



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI
COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF LITERATURE

PERFORMANCE CONTRACT

QUARTERLY REPORTING

JULY 2013 – DECEMBER 2013

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PERFORMANCE CONTRACT 2013-2014

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1.0 Introduction

The Department was very busy during the academic year 2012-2013. Here are some highlights of the activities and achievements for the academic year.

1.1 Completion of Review of the curriculum

The completion of reviewing of the curriculum and presentation through the University Senate was in July, 2013 and we reviewed Bachelor of Arts in Literature, Master of Arts Program.

1.2 Development of New Programmes

The Department developed and concluded the following new programmes

- i. Master of Arts in Theatre & Film Studies
- ii. Bachelor of Arts in Performing Arts
- iii. Diploma in Theatre & Film Studies
- iv. Certificate in Theatre & Film Studies
- v. Certificate in Russian Literature, Language and Culture
- vi. Certificate in Japanese Literature, Language and Culture

2.0 Students enrolment

2.1 BA in Literature

Undergraduate programme: The department has continued to offer courses to Module I, Module II and Module III students. In the Module I programme, the number of students enrolled for literature was 126 while in Module II the number was 8.

2.2 MA Programmes

The Department has maintained its position as the lead centre for postgraduate scholarship in Literature in the country. The number of MA in Literature and MA in Theatre and Film Studies students, who joined in September and December, 2013 was 35 in both Regular and school based programmes.

2.2.1 MA of Arts in Theatre and Film Studies

We received 4 MA full time students in 2013/2014 Academic Year and 4 school based students.

This new course is designed for teachers and interested persons who may want to further their skills in Theatre and Film Studies for purposes of production in schools and teaching at the college and university level.

The course aims to equip the student with advanced analytical skills in theatre and film studies, impart knowledge in properties for Film and Theatre, encourage students to appreciate the role of film and theatre in society and also help them acquire techniques in the business of theatre and film.

2.3 MA Programme and Research:

Name	Registration No.	Project Title
Serah Kasembeli	C50/66450/2010	Water but Wine
Lencer Acheing Ndede	C50/62482/2011	Fantasy in Digitalised Folk Tales: A case of Tinga Tinga Tales
Kavila Faith Syokau	C50/62944/2011	The Theme of Environmental Conservation in Different colours and Terrorists of the Aberdere by Ng'ang'a Mbugua
Julius Kanyari Mwangi	-	Memory and Violence in the Ethiopian Novel
Tom Odhiambo Owiti	-	The Literariness of Political Speeches in Kenya
Winnie Bosibori Ogero	-	Formation & Transformation of Identities in the Kayole One Films
Anyango Bernerd Francois	-	Moderating the Gender divide through the Music of Vincent Ongidi

2.4 PhD Programme and Research:

The Department of Literature has a strong Doctoral research programme with the active researchers under supervision currently.

	Name	Status
1.	Mbui Joram Kamau	Registration accepted by BPS
2.	Judith Jefwa	Approved Registration Awaiting fee waiver
3.	Kimingichi Wabende	Thesis with External Examiner
4.	Benjamin Kitata	Approved Registration Awaiting fee waiver
5.	Geoffrey Osaaji Mumia	Full Registration C80/80021/2008
6.	Macharia Mwangi	Full Registration
7.	Elizabeth Jumba	Full Registration
8.	Orina Felix Ayioka	Full Registration
9.	Anna Kula	Full Registration
10.	Joseph Juma Musungu	Full Registration
11.	Agnes Magu	Full Registration C80/81301/2011
12.	Larry Ndivo	Graduated in December, 2013

2.4.1 Strengthening PhD Programme

The Department is currently implementing a strategy that will make it attract postgraduate students for MA and PhD from the universities in the region and beyond. This entails having high calibre of committed researchers and relevant courses, in the department and strong networks with centres of excellence in other parts of the world.

The Department introduced a new regulation that all the PhD candidates must present their Chapters at least twice a year.

3.0 PROFESSIONAL AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT

During the 2012-2013 academic years, one member of our staff was promoted to senior lecturer position. He is:

- Dr. Alex Nelungo Wanjala
- Mr. Kimingichi Wabende submitted his theses and is waiting to be examined.
- Mr. Kitata Makau has submitted a letter of intent to submit

4.0 INTERNATIONAL LINKS AND COLLABORATIONS

In the 2012/2013 academic year, the Department enhanced its international profile by engaging with other universities in Africa, US, Asia and Europe, either to strengthen existing collaborations or start new ones. Among the links on course include:

- An MoU with Ministry of Sports, Arts and Culture.
- An MoU with the Ministry of Education

- Two of our students have gone to South Africa (Stellenbosch University) through PaNgeA scholarship to study PhD. They are;

1) Mr. Yenjela, David Wafula

2) Ms Marciana Nafula Were

Exchange students with SOKA University



One Student (Nyokabi Wellington Waithaka) received a scholarship to study at the Soka University.

*Wellington Waithaka
Nyokabi*

The Department has also collaborated with other organisations and institutions including the Ministry of Sports, Culture Arts and Culture which will benefit students taking BA in Performing Arts and Theatre & Film Studies courses.

