

OUT Donates Items Worthy Over 4m/- to Patients

WOMEN from the Open University of Tanzania (OUT) led by the Director of Postgraduate Studies, Prof. Magreth Bushesha proffered items worthy over 4 million shillings to patients hospitalized at Ocean Road Cancer Hospital and children at Muhimbili National Referral Hospital in Dar es Salaam. The donation was made in honour of the International Women's Day celebrations.

Representing the university's management, the Women visited the hospitals on April 2, 2022 and handed over numerous items to patients including bathing and laundry soaps, bottled drinking water, sanitary pads, toothpaste and brushes, wipes, toilet tissues, and juice among others.

"The Open University of Tanzania has a long-lived tradition of engaging in various outreach charitable activities. Such endeavors are of great significance because they signify how we honour our moral social responsibilities including extending our support to the people in need and the general community." Said Prof. Bushesha.

Prof. Bushesha, challenged both healthier and wealthier members of the general public to participate in charitable activities that may bring a relief and comfort to the needy including physical visit to cheer them up.

Ms. Gisela Kessy, a nurse at the Ocean Road Hospital's genially welcomed the OUT's staff and thanked the Open University of Tanzania for her support. She pleaded them to arrange for more similar visits in the near future.

"Today we are delighted to receive envois from the Open University of Tanzania, thank you for the gifts you offered to our patients, you are welcome back anytime and we hope to see you again in the near future." Said Ms Kessy.

The management of the Open University of Tanzania, in collaboration with university staff, successfully donated 4,075,000 shillings as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility to support the International Women's Day celebrations which is commemorated on March 8th of every year.



Director of Postgraduate Studies, of the Open University of Tanzania, Prof. Magreth Bushesha, handling over part of items to Ms. Gisela Kessy, a nurse at the Ocean Road Hospital when OUT visited the hospital to contribute their donation to the patients hospitalized at Ocean Road Cancer Hospital and children at Muhimbili National Referral Hospital in Dar es Salaam on April 2, 2022.

HEET Project is Good News to Higher Education

The Minister of Education, Science and Technology, Prof. Adolf Mkenda, said the government intends to bring about major reforms in higher education institutions through Higher Education Economic Transformation (HEET) project.

Prof. Mkenda made the remarks on June 20, 2022 at the NACTVET Hall where he blessed the signing of the project contract agreement between the Ministry of Education Science and Technology on one hand and Vice Chancellors and Directors of beneficiary Higher Education Institutions on the other hand.

"This project is going to bring about major transformations in higher education. Part of the project funds will be used to sponsor masters and PhD studies for academic staff. Also, the funds will be used for improving infrastructures including construction of science laboratories." Said Prof Mkenda.

The Deputy Vice Chancellor of the Open University of Tanzania – Academic, Research and Consultancy Services, and HEET Project Coordinator at the university, Prof. Deus Ngaruko, said HEET project is expected to benefit the university by securing approximately 23 billion (Tshs) which will be used to improve various fields.

"We expect to build seven (7) laboratory buildings in seven regions in the country. Each building will house seven equipped labs in the fields of science, tourism/hospitality and IT. The project will also sponsor academic staff in their master's and PhD studies." Said Prof. Ngaruko.

The HEET project is a five years project overseen by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology with a value of 972 billion shillings. Funds have been provided by the World Bank

with the aim of bringing about economic reform through higher education in which approximately 14 regions will benefit from the project. In the case of the Open University of Tanzania, seven regions will benefit directly from this project by building modern laboratories. The regions include Mwanza, Mbeya, Arusha, Dodoma, Mbeya, Coast and Mtwara region. ■



Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Dr. Francis Michael (seated left) with Vice Chancellor of The Open University of Tanzania Prof. Elifas Bisanda during the official signing of Memorandum of Understanding on HEET Project between the Open University of Tanzania and the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology. Witnessing are lawyers from OUT and MoEST. The event took place at NACTVET Dar es Salaam on June 20, 2022.

The Country's Heart for Educational Virtues Progression

The Kinondoni District Deputy Administrative Secretary, Mr. Arnold Kinyaiya on March 18, 2022 highlighted that the Open University of Tanzania (OUT) is the country's heart for upgrading educational merits. Mr. Kinyaiya as the Guest of Honor representing the Kinondoni District Commissioner, Hon. Godwin Gondwe colored the opening of the Eighth OUT's Workers Council at Kinondoni OUT headquarters in Dar es Salaam.

"Your invitation unveiled us and the government an opportunity to keep abreast with the university's operations and new developments. I recognize the contribution of the university on cognitive development of public and private sectors employees who because of their social and economic commitments would have not been able to achieve cognitive development through conventional colleges and universities," said Mr. Kinyaiya.

