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The University of Kabianga newsletter: Quarterly publication from the office of the Vice-Chancellor

University of Kabianga

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The University of Kabianga Newsletter

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Quarterly Publication from the Office of the Vice-Chancellor SEPTEMBER 2020

University of Kabianga donates hand sanitizers to Kericho County Government.

Prof. Wilson Kipngeno; Vice-Chancellor of the University of Kabianga (right on the photo) led the University team as Hon. Paul Chepkwony (left on the photo) receives Hand wash soap and sanitizers produced by the University's School of Science and Technology./*Photo Nicholas Langat*

Highlights

UoK donates Sanitizers

Editorial by new team

Confronting the Pandemic mentally

Vice-Chancellor's address.

THE UNIVERSITY DONATES SOAP AND SANITIZERS TO COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KERICHO

The University of Kabianga community is privileged to be among those fighting Covid-19 by donating hand washing soap and hand sanitizers to the County Government of Kericho. The University, in its quest to contribute to the fight against corona virus spread in Kericho County, donated three hundred pieces of hand washing soap and three hundred and fifty pieces of hand sanitizers. Besides, the University was at an advanced stage of donating maize flour to, Africa Gospel Church (AGC) Baby Home in Nakuru County, Bethel Faith Home and Kipcham Gaa Children's Home both in Kericho County.

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Editorial desk

On behalf of the just assembled Editorial Board of the University of Kabianga Newsletter, I welcome you all to a new experience in our making and shaping of news in the University.

The test of any good news publication, whether daily, weekly, monthly or quarterly, lies in its responsiveness to the needs of the readership. This dynamism allows the paper to figure out not just what the readers want, but what they need. It is at this place that the University of Kabianga Newsletter, a publication from the office of the Vice-Chancellor has reached. And it's a good place to reach, so that the publication, which has worked well for the university, is made to work better.

This publication has been around for about a year, serving the interests of the university community, and any visitors when and if the need has arisen. The newsletter, published every month, has been on the forefront in keeping the university community and any other readers with concise and accurate updates on the most pressing news and events as they have happened in the past.

Because of the widening scope and depth of content within the university, it has been deemed prudent to relaunch the newsletter under a new Editorial Board. The new Editorial Board is composed of Members of the academic and non-teaching staff with the experience and expertise to execute the job at hand. While executing its mandate, the Editorial Board shall strive to live by the prescriptions of an effective media outlet, albeit a small one. In that regard, objectivity, accuracy, timeliness shall be our prinpal ethos.

The following are the members of the Editorial Board:

1.Dr. Robert Wesonga
Editor-in-Chief/Chairman
2.Mr. Nicholas Langat
Secretary/Editor
3.Ms. Anne Tenya
Editor
4.Ms. Jacqueline Kandagor
Content Editor
5.Mr. Eliud Lilan
Design and Layout

We would like to take this chance to thank the Council of the University of Kabianga, the Vice-Chancellor and the Management of the University for appointing us to undertake this important responsibility. It is our privilege to serve in the Board, seeing as it is that the Office of the Vice-Chancellor has trusted the members with the task

Going forward, we are going to be more vibrant in soliciting relevant articles from members of UoK – both students and staff. These shall include news items, opinions and commentaries, and major plans and upcoming events to be held by and at the university. We shall also retain the good that has been in informing the readership on the major milestones achieved by members of the student community or staff of the University of Kabianga.

Besides, we shall have permanent space for sports and other co-curricular activities, and creative corner where students and members of staff can submit their short pieces of art and talent, including but not limited to poetry and photography.

It is in light of the above that the Board invites submissions of opinion articles, commentaries, news articles, events updates and short works of artist. The editorial board pledges to be hands-on not only ensuring that our voices are heard, but that they are heard in a manner that proves quality. Submissions can be made to corporateaffairs@kabianga.ac.ke. Thank you and good reading.

Dr.Robert Wesonga
Editor-in-Chief/Chairman

From left Hon. Paul Chepkwony governor, Prof Maurice Oduor DVC Planning, Research and Developmet,Mr. Kipkoech Kimalel,Registrar Admin istration,Prof Wilson Kipngeno, Vice-Chancellor,Prof Eric Koech, DVC Finance and Adminstration and Dr. Hellen Sang, Director Gender.
Members of the management that accompanied The Vice-Chancellor to the Kericho county government during donations of hand sanitizers and soaps/ **Photo Nicholas Langat**

The Vice Chancellor, who is leading the university community in the fight against the pandemic, noted that this terrifying enemy which has equalized all humanity, institutions and nations requires equal participation from all stakeholders to combat it.

