

VC's Newsletter

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Academic Year 2023 Convocation Mass and Installation Liturgy

This year's start of the academic calendar at the Tangaza University College began on a different and celebratory note. With funfair and dance, it was obvious that something was afoot.

The celebration resounded the beginning of class for ongoing students and the start of a new life in the university for the freshers.



The highlight of the joyous celebration was the installation of Rev. Fr. Edward Etengu OSB as the Tangaza University College Chancellor Designate and the installation of the new Vice Chancellor Designate; Rev. Prof. Patrick Mwanja, CSSp.

The Prof took over from his predecessor; Rev. Prof. Apollinaire Chishugi.

It was all color and pomp, as the celebration started with Holy Mass. This year's Mass brought a cultural diversity and spectacle from across Africa.

Tangaza students from across the continent animated the Mass with vibrant creativity and lively dance.

A troupe from Burundi danced to the Entrance song, while a group from Cameroon performed the procession of the Gospel.

This ensemble, came complete with a fire eater, a youth carrying aloft a reed canopy that housed the Bible, and traditional elders that escorted the Good News.

The team from Madagascar entertained the congregation with the liturgical dance that incorporated both male and female students.

The academic fraternity who stood up to be counted did not disappoint. Numerous TUC academicians escorted the Chancellor and Prof. Mwanja to and from the installation.



Conference on the Role of Religion in Academia

A novel plan to impact the youth in Africa and their counterparts in Europe is projected to revolutionize the way these young people interact and more so on religion and culture.

To establish this, a consortium named Virtual Exchanges in Religious Euro- African Dialogue (VEREAD) held a kick off meeting in Nairobi about a week ago.



The conference, was organized by the Institute for Interreligious Dialogue and Islamic Studies (IRDIS) of the Tangaza University College.

The highly diverse consortium comprises of five partners based in Sub-Saharan Africa; namely Kenya, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Uganda and South Africa. The other three are from the EU; that is Italy, Netherland and France.

The conference declared VEREAD the tool to be used to enable youth from the two continents engage in a transnational virtual dialogue and interactive exchange of ideas about Religion. This will in turn fight any form of intolerance and promote intercultural understanding.

Youth in Africa & Europe to interact in Religion, Culture

The project is expected to enhance critical thinking and stimulate cross-cultural virtual interaction about religion between students from different cultural backgrounds and countries.

VEREAD will use an interdisciplinary and comparative study approach, to foster a culture of tolerance against

any gender, ethnic and religious discrimination to disseminate knowledge about Religion.



This will provide students with methodological and digital skills that can support them in their studies and careers. It will further strengthen the capacity building of the partner institutions through ad-hoc virtual training for teaching staff in online pedagogy.

The partnership will amplify collaboration between European and African universities as well as research centres. This is expected to promote equal learning opportunities for all, and make higher education more accessible through virtual exchanges.



Hot on the heels of the VEREAD meeting was a two-day conference on the Role of Religion in Academia, as part of a series of conferences aimed at establishing an African Academy of Religion.

ISC Day 2023

Journalism and the Environment

The devastating effects of climate change has become a global concern. A lot has been said but little has been done to mitigate the outcomes. Pope Francis in his encyclical *Laudato Si*, is in the forefront in championing for a sustainable environment.

Kenya, like many other horn of Africa countries has experienced the most prolonged drought for decades in the last three years. The scorching drought has ravaged communities in arid and semi arid areas, decimating human lives and livestock.

The question is; what role does journalism play in this? The Institute of Social Communication (ISC) at the Tangaza University College (TUC) organized a conference aimed at sensitizing their journalism and communication students on the importance of environmental reporting.



The Tangaza VC Designate unveils the plaque to mark the official opening of the refurbished ISC studios

This was in tandem with this year's ISC Day themed "Journalism and Environment" that attracted key players from the media industry, the Catholic Church, UNESCO, and UNEP, among others.

Speaking during the celebrations to mark the day, Mr. Linus Kaikai the Royal Media Services Editorial Director, explained that journalism and the environment are now intertwined. This, he clarified is because of increasing issues like conflict that have become a central part of reporting. This has made environmental reporting a key part of journalism.

He emphasized that the media has a positive impact on the environment, and is about passion and understanding. He added that it is no longer an objective space; and a journalist must personally care for the environment by raising awareness.

He further cautioned the participants that because the environment is about resources like water and land, environmental reporting is a hostile situation. Many environmental activists have been killed, he added.

He noted that journalism training institutions have now involved partners like UNEP and UNESCO to enhance change and safety.

Another speaker, Mr. Martin Karadi the UNESCO Representative for Eastern Africa said that TUC plays a key role in promoting academic excellence. He hoped that ISC would grow and become a reference point for other universities.

He urged the journalists to raise awareness on environmental issues.

On his part, Mr. David Munene, the UNEP Rep, challenged ISC journalism students to look for spaces for engagement, so that they can create their own kind of news on diplomacy and negotiation.

"You have to be intentionally present and available to be the change" he concluded.



The Launch of the Refurbished ISC Studio

It is official, the Institute of Social Communication at the Tangaza University College has the most modern state of the art TV studios in the country.

The studio was launched on 29th September 2023 by the University College Vice Chancellor Designate; Rev Prof. Patrick Mwanja.

The new workspace for the students of journalism, boasts a top-notch space that will change the way the learners learn and do their assignments. It will provide the learners with hands on experience in television production and directing.

The new studio comprises of five news sets and can accommodate twenty students. Some of the trainings that can be undertaken in the studio include; news anchoring, interviews, talk shows, sports reporting and financial reporting among others. It is also equipped with the control room and a gallery.

Linus Kaikai, the Director of Strategy and Innovation at Citizen TV praised the Tangaza Administration for coming up with the initiative. He further promised to put Tangaza into consideration whenever there will be a need for studio space during activities such as presidential debates.

Congratulations to the Institute of Social Communication on the launch of a 'Very modern state-of-the-art studio.' He applauded.

"That studio is as good as they come. It is of broadcast quality". He added.

ISC Day in Pictures

