

# MINING, WATER AND UNIVERSITIES

## 1. MINING FOR GREATER KITUI DEVELOPMENT

### A. Background:

Cement making minerals, iron ore and coal, found in Greater Kitui has attracted several companies. They offer to buy land from wananchi and claim that they will rehabilitate such land so that people can come back to their land at the end of mining. From public sources, the best offer is Ksh. 60 thousand per acre.

### B. Problems:

The mining activity is likely to cause serious economic, social and environmental disasters to the Kamba community if it does not ensure that the development is done systematically.

#### 1. Economics of land sales

Since the desired land is not adjudicated, there seems to be no mechanism to assure that acreages are properly measured before sale. Further it is clear that the prices offered cannot buy alternative land for prices neighboring the desired areas are much higher than the best offer of Ksh. 60,000 per acre.

#### 2. Social impacts

There appears to be no mechanism to assure that family land sale proceeds accrue to all members. It is men who sell the land, typically to brokers. When men sell land and other assets, families get destitute since the money is not re-distributed to family members and is typically spend in the local towns. This no doubt will lead to major social dislocation, with attendant impacts to the wider Kamba society.

#### 3. Environmental degradation

Some of the materials to be mined are found to a depth of 20km. If mining takes place to levels of even less than one kilometer, the ground water system for Greater Kitui will be affected negatively. Ground water will flow from the higher areas to these pits thereby drying the district more. Localized surface drainage will also change. The resulting stored saline water will also have other negative impacts. Therefore there will be less water for the population. Further, it is not realistic to expect mined land to be returned to its pre-mining state so as to facilitate agro-pastoral uses as is the case today.

### C. Solutions:

- Systematizing the land acquisition system so that families get at least market price for their land and attendant developments is the first priority.
- Payment for land can be a mixture of cash for relocation and/or shares in the companies. These can be administered by trusts of the families affected.
- Resettling people before mining starts is critical. The areas currently occupied by North and South Kitui National Reserves are resettlement candidates.
- Setting parameters on how the companies will limit negative ecological impacts, especially on water, for the Greater Kitui should be part of licensing.
- Setting up company social responsibility systems to prevent degradation of the affected population should be in place prior to mining operations.
- **FINALLY GINGERING KAMBAWIDE FORA TO DISCUSS AND TO CREATE AN INSTITUTION TO ENSURE SOCIAL STABILITY, FAIR PRICE PURCHASE OF LAND, LOCAL VALUE ADDITION AND REGION WIDE ECOLOGICAL PROTECTION IS RECOMMENDED TO THE ELDERS. SUCH AN INSTITUTION WOULD ENSURE THAT INTEGRATED MINING BECOMES GREATER KITUI DEVELOPMENT DRIVER.**

G-C.M.MUTISO

## 2. PRODUCTION WATER AS UKAMBA DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

### A. INTRODUCTION

Many controversies exist and will continue on the strategy for Ukamba development. My own research since 1970 shows that lack of water impedes ASAL development. More specifically production water is the prime obstruction to Ukamba development. Ukambani is basically dry (Zone 4-6). Global warming will exacerbate this. The hill massifs (Zone 3) form a small part. Their carrying capacity was exceeded by the middle of the last century. That fact explains the migration to the drier areas over the past fifty years. **Therefore, the strategy for Ukambani development is to generate production water first and then to supply growing urban centers. Production water is defined below and the various technologies evaluated. An action plan is proposed.**

## **B. PRODUCTION WATER DEFINED**

Production water is water harvested to impact on production. Production water releases labour from water gathering chores. The released labour is then available for use in better food and commercial activities. Harvested production water impacts on, ground water, soil structure and the environment. ASAL soils do not absorb enough water from the meager rainfall for the dry seasons leave them compacted. Since such rainfall does not percolate, ground water is not recharged. The natural environment does not regenerate for lack of soil moisture. It is over-exploited by the large population, which does not allow fallow or natural restoration time.

### **PRODUCTION WATER HARVESTING**

The simplest form of water harvesting is to let land lie fallow so as to allow natural regeneration. This is no longer possible in Ukambani given current population. The next technique, in complexity, is to terrace land. It is estimated that only about 20-30% of Ukambani is terraced. Grazing land is not terraced. The third level of complexity is sand dams (*core, mingeto, ngome etc*). These are structures built on land or ephemeral rivers to hold water in the ground or in sand. The simplest sand dams can be built on farming land to retain runoff on agricultural land. In this they act like other water harvesting techniques like cutoff drains or bench terraces. Their advantage would be that dams last longer. They can be built by burned bricks, stones or compacted soil if very small. The typical sand dam is built in matwiku, small ephemeral rivers or large rivers. Such construction changes the river morphology by storing water and sand. Water moves from surrounding lands after the rains into the land or the river channel and then moves underground to recharge the ground water other than rushing to the Indian Ocean.