Prof. Wilson Kipngeno appreciated the health workers, security personnel and all those fighting the pandemic countrywide. Particularly, he noted how they have braved and soldiered on in fighting against the dreadful virus. Not lost to the university community, he observed, was the outstanding service to humanity in caring for those affected and similarly fighting against the spread of the virus.

"The University of Kabianga," he said, "propelled by its vision: 'To be a leading University in scientific innovation for the betterment of humanity' is privileged to join the rest of the armies in combating the corona virus pandemic."

To better the lives of humanity as they fight its spread, the University through its School of Science and Technology came up with hand washing soap and sanitizers to be used to ensure that a high level of hygiene is maintained to keep Covid-19 at bay.

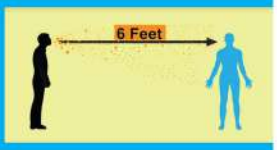
The Vice Chancellor lauded efforts by the School of Science & Technology for making the products a reality. The School of Science was represented by the (Acting) Dean of the School of Science & Technology Dr. Joyce Kiplimo assisted by Dr. Gilbert Ongera, Dr. Mule and other Technicians whose tireless efforts culminated in the production of these valuable items.

He noted how the Covid-19 pandemic led to the suspension of learning in educational institutions. However, it was evident that the University of Kabianga moved very first to ensure learning time was not lost by leveraging on technology through online learning to complete the remaining part of the semester. During this period of the Pandemic, the University developed and uploaded eContent which can be accessed by students while at home. More than 85 % of the learners and staff who work from home have been able to access eLearning materials through subsidized data bundles facility made possible in collaboration between the University and its internet service providers; Kenya Education Network (KENET) and Telecoms. **By *Nicholas Langat***

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*

ISAAC NEWTON DURING THE PLAGUE: LESSONS FOR ACADEMICS

When the Great Bubonic Plague struck London in the years 1665 and 1666, Sir Isaac Newton was in his early 20s. Like any other student at the time, he had to go home as schools, businesses and other institutions closed. Even back then, social distancing was a public health tool that was needed to break the spread of the plague, and flatten the curve. For it would take over two hundred years before scientists discovered the micro-organism that caused the plague, and worked towards getting the cure for the pandemic. Closer home to Newton, it had killed at least a quarter of London's population – over one hundred thousand people.

The Trinity College of Cambridge University, like all other schools and colleges of the time closed. Newton, who was a student at the college, had to contend with studying and working from home, sixty miles away from Cambridge. Compared to the school going populations currently cut off from their teachers and schools by the ongoing ravages of Coronavirus across the world, Newton was also bereft of the guidance of his professors, and the comfort of school. This notwithstanding, the rest, as they say, is history. It was during this time that this immortal philosopher and scientist went on to live his annus mirabilis – his year of wonders.

During the plague, he retreated to the family farm in Woolsthorpe Manor. Apart from provide a safe haven for him, away from the carriers of the disease, his rural home provided a quiet and serene environment that the philosopher needed to ferment and concretize his thoughts and eternal scientific pronouncements. In a period spanning slightly over a year, Isaac Newton helped to advance the knowledge of calculus; he contributed to the study of optics (the science of light); worked on his theory of gravity; created the science of motion, and more.

At the end of the plague, when he returned to Cambridge with his theories in his head, and recorded in his academic manuscripts, a twenty four year old who had been a student at the College a year earlier was made a teaching/research fellow at Cambridge. Two years later, they made him professor.

To date, legend continues to be told of how Newton was inspired by the falling apple. In point of fact, there is no evidence that the world will stop talking about Newton's Eureka moment. Similarly, we can look at this time when we are quarantined at home as our "falling apple moment". It is time for students, and us, academics to spot that Apple Tree outside our windows, and use the falling of apples from it, to spur greater thoughts for the betterment of humanity. One can only hope that, like Newton, we shall not proceed to eat the apple that falls from the tree – for by doing nothing at this time; we will be doing just that.