Mr Kinyaiya, acknowledged that the Council is a vital platform where concerns and major staff welfare issues can be

discussed and right decisions reached. Even where at the workplace there are good policies, rules and regulations in place without a Council which bonds the management and staff, it will be difficult to achieve institutional goals.

Prof. Bisanda informed the Guest of Honor that the council is formed by delegates from all university's regional centres in the country. He added that the Council has the mandate to review the implementation the university's strategic plan and other challenges confronting the university and propose critical long-lasting solutions.



District Administrative Secretary of Kinondoni District, Mr. Anold Kinyaiya poses for a group photo with the Management of OUT (seated) and members of the workers Council during the 8th workers Council of the Open University of Tanzania held on March 18, at OUT Headquarters Kinondoni, in Dar es Salaam.

OUT's Innovators Wins 3 Top Positions

The Open University of Tanzania (OUT) has emerged with a landslide victory in the Innovation Exhibition which took place in Dodoma city after her two innovators became part of the top three winners and one part of top ten winners among many innovators from other local universities.

Innovations which have been ranked high during the exhibition include the OUT's Oral Examination System (OREX), as presented by the Innovator and Director of Examinations Syndicate, Dr. Said Ally has enabled the OUT to be the second winner. Also, a household waste fertilizer production technology, innovated and presented by Ms. Maria Mabugo, a law student quali-

fied the OUT to become the third winner.

Besides, a nutritious biscuit made of beans that has been innovated and presented by the OUT's Lecturer, Dr. Elina Maseta, again entitled the OUT to enter in the list of top ten winning innovators in the same category of local universities innovators.

Commenting on the victory, the Director of Research, Publications and Innovation of the Open University of Tanzania (OUT), Prof. Emmanuel Kigadye, said our university has exceptionally made a commendable accomplishment, although it participated for the very first time in the exhibition, yet it emerged with a landslide victory.

"This is a very big achievement that makes

us feel proud and we will continue to conduct innovative researches. I encourage staff and students of the Open University of Tanzania to seize this opportunity by submitting and publicly disclosing more innovative ideas and products so that the innovators and our nation may benefit" Said, Prof. Kigadye.

The Innovation Exhibition Week took place at Jamhuri Stadium in Dodoma city under the auspices of the Ministry of Education Science and Technology and Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH), from May 16, 2022 and culminated on May 20, 2022. The exhibitions gave various innovators in the country who have gone through and passed various press out tests an opportunity to showcase their innovations

Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic, Research and Consultancy, of the Open University of Tanzania (OUT) Prof. Deus Ngaruko listening to Dr. Elina Maseta who was explaining her innovation on nutritious biscuit during the Innovation Exhibitions week held at Jamhuri Stadium in Dodoma City from May 16 to 20, 2022.



Observe Rules, Embrace Team Work, Serve Passionately

Deputy Vice Chancellor - Planning, Finance and Administration (DVC-PFA), of the Open University of Tanzania, Prof. George Oreku during the Public Service Week celebrations has reminded and urged all OUT employees to observe internal rules and regulations.

On the same event, Deputy Vice Chancellor - Regional Services and Learning Technologies, Prof. Alex Makulilo, has encouraged all staff with particular emphasis on staff in regional centers to uphold a teamwork spirit.

"We have received cases from several regional centers about staff who oper-

ates in detached groups. I call upon them to dissolve the groups because they are detrimental to the growth of the regional centres and the entire university. Whenever one is faced with a challenge, he/she should report it through proper channels to the office responsible for addressing it." Counseled Prof. Makulilo.

The Head of Department of Marketing, Entrepreneurship and Management, of the OUT Dr. France Shayo, pleaded with all staff to passionately devote their time, effort and expertise on improving our services to all of our clients in order to attract more customers.

"We need to have flexible teaching and

examinations schedules and we must stop bullying our students for insubstantial matters because they expect enough guidance from us and through our website." Commented Dr. Shayo.

Dr. Shayo accentuated that staff should be responsible, compassionate to our students' challenges and provide help whenever they need it. Students' expectations should proportionately match with the quality of the service he/she receives. The Public Service Week celebrations run from 16 to 23 June, 2022. The celebrations are in the African Union (AU) events calendar and civil servants in all its member state participate by exhibiting the services they offer to the general public.

PROF. BISANDA: Make OUT's Premises Greener and Gorgeous

The Vice Chancellor of the Open University of Tanzania (OUT), Prof. Elifas Bisanda urged university staff to plant trees in all University's Regional Centres premises across the country. He made the call when addressing the OUT staff, students and partner environmental stakeholders during his visit to Tabora Regional Centre on April 1, 2022.

"If you plant and nurture trees properly, they will surely grow and in the near future they will help us on slowing down the problem of environmental degradation, remove carbon from the atmosphere, make the OUT's premises greener, safer and attractive avenues for both staff and learners." Said Prof. Bisanda.