### **ADVANTAGES OF SAND DAMS**

1. Sand dams are low tech and can be built by most people. The Colonial Welfare Development Fund built the first ones in Ukambani for water supply in the fifties. They still exist. Examples are in Kisiio River in Kitui and Wamunyu River in Machakos. From mid 1970, Utooni village in Kalama location started building them on *Mwethya* basis. To date they have more than 350. MIDP built some in Machakos during the eighties. USAID build some in Kitui, which, like the DANIDA ones in Mutomo, were washed away because of poor construction and siting. The Catholic Church built many in Kitui over the past thirty years. ACTION Aid and CARE have a few scattered in Ukambani. SASOL is the global leader in this technology with 900 dams in Kitui, other districts and countries.
2. Stored water recharges ground water proximate to dams. They create wetlands if sand dams are constructed in cascades. These re-generates natural revegetation and enable growth of high value crop trees for timber, fruits etc.
3. Sand dams have practically no maintenance, long life and operating costs unlike earth dams and boreholes.
4. Sand dams are cost effective for they are built with local river stone and sand. Purchases are cement and labour. Where labour is community contribution, it reduces costs dramatically. Community labour, river stones, sand and water typically account for fifty percent of SASOL sand dams costs. They are sustainable from an economic point of view and typically have better water quality unlike boreholes and earth dams.
5. Returns from sand dams are from the first year. In Kamale, local youth have been able to kick up their annual average incomes from Ksh. 2,000 to above Ksh. 250,000 by growing tomatoes by bucket irrigation. It is noticeable that vegetables are available now in all towns in Greater Kitui

from sand dams. These returns would make most families have surplus funds for all sorts of investments ranging from improving housing, fees, and trade.

6. Sealed wells next to sand dams assure communities of reliable and uncontaminated water and thereby good health.
7. Landowners in Greater Kitui and Machakos are building individual sand dams on their pieces of land.

### **C. WATER SUPPLY FOR EMERGING URBAN AREAS**

Long distance pipelines supply the large urban centers of Athi River town, Machakos town, Kitui town, Mwingi town, and Kyuso town. Athi River enjoys both Kilimanjaro and Nairobi pipelines. Machakos was supposed to get Kilimanjaro pipeline but it rarely does so. Kitui used to have supply from the Matuu canal but currently pumping from the power dams on Tana River now supplies it together with Mwingi and Kyuso.

Supply to Wote is deficient. So is supply to other emerging towns like Tseikuru, Kangundo/Tala, Mutito, Kyamatu, Mutomo, Ikutha, Kanyangi, Sombe, Mwitika, Mutonguni, Kathonzweni, Masii, Kambu, Sultan, etc. Large dams on rivers like Tiva, Tyaa, Kaiti, Kibwezi, Kiboko, Mwitika Misyi, Thua, Muvuko, Mui, Thwake as well as Tana can most efficiently supply these and some divisional headquarter towns. Supply from Athi main channel should be discouraged for it not only has Nairobi and Athi River sewage but more dangerous is the lead, cadmium and arsenic, DDT and other agro chemical found in the river. To date urban water has essentially concentrated on boreholes. These are not high yielding typically and will not be sufficient for the long run. They can be used for supplementation but the core supply will have to be large dams in the branches of the Athi and Tana. High yielding boreholes are found on the old Athi channel, overlaid by the Yatta Plateau and should be considered other than the air brained proposal to pump up contaminated Athi water to the plateau.

### **D. WATER FOR LARGE SCALE IRRIGATION**

There is need to institute large-scale irrigation to take care of the large population and to increase production. The main concentration of large-scale irrigation in Ukambani is at Matuu and Kibwezi. Matuu canal gets its water from Thika River. It is estimated that upstream users of Thika River will take more than 90% of its water in the next ten years thereby marginalizing any extension of the Matuu irrigation system, not to speak about limiting its utility. Soils are also getting saline because of inappropriate irrigation techniques.

The best potential for large-scale irrigation is the Adams Falls dam on the Tana for it can be justified both for power generation and irrigation. JICA has held public meetings on this dam in the past. The issue was whether to develop the dam for power only or power and irrigation. Pressure should be applied for this later strategy for Mwingi, Kyuso, Kitui and Mutomo can benefit tremendously if the dam is built to also supply irrigation water.

