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LU

Info Point

**SCALING THE HEIGHTS:
FACE TO FACE WITH OUR PROFESSORS**

INSIDE FEATURE: **MAKING THE BEST OF IT: PROF.
NICHOLAS KAMAU GORO
LITERARY WRITINGS**

2019



Laikipia University-KE



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EDITORIAL TEAM



Welcome to the 5th Edition of ***LU InfoPoint***. In this edition, we bring you inspiring stories of our professors who are scaling new heights. Our aim has always been to keep you in the loop on events taking place in the university.

Together let us tell inspiring stories about LU.



Naomi Ong'ayo

I'm excited to be part of the ***LU InfoPoint*** editorial team. This has given me an opportunity to put into practice my skills and knowledge and learn more on Public Relations and Corporate Affairs.

LU *InfoPoint*

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DIRECTORATE OF PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE CONTRACTING MILESTONES

The Directorate of Planning and Performance contracting is headed by Prof. Moses Rotich who oversees the functions of the Directorate which were in charge of an Ag. Coordinator Mr. David Otieno. Prof. Moses Rotich is a Professor of Chemistry with vast experience in administration, planning and performance contracting. Prof. Rotich has previously served as an Ag. Dean School of Science, Director Planning and Performance Contracting, Director Eldoret Campus, Academic Advisor-Nakuru Town Campus and Representative of School of Science and Applied Technology on the Board of Post Graduate Studies. Professor Rotich is a member of the University Contractual Implementation Committee, Chair-Ethics Review Committee, Resource Mobilization and Investments Board among others. Prof. Rotich has also published scientific papers in a number of renown publications.



The Directorate of Planning and Performance contracting has seen a number of milestones achieved during the current Financial Year. Among them is the cascading of the University Council to all levels of management in the University and prompt quarterly reporting to various Government Ministries and Agencies, coordinating the review of the University Statutes which have been approved by the University Council, development of the University Strategic Plan 2018/2019-2022/2023, and development of the University Resource Mobilization Strategy among others.

In lieu of the above, the Directorate is set to roll out the implementation of the University Strategic Plan Financial Years 2018/2019-2022/2023 through a Strategic Plan Implementation Committee, the review of the University Master Plan, formulation of a Performance Management monitoring tool and evaluation matrix. The Directorate has also planned to evaluate and rank the performance of all the departments in the University's two divisions namely Academic and Research, and Administration, Finance and Development. The Directorate has also commenced plans on drafting of the University Council Performance Contract in anticipation of requirements of the 6th Cycle Performance Contracting Guidelines. In earnest is the collation of requisite evidence in accordance to the 15th Cycle of Performance Contracting which closes on 30th June 2019 and whose climax is the evaluation of the University performance evaluated by the Office of the Presidency-Performance Management and Coordinating office.

MAKING THE BEST OF IT:

Make
THE REST OF YOUR *Life*
THE *BEST* OF YOUR *Life*



PROF. NICHOLAS KAMAU GORO LITERARY WRITINGS

Prof. Nicholas Kamau aka Goro Kamau, is the director - Directorate of Research, Extension and Consultancy and an Associate Professor of literature in the Department of Literary and Communication Studies, School of the Humanities and Development Studies. Kamau was born in Kahuhia, Murang'a County on 16th November 1963. He had his early education at Kirogo Primary School, Kirogo Secondary School and

Kakamega High School. He then proceeded to the University of Nairobi for his undergraduate studies where he studied Literature, History and Government in his first year before opting to specialise in Literature under the 3.1.1 option. After his graduation in 1989, he was awarded a scholarship by the University to pursue a Masters in Literature. During his undergraduate studies, Kamau had started contributing literary articles, book reviews for several newspapers and magazines in Nairobi such as The Standard, Society and The Weekly Review. He was also active on radio through programs like Books & Bookmen, Forum for Understanding and The World of Poetry which used to run on KBC radio. That is how he landed his first job after graduation when, while covering a function of the Kenya Oral Literature Association, he met an editor who invited him to join Jacaranda Designs, a newly established publishing company as a writer/ editor.

