

University of Nairobi Community Plants 10,000 Trees.

Date and time: Mon, 2018-04-09 11:21

Link to Gallery: <http://vc.uonbi.ac.ke/category/image-galleries/events-year-2018/annual-tree-plan...>
[1]

Location / Venue:

Wangari Maathai Institute Campus

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The University community composed of staff, students and stakeholders have planted close to 10,000 trees in the last one week. The exercise is part of the University of Nairobi annual tree planting day. The event was on April, 6, 2018 at Wangari Maathai Institute, Upper Kabete Campus.

Speaking during the exercise, the Chief Guest, Prof. Japheth Ntiba, the Principal Secretary for University Education and Research, praised the University for such great initiative meant to mitigate the effects of climate change. He noted that trees play an important role in absorbing carbon monoxide that is destructive to the ozone layer from the atmosphere. He urged Kenyans to plant more trees so that the country can achieve the forest cover of 10% and above. Prof. Ntiba, praised the government efforts to deal with the tree logging menace and plastic bags.

Prof. Ntiba also observed that in future, paper shall be produced from seaweeds, now that the forest cover is under siege. "No more cutting trees to produce paper", he said. He challenged Kenyans to

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look up to countries like South Korea, with 80% forest cover.

Dr. Vijoo Ratansi, the Chancellor, University of Nairobi paid tribute to the late Nobel Laureate Prof. Wangari Maathai for her exemplary role in conserving the environment by mobilizing women groups to plant 30 million trees in various schools and churches. She observed that unprecedented drought and climate change effects experienced in Kenya recently are all due to environmental degradation. "The environment is the wealth we hold in trust for our children's future. When we plant trees, we plant seeds of hope and peace," she said.

University of Nairobi Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi, implored on those present to restore the forest cover to 10% by planting trees on a regular basis. He challenged staff and students to promote environmental sustainability. He thanked the partners who supported the initiative, key among them being : Wangari Maathai Institute, Green Belt Movement, Kenya Forest Service, ILRI, University of Nairobi Alumni, Lions Club of Nairobi, Kenya Defense Forces and the surrounding schools (Loresho Primary and Secondary Schools among others).

The tree planting exercise took place at the Wangari Maathai Institute Campus, Upper Kabete. The institute plays a leading role in producing environmental champions that can use their knowledge to mitigate the effects of the climate change.

Several post graduate students from the Institute gave presentations on the need to preserve the environment. It emerged that the environment is a goldmine and when used well it can support all lives.

[View photos gallery](#) [1]

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