Munyu dam on the Athi was identified and designed in the seventies. It is not viable given the contamination of Athi water, unless the long-term poisoning of the population is ignored. The partly implemented canal for irrigation of Mbiuni, Mwala etc is also not viable from a contamination point of view. Kibwezi River offers good possibilities for expanding large-scale irrigation if the underground streams are harnessed. So do Kiboko and Kaiti and their branches if dams are built in the highlands so that water may flow by gravity to the Makueni lowlands. Therefore if large-scale irrigation is to be developed in the Athi basin, its main branches, Thwake, Kaiti, Kiboko and Kibwezi Rivers will have to be the sources. Ikoo dam was identified in 1977 and ignored. This is an important large dam for it will have the possibility of taking water by gravity to not only Kitui town but to Sombe, Makongo Endau and Damsa on one hand. On the other, it can also send it to Mwitika, Kyamatu, Voo, Mutha and Mutomo. Large-scale irrigation possibilities are good on the Tiva if first dammed before confluence with the coexisting contamination of Kitui town delivered by Nzeeu and Kalundu. Downstream it can be dammed for Ikutha and Mutomo water supply for the biological contamination of Nzeeu and Kalundu would have been naturally processed.

### **E. BOREHOLES**

A recent study of all boreholes in Ukambani shows that 61% are saline. Some are so saline that even animals cannot use the water e.g. Kakengele. However, there is good potential on the old Athi Channel as shown by the Katangi borehole. Borehole operations are expensive thereby vitiating them from being useful in community water supply. However, there is an urgent need to use boreholes for supply of all divisional centers.

#### **F. ACTION PLAN**

1. Large scale dams on Ikoo, Ngwane/Kaiti, Thwake and Tana for supply to District Headquarters and Irrigation
2. Financing expansion of sand dams in all districts by CBOs and NGOs.
3. Drilling of boreholes in all divisional headquarters.
4. Political and administrative leadership by the Ministry of Water on sand harvesting which is drying rivers in Kajiado, Machakos, Makueni, Yatta, Kitui and Mwingi.
5. Political and administrative leadership by the Ministry of Water on cement and coal mining in Mwingi, Kitui and Mutomo. If badly done it will drain ground water of these and adjoining districts.

G-C. M. MUTISO

### **3. WHICH UNIVERSITY OR UNIVERSITIES?**

Internet has chatter about when the council for the Ukai derivative university is to be gazetted; built operate and transfer proposals; ceding of Ukai land to Jomo Kenyatta etc. This is fine, but there seems to be many forces pulling in different directions. Of course everyone claims legitimacy. It bothers me for that has been the Kamba elite pattern since the colonial times. Consequently the community loses.

During the Kyambi House meeting several committees were proposed. The basic issue on implementing the Ukai derivative was to get some staff. I am informed that the UON has led on this. During that meeting the idea that a STRATEGY COMMITTEE was premier was not agreed upon. Sentiment seems to have been that the curriculum committee activity of adopting UON Kabete curriculum should take priority. I disagreed then and I still disagree.

I think the future interests of the university will be better served if a STRATEGIC PLAN is prepared before the issues of curricula are set afoot. I also feel strongly that this university ought to SPECIALIZE IN MINING AND DRYLAND STUDIES. Such specialization may or may not lead to copying Kabete curricula and programs. It should be noted, for example, that the contribution of telecommunications to dryland incomes is probably bigger now than sectors implied by importing the Kabete courses. Alternative water provision technology -not taught in any Kabete courses- is having very high socio-economic impacts in Kitui, Mutomo, Makueni, Kibwezi etc. It is courses on inter alia these issues that needs to be in the strategic plan which ought to anticipate the future production systems and thus manpower and manpower utilization needs. Given global warming, ecological collapse and exploding population, the populations of the dry southeastern Kenya, will have to reduce dependency not only on rainfed agriculture but agriculture in general.

The second issue is assembling people with real time experience in all the S E Kenya Districts to debate the strategic issues. I think it is essential that those proposed for the Council should be incorporated into the Strategy Committee to ensure continuity. Proposals from such a committee should be discussed with the Elders, as has been the practice. Two STRATEGIC issues will make and break the two adjoining universities. These are: Jomo Kenyatta getting some of the Ukai land, and moving the S E K University to UON Kibwezi. THEY WILL BE USED BY COMMUNITY ELITES AND NATIONAL FORCES OPPOSED TO THE TWO UNIVERSITIES TO MUCK BOTH. To manage this, much more transparency in the constitution of the assorted committees and discussions are needed.

The conversations to date have not cut across the key stakeholders power systems. What most of us, including Elders, the people outside the academia, are getting is thinking by some elements from the region at the two universities and allies outside. That is fine but more thought from uninterested parties is desired particularly from other stakeholders. THE KEY STAKE HOLDERS ARE the two parent

universities GOVERNANCE BODIES and the communities involved. The process of dialogue with the governance bodies is political, complex and multifaceted. The ELDERS need to structure this. Essentially it is getting the two universities to discuss the future pathways in S E Kenya. They already have programs in the region.

