

Moi University Alumni visit Alma Mater after 30 years



Moi University Alumni will visit their Alma Mater on Saturday November 3, 2018 at the Main Campus in Kesses, Eldoret. The group consists of the cohort that enrolled in 1988 and they plan to create a “once in a lifetime” event, visiting the University 30 years on. The Alumni are travelling from all over Kenya; and from the diaspora including Canada, Australia, USA, South Korea, Malaysia and the UK. The Alumni fondly refer to each other as ‘comrades’ and their enduring camaraderie was nurtured at the National Youth Service (NYS). They are the group who rioted at NYS in October 1988 and caused the Government to reconsider the then famed pre-university programme. [<https://www.nation.co.ke/lifestyle/1190-85248-dkxtx0z/index.html>].



In addition, they were the first group to be expelled en masse prior to joining a University. They were the first group to report to local Chiefs weekly before joining the University; the first group that had to report to a public university in Kenya with their parents on the first day, November 6, 1988. Many firsts for a University they hardly knew; a University many did not apply for and for courses many did not select. The remoteness of the Campus and their experiences made them form a bond so strong that has endured the test of time. Saturday November 3, 2018 will be a culmination of 30 years of friendship and a desire to give back. The day will begin at 0900hrs at the Main Campus with a memorial event to 29 departed comrades and inauguration of a proposed Botanical Garden for current students. The rest of the day will involve plenary meetings to lunch, then afternoon walk-about down memory lane and other nostalgic sites.

The Alumni have made tremendous contribution in both the public and private sector. They include: Hon. Aden Duale, Leader of Majority in National Assembly; Murang'a Governor, H.E Mwangi wa Iria; Turkana West MP, Hon. Daniel Nanok; former Principal Secretary Amb. Richard Titus Ekai; former Director General of Vision 2030 Delivery Secretariat (VDS) and current Chairman of Lake Turkana Wind Power Limited, Mr. Mugo Kibati; Managing Director of Isuzu East Africa, Ms. Rita Kavashe; Director General of National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), Prof. Geoffrey Wahungu; CEO I&M Bank Limited, Mr. Kihara Maina; Chairperson of the Board of Kenya Accreditation Service and former Konza founder CEO, Dr. Catherine Adeya and Kiambu CEC, Dr. Juliet Kimemia. They also include First Secretaries and Counsellors (current and former) in various Kenya Missions including those in Canada, South Korea, Thailand and Malaysia.

The 1988 group is also very well represented in academia across board from High School Principals to University Vice-Chancellors. By way of illustration, the Vice-Chancellor of University of Kigali, Prof. Abraham Waithima, is an Alumnus and so is the Principal of Kenya High School, Ms. Flora Mulatya.

It will be a first in Kenya, as it will comprise a specific year cohort brought together by experience as opposed to faculty-based alumni, and thirty years later. This has also been enabled by the power of social media. It is hoped that this will inspire others to do the same and see how to partner with their alma mater.

Over 150 alumni are expected and most have celebrated their 50th birthdays this year; so another opportunity to celebrate. To make the event even more memorable, the renowned educationist, scholar and education administrator, Prof. Shellemiah Okoth Keya, who was Moi University Vice-Chancellor between 1989 and 1994, will grace the occasion as the Chief Guest. During Prof. Keya's tenure, the student population increased from 900 in 1988 to 9,000 in 1994. He oversaw infrastructural development that entailed creation of the Second Medical School, Faculties of Agriculture, Fisheries, Law, Education, Chepkoilel Science Campus and Maseno University College.

The growth of the University called for construction of buildings especially administrative blocks, staff houses, primary schools, water and sewerage line, road infrastructure, farms, large student hostels, Margret Thatcher Library, Student Centre, to mention a few. Prof. Keya is currently the Chancellor of Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (DeKUT).

