



Kenyatta University newsletter

A fortnightly publication from the office of the Vice Chancellor

The vision of Kenyatta University is to be a dynamic, inclusive and competitive centre of excellence in teaching, learning, research and service to humanity.

“Be Positive Role Models,” Students urged.

Prof. Karega Mutahi, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education has called upon University students to be positive role models to their peers and to demonstrate their servant leadership in their service to the community. Prof. Karega said this when he launched the student's Community Service programme at the university on Wednesday, 11th June 2008. The Programme is a collaborative project between the University and Equity Bank.

In his address during the launch, Prof. Karega stated that this project provides an opportunity to the students to be the credible change agents the communities are yearning for.

In his address, Prof. Karega Mutahi, congratulated KU for its progress



(Left to right) Prof. Onesmo ole-MoiYoi, Chairman of Council, KU, Dr. James Mwangi, CEO and MD Equity Bank, Prof. Olive Mugenda, Vice-Chancellor and Prof. Karega Mutahi, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education unveil the plaque during the launch of the KU Equity Bank Students Community Service.



Dr. James Mwangi, CEO & MD, Equity Bank, presenting the cheque of Kshs. 10M to Prof. Olive Mugenda, VC, Kenyatta University in support of the Programme.

and said that he was proud of the changes that he saw in KU in the recent past, including the rating of the University as the best managed State Corporation under performance contracting and the realization of the coveted ISO 9001:2000 certification. The P.S urged KU to continue in its efforts to become a centre of excellence in order to set pace for institutions not just locally but also regionally and internationally. “The idea of community service should be supported by all,” said the Permanent Secretary. He singled out the project as a noble initiative that would create understanding between KU and the

local community thereby informing research and solving current and emerging challenges.

Prof. Karega stated that community service is one way in which students would “stay in touch with their roots” and as a consequence avoid alienation, which he said is a common problem in the society today. “The students’ services to the community will create a lasting bond with the wider society,” reiterated the P.S. He also thanked Equity Bank for supporting the initiative.

Speaking at the function, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Olive Mugenda, thanked the P.S, Ministry of Education for continuously

FROM THE

Editor's Desk

As far as student life on campus is concerned, the dust has now settled down on the fiercely contested KUSA elections that were paradoxically cacophonously tranquil. The new officials have already been sworn – in headed by the Chairman with the doubly remarkable name, Martin Luther King. We do hope he leaves up to the record of his African American namesake whose “Dream” is being realized through Barack Obama. We wish the new KUSA government an illustrious tenure.

This issue is rich with stories concerning such activities as diverse as linkage with Kaduna Polytechnic (our continuity effort to be continental as well as global) to the NEMA sponsored conference that was held recently to show our concern with the environment. The School of Law is now in place at the Parklands campus.

We are very grateful that the University's bold step in opening a radio station has been recognized by no less a broadcasting giant than the BBC. The corporation has promised to nurture our nascent KU 99.9 FM to an international standard.

Our Celtel team played their part and they did “bring home the bacon” – US\$ 15,000 (Kshs.93,000) for Kenyatta University. That plus the prestige for being among the top three teams twice in the last two years. We congratulate the team, which is now retiring by regulation, and wish them the best of luck.

Enjoy the stories and have a wonderful vacation. See you next academic year.

D.V. Karanja, Editor

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Dr. James Mwangi and Prof. Olive Mugenda sign the Memorandum of Understanding during the Programme's launching ceremony on 11th June, 2008.

supporting KU in its various projects and initiatives. She emphasized that, “the KU and Equity Bank Students' Community Service project is a shining example of how private-public sector collaboration could be established as a way of moving the country forward.” Prof. Mugenda stated that the project would mobilize about 3000 students annually to reach out to the community with knowledge, skills, information and other resources so as to improve the quality of life in the community but would start with a modest batch of 1000 students in July. “The project is aimed at taking community service a notch higher in terms of the magnitude of persons involved, geographical coverage and frequency of service,” The VC stated.

The VC stated that there are plans

for making the community service compulsory and a pre-requisite for graduation for all undergraduate students. She urged the students to uphold the good brands that KU and Equity have worked hard to establish. She also advised students to exercise good morals, politeness, humility and good actions in the community. “Be good ambassadors for the university. Protect this partnership and the project through your hard work and good behaviour,” she urged.