Of course none of us should be expected to even come near Sir Isaac Newton's level of achievements. Nonetheless, we can still achieve our own small milestones, so that we don't entirely fail the take home assignment – for that is what we have been given by the Covid-19 pandemic.

How we behave during this pandemic will determine how the world will view us, and indeed how we will view ourselves in the future. For the academics, it is a choice between whether we will forever quote and teach other people's ideas, or have someone in the future teach our ideas; for the readers, we can elect to remain forever readers, or create a legacy for ourselves to be read in the future, and for the children in their parents' sitting rooms at this time, they can choose to either be lifetime viewers of TV, or have themselves watched on TV in the future.

One of the measures of human adaptability is seen in how we manage to turn adversity into prosperity. For even with human weaknesses, philosopher Seneca has observed, "It is true greatness to have in one the frailty of man, and the security of a god." Sir Isaac Newton's story is not lone-standing: adversity has over the years inspired humanity to invent and discover, and set the world on a new trajectory of prosperity.

We can indeed use Newtonian inspiration to beat the drudgery and loneliness of quarantine and the boredom of isolation. The Washington Post sums it up for us best:

"So if you're working or studying from home over the next few weeks –or even months – perhaps remember the example Newton set. Having time to muse and experiment in unstructured comfort proved life-changing for him — and no one remembers whether he made it out of his pyjamas before noon."

Kenyan pupils, students and academics, have what it takes to turn this year from annus horribilis (a horrible year) to annus mirabilis – our year of wonders and miracles. After all, it is us who gave the world M-PESA, Kikoyi and Ciondo.

By Dr. Robert Wesonga

In Pictorials

The Meru showcase their cultural quest during the University of Kabianga Annual Cultural Week./**Photo courtesy**

From left Prof. Kibet(Dir. Postgradute studies), Prof. Oduor(DVC,PR & D) and VC Prof. Kipngeno follow cultural exhibition /**Photo courtesy**

The winners for MR & MS University of Kabianga 2020. The winners will carry the crown for one academic year /**photo courtesy**

Mulembe dancers showcase their prowess in drum beating and dancing during Annual Cultural Week at the University Pavilion/**photo courtesy**

The Vice-Chancellor accompanied by Dean of Students and other members of management sample various delicacies during Annual Cultural Week/**photo courtesy**

Various winners from different categories take a group photo after crowning during Annual Cultural Week gala night at the University Pavilion /**photo courtesy**

KICHOCHEO.

Katika ulimwengu wa sasa tunahitaji kujitolea ima kwa kupinda mgongo au kujinyima kila aina ya starehe ili kufanikisha pande zote mbili; ufanisi na maisha bora au mema. Nashawishika kwa kiwango kikubwa kuwa elimu inafaidi sana hususani kwa mwenye nia na azma ya kujisukuma. Maisha kwa kawaida hayana faida ikiwa huna cha kufaidi nacho. Fikiria kurauka na kujitafutia riziki kwa njia ngumu au mazingira machafu bila demokrasia! Dkt. Emmanuel Kisurulia wa Chuo Kikuu cha Kabianga aliwahi niambia kuwa elimu kubwa ina faida kubwa ila elimu ndogo ina dharau kubwa! Kauli hii ikanishika kwenye kiwambo cha masikio yangu zaidi nilipotangamana na Dkt. Solomon Kapting'ei wa Chuo hicho cha Kabianga aliyenisisitizia umuhimu wa kuutumia ujuzi wako kujifaidi na kujifidia.

Hivi majuzi kumezuka waandishi wengi chipukizi wanaoamini kuwa siku moja watasomwa ndani nan je ya Kenya ikiwa si wanakosomea. Nimetagusana na wasomi wengi sana na mmoja wao ni kaka Angira aliyeandika Riwaya ya Uko wapi Mama;anayekiri kuwa sifa ni sifa tu. Hata tukija kuandika, ima tutasomwa sana au tusisomwe hata. Zote hizi ni sifa. Jina ni lile lile la 'fulani'ni mwandishi. Nakisikitikia kizazi kinacholaza damu kwa kuamini kuwa bahati huja bila kubisha mlangio.

TIJA YA UANDISHI.

