



# The Academic



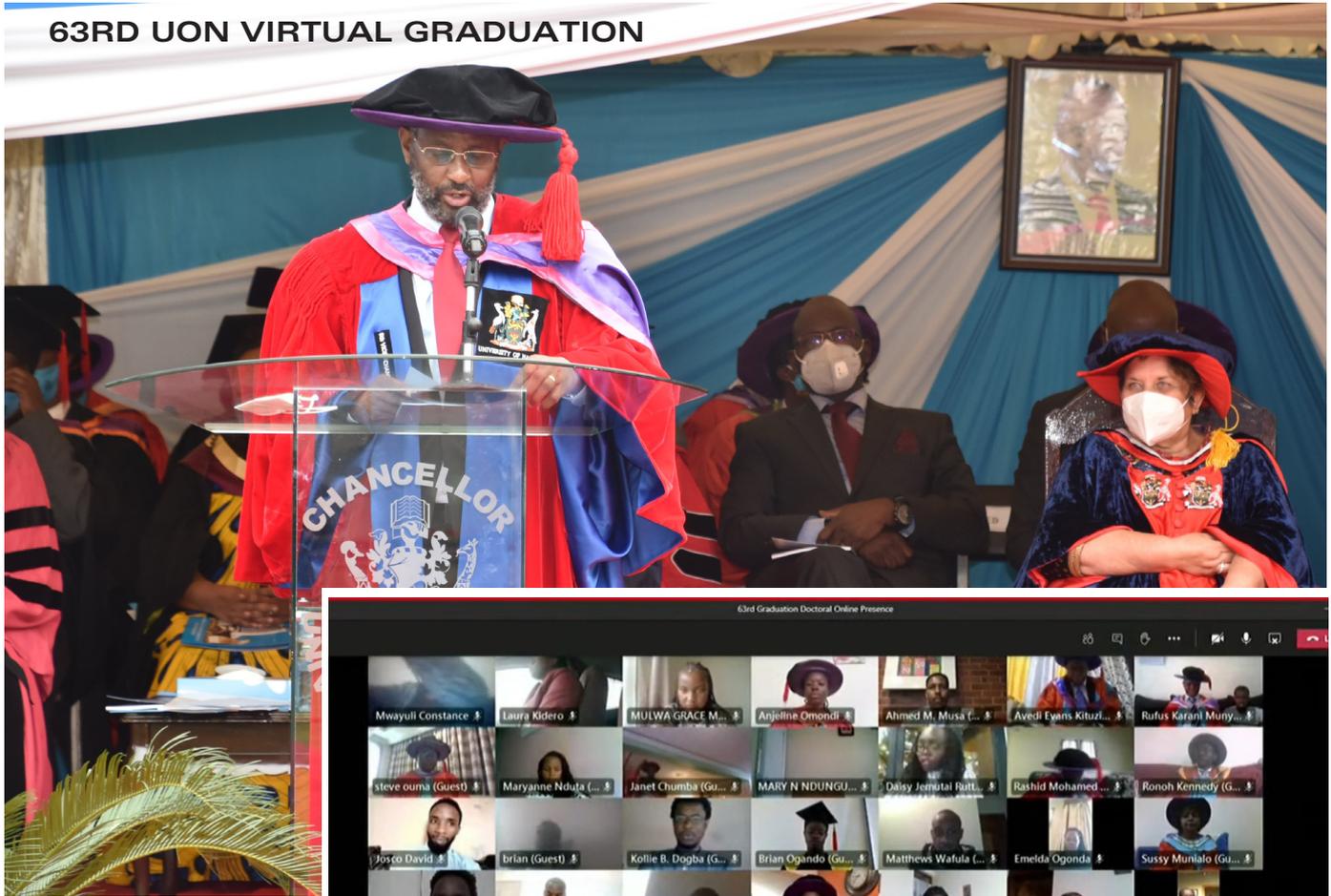
UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

A Newsletter of the Office of the Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic Affairs

Issue: 6

September - October 2020

## 63RD UON VIRTUAL GRADUATION



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## MESSAGE FROM THE DEPUTY VICE CHANCELLOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

**T**he period September-October 2020 was a busy period for the University in relation to the academic processes. This is the period when the 63rd University of Nairobi Graduation was scheduled, commencement of the 2020/2021 Academic year thus students continued to report and register. Further preparations for face to face learning for science based programmes continued during this time. Other Faculties/Schools were undertaking examinations and processing late applications. Preparations for the University of Nairobi @50 Celebrations moved a notch higher as the date for the celebrations was set. These activities ensured the University became busier than usual.