The MD & CEO, Equity Bank, Dr. James Mwangi, indicated that Equity Bank draws a lot of inspiration from KU's achievements and its immense contribution to the improvement of lives, which happen also to be a key goal of Equity bank. Dr. Mwangi reiterated that the initiative would enable

KU to use education to transform the society by building a strong link between the University and the community. He stated that the initiative would empower the youth by providing them an opportunity to their academic knowledge into practical business and industry related experiences which would serve them well the future. Dr. James Mwangi encouraged the students to focus on making positive contributions to the lives of people in the community. “Identify challenges and help develop solutions to improve the livelihoods of the communities as your contribution to this country,” he urged.

The CEO, Equity Bank noted with disappointment that more than 60% of all new HIV infections in our society are among the youth, who are also mostly affected by drug abuse. He urged the students to be proactive in fighting these and other problems by engaging their peers in dialogue and action.

The project will involve students after their second year of study at Kenyatta University. It will expose KU students to community life and enable them to serve communities in various projects and learn from their experiences. The project's duration is two weeks although the students can stay longer for as long as it is acceptable to the institution attached and the extension does not interfere with the student's studies at KU.

“Always Be thankful to God”, VC advises students

This was the message shared with the students during the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service held at the Graduation Square on Sunday, 22nd June, 2008. Speaking at the service, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Olive M. Mugenda, stated that this was a miracle semester for the University, where “we have received the beautiful crown of success in countless ways”. She enumerated the many successes the University had realized, stating, “we are here to honour and thank God for giving us the wisdom and strength for the successes. It has been a semester of firsts for us. First to reopen; first in Performance Contracting; first to receive ISO 9001:2000 certification; ...for

introducing countrywide student Community Service... we have reached the mark and we have every reason to thank God for these blessings,” she extolled.

Speaking at the same function, Sheikh Muhammad Abdallah Saleh stated that we should be thankful to God continuously and always because He has given us all that we have asked for and more and we would be unable to count these favours. He thanked the University administration for its wisdom in employing the services of Chaplains and the Imam to guide the students in Godly ways. “If you are thankful, I will increase more favours onto you, says Allah,” Sheikh Saleh concluded.

The lively sermon was delivered by Dr. and Mrs. Paul Wangai Jr., and attended by students and staff. The Chariots', SDA and Staff Choirs gave exciting performances.



Kenyatta University team bags Celtel Prize

At a colourful ceremony held at Nairobi Serena Hotel, the mobile telephone company, Celtel, awarded prizes for this year's Celtel Africa Challenge. Each member of the team received US\$1500 and a mobile phone while Kenyatta University got US\$15,000 to be spent as the

University decides. The KU team was made up of: Paul Waweru Gichuhi: a first year student majoring in Analytical Chemistry, Eric Mugendi Nyaga, 2nd year Studying Environmental Studies; Clara Wanjiku Odero, first year in Environmental Studies; and Andrew Ogutu, Third year student of Nutrition and Dietetics. One

characteristic of these polymaths is that they have inexhaustible curiosity and are omnivorous voracious readers. Those students who aspire to participate in similar contests should note these traits incidentally; our present team cannot compete in the 2009 Celtel Challenge and we are scouting for a new KU team.

was represented by Egerton University (they have been nemesis in this contest twice), Moi and Strathmore Universities and of course Kenyatta. Egerton University were the overall champions followed by Nkuba University (Uganda) with Kenyatta University third.



If you are interested, contact the Dean of Students office.

To give an idea of the accomplishment of our team, there were sixteen universities selected from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia and Malawi that faced one another on a knock-out basis. Before being a member of the national team, the universities of each country had to complete among themselves. Kenya

It was interesting to note that the Kenyan presence among the top contestants extended to Uganda where two of Nkumba University stars were Kenyan nationals.

Another significant observation made by Dr. Kilemi Mwiria, the Chief Guest at the ceremony was that the domination of Kenyan Public universities in the contest proved that the erstwhile maligned 8-4-4 system is more than a match for the touted "A" Level system. The guests were entertained by renowned musicians such as Susan of Boda Boda fame and two Celtel Idols. A sumptuous luncheon crowned the afternoon occasion.

"Uphold Professionalism," VC advises Students

This was said by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Olive Mugenda when she addressed the pioneer students of the School of Law at the new Parklands Campus.