After a brief stint with the publisher in 1994 Goro joined Egerton University, Laikipia Campus, as an Assistant Lecturer and was subsequently promoted to lecturer. Later on, Kamau undertook his PhD studies on the writings of Ngugi wa Thiong'o at Egerton University under the supervision of Prof. Emilia Ilieva and the renown Ngugi scholar, Prof. Carol Sicherman. The work won him a Visiting Research Fellowship at the Centre of African Studies, Cambridge University in 2008-9 where besides doing his research on Ngugi's writings, he also wrote a paper on the Fellowship theme which was on

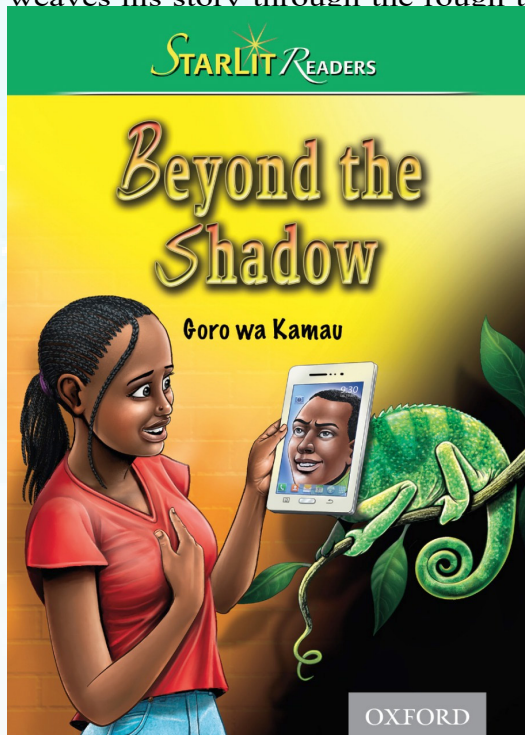
Christianity in Africa. The paper was published as a book; *Christianity and Public Culture in Africa (Ohio University Press, 2010)*. Other publications have appeared in Egerton Journal, Studies in World Christianity, African Literature Today and Journal of African Interdisciplinary Studies among many other journals. Subsequently, Kamau was promoted to Senior Lecturer in 2013 and Associate Professor of Literature in 2018.

Apart from teaching and research, Kamau's other interest is in creative writing. Up to date, he has published fifteen books in the areas of children's literature, young adult's literature and short stories. All his children's and young adult literary works have been approved by the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD) as class readers at various levels. One of them, *Let Her Be (KLB)* was selected for use in the National Spelling Bee Competition in 2017.

A turning point in Kamau's writing was the publication of the short story "*When the Sun Goes Down*". A moving account of love at a time of HIV/AIDS, the story became the title story in an anthology which went on to become a school set book from 2013- 2018. This anthology contains stories collected from all parts of the world, cleverly woven by renowned authors like Gabriel Garcia Marquez who won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1982, the Japanese Haruki Murakumi and Moyez Vassanji among others. The work launched him as a short story writer and since then his work has featured in several short story anthologies.

Kamau came into the public limelight with the publication of *Ghost and the Fortune Hunters (Longhorn: 2016)*. The novel has so far won two prestigious awards, that is, Burt Award for African Literature 2016 and Jomo Kenyatta National Prize for Literature in 2017, Young Adults, English category. The novel tells of the plight of people living with albinism in parts of Africa where it is believed that charms made from albino body parts bring luck and good fortune. Astutely, Goro weaves his story through the rough terrain of the protagonist's birth and his rejection by his father,

Kibet, because of being an albino; his eventual academic prowess, and his father's botched attempt to sell him to a witch in Tanzania, to be hacked to death.



