

July 2017



## *“Behold, I am doing something new”*

One of my final tasks as the outgoing Principal is to introduce my successor, a responsibility I am happy and honoured to fulfill. Rev. Prof. Stephen Mbugua Ngari is a Catholic priest of the diocese of Nakuru. He earned his doctorate in Educational Psychology from Egerton University in 2000, and before that had attended St. John Fisher College and the Rochester Institute of Technology in the United States, as well as St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary right here in Lang’ata. He has been on the staff of Egerton University for over 20 years, serving in many different capacities: as lecturer, department chair, Catholic chaplain, dean of students, and most recently Director of University Welfare Services. Over the years he has also worked closely with the Commission for University Education, and was a panel member for many university visitations.

Fr. Stephen’s appointment is innovative in many ways. He will, I believe, be Tangaza’s first Kenyan-born head. According to the decision of the Board of Trustees and Governing Council, he will not be called “Principal” but “Vice Chancellor Designate”, as an indication of how close we seem to be to full recognition as a Kenyan university. Yet judging from the questions I have been asked, per-

haps what members of the Tangaza family find most surprising is that Fr. Stephen, a diocesan priest, will now be heading an institution that began as the “Theological Centre for Religious”. All of his predecessors have been from one of the member congregations!

But although he is not a religious himself, he is very committed to helping Tangaza maintain and enhance its original mission, vision and values, and the special synergy that arises from the interaction of so many religious charisms. Indeed, after interviewing him extensively, the Board of Trustees and Governing Council became convinced that he is the right choice for this particular moment in Tangaza’s history. With his extensive knowledge and experience of Kenyan tertiary education, and his close relationship with the Commission, he should be able to guide us effectively through the concluding stages of our transition to university status.

Thus the Lord is doing “something new” and creative at Tangaza with the appointment of Fr. Stephen. I encourage us all to give him our full support and prayers.

Fraternally,

**Steven Payne, OCD**

## New Programmes



On June 6, 2017, a group of ISMM staff met at *Domum Dei*, Karen, to discuss the development of new programs in public administration. Br Jonas, ISMM Director, highlighted that ISMM has 5 programmes: Diploma, BA, MBA, MA, and PhD. The goal of the meeting was to discuss and start the process of implementing Dr. Gachie's proposal to develop programmes in the field of Public Administration. The proposal had been discussed in the joint administration meeting and then in an MBA meeting. There are several factors to be taken into consideration. With the devolution of government in Kenya, there is an increased need for programmes tailored to prepare competent staff in the public sector. Many civil servants are now approaching pensionable age and the government needs to recruit valid employees to fill the vacuum. Various Universities are offering programmes in administration, however they focus mainly on business administration not on public administration. In addition, we need to increase our student population and offering a unique program is a viable way to attract new students.

The small group meeting at *Domus Dei* agreed that the programme is needed and the goal will be to

develop courses from diploma to masters. It was proposed to launch the diploma in January 2018 as the bachelor and masters programmes will be presented to the Commission for University Education for approval.

Following up on this decision, Mr. Mapopa emphasized that ISMM needs to diversify programmes which are unique and that meet the needs of society. Thus, the goal is to identify the issues within society such as corruption, incompetence, improving the living standards of the people. He underlined the need to develop more of the programmes in social sciences and roll them out. e.g. have two more programs in the BA program.

There were other proposals to develop a BA in Civic Education which can be offered at TUC and at Huruma. In addition, there are plans to develop a BA in Social Entrepreneurship. Being a church institution, Tangaza stands a better chance of acquiring an authority in public administration and explore the issue of public management. It was proposed to have specialisations that can address the various issues such as church institutions at the masters level and offer majors and minors in the undergraduate level. These can be identified through needs assessment.



Opening photo, students in the Masters programme in Tangaza. Right, students at University Mtaani in Huruma, Nairobi.





**Frs Stephen Mbugua  
and Selvam Sahaya.  
The Vice Chancellor  
and Vice Chancellor  
Academics Designate.**

## *Let us Journey Together*

**P**rofessor Stephen Mbugua Ngari is the Vice Chancellor Designate of Tangaza University College. He holds a PhD in psychology and, until recently, he was Associate Professor and Director Student Welfare Services in Egerton University. Prof. Mbugua is a priest of the Diocese of Nakuru, he was ordained 33 years ago. We met him and asked him a few questions.

**Professor, you have visited Tangaza in the past days. What is your impression?**

My impression is that Tangaza is a wonderful community, a wonderful learning institution and I have liked the people I met. The outgoing principal, Fr. Steven Payne, who has been very good, welcoming and supportive. Everybody I have met in Tangaza, including Fr. Selvam who is the new DVC Academics elect, has been very supportive and welcoming. Even the students are very good, well-mannered and focused on the academics and so every place I have gone, I have been extremely impressed by how good Tangaza is.

**Do you have any plans to implement in Tangaza?**

The first priority is to have our institution chartered so that it becomes a fully fledged university. We shall then be in the league of other universities with a special Catholic charism. After that, I wish to work in compliance with the law and the Commission for University Education's requirements.

I wish to fulfil all the regulations that have been set so that we have total compliance with the law. In this way, our degrees are going to be of high standard and our

students will be proud of their titles and palatable by the job market. I will meet with the academic and the development departments, all the schools and institutes to chart the best way forward for Tangaza as a university. With the support of the Council and the Board of Trustees, I am sure that we will make Tangaza the best university possible in matters of Catholic faith, Catholic charism and the charisms of the founders of this wonderful institution.

**Tangaza College was founded by religious institutes, they are still the main sponsors. Since you are a diocesan priest, do you see this positively, as a better link with the local Church?**

Yes! It is a very good link. And I was very humbled and privileged to have been appointed the Vice Chancellor Designate. I know there are highly qualified members of the founding congregations working in Tangaza. By bringing me here, Tangaza shows that the spirit of the founders is all embracing. This is what the Catholic Church is about. So you – sponsor, academic staff, management, students - have really manifested the spirit of the Church, the spirit of Holy Father, Pope Francis, in embracing the faith, embracing one another, and living as a community of faith.

**Do you have a message for the Tangaza family?**

I am very grateful to be in Tangaza, I am very grateful to be working with you. And I look forward to forming a working alliance, a working family and a team that will act towards having the establishment of the university chartered; placing the best teaching practices as the source of the spirituality and ethos of Tangaza University.

# A Busy Week



In this page, clockwise, the new Vice Chancellor Designate meets the heads of Schools and Institutes; encounters Prof. Kirwen; and receives the symbols of Tangaza from Fr Payne.







From top to bottom, Fr Stephen meets a member of CTIE staff; shares a meal with Prof. Mbae of CUEA, and Frs Payne and Kirwen; meets the Academic Council.

