

At Tangaza, May is normally a time for completing exams, celebrating graduations, preparing for new assignments and beginning some weeks of rest and relaxation. In Kenya, however, as in many parts of the world, the month begins with “Labour Day”, also known elsewhere as “International Workers’ Day”. The Catholic Church even came up with its own version in 1955 when Pope Pius XII dedicated May 1 to “St. Joseph the Worker”, honouring him as the patron saint of all workers.

So it seems an appropriate opportunity to express our appreciation of our own workers at Tangaza. I can say that so many first-time visitors to our campus are deeply im-



Thank You, Tangaza Workers!

pressed by the beauty of our grounds, the fine condition of our buildings, the excellence of our academic resources and educational technology, the friendliness and professionalism of our staff, and the general welcoming atmosphere. One of my predecessors, Fr. Tim Redmond, liked to quote a visiting Maasai elder who looked around our compound and declared: “Even the trees are happy here!”

None of this would be possible without the tireless efforts of our staff members, those we see every day tending our gardens and fields, cleaning the sidewalks, corridors and classrooms, making sure that we have photocopying, water, electricity and other supplies, connecting us to the internet, fixing our computers and maintaining our website, driving our vehicles, running the best theological library in this part of the world, serving us as receptionists, secretaries, counselors, immigration officers and security guards, working in the offices of Administration, Registry, Marketing, Human Resources, Campus Ministry and Finance. Tangaza is only possible because of the combined efforts of all our staff, whatever their place in the organizational structure. How often do we remember to say “thank you”? This month would be a good time to do so.

Recently, a new group known as the “Kenya Private Universities Workers Union” (KPUWU) has been eagerly trying to recruit additional members from all of the Kenyan private universities and constituent colleges.

They have already visited our Tangaza staff, and will come again this month to answer further questions about their organization. Certainly as a Catholic institution we embrace the church’s teaching that workers have “the right to form associations and unions” to promote their interests (see *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, nos. 305-307). Indeed, our proposed university charter and statutes already provide for the establishment of a “University Staff Welfare Association” which we hope to launch in the near future. My own view as Principal is that our Tangaza workers should be left free to make their own choices after fully informing themselves, without undue pressure to join or not to join any particular group.

But whatever anyone decides, I personally want to express my gratitude to all our workers. Though we don’t acknowledge it often enough, you are the backbone of this institution. Tangaza is not perfect. There are tasks we can do better and areas to improve. But I am convinced that, working together, we can make Tangaza one of the great universities in Kenya. And although our resources are limited, Tangaza will always do what it can to promote the welfare of the workers who promote our welfare so much. Asanteni sana to all of you!

Steven Payne, OCD
Principal

Success Stories

The Leaders Guild (TLG) is a leadership development programme under the Centre for Leadership and Management (CLM). On 7 Nov 2106, TLG organized a conference on *Leading with Integrity*. The conference brought together 210 participants drawn from different organizations, colleges, universities, and individual entrepreneurs. The keynote speaker at the event was Dr. Patrick Njoroge, the Governor of the Central Bank of Kenya. Among the other speakers was Dr. Julius Kipng'etich, Chief Executive Officer of



A cheque of US 14,000 is presented to TLG officers towards the awards for the proposal writing competition.

Uchumi Supermarkets Limited. TLG successfully ran a proposal writing competition where six winners were awarded grants that in line with TLG's vision and mission would influence the society positively. Two winners were awarded each 3,000 US dollars and the remaining four were each awarded 2,000 US dollars. The four TLG office bearers undertook a coaching training and are now International Coach Federation (ICF) – Accredited "Certified Organizational Effectiveness Coaches" (COEC) - and are in the process of initiating coaching services at Tangaza University College.

University Mtaani

The *University Mtaani* project in Huruma has resumed classes during the month of April. After a week of consolidation of learning and exams, a new semester started with a class of sixteen students. The two-year programme culminates with the awarding of a Diploma in Civic and Development Education to successful students. Participants are drawn from groups al-

ready working in development programmes in Huruma and adjacent slum areas. However, there are students from upcountry who apply and participate in the distance learning course. Most participants would not be able to follow a university course because of financial considerations and other social obstacles. The *University Mtaani* project, run by ISMM, thus helps worthy



students to receive a university diploma which prepares them to better serve slum dwellers. Some of the past students progressed to BA studies in Tangaza, opening up new opportunities for their personal careers.

G.C.

Huruma, Nairobi - Some of the new students attending the classes in the University Mtaani project.

