miji ya Waswahili yalitokana na sifa za maumbile ya mahala hapo.

Paṭe ni kisiwa kikubwa katika visiwa wa Lamu na miji yake ina histori ya kuu katika zama zilizopita za Waswahili wa Kenya. Katika kisiwa hichi muna miji ya Paṭe/Paṭṭa, Siyu, Shanga, Rasini/Faza, Kizingitini, Churnwa, Mtangawanda. Kulingana na mapisi, nyakati za utukufu wake, Paṭe ilikuwa dola kubwa iliyotawala upwa wote wa Uswahilini – kutoka Mogadishu hadi Kilwa.

Kulingana na Mwalimu Mohamed Hassan Mpaṭe wa Lamu Museums, namwita mwalimu kwa sababu amenifundisha mengi ya Kiswahili/Uswahili, anasema kuwa Paṭe zamani ilikuwa ikiyandikwa Paṭṭa na nivo tulivokutha katika Kamusi la Saclex (1939), yamenukuliwa majina yote mawili. Mwalimu Hassan akanambiya baadaye ikawa yaandikwa Paṭe. Tulipowauliza, yeye na wengineo, kuhusu maana ya toponimi Paṭe/Paṭṭa wakanijibu ni “**paṭe** usipashike/usipaguse” yaani ‘leave it’. Pendekezo letu lakataa, kwa ithibati, kuwa majina ya miji hii yalitokana na kwithwa ni wageni; kwa mfano, Baṭwa (ni la Kiyarabu) kwa hilo la Paṭṭa. Kama Mambasa na hapa piya msimamo wethu haukukubali maelezo haya.

Tukirudi katika data tuliyoangaziya katika makala yethu tuliyothaja awali tumesema kuwa maana ya msitu katika lugha tulizotauwa ni:

/tsaka/	Ki-Mijikenra
/tsaha/	Ki-Ngazija
/ṭaka/	Ki-Mvita
/ishaka/	Ki-Thikhuu
/itsaka/	Ki-Taita
/badda/	Ki-Phokomo
/katheka/	Ki-Kamba
/muṭitu/	Ki-Kikuyu
/esichaha/	Ki-Baluhya
/osnet/	Ki-Kipsigis
/chaka/	Ki-Sanifu

Katika data hii tutaona kuwa isipokuwa Kiphokomo na Kikipsigis majina yote mengine yanalingana katika usuli wake wa kisimu. Nadhari yethu imevuthwa na hili jina la

Kiphokomo /badda/ kumaanisha ‘msitu’ katika Kisanifu.

Tukumbuke kuwa Kiphokomo ni miyongoni mwa lugha za Kibanthu kumbo la Sabaki (Elwana, Swahili (kikiwamo Kipate), Pokomo, Mijikenra, na Comoro) zinazopatikana Kaskazini Mashariki mwa Upwa wa bahari kutoka Mogadisho, Somalia hadi Rufiji, Tanzania (Nurse na Spear, 1985). Ushahidi unaonesha kuwa lugha hizi zina ukuruba katika mifanyiko ya kifonolojiya, kimofolojiya, na haṭa kisemantiki.

Uchanganuzi wa kisinkroniya wa maneno /badda/ na /paṭṭa/, ambalo tuchukuliye nrilo la asili, kisimu ni maelezo ya kifonetiki ya sauti ghuna na sikhuna. Tutaona kuwa katika fonolojiya kuna sauti /p t k/ ambazo hujulikana na Wanaisimu kuwa hugeuka na kuwa /b d g/ kwa sababu ya kughunisha. Hivo sauti /p/ katika /kupigana/ Ki-Sanifu, /kupijana/ Ki-Paṭe huwa /b/ katika /kubigana/ Ki-Phokomo. Kwa sifa hii ya ghuna piya /t/ Ki-Paṭe huwa /d/ Ki-Phokomo. Kwa mntarafu hii, /badda/ Ki-Phokomo kisawe chake katika Ki-Paṭe ni /paṭṭa/ ambalo ni moja katika majina yanayojulikana kwayo mji huwo. Pili, hii Paṭṭa na Paṭe ina /t/ kama ilivo katika majina mengine tuliyodonrowa hapo juu yenye maana ya ‘msitu’ kama tulivofafanua katika makala ya Mambasa. Kiyambishi tamati /e/ katika Paṭe ina maana ya utendwa (k.m /peta/ ‘bend’ kuwa /pete/ ‘ring’) kwa hivo ina maana ya ‘umekuwa msitu’. Haṭimaye basi, maana ya toponimi Paṭe/Paṭṭa ni ‘msitu’.