Kamau's most recent work, *Beyond the Shadow* (Oxford University Press, forthcoming) is a chilling account of a young girl's encounter with a serial killer who she meets on social media. At a deeper level, the author examines the issues psychopathy and mental health. The novel shows how obsession with social media, and the parent's failure to follow up on what their children do when online, can expose teens to dangerous predators. To be published by Oxford University Press, the novel interrogates the life of a person with a personality disorder that bordered on the schizophrenic. The novel examines young people's obsession with social media and how this behaviour can be detrimental.

"A story to be chewed and digested." Inspired by some of the issues that come up in the Directorate of Research, the novel also takes a sideways glance at the devastating effects of the opuntia cactus on families and livelihoods in the Laikipia rangelands. He is currently working on a novella on the conservation of the endangered White-Headed vulture based in Samburu.

Prof. Kamau-Goro has provided contributions to other anthologies. For instance, in *Making the Best*

of it & other Stories, Goro has contributed the story “*Across New China Road*” which critiques the concept of development which the story explores as being void of social justice. Another contribution is made in the Anthology ‘*The Cry of the Crow & Other Stories*’ published by Vide-Muwa Publishers where he has contributed ‘*Soulmates*’ a story that explores the life of Felistas Mweru who believes she has found her soulmate when she meets Isaac on Facebook. However, when they meet in person, it’s only the presence of the police who have been trailing Isaac that saves her life when they arrest him.

In *Kosa La Nani? Na Hadithi Nyingine*, by Vide-Muwa, Goro has contributed ‘*Sauti ya Ndege*,’ a story that explores the problem of youth unemployment, poverty and alcoholism. In this story Njaga and his friends take an illicit drink at his local shopping centre, his mother thanks God that he only

ends up losing his sight. His friends are not so lucky: they all die in the incident.

Lastly, in the *Last of the Ogres & Other Stories* by Kola, Goro has contributed ‘*The Last of the Ogres*’ (Title story). This story examines the debilitating problems caused by patriarchy in the society. In this story Gathiru slays the ogres of patriarchy in this story which recreates on oral story with the aim of centering the girl child.

Apart from the above novels and short stories Prof. Kamau-Goro has also excelled in writing children’s and teen fiction. *The Devils of Menengai Crater*, KLB (Munyua

& Kosgey discover that the mythical devils supposed to dwell in the Menengai Crater are actually criminals when the boys are kidnapped by Black Devil & his gang)

Sara and the Pirates, KLB (Sara travels to Mombasa to visit her relatives. A day out swimming on the beach turns dramatic when Sara & her friends are swept to the high seas where they have an encounter with the feared pirate, Papa Samak)

Let Her Be, KLB (Sanare wants nothing more than to study & become a teacher. But her father plans to marry her off. When he announces that he has found a suitor to “take her away”, Sanare flees home. Theme: patriarchy & the plight of the girl child)

Frogs for Sale, KLB (A stylistically innovative book for children: Unlike his friend Kingfisher who works hard, Peacock will not work. Neither will he accept friendly advice. Because of his vanity, his friendship with Kingfisher suffers. He tries to run away from Kingfisher so he can live without what he sees as Kingfisher’s criticism. But one cannot run from oneself. Vanity catches up with peacock when he uses his beautiful feathers to buy food (frogs) until in the end he finds himself naked. He dies of shame.

The Visitors & other Stories, KLB (A witty recreation of African folk stories set in a modern context) *Nyota’s Dream*, Focus (Although Nyota’s family is poor, he will not allow poverty to kill his dream of being a doctor.)

Hongera Prof. Kamau kwa kazi aali.



SOARING HIGH

Prof. FELICIA YIEKE:



Prof. Kibet Rotich, Vice Chancellor Laikipia University, has appointed Prof. Yieke to understudy Prof. Jacinta Mueni Ndambuki at the Graduate School.

Prof. Yieke is an Associate Professor of Applied Linguistics at Laikipia University in the Department of Literary and Communication Studies, School of the Humanities and Development Studies. Her research interests are in the areas of Sociolinguistics and Discourse Analysis (Language, Discourse and Power, Language and Gender, and Language and Ethnicity). She has published considerably in refereed journals in these areas and has also been Editor for a number of academic

books and journals both locally and internationally.