The VC promised them of good stay in the KU family emphasizing that their joining the University was the best decision they will ever make and particularly being the pioneers of the School of Law. "The University promises you an excellent experience both inside and outside the lecture theatres, as we embark on the journey to become the leading centre of both legal education and research in Africa and beyond", Prof. Mugenda reiterated. She enumerated

major strides the university was making which was in line with the University's Strategic and Vision Plan, key among them being the good performance by the University which made KU be number one among the 124 State Corporations in the 2006/2007 Performance Contract Cycle.

"This is to assure you that you have joined the best university in Kenya where you will be nurtured in your Legal Career", said the VC. She urged the students to emulate self-discipline saying that it was key in all professionals and advised the students to plan their time with a purpose and avoid taking drugs and indulging themselves in immoral behaviors.



The VC, Prof. Olive Mugenda (2nd right) enjoy light moments during her address to Parklands Campus students accompanied by the Ag. DVC (Acad), Prof. O. Obura (left), Reg. (Acad) Dr. G. Katana (next to the VC – left) and the Ag. Dean, School of Law, Dr. L. Musumba (next to the VC – right)

The School of Law will be headed by Dr. Linda Musumba the Ag. Dean and three other lecturers; Mr. Nzuki Mwinzi, Mr. Chege Waitara and Ms. Lucy Kambuni. During the same week, various

Deans, Directors and other Senior University Management addressed the students including University Counseling Services, Mentoring Services and Internet Services among others.

Picture Speak



Edgar Shikuku {current Mr. University} Pose for a photo with Jacob Ouma {former Mr. KU and Mr. University Kenya.}



Worshippers at the KU Staff Sabbath Day held on 14th June, 2008 at the AZ 39.



The Ag. DVC (Admin) Prof. M. Tole (5th centre- front line) pose for group photo with members of the Kenyatta University Presidential Award Scheme (KUPAS) after awarding them with certificates.



The KU Mentoring Team led by Dr. E. Kimani (left) at Kenya High School where they pitched a KU tent to address Secondary School students on 14th June, 2008.



(Right to left) The Chairman of Council, Prof. Onesmo ole-Moiyoi and the VC, Prof. Olive Mugenda (3rd Left) enjoy a light moment with KUSA leaders just after the launch of KU SCS Programme at KUCC.



KU Staff and students enjoy entertainment during the launch of the KU-Equity Bank Students' Community Service Programme on 11th June, 2008 at the KUCC

KUSA Officials Inaugurated



KUSA Officials being sworn in by Mr. Charles Agowi who was representing the University lawyer.

The Vice-Chancellor has advised the newly elected KUSA Officials to have a clear, focused and well strategized leadership if they hope to succeed. She said this during the inauguration of the 2008/2009 KUSA leaders in a ceremony held on 29th May, 2008 at the Graduation Square. She said that with democratization, students are able to elect their leaders freely without external interference or having leaders hand-picked and forced on them. "I would like to welcome you to the platform of leadership and congratulate you for an election well conducted," She added. The VC advised the newly elected leaders to respect

authority and protocol in the University Administration and KUSA leadership itself. The University Lawyer who was represented by Mr. Charles Agowi conducted the oath of office and wore them in to carry out duties and responsibilities with integrity without fear and or favour. The outgoing KUSA officials thanked the VC and University Management for the support they received during their tenure saying that they were happy about the developments going on in the University especially the Performance Contract ranking which made the University be number one in the State Corporations category for year 2006/07.

KUSA Executives 2008/2009



Mr. Martin Luther King,
KUSA Chairman

Message from Incoming KUSA, Chairman

Mr. Martin Luther King, the Incoming KUSA Chairman states that he will hold the comrades in high esteem and will treat each one of them equally. He thanks the whole students' fraternity for having elected him to be the captain for KUSA 2008/2009 and assures them of commitment along with his fellow officials to offering selfless service to his electors.