Kuhitimisha, thwakariri kuwa toponimi Paṭṭa ni ‘msitu’ kwa kulingana kwake na lugha ya Kiphokomo /badda/ kutokana na sifa za ghuna. Maelezo yethu yanaenreleya kuthibitisha pendekezo lethu kuwa majina ya Uswahilini yalitokana na maumbile. Utafiti huu wa toponimi za miji ya kwethu Kenya uwenrelee na utavumbuwa mas’ala mengi kuhusu mapisi na thamaduni za watu wethu. Utafiti uvuke kutoka lugha za jamii moja na kwingiya katika jamii tafauti zisizohusiyana kilugha. Kwa mfano, kuna mshabaha gani baina ya ‘kongoi’ Ki-Kipsigis (Wa-Mluwo) na ‘kongole’ Kiswahili (Wa-Bantu)?

Dkt. Mohamed Karama, Idara ya Isimu Fasihi na Mawasiliano

KAMIKAZE TEACHERS, UNIVERSITY STUDENTS IN KCSE CHEATING

Dr. Robert Wesonga

With the national examination period in primary and secondary schools again upon us, a little reading of history shall suffice.

In the last quarter of WWII, they would fly off from air force bases in the then Empire of Japan. Aloft, in their planes, christened fancy names such as Morning Sun and Mountain Cherry Blossoms, these pilots were certain of their fate – Death. They were Japanese Kamikaze pilots, officially named, Divine Winds Special Attack Unit.

Their job was clear: fly their planes and crash them on enemy targets, especially ships. Although some historical accounts suggest that a few of the men were forced to their ruinous end, credible reports indicate that a majority of them volunteered into this suicidal enterprise. When marking the 70th Anniversary of WWII in 2017, the BBC records: “thousands of Japanese pilots volunteered to be kamikaze, suicidally crashing their planes in the name of their emperor.”

By the end of the WWII in 1945, over 3000 Kamikaze pilots had sacrificed themselves. In the process, they had sunk 34 ships, damaged hundreds of others, killed over 4,900 sailors and wounded scores. All the dead Kamikazes who deliberately crashed into nothingness believe they were doing it for a divine reason. They trusted that it was in the course of fighting for the emperor and for the Japanese Empire; for God and country.

Which begs the question: when a few teachers still aid their students to cheat in examinations, who are they fighting for? Forget that first. What we should be worried about is the damage that these few teachers inflict on the future of this country when they condone cheating. For like the soldiers killed, and ships damaged by the Kamikazes, so shall we be when we have a generation of fake doctors, engineers and teachers.

After a lull of several years in cases of cheating in national examinations, last year's Kenya Certificate of Secondary Examination (KCSE) registered significant number of cases. Apparently, the dragon of cheating in exams had not been entirely slayed. It had only been sedated, or just hibernated for a while. Even before KCSE began, it was easy to tell that either the examinations had already leaked, or cheating was going to be evident. What more evidence would one need than repeated warnings from the Cabinet Secretary in the Ministry of Education? With just a day left to the start of KCSE, CS Pof. Magoha was warning especially thirty schools across the country of dire consequences should they commit irregularities during the examination period. He even labelled some regions including Homa Bay, Kisii and Isebania as the “headquarters of cheating.”

When the period of examinations set in, irregularities went on to happen in more or less the fashion that CS Prof. Magoha had warned against. At the beginning of exams, four teachers in Migori were arraigned in court on suspicion that they were connected to cheating in their schools. By the time the examination period was coming to a close, TSC announced that it was set to discipline 27 teachers over their involvement in examination irregularities. Even as we argue for presumption of innocence until proven guilty, we should still wonder what makes teachers; especially head teachers, abet or become instruments of cheating in examinations.

It is common knowledge that the need to have a higher mean score is the greatest instigator to this malady. In the teaching industry, the most recognizable indicator of performance is good grades. Apparently, the good grades do not benefit the students alone. They are the yardstick by which the Teachers Service Commission (TSC) gauges those principals and teachers who are more deserving of promotions. As such, referring to such teachers as Kamikaze teachers on this page today is a deliberate misnomer.

Conti..Pg 10

For, some teachers take part in exam irregularities, knowing full well that the progress of their careers depends on it.

Unlike the Japanese pilots in WWII, they have no divine or altruistic motive. For the case of private schools, cheating becomes an indispensable tool which the proprietors of such schools use for the purpose of advertising their schools.

The premium attached to examination results must certainly be so high, as to warrant the lengths to which some principals go to in order to aid cheating. Mid this month, Prof. Magoha warned the principal of a certain school in Western Kenya against using 'experts' to sit for examinations on behalf of candidates. According to the report, the principal had gone to the extent of evicting teachers from the staff quarters, and installed the said experts therein. From here, they would be able to write examinations.

In another case, a principal in Makueni turned herself into a magnanimous dispenser of examinations on social media. Apparently, she became so absorbed in her benevolence, that she posted a paper which was to be sat that day on her WhatsApp status. This kind of desperation is only possible from self-serving individuals.

During last year's national examinations, it also emerged that a number of university students were still sitting for KCSE, masquerading as candidates. A curious resemblance can again be struck here with the Kamikaze experience alluded to above. Incidentally, a good number of the suicidal Kamikaze pilots were actually university students. It is believed that many of them were under the spell of the pronouncements by a Japanese philosopher. In 1943, philosopher Hajime Tanabe of the Kyoto School of Philosophers delivered a lecture titled, "Death and Life". In his address, he called on students to sacrifice themselves for their homeland, and align themselves with the Will of God.

