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In this issue:

President Salva Kiir Mayardit graces the 23rd University of Juba Convocation 1

The Focus: Embodying the "Wisconsin Idea:" The University as the Arm of the State 2

Visit of the University of Gezira Vice Chancellor 3

University Clinic actively supports the University community 3

Happy 10th Independence Anniversary 4

Graduation Ceremony at Kuajok Community College 4

Obituaries 4

President Salva Kiir Mayardit graces the 23rd University of Juba Convocation

President Salva Kiir Mayardit, the Chancellor of all public universities, presided over the 23rd graduation ceremony of the University on Saturday, 19 June 2021. Some 1,756 students graduated, of whom 304 were females and 1,452 males; 685 were awarded diplomas, 751 bachelor degrees, 41 postgraduate diplomas, 256 master's degrees, and 16 doctoral degrees. A crowd of jubilant parents, guardians and relatives as well as friends converged on the University's Customs Campus to witness the colourful event. During his speech, the President pledged to construct a lecture hall and a laboratory for the School of Engineering and Architecture, as well as asphaltting the roads of the main campus. He assigned the Minister of Roads and Bridges, Hon. Simon Mijok Mijak, the former Dean of students affairs at the University, the task of ensuring that the directive is executed.

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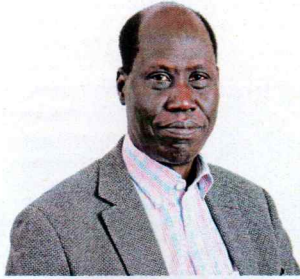
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The Focus: Embodying the "Wisconsin Idea:" The University as the Arm of the State



by Prof John A. Akec

Universities, all over the globe, are entrusted with three missions: education, research, and service to society. The University of Juba is no exception.

Endowed with hundreds of highly qualified faculty, and given its unique location in the nation's capital city, the University of Juba is obliged to serve society by constructively engaging policymakers and legislature in drafting policies, laws, and regulations that can help propel the country forward. It is nothing peculiar to us. Throughout the ages, ideas that enable societies to progress have been passed around and shared amongst nations, and adapted to local settings.

Traditionally, universities were known for exercising an 'indirect' or 'silent' influence on society through discoveries that could put to good use and serve practical ends. Universities also teach the young to develop inquiring minds. These two functions belong to research and education missions of the university. The Germans were the first to establish universities that were wholly dedicated to research. The British gave importance to training of undergraduate students and developing their moral and intellectual capacity.

The third function of university was added by the Americans who were the first to recognise the importance of higher education in providing knowledge and human capital required by a rapidly developing society. This was facilitated by the signing of Morrill Act by Abraham Lincoln in 1862. The Act required every state in the US to allocate land to at least one university or one college of higher education whose mandate was "to teach such branches of learning which related to agriculture and mechanic arts..., to promote the liberal and practical education of the industrial classes in several pursuits and professions in life."

Consequently, the American 'land-grant' universities and colleges provided extension services that included field

agriculture stations that advised farmers on seeds and the latest farming technologies. Their law schools helped develop new commercial codes. Their economic professors advised the state governments draft labour and social legislation. Evening programmes allowed hundreds of thousands of the working American adults to learn new subjects, and train for new careers in industry. Their schools of education developed model curricula for high schools in suburbs and poor parts of the cities. Charles R Van Hise, President of the University of Wisconsin in Madison from 1903 to 1918, opined that "the borders of the campus are boundaries of the state". That became the 'Wisconsin Idea' that defined the American land-grant university. In the like manner, Kerr Clark, the former President and Chancellor of the University of California, described American university as 'the arm of the state'. In fact, for state universities in the US, there was no intellectual service that was "too undignified for them to perform."

On our part, we at the University of Juba are fully committed to the 'Wisconsin's Idea', and are striving to advance our third mission of serving the society beside education and research. We want to provide evidence that informs policy design. Top of our agenda is the ongoing initiative to advise the Ministry of Public Services and the Ministry of Finance on the best approaches and strategies to be followed in order to adjust the pay structure in order to improve the wages and salaries of public sector employees in the Republic of South Sudan. We will advise the Ministry of Finance on reforms of the pension system and social security. We will work with the Ministry of Health in order to reform and enhance the quality and provision of healthcare. We will collaborate with Juba City Council to improve waste management and improve the traffic flow around the city as well as land management and urban planning. We are getting involved in the enrollment of vocational training throughout the country. We will collaborate with National Revenue Authority to identify new sources of taxes. We will advise the National Communication Authority on improvements in telecommunication and ICT services. We will assist the Ministry of Defence in mounting necessary security reforms.

In short, the University of Juba is more than willing to act as 'the arm of state', ready to assist in tackling every economic and social ill facing our country. Our academics will be playing the role of 'voluntary civil servants'.