Community consultation is also political, complex and multifaceted. Modern thinking about creating new universities is to anchor them into very specific local production and knowledge systems as ably discussed by Calestous Juma in many writings and policy proposals for GOK. A baraza on site is only a calling card to the community but not good enough. The local councils and CBOs should be involved. Kitui County Council, which had conversations with JKUAT before the new constructs, needs to be brought in for it still has other lands proximate to Ukai. Other local councils need to be brought in also. Further creativity on the way forward can come out of consulting the wider Kamba, Taita, Masai etc intelligentsia outside the two universities.

I note that I did not get any bite out of the mining or the water one pagers! I hope this one generates some chatter especially from Munavu and Kiamba and the Elders.

G-C. M. Mutiso

#### **4. MUTISO: ATTACKS LIMIT KNOWLEDGE OPTIONS**

Attacks will not stop me from presenting ideas about public affairs. Collectively most of us Kenyans have the attitude that when one proposes something there is a catch. Usually we assume one is talking for some godfather or looking for a plot or denigrating others. This is the problem of our democratizing, and more relevant, accepting intellectual work. Knowledge is supposed to contribute to society if tested in public debate. It can only grow through discussions.

The quest for a university, in Ukambani, did not start in the 21st century. In the heyday of creating the colleges of technology, some Kamba intellectuals worked very hard to convince the Ukambani leadership; political and bureaucratic, which was there, that we should build Ukai so that in the long term it could be transformed into a University. They insisted that there be land in Kitui and Machakos so that there would be a possibility of campuses in both places and even two universities. They were accused of being dreamers and so forth. Ultimately, it got off the ground.

However since the seventies, Ukai went through a very bad patch. The problem saws competition by a variety of Kamba cabals for three decades and it never achieved what Kiambu, Kimathi, RIAT and a variety of others did. Donors and donations were treated badly. I have and still compliment those who took part in the politics of wrenching it out of the clutches of those who drove it to the ground after the miserable start.

In the nineties some other people impressed Micheka at JKUAT to begin negotiations with Ukai to facilitate take over. Again specific homegrown cabals did not support the Kitui County Council, which was the main pusher of this idea. Micheka spent a lot of time on this but was ultimately stymied by the cabal, which had a lien on Ukai. Post Michieka JKUAT leadership was interested in taking over Kimathi.

The post 2002 period is even murkier. Some have been targeting the one-acre plot in Nairobi. Others have genuinely got JKU and UON involved. Perhaps the critical thing was the petition to the top during the last year political campaigns. However, during the maneuvers, the Ukai derivative was not anchored in Kibwezi which would have prevented the current situation where JKU has a campus based on the former Kitui TTC which does not have enough land for a decent University campus and the Ukai derivative right next to it. Derivatives are always problematic. Embedded in my initial comment is the idea that all the peoples involved in the Ukai derivative should pursue the Kibwezi option as the core of the university. This will let JKU make some or all of the Ukai land part and parcel of its growth. I have said this in many fora not just emails.

If strategic and thus structural mistakes are made in institution creating, there results major costs in the long term. I do not believe in back room political maneuvering or pretending that cabalistic or

ideological frameworks can address key problems. They can only be resolved by open and honest intellectual debates about options. That is why I was forthright in my first email. Let the debates which take place in many fora; public, private, bars, phone calls; and further mainly in Nairobi, come out for discussion openly. Let us also acknowledge that no one of us or a cabal of us; especially many who have limited interaction with our communities, has the only absolute solution to the many problems which confront our communities be they in South Eastern Kenya or elsewhere. Including a lot of our community members and their existing institutions will enable us, not only to image a more realistic future, but also create a university which will respond, through creation of knowledge, to solving specific problems.

Why mining and ICT? We simply have to get our community out of rainfed agriculture given the dictates of global warming. We have the minerals to generate new kinds of businesses. ICT will lead to other income generating options including and not limited to control stall-feeding and milking of goats! The bottom line is simply that we need knowledge institutions to deal with the explosive population who cannot exist on the fast degrading land to be accelerated by global warming. If you do not believe me, just check the rivers and bottomlands where you grew up!

G-C. M. Mutiso

## 5. WE KAMBAS

### A. THINK NEW

I saw/read Mutiso's email and here are a few of my comments:

1. I agree with Mutiso that importation of courses may not be a wise idea. Get what may move us forward. Rubbish bins the rest.
2. Dry land science/electronics, what ever it is, may be what should be the strength of the New University.
3. Out KU and UON- perhaps they are the reason why we were never born. Let us have a new way of thinking about the SEK.
4. Kamba's you hate yourselves but love your adversaries. Time to put a new tag!