Prof. Yieke has also landed a prestigious appointment by Taylor and Francis Group in the UK to the position of Editorial Adviser for the Leisure, Culture and Society Section of the Routledge Encyclopedia of African Studies (REAS) whose General Editors are Toyin Falola and Emmanuel M. Mbah.

Prof. Toyin Falola is the Jacob and Frances Sanger Mossiker Chair in the Humanities and a Distinguished Teaching Professor at the University of Texas at Austin in the USA while Prof.

Emmanuel Mbah is an Associate Professor of History and Director of Africa and African Diaspora Studies at the City University of New York, College of Staten Island, USA. The Section Editor of Leisure, Culture and Society who Prof. Yieke will report to directly and work with is Wycliffe W. Simiyu Njorarai who is a Professor of Health and Kinesiology, University of Texas at Tyler in Texas.

Part of Prof.Yieke's responsibilities as Editorial Adviser for Routledge Encyclopedia of African Studies (REAS) will be to work collaboratively with the Section Editor and the Publisher and be responsible for assisting with the compilation and editing of the section in accordance with defined guidelines. Additionally, she will assist Section Editor as appropriate to monitor and control the quality of the writing and the editing, while at the same time ensuring that the quality and consistency of the contributions are appropriate for a work of academic scholarship.

Taylor and Francis Group which is part of Informa PLC that operates at the heart of the knowledge and information economy is one of the largest publishing houses in the world.

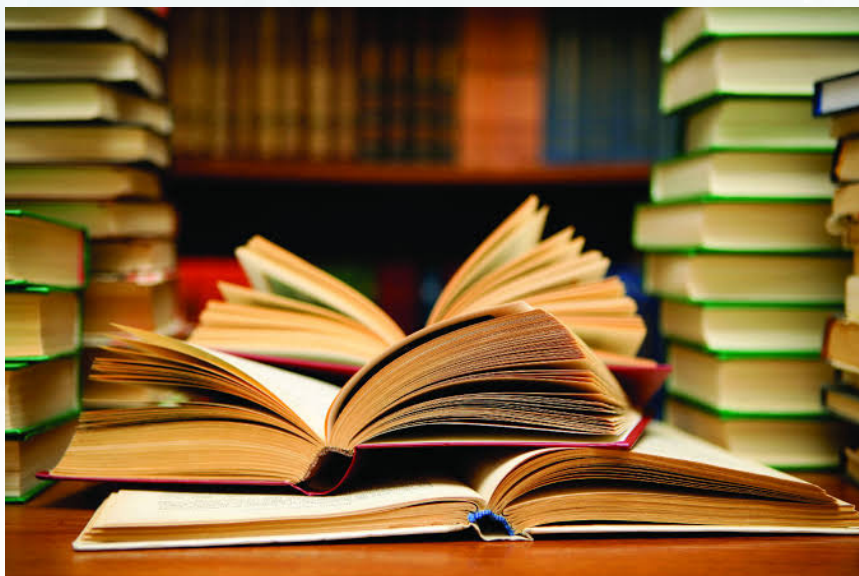
We at Laikipia University congratulate Prof.Yieke for this great appointment with Taylor and Francis Group which is one more way of giving recognition to our University as being able to produce staff that can compete favorably and provide service at the international level. Prof.Yieke on her part is excited and looking forward to providing her service and expertise to this great team which has a global presence!



CORETRAIN stands for *Consultancy, Research and Training*. Heeding to calls by the Division of Academic and Research of Laikipia University to form Research Teams, CORETRAIN started as a research team at Laikipia University; an initiative from the Department of Literary and Communication Studies within the School of Humanities and Development Studies. CORETRAIN LTD was thereafter launched in 2016, with a main agenda to advance scholarship amongst both faculty and students. Though multifaceted and multidisciplinary, the CORETRAIN initiative is largely learner-based. CORETRAIN seeks to provide mentorship to graduate students on how to do research and also train them on the research processes that include field work issues as well as engaging in academic publishing, amongst others. Apart from holding workshops and seminars for graduate students as well as hosting conferences for the academia, CORETRAIN also launched an Academic Journal whose inaugural issue came out in April 2019.