Ama kwa hakika,nina simulizi ndefu sana kuhusu uandishi. Nina juzuu nyingi sana ambazo zinatoa fasili zaidi kuhusu wigo wa uandishi. Nina maana gani? Uandishi unalipa na vivyo hivyo utakuchafulia jina ikiwa hutajichunga dhidi ya vikundi vya kimbeya. Andika leo uone namna utasutwa kuwa 'fulani' kaiba kazi iliyokwisha kuandikwa au fulani huyo anaandika kazi duni isiyostahiki machoni pa watu.

Hata hivyo,kuandika kunafungulia pazia na kukujazia marafiki wengi. Utawafahamu mpaka wasomi na watafiti kutoka janibu mbalimbali. Huo ndio utamu na ustaarabu wa kusoma,kutafiti na kuandika. Kuandika kunakupa taswira pevu na kubwa kuhusu hali halisi ya maisha ya sasa na ya baadaye.

Nasema haya yote baada ya kutagusana na msomi wa profesa wa Kiswahili Rocha Chimerah katika Chuo Kikuu cha Ergerton katika mojawapo ya makongamo ya Kiswahili. Alikiri kuwa kando na kumzolea tija foko uandishi haswa wa Kiswahili umemtembeza kwingi sana. Amezuru mabara mengi tu na hata kufunza Vyuo Vikuu vya huko. Kwa kweli kuifanya taaluma ya Kiswahili si hasara;Aidha kuzamia kwenye utafiti si hasara bali ni raha na faida tele. Endapo unashuku haya, jiulize ni waandishi wangapi wanavuna kutoka vitabu vyao? Bila shaka ni wengi sana.

Nafasi ya Kitivo cha Elimu Chuoni Kabianga katika ukuzaji na ukuaji wa uandishi wangu.

Sijakuwa mwandishi tajika sana nchini Kenya lakini nachofahamu ni kuwa najulikana kufikia upeo fulani ndani na nje ya chuo changu. Kando na Kitivo cha Elimu kuninoa na kunifungulia pazia ya mwangaza wa elimu,pia nimenufaika kutokana na mijadala na mafunzo ya wahadhiri wangu wa kozi zote. Walezi wangu wa Kiswahili na hata idara ya Mtaala wa Maagizo na Elimu ya Media;wamenifunza mengi. Elimu haina mwisho. Utasoma mpaka akili zikuchoke pengine ndipo utulie,. Hata baada ya kuandika kitabu changu cha kwanza, Mwongozo wa Tamthilia ya Kigogo,sikuchoka,nilijikaza ili nisije kuanguka. Nilihimizwa na wanafunzi wenzangu ambao walinichochea na kunipuulizia hewa ya kutotamauka. Nikaandika kitaabu cha kiada, Tungo za Ushairi, Novela; Windo Chungu, Antholojia; Mapenzi ya Pesa na Hadithi Nyingine,Antholojia;Mapenzi ya Mwanaharamu na Hadithi Nyingine miongoni mwa kazi nyingine nyingi. Ama kweli kwenye Shule au Kitivo cha Elimu ndipo nimebainikiwa kuwa elimu haina dharau wala mwisho. Maana kule kuna wasomi wazee mpaka na maprofesa wanaoendelea kusoma. Ukiipokea elimu utastahikiwa na wengi. Hatimaye, nawahimiza wanafunzi wenzangu wafanye kila wawezalo kuvitumikia vipawa vyaao maana vinalipa sana. Tusome tu bila kuchoka maana ipo siku tafauti itaonekana. ***By Dancan Obwocha***

Mwenyekiti- Chama cha Kiswahili cha Chuo Kikuu cha Kabianga na;Naibu Mhariri Mkuu,Chama cha Wanafunzi wa Kiswahili,Vyuo Vikuu vya Afrika Mashariki;Ukanda wa Kenya (CHAWAKAMA-KENYA.)

CONFRONTING THE PANDEMIC MENTALLY

By Boniface Almasi

Just the other day my friend Hedwig was asking what the hell is one even supposed to do during this Covid-19 pandemic period. Honestly I had no answers, so I sat down and reflected on my life, the pressure and the anxiety that has bottled up from March was definitely killing my mental health and well-being. First, my freedom has been curtailed. I can no longer do the stuff I used to do in campus before the pandemic. Similarly, my independence has been tampered with, and even my routine has been altered. It is true the society timetables and expectations are impacting negatively on comrades' lives and so if you are feeling stressed and anxious about the Covid-19 outbreak, you are not alone. Many students are experiencing higher stress and anxiety levels during this period. If you are one such person, maybe you can try doing the following.