Prof. Bisanda also, urged students to develop a high sense of integrity and take their studies seriously with a disciplined mind. He emphasized that knowledge is power and education is the most powerful weapon which one can use to change the world.

Other members of the OUT's Dominant Coalition concurrently spearheaded the tree planting exercise in other three regional centres. The Deputy Vice Chancellor-Academic, Research and Consultancy, Prof. Deus Ngaruko, led the exercise at Morogoro Regional Centre, Deputy Vice Chancellor – Planning, Finance and Administration, Prof. George Oreku, at Mwanza Regional Centre and Dean of the Faculty of Science, Technology and Environmental Science Dr. Matobola Mihale at Arusha Regional Centre on behalf of Deputy Vice Chancellor - Learning Technologies and Regional Services, Prof. Alex Makulilo.

The OUT conducted the tree planting exercise in all of its Regional and Coordination Centres whereby some of her staff, students and partner environmental stakeholders participated. The exercise marked the beginning towards achieving the OUT's target of planting more than 1000 trees by June 2022 as stipulated in her strategic plan.

New OUT's Council Chairperson Introduced

The Chairman of the Management Meeting and Vice Chancellor of the Open University of Tanzania has formally introduced Prof. Joseph Kuzilwa, to the OUT's Management on June 23, 2022.

The Vice Chancellor of the Open University of Tanzania, Prof. Elifas Bisanda, on behalf of the Council members cordially welcomed the newly appointed Chairman of the Council and assured him of congenial cooperation.

In the introduction process Prof. Kuzilwa visited some directorates, faculties and departments' offices at Kinondoni university's headquarters in Dar es Salaam.

Prof. Kuzilwa admired the way members of the university's Management works together. He added that he believes that such imminence spirit is the secret to the commendable achievements and success of the university.

He presaged the Management members to embrace unity and continue to build common goals. Prof. Kuzilwa underscored that without mutual relationship it will be difficult to achieve the core goal which propelled the establishment of our university. His appointment started with effect from May 9, 2022. Prof. Kuzilwa took over from his predecessor Prof. Rwekaza Mukandala.

Conveying a vote of thanks, Dr. Felician Mutasa, the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, delightfully thanked Prof. Kuzilwa for reaffirming unity among Management members, pledging mounting effort to speak for the university and showing the direction for the council which he is eagerly ready to lead.



The Chairman of the Open University of Tanzania Council, Prof. Joseph Kuzilwa (Second seated from left), followed by the retired Chairman of the Council Prof. Rwekaza Mukandala, and Prof. Elifas Bisanda (first seated left) in the group photo after council meeting on June 24, 2022 at Kinondoni, Dar es salaam.



The retired Chairman of the Council of The Open University of Tanzania, Prof. Rwekaza Mukandala handing over the Rolling Strategic Plan to the new Chairman of the Council Prof. Joseph Kuzilwa during the Council meeting held on June 24, 2022 at headquarters of the Open University of Tanzania.

OUT Dons Invigorates TASAF's Staff Work Skills

The Open University of Tanzania (OUT) has augmented work skills of the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) staff through a training which was conducted from June 16 to June 18, 2022 at the OUT's Kinondoni headquarters in Dar es Salaam. The training aimed at enhancing their capacity in a bid to effectively implement activities for alleviating extreme household poverty in the country.

The training focused on ethics, effective communication, good report writing essentials, and gender issues in relation to TASAF activities.

At the end of the training, in his closing remarks the OUT's Deputy Vice Chancellor-Academics, Research and Consultancy, Professor Deus Ngaruko, said the university offers training to public servants to enable them contribute effectively in implementation of government's plans and strategies.

"We hope the knowledge and skills you gained from this training will be helpful on implementing the National Poverty Eradication Vision, it is good for public institutions to support each other on various fronts". Said Prof. Ngaruko.

TASAF Director of Finance and Administration, Mr. Godwin Mki-si, thanked the OUT for the training. He acclaimed that the training was relevant and important and that if properly applied will enable participants contribute more effectively in various poverty eradication projects.

He assured the OUT that gender issues will be mainstreamed in TASAF activities in all councils, believing that the move would make the implementation of its projects more effective.

TASAF programmes are implemented countrywide, on 180 districts in both Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar. Therefore, the trained participants are expected to be catalysts for change in as they will pass the skills to their colleagues.

PROF. BUSHESHA: Women Repressive System Still Intact

"Despite the efforts made over the years to liberate women, the society still has maintained a system which is repressive to women." Said the Director of Postgraduate Studies, of the Open University of Tanzania (OUT) Prof. Magreth Bushesha on March 8, 2022 during the International Women's Day commemoration ceremonies at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam. Championing for the achievement of gender equality, Prof. Bushesha appealed to all women in the country to focus on the issues of educational development despite of being faced with various roles and challenges in their communities.