Inclusive Washrooms

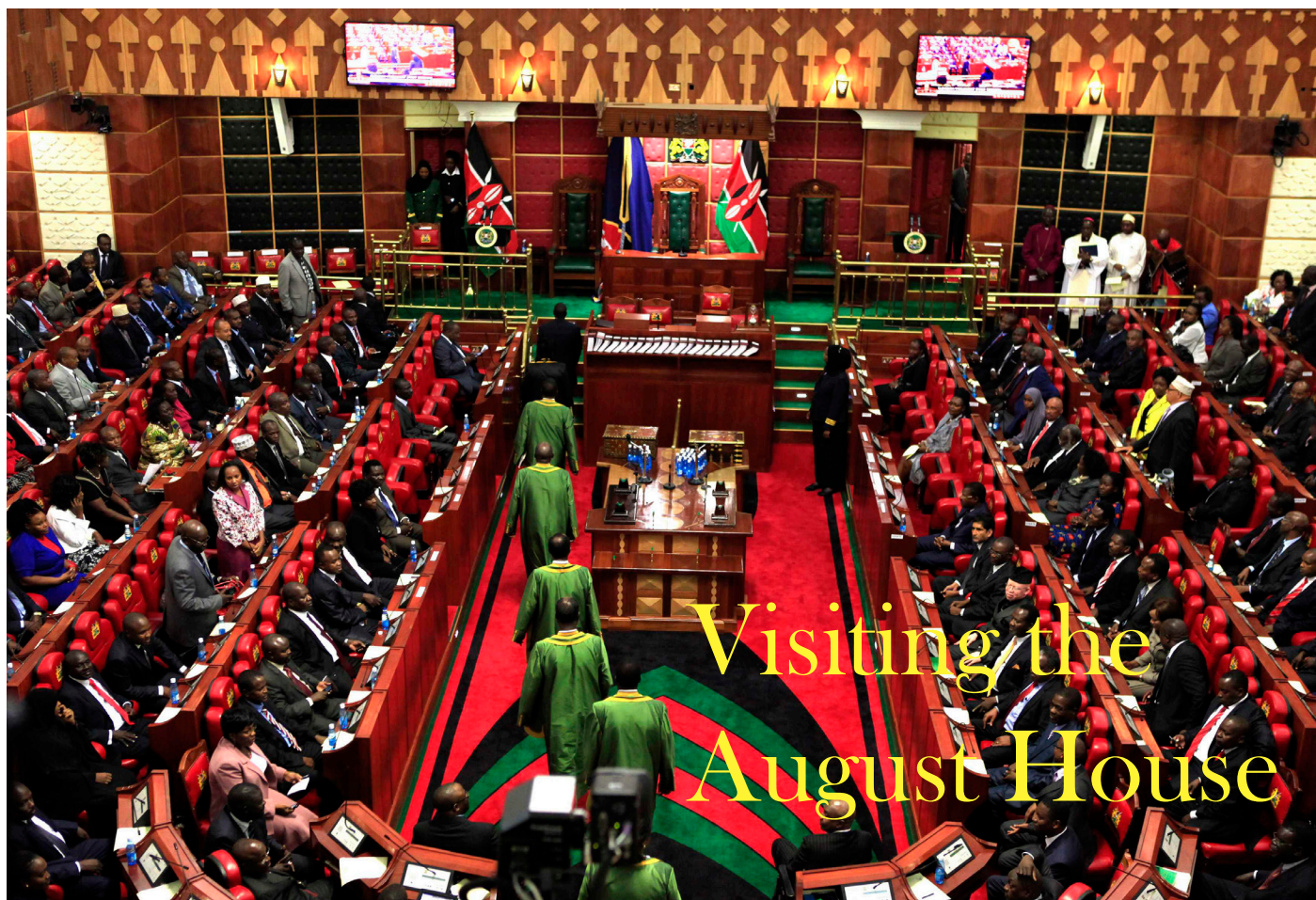
Imagine for one moment you really needed to go to the washrooms and for one reason or the other they were not accessible. What would you do? That is the same predicament our friends in wheelchairs face every time they have a call of nature. Many of our current washroom facilities in Tangaza are inaccessible and a lot has to be done in terms of modification to allow their universal use. For this reason TANSA in collaboration with The Committee on Disability Mainstreaming of Tangaza University College came up with the bold idea to fundraise for this worthy cause. The Ksh. 100 and over campaign was thus born, giving the chance for everybody in the Tangaza Community to make a difference. Currently a target of Ksh. 15,000 per institute has been set with the aim of realising at least Ksh. 150,000 towards the washroom upgrade project. This figure is not meant to cover the entire cost of the modifications but rather is an opportunity to join hands with the College. So let us all come together and be part of the change! Just as was said by the wise men of old, “Akufaaye kwa dhiki ndiye rafiki!” We can all be true friends and make our washrooms friendly to all thus making Tangaza accessible to everyone.

Brenda B. Kiema



Personal and corporate contributions are welcome. Please use MPESA, paybill 488516, account number FUND100. Alternatively, you may contact Sr. Loretta at CLM or Ms Brenda Kiema at MIASMU. A total of 21,000/= has been collected so far; together we can reach our goal.