Justus K. Sang',
Vice Chairman



Grace N. Mutemi,
Secretary General



Erick Muchangi
Njiru Treasurer



Ali Chuphy
Deputy Secretary General



Ndavi Andrew Academic
Secretary



Ameso Ruth
Gender and Social Welfare
Secretary



Apopo Lentana
Organizing Secretary



Wambura Stefano Campus
Rep. (Parklands)



Mercy Mugure Special
Needs Secretary



Siwatum Harun Ruto
Campus Rep (Ruiru)

Message from the Outgoing KUSA, Chairman



Sylvester Kweyu Outgoing
KUSA Chairman

The Outgoing KUSA Chairman, Mr. Sylvester Kweyu thanks the Vice-Chancellor and the entire University Management for the support and commitment towards the well being of the students' body. He thanks comrades for handling themselves with decorum and maturity and being focused on their academics. For the incoming KUSA officials, Mr. Kweyu congratulates you for a battle well fought and encourages them to work with the University Administration with diplomacy.

Literature Dept. Holds Career Symposium



Participants follow proceedings during the Literature Department Career Symposium

The Department of Literature held a Career Symposium for the graduating class themed "Crowning World Class Literary Training with Top Class Career Advice". The event was held between June 4th and 5th 2008. The objective of the symposium was to link final year literature students with seasoned professionals in the professions of media, journalism and publishing which are preferred destinations by students from the Department.

The event was meant to provide a forum for discourse and networking in order to provide first hand information and knowledge on opportunities and possibilities in those professions

and strategies to maximize on them.

In her opening speech, the Vice-Chancellor congratulated the department of literature for this initiative remarking that "Departments are in a unique position to organize career events that address focused disciplinary and specialty demands" and challenged other departments to emulate the example set by literature department.

The two days were packed with activities that would be of direct concern to graduating students viz; career entry requirements, postgraduate opportunities abroad, opportunities in international schools, access

to the youth fund etc. Prof. Egara Kabaji of Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology and Chairman of its Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, delivered the keynote speech titled "Career Directions: The Intersection Between Literature, Media and Publishing. He challenged the students to take advantage of their literary training to excel in the areas of media and publishing. K24's Jeff Koinange made a well received presentation which reflected his wide experience in international media. Other guest speakers included, Carol Mandi, the Publisher of Drum and True Love Magazines, who gave a talk on the The Magazine Genre: Its Character and Opportunities; Mr. Alban Mwendar, Human Resources Director of EABL and the C.E.O of the Youth Fund among others.

Finalists in the department applauded the effort and said that the event was a great success in that it gave them a window on what to expect in the job market. They requested that the event be a permanent feature in the department's calendar.

Don Gets a Global Award



Mr. Charles Rioba

Mr. Charles Rioba, Lecturer in Energy Engineering, School of Engineering and Technology, participated in a World Bank sponsored project on developing and implementing innovative lighting solutions for Africa Workshop in Accra, Ghana between 6th and 8th May, 2008. Mr. Rioba was the winner for the global award in lighting Africa 2008, and will be working on developing an innovative and affordable lighting solution for the urban poor using LED technology.

The Lighting Africa 2008 Conference attracted over 500 participants representing over 50 countries, which included representatives from the private sector - lighting manufacturers, service providers, project developers, consultants-, as well as from civil society groups, governments, donors, and the financing sector.

Some of the conference's highlights included:

- The announcement of the DM winners
- A successful trade fair with 54 exhibitors that attracted scores of visitors
- The release of Lighting Africa 5 country preliminary market research results: size, segments and opportunities
- The presentation of successful African market entry strategies from alternative industry sectors
- Introduction to various ways to access finance in Africa for business development

Good News for the Visually Impaired.

Blindness has a significant impact on access to information. People who are visually impaired require alternatives to standard visual media which include print materials. Advances in technology have extended communication options available through the use of touch, speech and residual vision. After examining research findings on education and work experience of visually impaired persons and the associated impact of literacy and adaptive technology, Kenyatta University has made advances to contribute to the Kenyan communities.

The University has taken an initiative to carry out a rigorous study on assistive/adaptive technology whose results will enable the country to avail basic and higher education to visually impaired learners of a quality comparable to that of sighted learners. To ensure visually impaired students



have access to the same information as their sighted peers, Kenyatta University is currently experimenting on various adaptive computer technologies. The training of the visually impaired students on various computer applications is going on at the Department of Educational Communication and Technology Room 7.

