

**MISSION REPORT OF THE  
FIRST TRIP TO GULU BY THE  
TASK FORCE MANAGEMENT  
COMMITTEE**

**GULU**

24<sup>TH</sup> - 27<sup>TH</sup> July 2001

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# **GULU UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES**

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## **MISSION REPORT OF THE FIRST TRIP TO GULU**

### Background

1. The Task Force Management Committee of Gulu University of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences was constituted effective from 16<sup>th</sup> June 2001. The Committee comprises of:

**Dr. Jack N. Pen-Mogi Nyeko – Chairman/Vice Chancellor**  
**Prof. Mary Okwakol – Deputy Chairman/Deputy Vice Chancellor**  
**Dr. Sandy S. Tickodri-Togboa – Member/University Secretary**  
**Mr. Nun Peter Egwel Odyomo –Member/Academic Registrar**

The Committee would like to thank the Appointing Authority for entrusting it with the noble task of kick-starting the University.

2. Following the appointment, a Team comprising of the Vice Chancellor, the University Secretary and the Academic Registrar, has held two consultative meetings. In both meetings the major deliberations focused on the issue of the possibility and modalities of starting-off the University during the 2001/2002 academic year. At the end of the second meeting, it became clear that a definitive position on the issue could be taken only after an inspection and ascertainment of the adequacy of the actual physical facilities and other modalities obtaining on the ground. Accordingly, the Team resolved that it was absolutely necessary to take a trip to Gulu, carry out a physical inspection of the actual site for the start-off, and hold discussions with the political and civil leadership of the District, with a view to appraise them of the developments and to bring them on board.
3. Considering the urgency of matter, the Team, through the Chairman, agreed to seek an early concurrence from the Ministry of Education and Sports. This concurrence was obtained and the trip was endorsed. The Team would like to acknowledge the endorsement and thank the Ministers, the Permanent Secretary and the rest of the staff of the Ministry for their support.

### The Trip

4. The Team undertook the trip to Gulu from 24<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> July 2001. Wherever the Team visited, it was treated to very warm receptions.

The media provided a very broad coverage. The Team would like to acknowledge the warm hospitality, generous assistance and support extended to it by District Leaders and Authorities of the secondary schools and tertiary institutions visited. The Team also acknowledges the wide coverage provided by the press and the radio stations in Gulu.

5. The objectives of the trip were to:
  - i) Ascertain the adequacy of the existing physical facilities [office and lecture-room buildings/blocks, student and staff accommodation, water and power supplies, etc.] for a possible start of the University during the 2001/2002 academic year,
  - ii) Identify candidates for the first batch of recruitment onto the academic and non-academic staff of the university,

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- iii) Ascertain the availability of students for a possible start-off during the 2001/2002 academic year;
6. During its three days' visit, the Team:
- i) Met with District officials, led by Chairman of Local Council V and including the Resident District Commissioner, the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of Local Council V, the Chief and Assistant Chief Administrative Officers, the Secretaries for Health, Child Welfare and Environment, and for Production and Marketing.
  - ii) Toured Gulu District Farm Institute, the proposed ultimate sites for Gulu University of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, Unyama National Teachers College, Sir Samuel Baker Secondary School, St. Joseph's College Layibi, the National Integrated Teacher Education Programme Offices and potential residential houses for staff accommodation.
  - iii) Held a briefing session for representatives of the national print press and the local and national FM radio stations to explain the purpose of the visit and outline the related programmes.

### **Discussions with District Officials**

During the discussions with the District Officials, the Team:

- 7. Was informed that the issue of starting the University had been a long-standing one and that although the idea of a University in Northern Uganda may have kicked off on a wrong note, this matter had now been resolved and that the visit was therefore considered very opportune.
- 8. Received reports of immense goodwill within and beyond Gulu District to have the University open immediately,
- 9. Was informed that the District Local Council V had already resolved to allocate the District Farm Institute as the first home for the University and that the modalities of handing it over were being handled between the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, specifically The National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO) and the Ministry of Education and Sports.
- 10. Was further informed that the District Local Council had allocated the Headquarters of former Northern Integrated Teacher Education Programme (NITEP) as administration offices for the University and that discussions were proceeding between the Office of the Prime Minister, the Ministry of Education and the District over transfer.
- 11. Also learnt that the Government of Norway, through its Development Agency, had expressed a lot of interest in assisting the new University start off, and that the District would link the Task Force Management Committee with the relevant officers in the Norwegian Development Agency and Ministry of Finance to obtain details of this offer and the modalities of their assistance.
- 12. Received a pledge of assistance by the District in the search for possible accommodation facilities within Gulu Municipality for rent by members of staff.