Titus

I.

Kanui

### B. DISCUSSION

#### Kambas Are OK

Kamba's you hate yourselves but love your adversaries. Time to put a new tag! \*\* Prof Kanui"\*. This is very healthy discussion. How wonderful. Personally I do not think there is any thing the matter with Kamba people. First and foremost they are individuals with all human attributes including being independent of free thought process, being fair, unfair, selfish, generous, etc name even "kuuta kiunya". The point here is when individuals display their strengths or and weakness; good leadership or lack of it, we should not jump to the conclusions and make blanket statements that Kambas have \*generic\* problems (see KANUI above) or even blessed with exceptional wisdom. Each Mkamba individual is responsible for his/her actions/perceptions/and destiny. BUT TEACH US GOOD GOVERNANCE. We are capable of learning; LEAD US WISELY We are capable of following; LET US FIND OUT WHY OUR LEADERS CANNOT LEAD AND ADVISE THEM BETTER. They are capable of learning and leading wise. I witnessed this in UKAI campus in Kitui with Kalonzo, Ngilu and Mutula. Congratulations to them. PLEASE LET US NOT CONDEMN OUR PEOPLE; sooner than later we shall wake up from our individual slumber. YES WE CAN and we will!

#### Include Other Courses

Why not S E University College of Agriculture Science and Technology in all its breadth and specializations as per examples given by Prof Mutiso and many more, including Cultural, Socio/Philosophy, Development Studies; Watershed, Water Resources Management, Irrigation, Water Engineering etc:

#### Muema Mavuti

## 6. MUNAVU'S TAKE SOUTH EASTERN UNIVERSITY COLLEGE (SEUCO)

Profs Mutiso, Waema, Mavuti, Kimuyu et al.

I wish to share my views and provide some clarifications regarding the very useful e-mails released by Prof Mutiso on December 10<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> 2008 concerning progress towards implementation of SEUCO (the Ukai-derived university). In order to conceptualize my remarks, I attach the following three documents, which should provide background information to some of the concerns raised by some respondents to the said e-mails:

- A. The document submitted to government by the Council of Elders as justification for establishment of the South Eastern University College (SEUCO);
- B. Selected strategies developed by the BOG for implementing the SEUCO project as gazetted in July 2008.
- C. Minutes of a meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2008 and attended by members of the proposed transitional committees. Various agreements on the way forward were arrived at during this meeting.

### **1. Governance and Legitimacy**

The e-mail released on Dec 10<sup>th</sup> 2008 suggests that various forces may be pushing (or pulling) in different directions on SEUCO. I am therefore deliberately sharing my views and comments with those who have reacted to the e-conversation, and those serving in the various transitional committees. We need to note that some of the issues being raised for discussion need to be kept within a critical and manageable loop, since the Government has not yet made some formal decisions.

The Council of SEUCO has not been constituted. The legitimate body for spearheading transition activities for the time being is the current Board of Governors of UKAI. As soon as the Council of the University College is appointed, the BOG will immediately hand over to the new Council. This exercise seems to have taken long in some cases (e.g. Kenya & Mombasa Polytechnic University Councils were appointed 15 months after gazettelement !).

### **2. Academic Programmes/Academic Master Plan**

The view taken by Prof. Mutiso concerning the academic focus of the new university college is consistent with the thinking of the Board of Governors and the Council of Kamba Elders (see Docs A and B). There seems to be general agreement that the academic character of the university should coalesce around mining, dryland agriculture, water engineering, energy, applied arts, community development, and ICT studies. A transition committee is developing the academic master plan of the university (see Doc C). We should send any inputs on academic matters to them.

It is not clear how the issue of “copying” academic programmes from Kabete Campus arose. SEUCO will be independent from the UoN. It will develop its own academic character and vision. Copying academic courses from Kabete on a “wholesale basis” would therefore not be well advised. I believe the committee working on the Academic master plan will avoid this temptation.

### **3. Strategic Planning Committee and Related Issues**

The strategic planning committee is important in defining the academic, physical development and financial locus of the university college, and in charting the route of establishing the university. I agree with Mutiso on the critical role of the strategic planning committee. A strategic plan must be developed without delay. The plan must also build on the UKAI strategic plan which was developed with GOK support, and which will be availed to the Strategic Planning committee.

There are six transitional committees in all (see doc B and C). All committees are playing a critical transition role and therefore each one of them is important on its own right. Obviously, the strategic committee will benefit from the output of the Physical, Academic, Statutes and Financial master plans. The timeframe of the strategic committee extends longer than the other committees.