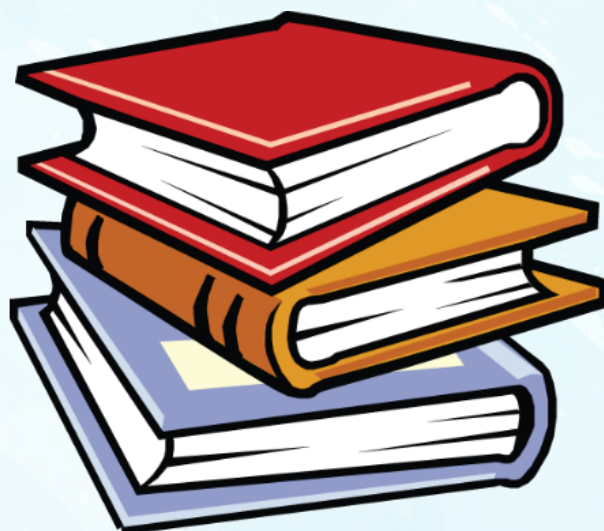
CORETRAIN Journal of Languages, Humanities, Social Sciences and Education (CORETRAIN Journal) is the name of a multidisciplinary online, open-access and double-blind peer-reviewed publication. It covers the disciplines of Languages, Humanities, Social Sciences and Education. The journal aims at creating awareness, shaping and also re-shaping knowledge already created and challenging existing theories and practices related to academic research in its diverse disciplines. The journal invites scholars and researchers to submit their novel and conjectural ideas in the domains of Languages, Humanities, Social Sciences and Education in the form of research articles, book reviews, case studies, review articles and personal opinions that will benefit researchers in the specified areas as well as the society as a whole.

CORETRAIN Journal of Languages, Humanities, Social Sciences and Education, ISSN 2363-24, is published with the support of School of Humanities and Development Studies (SHDS) of Laikipia University. You can also follow us on www.coretrain.org



CORETRAIN LTD Membership:

1.	Prof. Albert Mugambi Rutere	Chairman
2.	Prof. James Onyango Ogola	Patron
3.	Dr. Evelyn Mahero	Secretary
4.	Dr. Sheila Pamela Wandera	Treasurer
5.	Prof. Felicia Arudo Yieke	Member
6.	Prof. Vicky Khasandi Telewa	Member
7.	Prof. Nicholas Goro Kamau	Member
8.	Dr. Eliud Kirigia	Member
9.	Dr. Kefa Lidundu Simwa	Member
10.	Mr. Francis Ndegwa	Member



Contact for CORETRAIN Journal:

Prof. Felicia Arudo Yieke

Editor in Chief

NEW APPOINTMENTS



APPOINTMENTS

Congratulations to the following members of staff for their Appointments:

Prof. Yieke: Appointment to understudy Prof. Jacinta Ndambuki at the Graduate School

Dr. R. Mwebi: Appointment as Director Quality Assurance & Standards

Resource Mobilisation Strategy Board Members

1.	Prof. Isaac Ochieng	Chair
2.	Mr Geoffrey K. Langat	Member
3.	Prof. Moses Rotich	Member
4.	Prof. Kamau Goro	Member
5.	Farm Manager	Member
6.	Prof. Mbuthia Ngunjiri	Member
7.	Dr. Peter Mwaura	Member
8.	Ms Sophia Muchiri	Secretary

Project Implementation Committee (LU CIC)

1.	Dr. Samuel Onyuma	Chairman
2.	Prof. Moses Rotich	Member
3.	Dr. Janerose Mayabi	Member
4.	Mr. Patrick Wambua	Procurement Dept. Member
5.	Mr. Samuel Murage	Finance Dept. Member
6.	Mr. Adams Amutavi	Secretary /Rep. DVC AF&D.

PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to the following lecturers for being promoted to the position of Senior Lecturers.