Importantly, the Office of the Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic Affairs, began a weekly bulleting

a special communication to Deans/Directors giving communication on important activities undertaken and that need their focus and attention. The First Communication from the DVC Academic Affairs being released on 16th of October, 2020.

The 63rd Virtual Graduation, a first of its kind was held on the 25th of September, 2020 after meticulous planning ensuring a successful online graduation thanks to the collective efforts of various Units drawn from Central Administration, Colleges and Faculties/Schools. During this Ceremony the University graduated 2,851.

The University began the 2020/2021 Academic Year with students reporting and commencing their studies virtually. Government sponsored and self-sponsored students reported virtually with an elaborate orientation programme over the first half of September. The students were further taken through online training on how to access and use the virtual platform during their lessons. For the first time students were required to fully register as students online with Faculty/School administrators playing a crucial role in guiding and clearing students on the backend. Preparations for face to face learning for science based programmes in CAVS, CAE, CBPS, CEES and CHS continued in earnest, with Colleges implementing the Ministry of Health and Government Guidelines on COVID-19. The University also continued to process late admissions in line with rolling admissions to ensure potential students still have an opportunity to join the University.

University of Nairobi turns 50 Years therefore activities to mark the occasion have been in high gear as the year comes to an end.

These and more activities make up Issue 6 of this newsletter. Enjoy the read....



Prof. Julius Ogeng'o  
DVC Academic Affairs

## A GRADUATION LIKE NO OTHER

The 63rd University of Nairobi Graduation Ceremony deviated from the usual trends. Though expected, with the world fighting the COVID 19 global pandemic, the University of Nairobi grounded on a foundation of adaptability in these changing times ensured continuity of operations in strict adherence to



*University of Nairobi Dons during the Academic Procession in strict adherence to Ministry of Health Guidelines on Social Distancing and Face Masks*

Government of Kenya and Ministry of Health Guidelines. In doing so, the University organized the 63rd graduation ceremony virtually, the first of its kind in the history of the institution. Making this decision, the University ensured some 2,851 graduands were conferred various degrees to continue building the nation in their own various ways.

During this global pandemic the virtues and core values of the University have come to the fore, tested and the outcome was of significant importance. The University excelled in its execution of the Virtual Graduation, through innovation and creativity with different Units working as a team to ensure success. The 63rd virtual graduation involved a meticulous planning process, being the first of its kind and also setting standards for the rest of the Universities to follow suite. ICT continued to play a major role in the success of Virtual congregations, Office of the Vice Chancellor, Office of the DVC Academic Affairs, Academic Division, the Deans/Directors of the various Faculties/Schools and Finance.

This process culminated with the virtual congregation of the 63rd University of Nairobi graduation ceremony on 25th September 2020 presided over by the Chancellor Dr. Vijoo Rattansi. The Cabinet Secretary for Education Prof. George Magoha attended the occasion. The

Valedictorian Cynthia Wahito Ndegwa in her speech noted the challenges the class of 2020 had faced and expressed gratitude to the University for keeping studies going on and enabling the graduands complete their studies as scheduled.

## UON@50 CELEBRATION PLANS ON COURSE



**T**he University of Nairobi marks 50 years since it was transformed into the first national University in Kenya on 1st July, 1970. Preparations to mark this day are in earnest with Festivities expected to culminate with a grand cake cutting occasion on 11th December, 2020. The Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic Affairs Prof. Julius Ogeng'o is leading the planning process that has already delivered on key initiatives to mark this great achievement. More activities are lined up and the University celebrates this momentous occasion.