The strategic committee should keep in mind that it is proposing a plan for South Eastern University College. The expected growth of the Kenyatta University Campus at Kwa Vonza and its proximity to SEUCO (formerly UKAI) may obviously impact on SEUCO’s strategic plan. But my view is that SEUCO should choose a growth trajectory, which is unique and innovative. There have been proposals, for

example, to establish appropriate campuses of the university in the four original districts (Mwingi, Kitui, Makueni and Machakos) in future. Views on this should be directed to the strategic planning committee.

#### **4. Seeking Stakeholders Views**

We expect the strategic committee to seek the views of all stakeholders in all the districts in the region. The committee should also take account of the outputs of the other transitional committees. Some stakeholders (e.g. Council of Elders and Academics) have already been incorporated in the transitional committees rather liberally. The committees are also free to co-opt additional stakeholders.

The Board of Governors organized a forum for gathering views of stakeholders on establishment of SEUCO on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2008. The stakeholders who attended the forum included DCs, DEOs, Council of Kamba Elders, County Council representatives, Members of Parliament and religious leaders from all the Ukambani districts.

I believe that the meeting held on November 21<sup>st</sup> 2008 at the SEUCO campus was useful because a common shared direction and vision on higher education and development emerged. The senior political leadership in the region revealed a united commitment to ensure success of the university project. There was, for example, a common agreement to establish an Endowment Fund to support disadvantaged/needful university students from the region. This Fund will be spearheaded by the MPs, who agreed to provide KSHS 5,000,000.00 from the CDF kitty of each constituency as seed money to the Fund. An implementation committee has been formed to develop the objects, size and investment regime of the fund; and facilitate its legal/formal establishment.

With regard to further and cross-border consultations, I am persuaded that the Strategic planning committee should consider views of some neighboring/contiguous communities such as the Taita and the Maasai. The university will then develop into an agent of unity and cooperation among the communities.

#### **5. Other Contextual Issues**

a. There have been recurring echoes on the relationships between SEUCO, the Kitui Campus of Kenyatta University, and UoN's Kibwezi Research Station. My comments on these echoes are rather direct: We currently have one independent university College (SEUCO) in Ukambani. This constituent college will have its Council and independent financial allocation from GOK. The other higher education facility in the Kwa VONZA area is a campus of Kenyatta University. It does not have its own council, nor does it enjoy direct funding from GOK. Nevertheless, we hope that the later will eventually grow into a constituent college of Kenyatta University sooner than later.

b. The Kibwezi dryland research station is part of the University of Nairobi. The development and growth of Kibwezi will therefore be linked to the strategic direction and growth pattern of the University of Nairobi. Likewise, the relationship between SEUCO and Kibwezi research station will be determined partly by the strategic focus of University of Nairobi. If Kibwezi eventually grows into a constituent college of the university of Nairobi by whichever route, so much the better for the region and the nation. Let us recall that some regions have several public universities/university colleges domiciled within their boundaries.

c. We are expected to have university students on site by early next year in order to qualify for government financial allocations during the next financial year (2009/2010). In order to accommodate students, the BOG is considering the option of using the KEFRI facilities in Kitui to accommodate about 80 university students by early next year. The facilities are now free, after Kenyatta University transferred its students from the site this year. The academic and statutes committees will be considering the practicality of this option during the week of 5<sup>th</sup> January 2009.

#### **6. Activities of Transitional committees**

I am pleased to note that some transitional committees have stated to deal with their TORs. The physical, statutes and financial planning committees have met severally. The Nairobi offices of SEUCO have been established along Peponi road in the Westlands area of Nairobi. Committees are expected to hold meetings at the site. Secretarial help is available from the offices. The academic and strategic committees should start work without delay.



For more information on the work of the committees and other meeting logistics, please get in touch with Mrs. F Kioko on Phone No. 0722 640 637; Mr. B Kawai (Ag Principal) on Phone no 0736 467 525 or R Munavu on 0733 621 878.

Let us keep the useful consultations going on within and across the Committees. Seasons greetings to everyone.

**Raphael M Munavu**

## **7. MUTISO: WHAT IS STRATEGY**

Dear Prof. Munavu,

### **ON THE DOCUMENTS**

I have got the documents. I have seriously studied them.

At the petty level, I am shocked we are planning a University and there are clerical and typo mistakes in all documents!

It is clear from analyzing the documents historically that key decisions have been made at the tactical level and not at the strategic level.

It is clear that mining and ICT are not central in the current thinking.

It also is clear that the relationship of JOMO/Kitui TTC and the Ukai derivative has yet to be addressed in spite of the teases.

It also is clear that the strategic committee is an add on. This is most interesting given the original thinking in the proposal.

### **WAY FORWARD STRATEGIC ISSUES**

Is there a STRATEGIC way forward along the following lines?