1. Dr. James Mayaka.
2. Dr. Charity M. Chemnjor.
3. Dr. Margaret N. Ngugi.
4. Dr. Samuel O. Onyuma

LAUNCH OF ASSOCIATION OF ACADEMIC REGISTRAR OF UNIVERSITIES IN KENYA



The Launch and inaugural workshop for Association of Academic Registrar of Universities in Kenya (AARUK) took place at Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology. The Association represents registrars of both public and private universities. The main objective of the Association is to provide an avenue for sharing experiences, benchmarking and professionalising the work of Academic Registrar's among others.

Dr Kiugu is the founder member of the Association and currently the Treasurer.





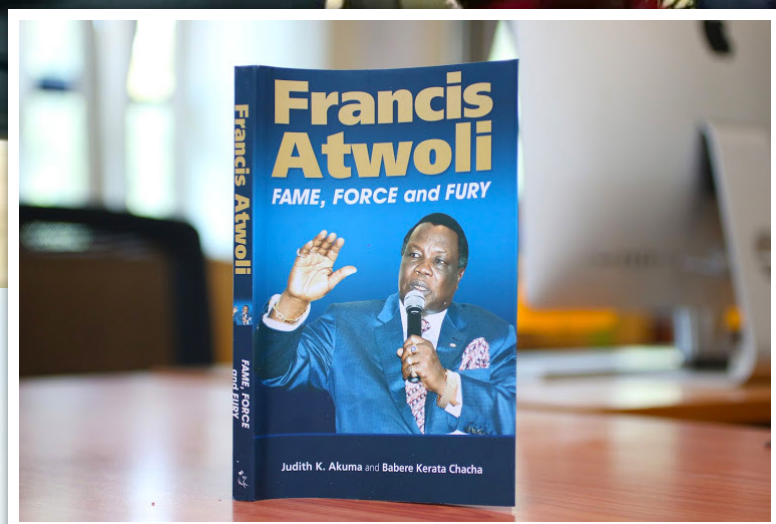
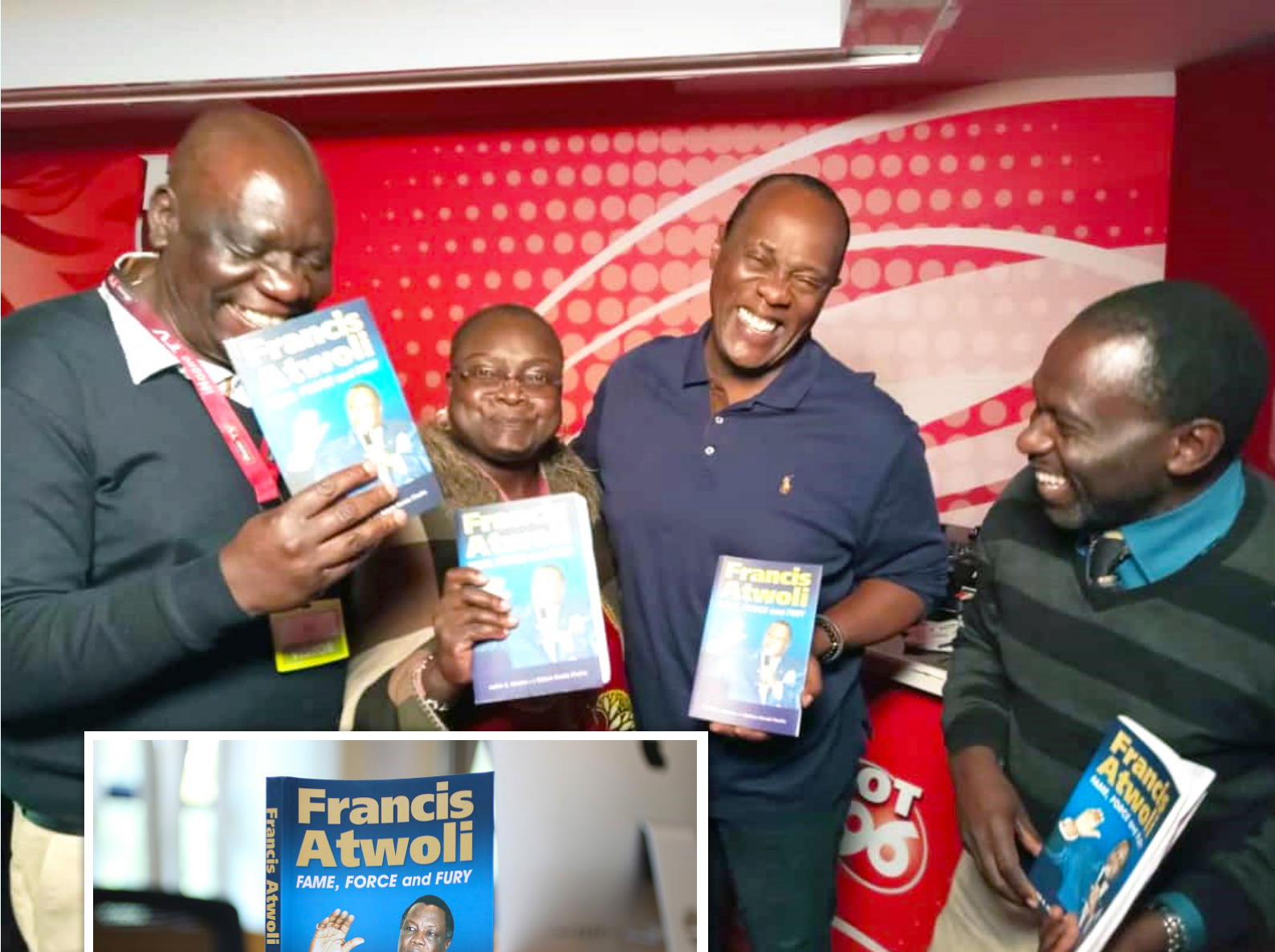
DISABILITY MAINSTREAMING TRAINING