Every time we hear about politics and politicians in Kenya, the thought that comes to our mind is that of deceit, unrealistic promises and cunning. The biggest question we therefore ask ourselves is, what do the politicians really do? As masters and doctoral students in social transformation, the closest we have come to an answer was on 14 March

2017, when Tangaza university college, through the advocacy class, organised for a visit to Parliament, the house that “manufactures” the laws of the Republic of Kenya.

We queued at the entrance of Parliament. Security was evidently tight. We went through the security screen, one at a time. Once the screening was complete, we were ushered in where we met our guides for the day, Mr. Erastus and Ms Winnie, officers with the Parliamentary Service Commission. Winnie gave us an overview of how the Kenyan parliament operates, a key to our understanding of the day’s mission.

The Kenyan Parliament is one of the three independent arms of the government: the legislature, the judiciary and the executive. The legislature formulates laws that govern the country, the judiciary interprets the law and the executive implements the law. Parliament has committees that deal with specific domains. The National Assembly, for instance, has 12 committees, with the largest being the Public Accounts Committee. Legislation comes to Parliament in form of bills. Bills can be sponsored by the government (the majority of bills are government sponsored), by a private member of Parliament or as petition by a group.

After lunch, we were informed that we would be taken to the National Assembly chambers to witness how debates take place. We were guests of the speaker. This had strict rules of etiquette.



Opening picture, the Chambers of the National Assembly. Left below, one of the entrances to the Parliament compound which houses the National Assembly and the Senate. This page, Tangaza students in one of the Parliament courtyards and, below, on the steps of the main entrance of Parliament.



At exactly half past two, the sergeant-at-arms announced the arrival of the speaker. Everyone stood up and the mace was brought in. This was particularly interesting because, despite the strict rules and the sense of supremacy, he still acknowledged the power of God as the Supreme Being.

Parliament business began, with the leaders of majority and minority complaining of lateness by members. Mr. Lotuk later explained that the members had the order papers – the schedule of business in the house – well in advance and they knew where their contributions were required and where they were not. Besides, some of them had already given substantive information in the committees. He also made us aware that everyone who stood up to speak addressed “Mr. Speaker” not the house, so it was the speaker who is the intended audience.

Having got a sense of how the august house is, it was time to leave. The day’s purpose had been met.

Our desire to know how laws of Kenya are legislated was fulfilled. We had some questions to ask, though:

What is the origin of parliament or the parliamentary system? Why is it referred to as the august house? What is a green paper, blue paper and white paper? As we waded through the evening traffic back to Tangaza, each one of us was engrossed in deep thoughts, perhaps thinking of whether to be a legislator in future, or how relaxed the members of parliament seemed to be yet the legislation affects the country, or perhaps considering if there will be legislation to make the traffic manageable. Two hours of heavy traffic finally saw us back at Tangaza, another lesson learnt, more wisdom acquired. Where should we visit next?

Sr. Odette Nahayo

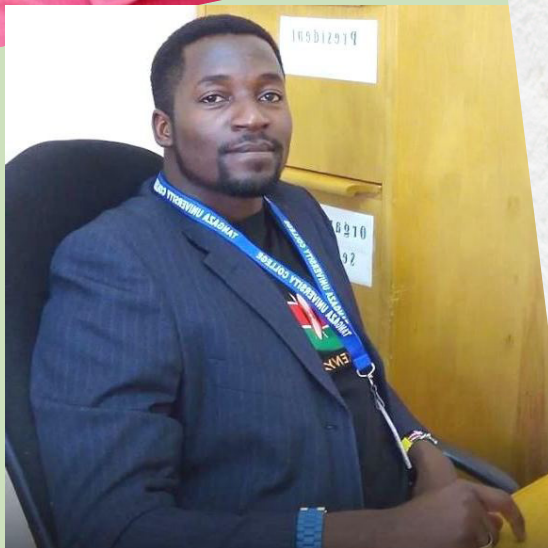
Mr. Oliver Mwalo



New TANSA Team



Above, Mbukoyezu Blaise, new TANSA President. Left and counterclockwise, Njor Benedict, Vice President; Ultan Nkinen, Academic Secretary; Rachel Lendi Mulandi, General Secretary.





Above, Joyce W. Mathenge, Treasurer. Right, Mineene Simon, Organizing Secretary, and below, Silas Matanda Juma, Sports Coordinator.

The new Tansa Chairperson, Mbikoyezu Blaise, is a student in the School of Theology. Njor Benedict, new Vice-President, studies at Christ the Teacher Institute of Education while the new Academic Secretary, Ultan Nkinen, is a student at MIASMU. Rachel Lendi Mulandi, new General Secretary, is honing her leadership skills at CLM along with Joyce W. Mathenge, Treasurer. The Organizing Secretary, Mineene Simon, also studies at SOT, while the Sports Coordinator, Silas Matanda Juma, studies at CTIE.

