

# The University of Dodoma

By **PROF IDRIS S. KIKULA**

VICE CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY OF DODOMA

**Mr Kikwete made a promise that if elected, he would build a new university for Tanzania. He kept that promise**

After being nominated as the presidential candidate on 4th May 2005 at the Chimwaga Conference Hall in what is now the University of Dodoma's (UDOM) main building, Jakaya Kikwete began a long and gruelling election campaign that included a commitment to increase the numbers of students attending university.

During his campaign, Mr Kikwete made a promise that if elected, he would build a new university for Tanzania. He kept that promise. More than two years later, in September 2007, the University of Dodoma was ready for its first intake of students. The President was very keen to get updates on the development of what had become a pet project. I was invited to brief him on the opening.

After the briefing, Mr Kikwete stood up to leave. As he did so, he recalled the origins of UDOM, saying that while delivering a campaign speech in the countryside, one of his advisors told him to promise that if elected he would build a university, to which he reluctantly agreed. He also confessed that he was not sure at the time if it was a good idea to make such a promise. He said: "I nevertheless made the promise because I believed in the idea". The same sentiments were reflected in the statement he made on August 2nd, 2007 when he visited the University for the first time. While addressing the deans of the University of Dodoma and other dignitaries, the President remarked: "You guys are good! So you have made this thing a reality".

President Kikwete kept alive his enthusiasm for the University of Dodoma. Every time we met he always asked: "How is the construction of the university going?" Some people felt that it was an unattainable project within such a short time. But the President had appointed us to get the job done and not find excuses for not doing so. The President's constant personal encouragement was a source of inspiration. I sincerely thank him for initiating the idea of starting the University and for his continued support.

The initiative has expanded the enrolment of our boys and girls into university. It has also given us, the management of UDOM, a rare opportunity to serve Tanzania. But the history books will remember that it was the President's personal initiative and support that made possible the University of Dodoma. He has continued to highlight the importance of higher education for the country. For example, after taking

office, and inaugurating Parliament on December 25th, 2005 he said: "Let us build at least an additional university. We must learn from the fact that this year many of our young people have not been able to gain admission to university because of limited places." **E**

## Establishment

The University of Dodoma was established on 28 March 2007 following the signing of the University of Dodoma Charter.

- Location: 8 km East of Dodoma Town
- Land Area: 15 000 acres
- Senior Officers;

*Chancellor:* Hon Benjamin William Mkapa

*Chairman of Council:* Hon Dr Mohammed Gharib Bilal

*Vice Chancellor:* Prof Idris S. Kikula

*Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic, Research and Consultancy):* Prof. Ludovick D.B. Kinabo

*Deputy Vice Chancellor (Planning Finance and Administration):* Prof. Shaaban K Mlacha.

## Academic Units

College of Humanities and Social Sciences

College of Education

College of Informatics and Virtual Education

School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

School of Medicine and Nursing

School of Mines and Petroleum Engineering.

## Academic Programmes

Total number of programmes:

Undergraduate: 74;

Graduate programmes: 21.

## Enrolment

- 2009-10 enrolment: 7946

- Per cent of Female students: 33

- Projected total enrolment: 40,000 by 2014

- First Graduation: Scheduled 26 November 2010

- Staff Disposition: Academic: 540 (On training: 145), Administrative: 249.

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