Laikipia University Disability Mainstreaming Committee (DMC) and the Directorate of Planning and Performance Contracting held a two-day Disability Mainstreaming Training on 16th and 17th May 2019 at the University Management Boardroom. The facilitators were Mr. Abdi Gawboran, Laikipia County Disabilities Services Officer and Ms. Sarah Ayiecho, Senior Disabilities Services Officer, both from the National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPWD). In attendance were, Prof. Isaac Ochieng' - Ag. Deputy Vice Chancellor (AFD), Prof. Moses Rotich - Director, Planning and Performance Contracting, Mr. Mugo Muriithi - Deputy Registrar, Administration/Member DMC, Mr. David Otieno - Stand in Chair DMC, LU staff, staff living with disabilities, UASU, KUSU and KUDHEHIA officials.

The NCPWD officials paid a courtesy call to the Vice Chancellor Prof. Kibett Rotich who welcomed them to the University and committed to fully support the DMC in making the University work-friendly environment for persons with Disabilities.

National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPWD) offered to train 2 front office University staff in Sign Language and Braille in the next financial year 2019/2020. The Council also pledged to guide the University in formation of support groups for staff and students with disabilities and partner with the University to register PWDs into the Council's database.

Prof. Isaac Ochieng' - Ag. Deputy Vice Chancellor (AFD) encouraged the debate on disability mainstreaming in the University. He also pledged to support the Disability Mainstreaming Committee (DMC) in their work. He asserted that he appreciated the NCPWD kind gesture of committing to pay tuition fees for students with Disabilities.