Plans are at an advance stage to mark the UoN@50 celebrations later this year

**UNIVERSITY PREPARES FOR PHYSICAL RETURN OF STUDENTS**

**S**tudents pursuing Science based programmes are expected to report to their respective Campuses on 9th November, 2020. The students in the College of Agriculture & Veterinary Sciences (CAVS), College of Architecture & Engineering (CAE), College of Biological & Physical Sciences (CBPS), College of Education & External Studies (CEES) - Kenya Science Campus and College of Health Sciences (CHS) are expected to report for their practical sessions. The University therefore has worked round the clock to ensure the University and the various Colleges and Campuses are ready to host the students in strict adherence to Covid 19 Government Protocols and Ministry of Health Guidelines put in place to curb the spread of the deadly virus.

The University management and the Colleges have put in place these measures and have therefore ready to receive the students in November. The Vice Chancellor Prof. Stephen Kiama and the Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic Affairs Prof. Julius Ogeng'o went round the colleges to inspect their preparedness to receiving the students. Faculties, Administrative staff and other Central Units are ready to receive the students come 9th of November 2020.



*Final year MMed clinical examination at UoN teaching hospital. First Year Science based students report for practicals on 9th November, 2020*

## PREPARATIONS FOR 64TH GRADUATION CEREMONY



**UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI**

**64<sup>th</sup> Virtual Graduation Ceremony**

**11<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

Event's live stream;  
[www.uonbi.ac.ke/livestream](http://www.uonbi.ac.ke/livestream)  
[facebook.com/uonbi.ac.ke](https://facebook.com/uonbi.ac.ke)

For further information, contact:  
**The Academic Registrar**  
 Tel: 020 491 3065 E-mail: [reg-academic@uonbi.ac.ke](mailto:reg-academic@uonbi.ac.ke)



*64th Graduation Ceremony is scheduled for 11th December, 2020*

**P**reparations for the University of Nairobi 64th Graduation Ceremony is at an advanced stage with the December graduation expected to graduate more numbers than the 63rd graduation. The College of Health Sciences (CHS) & College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHSS) are expected to have the highest number of graduands therefore meticulous planning process has commenced. The ceremony to be done virtually is expected to be more efficient and better executed as part of continuous learning process being the 2nd virtual graduation ceremony. Units are prepared and are already assisting the graduating students in areas of clearance. This ceremony is expected to coincide with the UoN@50 celebrations also slated for the month of December, 2020.

## WEEKLY BULLETIN TO DEANS/DIRECTORS LAUNCHED

**T**he Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic Affairs Prof. Julius Ogeng'o launched a weekly Bulletin to be sent to Deans/Directors and Chairmen of Departments. The purpose of the Bulletin is to keep the Deans/Directors informed and to ensure resolutions are followed up to completion. This engagement is further aimed and strengthening the working relationship between the Office of the DVC Academic Affairs and the Faculty/School Management in matters of Academic Affairs. The first communication was released on 16th October, 2020.



*Fountain of Knowledge*

## STUDENTS REGISTRATION DRIVE TAKES OFF

**O**nline Registration is a significant part of the admission process, which require a student to upload required documents in the system when they report to the University. This ensures a student is fully admitted into the University. Over this period the University has encouraged admitted students to upload their documents to ensure full registration and various Units have worked together to ensure 100% registration. ICT, Faculties/Schools have continuous engaged with the students to assist them register while the Office of the DVC AA and Academic Registrar's Office continue to make communication to encourage students to complete the process. This drive was initiated to have students ready to begin their online classes without further interruptions.



*Online Registration drive*

## REORGANIZATION FOR IMPROVED SERVICE

**T**he University of Nairobi opened up its application portal to late applicants for the September 2020 Intake in various programmes. With the improved efficiency in the admission process, most programmes were still up for applications. This is an aspect of the rolling admission system that ensure students get opportunities to study programmes they are interested in and qualify for especially after the placement by the Kenya Universities & Colleges Central Placement Service (KUCCPS). The Undergraduate Admissions Section, Graduate School, Office of the Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic Affairs, in collaboration with the Faculties/Schools ensured the admissions were processed on time for the learners to begin their classes as within the required time lines.