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During the discussions, the Team requested the District officials to carry out some advocacy work on its behalf in the area of provision of accommodation for students and staff. The Team indicated that construction of hostels for students and residential houses could not and would not constitute a core business of the University. Rather the local business community and entrepreneurs should be urged to invest in this very lucrative area, as is happening within the environs of Makerere University, so that the University would concentrate on construction and provision of teaching facilities only.

## Inspection of Facilities on the Ground

13. The Team identified the following facilities during its visit and inspection tours;

i) At Gulu District Farm Institute (Two kilometer from GPO)

- A dining hall with capacity for 100 seats;
- A kitchen with storage and cooking facilities;
- One block of five, single-bedroom, residential flats;
- Two, double bed-room, residential houses;
- An assembly hall, with a capacity of 200, when seated around desks;
- An administration block, incorporating two offices and two lecture rooms, each capable of taking in 60 students seated around desks, but capable of easily accommodating 100 chairs with arm rests;
- Two dormitories, each incorporating 10 cubicles and capable of accommodating 40 students on the basis of two double-deckers per cubicle, and so giving a total capacity for 80 students;
- A new 25-kVA Electric Generator;
- A set of external toilets and ventilated improved pit (VIP) latrines.
- More than eight unipots;
- Running water from the National Water and Sewerage Corporation's urban system; and
- A borehole.

ii) At Unyama National Teachers College:

- One common laboratory, serving Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

iii) At Sir Samuel Baker Secondary School:

- One biology laboratory for both ordinary and advanced levels;
- Two chemistry laboratories (one for ordinary level and another for advanced level);
- Two physics laboratories (one for ordinary level and another for advanced level);

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iv) At St. Joseph's College Layibi:

- One biology laboratory for ordinary and advanced levels,
- Two chemistry laboratories (one for ordinary level and another for advanced level),
- Two physics laboratories (one for ordinary level and another for advanced level),
- Workshop for technical education from ordinary to advanced levels.

v) At Headquarters **of the** Northern Integrated Teacher Education Programme (NITEP)

- Two blocks, each with 3 Office Rooms;
- One block with 6 Office Rooms;
- One block with 6 Office Rooms and a Board Room;
- One 3-bed roomed residential house just outside the fence;
- Once 10-kVA electric generator;
- Complete fencing of the premises.

### Evaluation of the Adequacy of Facilities on the Ground

The Team, after due inspection of the various facilities on the ground, ascertained that:

14. The space and facilities at the District Farm Institute are adequate to support an early opening of the University with an initial intake of 160 students, three-quarters (120) of whom would be Government-sponsored and one-quarter (40) of whom would have to be privately-sponsored and non-resident, provided there were sufficient funds for:
- i) Furniture for class rooms, offices, library, assembly hall and dormitories,
  - ii) 25 double-decker beds in the two dormitories,
  - iii) Essential teaching materials (for both laboratory and lecture room sessions),
  - iv) Acquisition initial books for a book-bank system and a reference library,
  - v) Construction of an additional temporary block of 8 lecture rooms,
  - vi) Purchase of a 25- or 30-seater vehicle to transport students between the Institute and Sir Samuel Baker Secondary School and St. Joseph's College, Layibi, for practical/laboratory sessions,
  - vii) Purchase of kitchenware and utensils,
  - viii) Feeding students.

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15. The laboratory facilities at Sir Samuel Baker Secondary School and St. Joseph's College Layibi, with a modest beef-up through a supply of specialised equipment and materials (chemicals) are capable of supporting laboratory/practical sessions for courses in Biology, Chemistry and Physics under Bachelor of Science in Education undergraduate programmes.
16. Undergraduate programmes in Business Studies, as well as short term evening and weekend courses leading to the award of certificates and diplomas, could be started on a private-sponsorship basis with the commencement of the 2001-2002 year.
17. Privately sponsored short-term courses in Information Communications Technology (ICT), leading to the award of certificates and diplomas, could be started during the 2001-2002 academic year.
18. Privately sponsored courses leading to a postgraduate diploma in Education could be started during the 2001-2002 academic year, as there many Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts graduates unemployed in the streets.
19. The facilities at the Northern Integrated Teacher Education Programme are (NITEP) offices adequate as initial administrative Headquarters of the University, but that they will, require painting and some minor renovations.