In response to Tanabe's maddened call, thousands of university students in Japan signed up for Kamikaze units. No doubt, this lot of Japanese students may have been called into action of the divine – albeit flawed. It will be interesting to know just what kind of twisted philosophy would push university students across the country to decide that it was better to write examinations for candidates in secondary schools, than their own.

There can be no question that for the Kenyan university student who signs up for a cause as silly as writing examinations for another candidate, the venture will end in tears. This lot of cheats should be assured of gloom, just like the many Kamikazes who must have realised the folly of their actions once they were airborne.

As historian Wolfgang Schwentker writes, "all pilots climbed into their machines full of enthusiasm" and flew to their deaths "in sad desperation."

If anyone might have expected that there is any philosophical reasoning behind our university students cheating on behalf of their kin or friends, I would like disabuse them of this notion – for it is a road to nowhere. A look around lecture halls in this country tells the story. We are talking about lecture halls whose walls are emblazoned with notes scribbled on them over the years.

Some of the walls in our universities across the republic have more notes than what most of the students will ever write in their entire academic lives. Every time during examinations, you will find these scholars scrambling for spaces beside the walls. In their own language, they will tell you that they do not cheat in exams, but rather, they merely "confirm the answers."

Most surprising, is that cheating in examinations at many levels seems to have been normalised.

Conti...Pg 11

What is usually rebuked is the foolishness of being caught, not the wrongness of stealing. May be this should not be so surprising, considering the corners everyone seems to be ready to cut everywhere in our daily lives.

Perhaps, just maybe, some years into the future we will rise to consciousness and condemn a few Kamikaze teachers who think that it is wise to lose their jobs in the name of saving their students. We shall one day rebuke university students who think it is heroic to sacrifice (if sacrifice is even the word) by cheating for their kin or friends in exams. For even in Japan, it took a whole 70 years for the youth to accept the folly of the Kamikaze suicides. The BBC, in 2017, intimates that a vast majority of Japanese people now think of the kamikaze as "something shameful, a crime committed by the state against their family members."

Dr. Wesonga Robert
Department of Linguistics, Literature & Communication

ELECTION CYCLE AT THE UNIVERSITY



Members of UASU - Kabianga queue for voting on 16/02/2022 at LT4.
Photo Courtesy

The months of February and March 2022 will see two critical elections take place within the University. These elections relate to filling of two elective positions left vacant in the organization of lecturers' affairs at University of Kabianga.

The first election was meant to fill a vacancy in the office of Assistant Secretary General, UASU –

Kabianga Chapter. This office was left vacant upon the appointment of Dr. King'ori Gichuhi as Head of Department, Accounting and Finance in the School of Business and Economics.

Voting to fill the office took place on the 16th of February, 2022. The contest pitted Dr. Alfred Bett (School of Business and Economics) and Dr. Benard Tonui (School of Science and Technology). A total of 138 dons turned up to cast their ballots, representing 70.8% of the total number of 195 dons. After 7 hours of voting, Dr. Bett emerged the winner with 83 votes (60%), against 55 votes (40%) garnered by Dr. Tonui. After this contest, the two candidates pledged to continue with their respective roles as office bearer and member of UASU for the betterment of the Union.



Foreground Musa Apudo (Chair UASU - Kabianga), right contestant Dr. Tonui and centre Dr. Bett pose for a picture after validation of by-election results. **Photo Courtesy**

In another election contest, four dons are vying to fill the position of Pension Trustee (representing Academic Staff – Grade 11 to 15) in the University of Kabianga Retirement Benefits Scheme. This office was left vacant after the expiry of the term of Richard Kosgei in June 2021 after serving his two terms.

The election to fill the vacancy had been scheduled for 25th February, 2022 but was postponed to 2nd March, 2022. The contest has five candidates namely: Dr. Phanice Wangila, Dr. Reuben Langat, Mr. Omari Jared, Dr. David Ngatia and Dr. Pieter Sirma.

Members of staff had, as is now tradition, the opportunity to evaluate the suitability of candidates in the two elections courtesy of Debate and Vetting Committee – an arrangement that was initiated by Dr. Odhiambo Sylvester (School of Science and Technology).

By Editorial

When death finally calls

When death finally calls
And my life's curtain falls
I will surrender to that eternal sleep
That will trigger many a weep

When I finally cut my breath
News will travel of my death
Many will come to console my mother
Some will just call my father
My son will receive pitiful stares
He will doubt if anyone cares
My husband will put on a brave face
But break down in his private space.

Then committees will sit to plan
Joining members of my clan
To decide where to lay my remains
Somewhere on these vast plains

When death finally knocks
There will be initial shocks
Some will say I was a boon
That I left too soon...

But is there a right time
When one's clock should chime?

by Jacqueline Kandagor
Department of Linguistics, Literature & Communication

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send to corporateaffairs@kabianga.ac.ke