Stay active

When you're stressed, you probably won't want to get out of bed and do anything. Being busy is a commendable stress reliever. Workouts, going for a walk, reading a book or even some physical exercises can help. Exercise releases endorphins that make you feel awesome, and it can also serve as a valuable distraction from your daily routine. Regular exercising for say an hour or more a day will help in building up your fitness level in a gradual manner. Small activities like sit-ups and press-ups can number over the course of a day. The first step in getting active is getting up and moving.

Stay connected

Talk to friends around you, join an online book club, be online and talk to the people you used to talk to before. Keep the conversation flowing, join discussions, write a blog, attend online seminars and conferences, just don't isolate yourself, Covid-19 could have stopped the coffee meetings and the group discussions but it shouldn't make you feel like an island. Your friend will help you deal with the stress and isolation since they are also battling the same monster.

Stay positive

Stress can lead to depression, which can make you feel powerless. Your anxious brain and your depressed body can conspire against you to print a picture of your life as worse than it actually is. Indeed, you cannot control the actions of others, your thoughts, or your feelings, but again you are not entirely powerless. Shift your attention towards the things you can control.

Your daily routine, who you talk, what you watch, and even what you eat matters too. Controlling these aspects will give you that power to manage what is stressing you up.

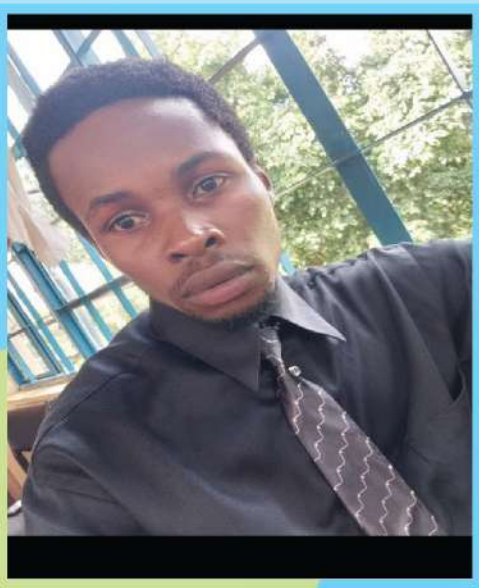
Stay Sanitized

Wear a mask properly in public places, cover your mouth when you sneeze or cough with your elbow or with a tissue paper that you should immediately throw away, Wash your hands regularly, and practice social distancing of at least one meter apart. If you are experiencing experience any Covid-19 related symptoms seek medical attention immediately.

It's also good to be comfortable with online interactions: classes, examinations, discussions, meetings, and stuff. Don't be too scared because it eventually gets better. They say time heals all wounds, but it won't heal until you train your mind how to practice coping with the situation at hand. Accepting that what you are going through is the new normal at least for the time being will be key to helping you weather the storm.

By Boniface Almasi

POEM



TIMELESS

By Albert Omwange

That in your hands is for a fact bigger,
But will still grow if you're more eager.
Different are everybody's intentions,
Trust none, this needs no more mentions.
Turns out you'll see a lot going on,
Matters most is that you're alone,
The sweet old day, will be long gone.

Neither chilli nor sugar looks bitter or sweet,
It's so normal, that we all have a peat.
You must knit your future, so neat.
Beware, they must judge your wit,
Latest accomplishments, welcome a new heat.

Only the best is what you deserve,
You learn better, from that you observe,
Until it's that time, in good, always serve,
If it was meant to be, fate will preserve.

© Omwange.

Prof. Wilson Kipngeno; Vice-Chancellor of the University of Kabianga during 2019/2020 first year's address at the University Pavilion./*Photo Nicholas Langat*

VICE-CHANCELLOR SPEECH TO THE 2020/2021 FIRST YEARS

"On my own behalf, on behalf of the Council, Senate, Management Board, entire staff and students of the University of Kabianga (UoK), I'm delighted this morning to welcome freshmen and women 2020/2021 Academic Year to the University of Kabianga.