The Assistant Secretary of the OUT – THTU Women's Wing, Ms. Sarah Abdi, said women in the country are now increasingly gaining recognition, especially after holding the top positions in various public and private offices including the presidency.

"The President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Hon. Samia Suluhu Hassan, proved that nothing is impossible for women, I wish her the best leadership." Said Ms. Sarah.

The International Women's Day began in 1908 after 15,000 women marched in New York City demanding for reduction of working hours, reasonable wages and the right to vote. The theme for the 2022 celebrations is "Generation of Justice and Welfare for Sustainable Development".



OUT staff in a group photo, a moment before they depart to National Stadium for Regional Celebrations of the International Workers' Day (May Day) on May 1, 2022.

OUT Celebrates Workers Day 2022

Employees of the Open University of Tanzania (OUT) joined Tanzanians to celebrate the International Workers Day on May 1, 2022.

The Secretary of the THTU Women, OUT Branch, Ms. Sarah Abdi, said this year's celebrations' theme is aligned to plea the government for salary increments and improvement of workers' welfare as the job continues.

"The importance of this day reminds employers and workers about their duties and responsibilities especially to serve people." Said Ms. Sarah.

She also called upon the university's staff to uphold their commitment and efficacy at work in order to come up with positive

results to the university.

On her part, a university Assistant Lecturer, Ms. Habiba Ally, urged OUT staff to fully participate in this commemoration since it's an opportunity for them to familiarize with other institutions contribution in the implementation of the University's obligations.

"It has also been an opportunity for us to create new network with staff from other institutions, experience sharing and problem solving techniques to the challenges faced in our workplaces." She added.

OUT Staff, celebrated the International Workers Day (May Day), all over the country via its regional centres scattered all over the country.

OUT Move to Scale-up Sec School Math, Science Teachers' Capacity

The Open University of Tanzania (OUT) has launched CL4STEM project for enhancing secondary schools' STEM teachers' capacity in Tanzania. The launching was held at the OUT's Dodoma Regional Centre on 20th May 2022. The launching was done alongside a two days teachers' orientation workshop which was already at its height.

The CL4STEM is a 2 years and 6 months research and innovation transfer project implemented in three countries through UNESCO Chair on Teacher Education and Curriculum. In Tanzania it is carried out by the OUT, in Nigeria by Ibrahim Babangida University Lapai (IBBUL), and in Bhutan by Samtse College of education, Royal University of Bhutan.

The Guest of honour and Commissioner of education in the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Dr. Lyabwene Mtahabwa, in his remarks at the launching of the project, commended the OUT team and her partners from other countries' for conceiving such an innovation transfer initiative.

Dr. Mtahabwa also implored teachers to encourage their students to like mathematics and science subjects as they are vital in the current era where socio-economic development to the utmost depends on science & technology.

The OUT CL4STEM project lead investigator, Dr. Edephonc Nfuka briefed the Guest of honour on the project approaches. His briefing was accompanied by a demonstration made by two secondary school teachers under the guidance of OUT Teacher Educator, Dr. James Mutasingwa. The demonstration used ionic compounds dissolved in water purposely to counter misconceptions amongst students who regards metallic wires and roads as the only items that conduct electricity.

The project capacity building sessions are designed to be conducted by using online Learning Management

System (Moodle) and Community of Practice (CoP) – Telegram. The two days orientation was therefore designed to prepare teachers to cope with the upcoming online capacity building sessions.

The project will benefit 80 secondary school STEM teachers across the country. The teachers were sampled from (6) districts namely Nyamagana, Arumeru, Mtwara, Ilala, Dodoma and Kalenga. The districts were drawn from six selected country zones. Each district involves 3 schools: a special public school, a community public school and a private school.

The project is technically supported by the Tata Institute of Social Sciences - TISS (India) and financially by IDRC (Canada). It started on 1st April 2021 and aims to strengthen Secondary school teachers' capacity in science (Physics, Chemistry and Biology) and mathematics.

Present at the launching were the OUT VC and UNESCO chair on Teachers Education and Curriculum, Prof Elifas Bisanda, a representative from the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Dodoma Regional Educational Officer, and Dodoma City council secondary schools' education officers' representative.

Also, three heads of Dodoma involved schools (Msalato girls, Chinangali and Maria de Mattias), Dean OUT Faculty of Science, Technology & Environmental studies -Dr Mihale, OUT Director of Dodoma regional centre -Dr. Msoroka attended. Others were the OUT-Teacher Educators team, Research fellow and LMS/CoP expert led by Prof. Ikwaba.



The Commissioner of Education in the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Dr. Lyabwene Mtahabwa, pressing a button to emblem the launching of CL4STEM project modules held on May 20, 2022 at the Open University of Tanzania, Dodoma Regional Centre. Witnessing, the Vice Chancellor of the Open University of Tanzania, Prof. Elifas Bisanda (second right).