



UoN community plants 10,000 trees

Date and time: Mon, 2018-04-09 12:08

Location / Venue:

Wangari Maathai Campus

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As part of its Annual Tree Planting initiative, the University of Nairobi community planted over 10,000 trees during the week of April 3- 6, 2018.

The climax of the exercise was on April 6, 2018, when 6,500 trees were planted at Wangari Maathai Campus at the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences.

Speaking during the exercise, the Chief Guest, Prof. Japheth Ntiba, the Permanent Secretary for Higher Education, Ministry of Education, commended the University on its commitment to plant 10,000 trees.

“Trees play an important part in absorbing carbon monoxide from the environment that is destructive to the ozone layer,” he said. “I call on many Kenyans to plant trees so that the country can achieve the forest cover of 10%.”

Prof. Ntiba, as well praised the government efforts to deal with the tree logging menace and banning plastic bags.

“In the future, paper will be produced from seaweed, now that the forest cover is under siege. No more cutting trees to produce paper,” he said. “I call on all to supports the government’s initiatives



to increase the forest cover by planting trees.”

Dr. Vijoo Rattansi, 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 trees.

“Through her efforts, 30 million trees were planted in various schools and churches,” she said. “The country is facing unprecedented drought, climate change all attributed 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.”

The Vice-Chancellor, University of Nairobi, Prof. Peter Mbithi, implored on all to restore the forest cover to 10% by planting trees on a regular basis. He challenged staff and students to promote environmental sustainability.

“Indeed, when we plant trees, we embark on a path of transforming the bare land into the green beautiful and productive areas they once were,” he said. “Tree planting activities such as this, can have far reaching impact here and beyond. However, it is worth reminding ourselves that poor land management leads to the destruction of natural vegetation in the catchment areas.”

Partners who supported the initiative include the Wangari Maathai Green Belt Movement, Kenya Forest Services, ILRI, University of Nairobi Alumni Association, Lions Club of Nairobi, Kenya Defense Forces and the surrounding schools, among others.

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