I wish to congratulate you for the hard work that earned you an admission to the University of Kabianga. This Orientation takes place in a very unique way as Kenya and the rest of the world battles the spread of COVID-19 Pandemic. UoK in response to the Ministry of Health protocols of social distancing organized this orientation which deviates from the earlier mode of conducting orientation to the virtual mode.

Our dear freshmen and women, as you take part in this orientation, take note that it will serve as an introduction of the new way of doing things to ensure continuity in the operations of the University.

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSITY

UoK began in 2007 as a Campus of Moi University with a student population of one hundred and fifty five (155). In 2009, it was elevated as Constituent College, and granted charter to full-fledged public university on 1st March, 2013 by the third President of the Republic of Kenya, His Excellency Mwai Kibaki.

LOCATION OF THE UNIVERSITY

Our University is located in Belgut Constituency, Kericho West Sub-County, Kericho County, Rift Valley Province. It is situated west of Kericho Town along Kericho-Sotik Highway: off Premier Taplottin Road.

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

UoK operates under the following forms of governance structure:

The Council

The Council; headed by the Council Chair are appointed by the Government of Kenya to manage the University on its behalf.

The University Senate

The Senate is the top academic organ in charge of the management of all matters academic.

Management Board

Chaired by the Vice-Chancellor, the Management Board runs day to day affairs of the University and implements Council decisions. To manage the University efficiently, I'm assisted by three Deputy Vice-Chancellors: Prof. Elijah Omwenga – Academic and Student Affairs; Prof. Eric Koech – Administration and Finance and Prof. Maurice Odour – Planning, Research and Development

Student Governing Council

Students, through the students body Electoral College, elect their leadership annually. The SGC serves as a link between the University Management and the student body. Under the general administration of the Dean of Students, this Council assists in running various student activities.

SCHOOLS AND CAMPUSES

University of Kabianga has the following seven (7) schools sometimes referred as faculties. Each School is headed by a Dean, who is assisted by several heads of departments.

We have the School of Agriculture and Biotechnology, School of Arts and Social Sciences, School of Business and Economics, School of Education **Conti Pg11**

School of Information and Knowledge Management, School of Natural Resources and Environmental Management and School of Science and Technology.
The University of Kabianga has four Campuses: the Main Campus at Kabianga, Kericho Town Campus, Sotik Campus and Kapkatet Campus - where Biomedical courses are centered.
I am aware that a few days ago you were taken through an elaborate online orientation programme which included familiarization with your schools, academic programmes, rules and regulations, and introduced to some of senior members of staff. Because of the COVID 19, this Programme was shorter than other orientations conducted earlier.
I urge you to take time to download and familiarize yourself with all the policy guidelines, rules and regulations that have been availed in the University website
Your life in the University is going to be very different from the life you experienced in high school. It is going to be the first real experience of freedom. I urge you to exercise this freedom responsibly to minimize interruption of learning occasioned by disciplinary actions meted on those who break the rules and regulations.
My appeal to you as first year students is to maximize the opportunity and utilize the enabling environment availed to you to be innovative in pursuit of knowledge.
The University is committed to creating an enabling environment through provision of essential services and facilities to meet the diverse academic, social and co-curricular needs of its students.
To ensure the University academic and other activities continue without interruption during the COVID 19 Pandemic, Council has availed resources to facilitate quality curriculum implementation through Blended Learning. This has been made possible by partnering with internet providers (KENET) to provide stable internet services that can support learning.
This would not be of relevance without our committed Faculty who are working very hard to develop and upload e-content for use by students as they learn from home.

SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Your stay here in the University for the two or four (4) years, demands that you maintain high levels of self-discipline.
It is sad to note that students of either gender may fall prey of some intolerable circumstances when they report to the University. Most university students become victims of social behavior for being; unable to cope with broken relationships, exam related stress, financial hardships, underlying mental health issues or overindulgence in the use of alcohol and social media.
HIV & Aids is still a big problem among the youth in this country. You therefore must exercise caution and responsibility.

FINANCIAL PRUDENCE

A majority of the students in the University will soon receive money from HELB (Higher Education Loans Board) and from other sources like the parents among others. Kindly appreciate and spend any money you get wisely.