The visually impaired students (under graduates and post graduates) are now able to use Ms Word to type set and are also able to browse the net using non-visual desktop access (DVDA) software. Rigorous researches about the affordable adaptive technology by the visually impaired persons are in progress through the project Using ICT Solutions to Empower Visually Challenged Learners and Readers. The project is being conducted by the Centre for Research.

In a related development, Sight Savers International has donated 26 laptops, 26 dolphin pens and 8 new perkain brailers to the Department of Special Education. In addition, Sight Savers International will train 26 students with visual impairment on the use of computers with the aid of a screen reading magnification programme (dolphin pen) The is a partnership between Sight Savers International and the Department of Special Education.

National Conference on the Environment



The National Conference on the Environment took place between 19th May and 21st May 2008 at the University's A.V.U main hall under the able Chairmanship of Prof Mwakio Tole. The conference organized by National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) in conjunction with Kenyatta University's School of Environmental Studies and

sponsored by BOC, ORPOWER 4 Inc, KEFRI and KWS highlighted four main environmental areas:-

- Climate change and its impact
- Solid waste management
- Alternative energy sources such as Biofuels
- Environmental education: Taking it to the lower institutions such as Secondary Schools

The objectives of the conference were:

1. To highlight current environmental challenges in Kenya with a view to improving environmental monitoring and management.
2. To provide a snapshot of Kenya's Environmental issues and recommend required interventions.
3. To enhance environmental monitoring, conservation and management through research, sharing experiences, networking and partnerships
4. to inform environmental policy and legislation formulation to foster sustainable livelihoods.

With a total of 55 papers presented and discussed in the conference, it was hoped that the knowledge and lessons learnt would contribute

to both national and international efforts towards enhancing the quality of the environment.

Some of the papers presented and discussed were; Relating social Dysfunction to Environmental Squalor in cities, Helping small holders farm forestry farmers in semi arid areas participate in carbon trading, Aqual soil use as a tool for water Management and conservation in Arid and Semi Arid areas of Lare-Naishi, Nakuru among many others.

In his closing remarks, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Prof Muluvi, highlighted the need to take care of our environment and thanked the organizers, sponsors and the attendants for the good work they are doing to ensure that our environment is well conserved.

Links with Kaduna Polytechnic, Nigeria Strengthened

Kaduna Polytechnic and Kenyatta University signed a memorandum of Association on 6th June, 2008 so as to establish a co-operative relation between the two institutions especially to develop the academic research and cultural interchange between the two institutions through mutual assistance in the areas of education, research and capacity building.

Mr. B. Z. H. Butswat, the Registrar at the Kaduna Polytechnic led a delegation

of six senior other officials who were present to witness the signing of the MOA together with the Senior Kenyatta University management led by the Ag. DVC (Academic) Prof. Oluoch Obura.

Key areas of collaboration include exchange of faculty members, exchange of students, joint research activities, participation in international seminars, exchange of academic materials and specific academic programmes.



Mr. B. Z. H. Butswat, the Registrar at the Kaduna Polytechnic, sign the MOA with the Ag. DVC (Acad), Prof. O. Obura. Looking on is the Dep. Director, Centre for Linkages, Dr. K. Thiong'o and Prof. P. Owino who was by then Ag. DVC (FP & D)

KU FM Set to run BBC Programmes



The KU community Radio will soon be growing into an international outfit. This was said when two officials of the BBC, Mr. Joseph Warungu, the BBC's English to Africa Editor and Joachim Harris, the Business Manager in charge of Africa, visited the University and held discussions with the Vice-chancellor, Prof. Olive M. Mugenda on how to partner.

Mr. Warungu emphasized that the reason for BBC having chosen to partner with the KU FM was because they want to capture and nurture the young talents at the station. "This is a community radio with a much wider market and with international exposure," he reiterated. He added that this was a partnership through which

young Kenyans would greatly benefit because of the exchange of ideas and skills. Later, Mr. Warungu ran a broadcasting workshop with presenters and reporters at the station, located on the third floor of the New Arts Complex who are all Kenyatta University students. He advised the young presenters to listen carefully to their audience and also learn how to create a good rapport with them as this is an important aspect in communication.

Prof. Mugenda said that the radio is an important instrument of education, information and entertainment for the KU community adding that it is now easier to communicate with staff and students.

KU Soars High, Again!