1. Propose that 50% of the resources and course content be targeted to PETROLOGY AND ITS KEY DERIVATIVES IE

A. HYDROLOGY B.GEOLOGY C. GEMSTONE INDUSTRIES (ARTISANAL AND COMMERCIAL) AND D. MINING EQUIPMENT STUDIES

2. Propose that 25% of the resources and course content be targeted to INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES IE A. COMPUTING B. COMMUNICATIONS (TO INCLUDE INTER ALIA TELECOMMUNICATIONS UTILIZATION IN ASAL PRODUCTION) AND C. (THE MOST PROBLEMATIC) ENERGY FOR PRODUCTION (TO EMPHASIZE MAINLY THE RENEWABLE ENERGIES).

3. Propose that the balance 25% of the resources be targeted to the support disciplines in the social and business sciences.

4. Stemming from the three points above is the key requirement that the institutions of the Council have, from the start, people with THE PETROLOGY specializations. More critical are the institutions of the Chancellor as well as the Vice Chancellor who must have background in the key areas of PETROLOGY since the blind do not lead.

### **TACTICAL ISSUES**

1. Is the Nairobi plot secure?

2. What is the implication of your earlier email ie: "The strategic committee should keep in mind that it is proposing a plan for South Eastern University College. The expected growth of the Kenyatta University Campus at Kwa Vonza and its proximity to SEUCO (formerly UKAI) may obviously impact on SEUCO's strategic plan. But my view is that SEUCO should choose a growth trajectory, which is unique and innovative. There have been proposals, for example, to establish appropriate campuses of the university in the four original districts (Mwingi, Kitui, Makueni and Machakos) in future. Views on this should be directed to the strategic planning committee" ; given that UON is under instructions to hold on to Kibwezi? What happens if JOMO /KTTC is gazetted?

3. Significant mining resources are in Taita and North Eastern and greater Eastern province. Since Universities are both national and regional, how are these regions represented now in the creation?

4. How do stakeholders get a hearing? My earlier emails refer.

Let me conclude by stating that we have a chance to think through how to create a great university, which will address knowledge and production not only at the national but also at the local level. It is in this spirit that I raise issues.

Mutiso

## **8. MUNAVU: REACTION ON MUTISO'S STRATEGY**

Thank you very much for your very useful comments. I am sure the transition committees will benefit from your input.

Could you please forward the typo and clerical errors you have spotted to the secretariat so that the documents can be improved upon? Planning a university is truly "work-in-progress". I sincerely appreciate the efforts of colleagues who have been involved in developing these documents, especially over the last five years.

### **STRATEGIES.**

The matters you have raised in this section are germane to the strategic plan being generated. I think your thoughts on how to allocate available resources at the onset are very innovative. I will pass over your views to the Chairperson of the Strategic committee for deliberation within the committee. Your views on the appropriate criteria for appointing the Chancellor and VC of the university will be a debatable issue. My view is that the main criteria for appointment should be proven or potential leadership and management skills. Relevant professional training is a necessary, but not sufficient criteria for appointment. The blind can also lead. Nevertheless, I will send your comments to the Chair of the Statutes committee for their consideration.

### **TACTICS**

The status of the Nairobi plot is being handled by the Physical Planning Committee. I hope they will keep stakeholders informed. The title deed is secure.

If the KTTC campus of KU is eventually gazetted, it will develop its own character and vision. It will have its own strategic plan. Their plan may be to have programmes that are complementary, cooperative or competitive with SEUCO's programmes. There is nothing bad about having two universities close to each other. Nevertheless, let us get the digested views of your committee.

The Kibwezi issue is dynamic. The information I have is that the UoN has plans for future growth of the station at Kibwezi. I will attempt to seek further information on this and share it with others.

Thank you, once again, for your inputs. I believe that committees have started to meet in earnest. The

Strategic Planning committee will meet this week. Please talk to Mrs. Kioko; she does not have your phone contact.

## **8. NZIOKI TAKE**

### **The Mining Axis**

I have keenly followed the Mining Axis and will be more than happy to get any feelers from anyone who has had the opportunity to get details of the proposed extraction ventures by the various corporations/companies (Lafarge, Athi River mining, Devji Steel on Cement mainly--; and the rest of the who lot of the multinationals eyeing the Coal Deposits and other mineral deposits in the region). Already competing for the piece of action in the zone.

What's the experience of collaboration between Universities and such Mining Ventures worldwide? Is it feasible to loop in these corporations at this early stage in our proposals for future development of relevant programmes for their ultimate consumption and employment of the graduates from SEUC?

### **The Water Axis**

This is Prof's pet area. I count on you on this one. Your experience will assist us to develop courses and training modules on measures to address the overall water scarcity in the region.