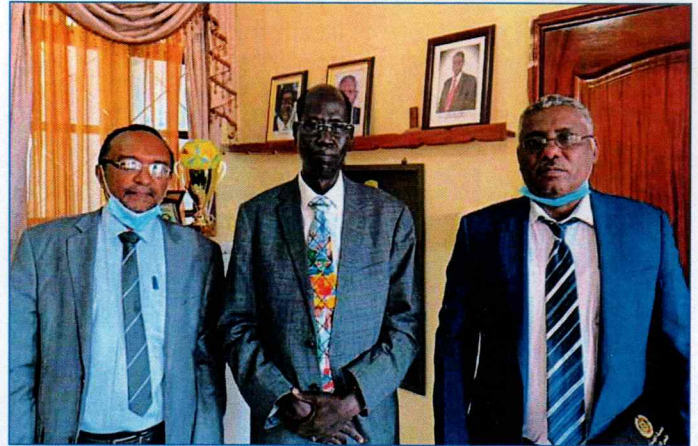


Visit of the University of Gezira Vice Chancellor

On Friday, 25 June 2021, University of Gezira Vice Chancellor Professor Mohamed Taha Yousif Elamien and Secretary of Academic Affairs Professor Mohamed Elamin Ahmed paid a courtesy call on Vice Chancellor Professor John A. Akec. It is worth noting that Professor Mohamed Elamin Ahmed is an alumnus of the University of Juba, and hence the visit had special significance to him as it brought back fond memories of his student days.

The visitors were warmly welcomed to the University and had fruitful discussions on possible areas of collaboration with Professor Akec and a number of University of Juba administrators. They were shown around the main campus which is undergoing substantial

improvements to accommodate the ever rising student numbers and offer quality service.



University Clinic actively supports the University community

The University of Juba clinic is playing an active role in supporting students, staff and members of the University community.

On 18 June 2021, it received a team from an NGO working on health issues. Impact Health Organization created awareness on HIV/AIDs, and also did testing and counselling as well as provided prevention materials to students.

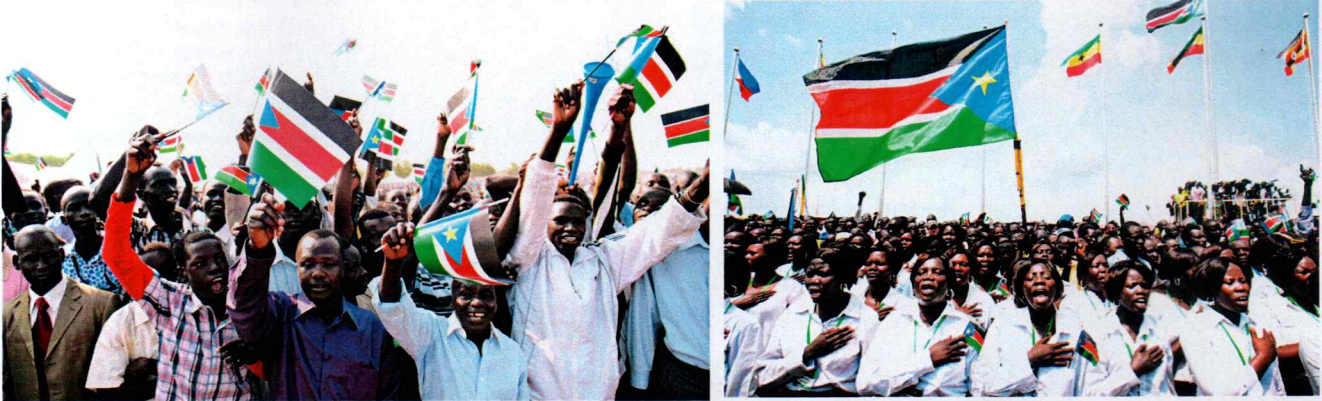
On the following day, 19 June 2021, the clinic treated persons who became unwell during the 23rd graduation celebrations at the Custom Campus. Dr Susan Peter Lado, the director of the clinic, told the Juvarsity that; "We received 30 patients, some had fainted, others were vomiting and many had headache; the team was well equipped with medicines and we ended using up half of the small stock in our pharmacy."





Happy 10th Independence Anniversary

On 9 July 2021, South Sudanese marked the 10th anniversary of their hard-won Independence. Many paid the ultimate price and others sacrificed in other ways during the liberation struggle. South Sudanese should honour the sacrifices of all the patriots by recommitting themselves to the ideals that fuelled their patriotism so as to forge a future of freedom, equality, justice, peace and prosperity for all.



Graduation Ceremony at Kuajok Community College

A high-level delegation, headed by Professor Robert Deng, the Deputy Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance, travelled to Kuajok in Warrap State to symbolically formalize the graduation of the first batch of Kuajok Community College (KCC) on Saturday, 26 June 2021. The other members of the delegation were Professor Venansio Muludiang, Associate Professor Jacob Lupai, Associate Professor Milton Melingasuk Lado and Dr Lazarus P. Lugoi. During the Convocation in Juba, 81 students (75 males and 6 females) from the KCC were awarded diplomas in absentia. Warrap State officials as well as parents, guardians and friends of the graduants were grateful to the University for holding the event.



Obituaries



Mr Lazarus Jubek David
Lecturer, School of Community
Studies and Rural Development
Died on 28 June 2021. May his
soul rest in eternal peace.



Ms Janet Dudu John
Nurse, University of Juba Clinic
Died on 21 June 2021. May her
soul rest in eternal peace.