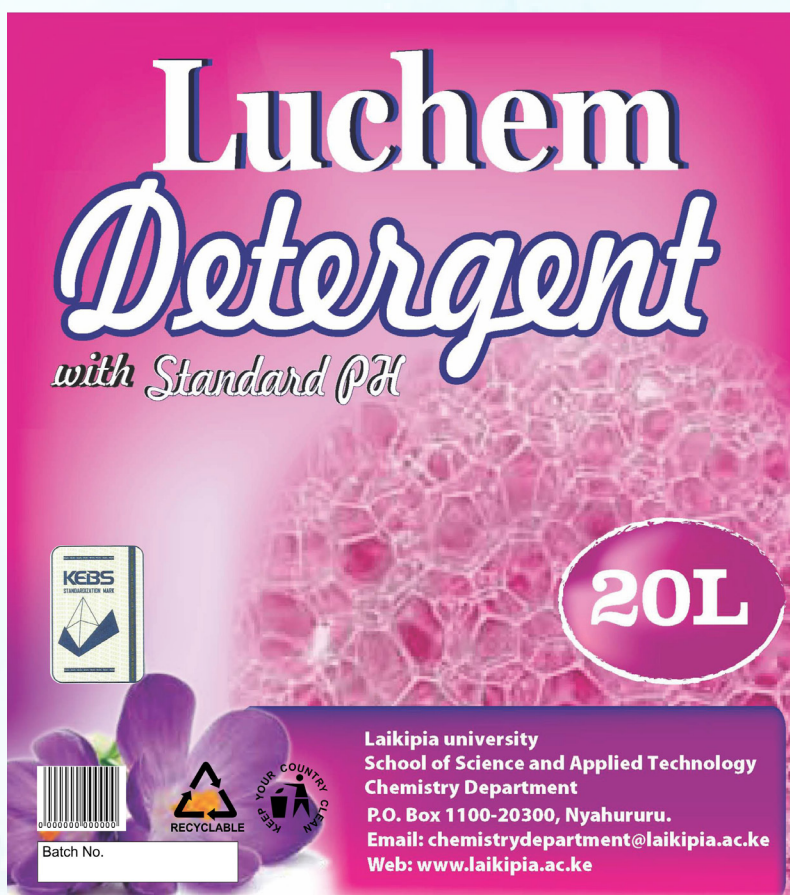
LAIKIPIA UNIVERSITY STAFF AUTHORS A TRADE UNIONIST BIOGRAPHY

On 1 May, 2019, Dr. Babere Chacha of LU who has been writing a biography of Francis Atwoli, COTU Secretary General launched the book at the New Stanley Hotel in Nairobi. Prior to the launch, there was an academic discussion on the book at the Royal Media broadcasting studio hosted by Jeff Koinange featuring Prof. Felicia Yieke and Onyango Ogolla. The book is prefaced by Uhuru Kenyatta, who writes:

I salute you with those who spent their internment time to patch up this book and inform us of your past and present works and your histories. For the young, this book will act as memoir to eternally inform and remind them with the view of pursuing its popular objectives like true revolutionaries who seek to diligently serve their nation. I am sure this work will become a permanent addition to the small shelf of indispensable books on the history of Kenya.

The launch coincided with Labour Day Celebrations and was attended by politicians, unionists, authors, media and civil society groups.

CHEMISTRY DEPARTMENT MAKES TOP
QUALITY LEMON FLAVORED LIQUID
DETERGENT



The chemistry department has been making general purpose liquid detergent for the University since 2013. We invite all staff members to buy this lemon flavored detergent by ordering through secretary SSAT, Ms. Miriam Mwangi on 0722342570 or Emmanuel Juma on 0729829529. The product is available in 20, 10, 5 and 1 litres at KES 1500, 800, 400 and 100.

LU

Upcoming Events

Laikipia County 3rd **Innovation Fair**, 30th to 31st May, 2019

Grant proposal workshop organized by the Directorate of Research Extension and Consultancy from 3rd to 7th June, 2019

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY



LU Students engaging in positive environmental action.

'We can't stop breathing, but we can do something about the quality of air that we breath.'

[#BeatAirPollution](#)

[#HewaSafiHakiYeuJukumuletu](#)

LAIKIPIA UNIVERSITY

— HALF-MARATHON —

**PROMOTING SPORTS,
HEALTH & CLEAN
ENVIRONMENT**



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‘A University for Valued Transformation of Society’