### Discussions with Head of Secondary and Tertiary Institutions

20. The Team held discussions with the Heads of Sir Samuel Baker Secondary School, St. Joseph's College Layibi, and, Unyama National Teachers' College on the issue of the use of their facilities for conducting laboratory sessions for programmes in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. All the Heads agreed to offer their facilities but required that formal applications be made to them to enable them to table the matters before their respective Boards of Governors for ultimate decisions.

### Conclusions

21. At the end of the tour, the Team was satisfied that there is the necessary facility on the ground to start-off the University during the 2001/2002 academic year in the area of Undergraduate Science Education, and in the areas Business Studies and Information Communication Technology (ICT) as evening and weekend programmes, and also in the area of Postgraduate Diploma In Education.
22. The other faculties of Agriculture, Natural Resources, Medicine, Engineering, etc. could then start during the 2002/2003 academic year.

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## Proposed Next Steps

23. Following the review of the facilities on the ground and discussions held with District officials and heads of the neighboring secondary schools and tertiary institutions, the Team is of the view that the following steps need to be taken in order that the University may Kick-off during the 2001/2002 academic year:

- i) Recruitment of academic staff for the Bachelor of Science (Education) programme, Business Studies, Information Communication Technology (ICT),
- ii) Renovation of the facilities at the premises of Northern Integrated Teacher Education Programme and setting up of the University's administrative offices,
- iii) Construction of 8 separated temporary blocks as lecture rooms,
- iv) Construction of a cooking shed to augment the existing kitchen facility,
- v) Procurement of additional equipment and laboratory materials to supplement laboratory facilities at Sir Samuel Baker Secondary School and those at St. Joseph's College, Layibi,
- vi) Full fencing of the Gulu District Farm Institute premises,
- vii) Furnishing and equipping of offices at both the District Institute and the former Northern Integrated Teacher Education Programme (NITEP) headquarters,
- viii) Procurement of furniture for lecture rooms, the library, the kitchen, the dining and assembly halls, etc., at the District Farm Institute,
- ix) Procurement of kitchen equipment and utensils,
- x) Procurement of 50 double-decker beds,
- xi) Procurement of teaching materials (chalk, flip boards, etc.).

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## Officers/Persons Met

The Team would like to thank the officials and persons: in the following lists for the time availed in facilitating the Team's work while in Gulu:

### **From District Local Council V:**

1. Lt. Colonel Walter Ochora - *Chairman, District local Council V*
2. Mr. Musa Ecweru - *Resident District Commissioner*
3. Mr. Ben Acellam - *Speaker, District local Council V*
4. Mrs. Ida Rose Aol-Okot - *Deputy Speaker, District Local Council V*
5. Mr. Henry Owori Achieng - *Chief Administrative Officer .*
6. Ms. Christine Atimango Ario - *Assistant Chief Administrative Officer (PPO)*
7. Ms. Santa Joyce Laker - *Secretary, Health, Child Welfare and Environment*
8. Mr. Richard Oweka Kaggwa - *Secretary for Production and Marketing*

### **From Secondary and Tertiary Institutions of Learning:**

9. Mr. Peter Abal - *Principal, District Farm institute*
10. Mr. Okot Lawel - *Registrar, Unyama National Teachers College*
11. Mr. Mark Ochan - *Headmaster, Sir Samuel Baker Secondary School*
12. Mr. Marcellino Okullo - *Headmaster, St. Joseph's College, Layibi*
13. Mr. Alphonse Olanya - *Deputy Headmaster St. Joseph's College, Layibi*
14. Mr. Uma Zake - *Deputy Headmaster, St. Joseph's College, Layibi*
15. Mr. Alfred Okumu - *Head of Science*

### **From Press and Electronic Media**

16. Mr. Nahaman Ojwe - *Manager, FM Radio Freedom, Gulu*
  17. Mr. Arthur Okot - *Rupiny/Media Plus/Radio Rhino FM, Gulu*
  18. Mr. Christopher Ochowun - *Radio Four 89.4 FM, Gulu*
  19. Mr. Oketch Bitek - *Central Broadcasting Service/The Monitor*
  20. Mr. Keith Komakech - *New Vision/Rupiny.*
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