LECTURES AND EXAMS

You will be expected to attend virtual lectures and sit Continuous Assessment Tests and Semester examinations. These are very important modes of academic assessment. More clarification on all these will be given to you going forward.
Failure to attend lectures and examination irregularity of any kind is not allowed. I advise you to be self–disciplined and cultivate a culture of honesty in all areas of your life so as to succeed in your academic life.
To the freshmen, once again, I welcome you to the University of Kabianga. I wish you well in your studies. May God keep you safe throughout the period of your study – as: "Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself". – John Dewey
Thank you. May God bless University of Kabianga."

By Nicholas Langat

MAPITIYO YA WINDO CHUNGU CHA DANCAN OBWOCHA, KUR. 60., BESTAR PUBLISHERS LTD. ISBN 9702106174713

Nilikaa kusoma Windo Chungu katika mkao mmoja si kwa sababu ya kuwa ina sifa ya hadithi fupi bali ni kwa sababu nilikhiari kuwacha yoe siku hiyo bui niimalize hadithi yote kwa mara moja. Kilichoniweka kuisoma kwa mfululizo ni kwa kuwa hadithi imejaa msisimko kutokana na ustadi wa matumizi mazuri ya taharuki mithili ya tatuzi za Bwana Msa. Kila ukifika kivuko kimoja unakivuka haraka ili utake kujuwa kuna nini mbele.

Hadithi yenyewe ni ya masikitiko, huzuni, na uchungu juu ya unyama anaofanyiwa mtu kwa kosa la mtu mwengine. Mzee Mabwocha alipojitiya na kujitowa kwenye makunri ya wachawi yalikuwa maamuzi yake mwenyewe; mwanawe Dante yuwahusikaje katika maasi ya babake? Walakini makunri haya yanayofanya mambo ya kiyajabu: ya kula nyama mfu za watoto wachanga, kudhuru na kusongonyowa aila ya wanachama wanapokataa kwenreleya kuwa wanachama, na kuwapa utajiri wa chapchap wote wanaokubaliyana na matambiko haya ni katika mambo aliyoyaangaziya mwandishi kwa kina.

"Nilishangaa sana kupata nguvu ya ajabu na ya ghafla sana mbele ya Mukulungu ambaye aliogopwa na kila mtu" nriyo maneno sumaku yanayobadilisha yanayojiri baada ya uwamuzi huu "... na liwe liwalo". Madonroo haya ni mojawapo ya kauli anazotumiya mwandishi Obwocha kututaharukisha na kutuhamasisha wakati tunapokabiliwa na zani mbele yetu maishani. Anatushajiisha tusikubali kattu kutawaliwa na tamaa ya utajiri ambao rasilmali yake ni unyama juu ya binadamu wenzako. Hadi mwisho wa hadithi mwandishi anamfanya Dante aumiye kwa hali zote lakini asibadili uwamuzi wake.

Mwandishi ametumiya lugha nyepesi yenye kauli fupifupi zisizo na utonroti mwingi, na kwa kutumiya ploti sahili ameweza kuifanya hadithi ishuke kwa utamu na iyeleweke kwa urahisi sana. Mwandishi ametumiya taswira pevu zenye hisiya kali zikiwamo mateso anayokumbana nayo Dante (mhusika mkuu) na mpenziwe Rita, matambiko na makafara wakati wa makongamano ya wachawi. Usukaji huu mwepesi unamfanya msomaji auhisi uchungu anawousikiya Rita kila anapoharibu mimba, na uchungu wa Dante kutoweza kubadilisha mkonro wa mwenenro wa maisha yao.

Hata hivo, kazi hii ilinakisika, bila kuharibu ladha, kwa makosa ya hijayi (k.m ni Mukulungu au Makulungu), upigaji chapa hobelahobela (kukosekana alama mwafaka za uwakifishaji), na matumizi ya 'sheng' (kujiingiza kwa mambo ya uchawi).

Ni kazi aali kwa wanafunzi wa madarasa ya juu katika shule za msingi kutokana na lugha ya utambaji hadithi. Piya itawafaa wanafunzi wa kiwango cha vyuwo kutokana na ubainishaji wa mbinu nyingi za kisanii alizotumiya mwandishi hususani taharuki. Sina shaka msomaji yoyote wa kazi hii atasema, "Ama kweli Kabianga kumezalikana mkembe wa Mohamed Said Abdulla!"

Dkt. Mohamed Karama
Idara ya Isimu Fasihi na Mawasiliyano

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