### **The ICT**

This is the Universal University Focus for the 21st century. We cannot escape this. Lets embrace ICT at all levels of diploma, undergraduate and postgraduate training at SEUC and beyond.

## **9. LUTI TAKE**

Thank you very much for the two emails - it seems as if something is happening. Since I don't know what ground has been covered, please excuse me if I go over ground that has already been covered. The two points want to highlight are as follows.

1. The main focus of the Institution should be dryland agriculture and associated technologies. This should not preclude the social sciences/humanities, which are vital to any technological institution. Other supporting academic areas such as the sciences are also a must. Let it not be just another University we have seen how, without proper focus new institutions have developed to be diffuse. Furthermore, it is ore attractive for donors to support a specialized program (Dryland> Agriculture/Technology/etc. which is not catered for in other institutions, and strategically located in a natural "laboratory" is a very positive plus)

2. What does "Council of Elders" mean? Politicians? I hope we do not fall in the same pitfall we did with UKAI when some of us chose to hijack the whole program to curry favor with the political class, to the exclusion of others in academia. We definitely need a strong political support, BUT wide inclusion of all parties who can make a contribution is a must. Any willing contributor should be made to feel an insider.

F.M. Luti

## **11. REPORT OF THE PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES INSPECTION BOARD Dec 2006**

(I found this document way after initiation of the discussions. Below are Extracts. Mutiso)

### **1. PRINCIPLES FOR NEW UNIVERSITIES**

“Para. 2.2.4.3. To foster equitable growth, national cohesion and solidarity, the promotion of education in the Coast, Eastern and Northeastern provinces requires careful, deliberate and sustained planning and attention.....

Pursuant to this objective, the Board considers the following principles to be taken into consideration to guide the process.

- a. Geographic location to spur economic, infrastructural and social development and strengthen human capital of the region; hereby benefiting from the national and international character of the university in terms of programmes and, students and staff.
- b. Promotion and development of strategic resources such as ASALS, paying attention to dry land farming, renewable energy, livestock production, tourism, marine resources and mineral exploration etc and broaden participation in the national, regional and global economy.
- c. Increase in overall access to higher education especially in programmes that are not adequately provided for by existing institutions and for areas that have had low representation in university admission.
- d. In planning of new colleges and universities, consideration should be given to building on existing institutions, and, where possible, transferring some mature departments to the newly established institutions instead of starting from scratch. For example, the fisheries and tourism departments currently based at Moi University could be relocated to a university at the Coast.

#### RECOMMENDATION: 2.7

- a. On the basis of the above criteria, a public university in Coast Province should be established focusing on fisheries, oceanography, tourism, and marine studies. Another university should be established in the Eastern Region focusing on dry land farming, environmental and water studies.
- b. New public universities should be established on the basis of proper planning, availability of resources, opening new frontiers of knowledge and research and be a catalysts for human capital and infrastructure for national and regional development.
- c. New universities should be well-planned, appropriate and where possible utilize available facilities.” Pp40-41

## 2. HUMAN RESOURCES

“Para.6.1.3.1 There is an added sense of urgency in ensuring that the development of human resources takes into serious consideration the need to deal effectively with some of the national problems that still bedevil our communities such as food insufficiency, recurring droughts, disaster management and water scarcity. Other development problems include environmental degradation, new diseases, corruption and bad governance, weak community based institutions and under-exploitation of some natural resources such as fisheries, and minerals.” Pp.250

## 3. ENERGY

“Para. 6.4.5.1...There is an urgent need to provide skills in oil exploration, energy conservation and above all undertake research on newer and more cost effective energy alternatives.” Pp.277

“Para. 6.4.5.3. The world trend in energy mix is shifting from reliance on fossil fuels to more reliance on environmentally friendly sources of energy such as wind, solar and biomass. Kenya has not fully identified energy as a critical research and development agenda (sic). Furthermore, strategies for the development of skills required for prospecting and mining energy minerals such as crude oil and coal have not been introduced in the universities in Kenya.” Pp. 278

## 4. MINING AND ENERGY

“Para. 6.4.8.4 The EA region has become a major area of exploration of oil, gas, and other industrial and precious metals. The challenge is to develop prospecting, mining and processing skills in this area, and provide opportunities for employment and research. Much of the tragedy of Africa’s economic development lies in the fact that its mineral wealth of gold, diamonds, oil and other industrial minerals has enriched the west leaving communities that are within reach of those resources to wallow in poverty. One reason for this is that there are few Africans with the exploration and mining skills for these minerals. Kenya should aim to build capacity in these areas to ensure that its citizens take lead in exploration and the mining processes. “Pp.282

LUTI

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