*UoN opened a window for late applicants to make applications for the September 2020 Intake*

## UON EXAMINATION CENTRE REFRESHED



*Examinations Centre focuses on improved record keeping and retrieval*

**T**he University of Nairobi Examination Centre was reinvigorated to better align it to its core functions and improve efficiency and effectiveness in the delivery of service. The Centre will now better focus on their key mandate to students and University departments. During this period the Centre in collaboration with the Faculties/Schools embarked on a process to ensure records of students are well stored, easily retrievable and up to date. This process is spearheaded by Ms. Esther Wangui the Assistant Registrar Examinations. Further, the Centre oversaw the issuing of certificates to the 63rd Graduands beginning 26th October, 2020 a month after the graduation ceremony in line with international standards. Moving forward the Centre will continuously work with Faculties/Schools to ensure service to departments is provided efficiently.

## UON HALLS DEPARTMENT READY FOR OCCUPATION

**G**eneral Student Affairs Section integral part to resumption of Physical Learning cannot be over emphasized. The Halls department have continued to put in place measures to ensure Ministry of Health Guidelines are adhered to on resumption of Face to Face Learning. The Department has ensured adherence to the requires social distancing rules and have implemented this in the various Halls of Residence as the University prepares for the Science based first years resumption on 9th November 2020. Hostels identified to host the learners have been renovatd and are ready to host the students. The schedule of Halls to be use are as below;

COLLEGE	REGISTRATION CENTRE	HALLS OF RESIDENCE
<b>CAVS</b>	<b>Upper Kabete Campus. 8-4-4 building</b>	Upper Kabete Campus
		<b>Male</b> - Mamlaka <b>Female</b> - Upper State Hse Rd Units Upper Kabete Campus
<b>CAE</b>	ADD Building, off State House Road	<b>Male</b> - Mamlaka <b>Female</b> -Women's Hall (Box)
	ADD Building, off State House Road	<b>Male</b> - Mamlaka <b>Female</b> -Women's Hall (Box)
	Civil Engineering Block (Main Campus).	<b>Male</b> - Mamlaka <b>Female</b> -Women's Hall (Box)
<b>CBPS</b>	Chiromo Campus (Physical Science block)	<b>Male</b> - Mamlaka <b>Female</b> - Upper State House Road Units
<b>CEES</b>	Kenya Science Campus	Kenya Science Campus
<b>CHS</b>	Chiromo Campus (Vet. Physiology /Biochemistry. Block).	<b>Male</b> - Mamlaka <b>Female</b> – KMSH, Lower Kabete



*UoN Hall of Residence Reinovated*

## UNIVERSITY PREPARES FOR STUDENT ELECTIONS

The University of Nairobi Students Association (UNSA) is set to have their elections in the month of November 2020. The virtual election will be one of its kind and for that reason the University began early preparations to ensure a successful virtual election. The Student Electoral Commission Chaired by Prof. Mohamud Jama released guidelines and a schedule of activities for the November Elections. These guidelines will help govern the elections and ensure conformity to set principles. This is yet another milestone and proof that the University activities are going on as scheduled despite the challenges brought about by the Covid 19 pandemic. Returning and Presiding Officers have been identified and were trained from 8th – 12th October, 2020. The Commission further embarked on voter sensitization exercise, setting up of election portal, submission of candidates' names and publication of the approved names and symbols. The readiness of the commission is in line with the University expectations as normalcy resumes in the University.



*UNSA Election to go on virtually*

## STUDENTS GET SECOND CHANCE

The University of Nairobi Management agreed to pardon Students Expelled from the University for various reasons over the years. This decision led to the formation of the Students Appeals Disciplinary Committee chaired by the Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic Affairs Prof. Julius Ogeng'o. The hearings began on the 22nd of October, 2020 and will continue until all requested made by the students are heard and determined. This is expected to give expelled student a lifeline to complete their studies and join the global workforce in their various disciplines.