Four Kenyatta University scholars have been nominated to attend the 2008 Campus of Excellence Conference in Las Palmas, Spain between 22nd and 27th June, 2008. The four are Daniel Nyagetiria Akunga, Remmy Shiundu Barasa, Simon Kinyua and Douglas Kivoi. Kenyatta University was the only University in Kenya to win in this competition. In the whole of East and Central Africa, there was only one other successful candidate selected from the world's most prominent universities. Kenyatta University posted four!

The Campus of Excellence is a unique and pioneering initiative in the world that was conceived and launched in Spain with the aim of striving for excellence. Once in a year, the university with the help of leading international



exponents in science, education and technology, economics, business, politics and culture brings together the brightest young minds who put forward innovative projects in these areas.

KU Shines in Arusha Exhibition

Kenyatta University's stand was a major attraction during the recently concluded USA - Africa Expofair, 2008 in Arusha, Tanzania, between 29th May and 7th June 2008. The exhibition ran concurrently with the famous Leon Sullivan Summit, reputed for bringing together the cream of the world from all walks of life. The mission of this summit and expofair is to pool the world's political and business leaders, delegates representing national and

international civil and multinational organisations and members of academic institutions to focus attention and resources on Africa's economic and social development. Apart from KU, the other Kenyan exhibitors included Utalii College, Dormans, AAR and micro-entrepreneurs. While visiting the stand, the Prime Minister of Tanzania and representatives from the Kenyan High Commission in Tanzania commented that the KU stand was no doubt of international

standards. They were clearly impressed by the exhibits that KU showcased to them. Day after day, many Tanzanians including potential clients and would be parents confessed that by what they saw, KU is a University that caters for their higher educational needs and is undoubtedly the University of choice in East Africa. They further saw Kenyatta University not only as an institution of higher learning but also as ambassadors of Kenya as a country.

POETRY

Dear Exam Papers

By Ekongo G. Nicodemus (Fourth Yr.)

Ever since my standard one,
Till now that I'm a man,
For you I've had to learn,
But you've never been fun:
You are cruel like the gun,
Yet from you I can't run.

Whether you've read or not,
Exam seats are always hot,
You have to remember a lot,
Especially what you were taught,
And you ensure that you jot,
It on the paper you've got.

Oh, papers you make us tense,
You don't care our confidence.
So to avoid your failure,
We spent at the Reading Area,
In the library we book seats,
To overwork our wit,
We even fail to eat,
Hoping you'll make us fit.

When we read from here,
You are set from there.
In all these we persevere,
And turn in our chairs,
Hoping the marking will be fair.

We struggle in our books,
At times fail to cook,
You make our schedules tight,
For you we read through the night,
Aiming to answer you right,
We engage in this fight,
To pass and become bright,
Is this your delight?

Next time make us relax,
We will pay you your tax.
By reading from the start,
With all our heart,
So that you won't hurt us,
But we'll be able to pass.



Sports Briefs

TRIATHLON

Kenyatta University Triathlon Club held its 3rd edition of the annual XTERRA Triathlon on 10th May 2008. The event involved a 660 swim, 20 cycle and 5 km run. The individual event was won by Vincent Ochieng a 3rd year Industrial Chemistry student who also happens to be the captain of the club.

HOCKEY

The ladies Hockey team fondly known as "The Titans" began the 2008 league on a winning note after beating Ramblers 2-0 on 10th May 2008. It was a different story on 11th May 2008

when they went down to USIU on the same score line. "It is a good performance given that the team had trained for only 3 days after the reopening of the University" said Coach Mutwol. Better results are expected if this is anything to go by.

BASKETBALL

17th and 18th
Pirates Beat UoN Terrorists.
KUPirates the hardworking men's team beat archival University of Nairobi Terrorists 56-53 in a nail biting, heart throbbing, edge of the sit tie at Nyayo gymnasium on 18/05/08. In a game that saw Griffin hit a career high 27

points it was Captain Phil's 3 pointer with 1.05 seconds to go that stole the day for Pirates. Enjoying the service of Ruiru based 'Rookie' Edwin Muthusi and new recruits James Omune and the "Big James Okwiri", Pirates put up a performance that shocked all given that the team was relegation threatened last year. Pirates had earlier lost to defending champions KCB 69-55 on 17/5/08.

Meanwhile ORYX started the season poorly by a 48-29 drubbing by KCA University on 17th May 2008.