*Committee set up to hear students appeals commence work*

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**UNIVERSITY EMBARK ON CURRICULUM REFORMS**

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**T**he University of Nairobi Key Reform areas have been communicated by the Vice Chancellor Prof. Stephen Kiama, among them is Curriculum Reforms. The Curriculum Reforms will ensure enhanced quality of academic programmes and relevance of programmes to guarantee vibrancy and sustainability of the University. The first phase of the reforms covering programmes commenced on 16th October, 2020. It entails self-assessment by faculties/Schools/Institutes and Departments. The assessment focuses on four main areas:

- a) Portfolio of programmes; including categorization of courses and areas of specialization
- b) Enrolment and graduate throughput
- c) Level of offer
- d) Programme leadership and human resourcing

It is envisioned that these will address the global labour challenges in offering solution through quality manpower in the various sectors of the changing global economy.



# UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

## CURRICULUM REFORMS

*Deans Committee set reporting date*

*“The Curriculum Reforms will ensure enhanced quality of academic programmes and relevance of programmes to guarantee vibrancy and sustainability of the University. -DVC AA*

## DIALOGUE WITH THE DEAN OF STUDENTS

**T**he Dean of Students 2nd dialogue with the students took place online 29th September, 2020. As has been the norm students engage with various offices on matters related to their academic life while they are students at the University. The Dean of Students Mr. Johnson Kinyua continuously engage with students offering guidance at all levels and inviting professionals in various areas to address the student enquiries. This forum has grown and student have sought for advise on issues not only pertaining to academics but also their social life



*Dean of Students Mr. Johnson Kinyua addressing student queries during the monthly dialogue*



**Q:** How do we access the Telkom data bundles for continuing students?

**A:** Student to register their intent for facilitation by updating their profile on smis, the request is considered an alert sent to the Smis portal on instructions on collection at the preferred Telkom outlet indicated.

**Q:** How do I set up a University email account?

**A:** Login to your smis portal on the home page click update my profile and follow the instructions to create your uonbi email.

**Q:** The fees for online programmes mode similar to the face to face mode of learning?

**A:** The fee remains similar until further communication.

**Q:** How can I access the fee structure for the UoN Online programmes?

**A:** The fee structures for UoN programmes are posted on the website. E.g. Engineering fee structure link below <https://engineering.uonbi.ac.ke/admission-content-type/bachelor-science-civil-engineering>

**Q:** Is Mombasa and Kisumu Campuses teaching on the online platform?

**A:** Yes, for more information contact the class representative

**Q:** How will the CATs and Exam be administered?

**A:** The CATs and Examinations will be conducted online on the E-Class portal. Students will be trained on use of the E-Class portal for online Learning and examinations.

**Q:** What happens to students under government mandatory quarantine?

**A:** Students are advised to logon and attend classes using their smart phones.

**Q:** How do I access reading materials on E-Class portal as a student?

**A:** Login into SMIS update your profile and generate a username and password on the UoN website E-Class portal.

**Q:** Are there other available avenues for fees payment other than ABSA Bank deposit?

**A:** Students can pay their fees through M-pesa Paybill number 300059, Account number is your Student Registration Number

**Q:** Am I able to replace my student Identification card during this time?

**A:** Make your application online through the SMIS portal a you will receive feedback on collection.

**Q:** I want to apply for a programme but I have not collected my transcript and certificate from UoN examinations office, am I eligible for admission?

**A:** Yes. Do make your application and your admission will be processed.

**Q:** Can one use a personal email address to access online teaching?

**A:** It is important to set up a university email address (uonbi) for communication and ease of access of online learning.

**Q:** What happens to International students who had left the country in regard to consideration for data bundles support?

**A:** Students are advised to use local internet connections in their various countries of residence.

**Q:** How and where do I pick the Telkom Sim Cards for online teaching facilitation?

**A:** The Telkom outlet locator link <https://telkom.co.ke/shop-locator>

### IMPORTANT CONTACTS

#### OFFICE OF DEPUTY VICE CHANCELLOR (ACADEMIC AFFAIRS)

Email: [dvca@uonbi.ac.ke](mailto:dvca@uonbi.ac.ke)

P.O. Box: 30197, 00100 Nairobi 16th Floor UoN Towers University of Nairobi, Main Campus. Telephone

No: 020 – 4910000 (Pilot Line)

020 – 4913008 | 020 – 4913009 | 020 – 4913632

020 – 4913036 | 020 – 4918002 Administration & Information

020 – 4913617 Marketing