There was also collaboration with Kenya Science Campus where we put up classes for Theatre & Film Studies.

5.0 DEPARTMENTAL SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES

The Department has been able to sustain departmental seminars for sharing progress in research as well as mentoring young scholars. As from September-December, 2013, the Department maintained its monthly participation in international seminars. Members of staff have been able to travel to Universities in the USA, Africa, Europe and Asia presenting papers and networking with other scholars. This has put the Department of Literature and the University of Nairobi on the international academic map.

5.1 Seminar papers presented in the department of literature from the month of July-Dec 2013

S/No	Title of Paper Presented	Presenter	Date
1.	Greek Myths and Legends in our Daily Life	Mrs. Anna Petkova-Mwangi	3/7/2014
2.	Rocking the Emperor's Throne: African Languages in the Disciplines	Prof. John Mugane	17/7/2013
3.	The Nature of Biography	Prof. Henry Indangasi	31/7/2013
4.	Authentic Existence in Selected Works by Paule Marshall	Prof. Monica Mweseli	7/8/2013

5.2 Departmental Retreat

In the month of September, the Department had a Retreat for all the staff members from 10-12th October, 2013. The Retreat was for the staff to prepare for the teaching of various courses in Theatre and Film Studies.

6.0 PUBLIC FORA

6.1 Dr Mongane Wally Serote



*Dr. Wally Serote: Award
Winnina Poet & Author*

The public lecture by *Dr Mongane Wally Serote* was conducted on 20th August, 2013. The event was addressed by Prof. Henry Mutoro DVC (Academic Affairs) on behalf of the University's Vice-Chancellor Prof. George Magoha.

Mongane Wally Serote was born in Sophiatown, Johannesburg on 8 May 1944, just four years before the National Party came to power in South Africa. His early education took place in the poverty-stricken township of Alexandra and later at Morris Isaacson High – the school in Jabavu, Soweto, which would much later play a significant role in the 1976 uprising against Bantu Education. As Serote's high school years came to a close, he joined the African National Congress. He soon became involved with the Black Consciousness (BC) movement and was inspired by the poetry that spoke of black identity, resistance and revolt.



*Dr. Wally Serote addressing participants in the
Multinurose Hall*

In 1969 he was arrested and detained for nine months in solitary confinement under the Terrorism Act. In 1972, he published his first collection, *Yakhal'inkomo*, which went on to win the *Ingrid Jonker Prize* for debut poetry in English. This early success was followed by a string of highly acclaimed collections throughout the 1970s and 1980s.

Serote was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship and received an MFA from Columbia University in 1979. His poetry that took shape during this period suggests influences from the Harlem Renaissance and Negritude movements, with hints that the writing of Amiri Baraka, Don L. Lee and Ishmael Reed offered him a new mode for expansion and expression.

Unable to return to South Africa after completing his studies, Serote remained in voluntary exile, going to Botswana in 1977 where he rejoined the ANC underground and military wing, Mkhonto we Sizwe. Together with the artist Thami Mnyele (whose image of a mother and child graced the cover of *Yakhal'inkomo* he was instrumental in establishing the Medu Art Ensemble in Gaborone.

His debut novel, *To Every Birth Its Blood*, (Ravan: 1981) offers a riveting insight into the political activity in the 1970s, exploring the tensions of state violence, black apathy and the shift into violent dissention. Serote's later novel, *Gods of Our Time* (Ravan: 1999), outlines the growing militancy of civilians and the gathering intensity of military campaigns that ultimately contributed to the toppling of apartheid.

In 1993, his seventh poetry collection, *Third World Express* (David Phillips: 1992) won the Noma Award for Publishing in Africa. In 2004, he received the Pablo Neruda award from the Chilean government.

Serote held a variety of positions in the ANC, returning to South Africa in 1990, when he was appointed Head of the Department of Arts and Culture of the ANC in Johannesburg. He has also served as chair of the parliamentary select committee for arts and culture. Serote was awarded honorary doctorates from the universities of KwaZulu-Natal and Transkei. Until recently he was a Member of Parliament and Chairman of the Portfolio Committee for Arts, Culture, Language, Science and Technology.

'Shadow in Motion: Bra-Zeke Mphahlele', 'Heat and Sweat', 'For Those of Us Who Make Music', 'When Lights Go Out' and 'Child of the Song' are from part two of *Behold Mama, Flowers* (AD Donker, 1978). The first part of this collection is the epic title poem.

In practice, Serote, a deeply spiritual man, is involved in the vital healing the country needs. In his private capacity as a traditional healer-a sangoma – and as CEO of the Freedom Park Trust, he was instrumental in overseeing the construction of the Freedom Park Memorial that opened recently in Pretoria. This visionary monument, built in a stark and beautiful spot, honours the contribution of those comrades who served the struggle for liberation with their lives.

Serote's work as a poet is far from over. Those who love this land and yearn for its reconstruction want honest talk and an integrated vision.

6.2 Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie



Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

The public lecture by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie was conducted at the University of Nairobi's Multi-Purpose Hall (8.4.4) on 29th November 2013. The event was addressed by Principal of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences Prof. Enos Njeru. She used the occasion to launch her latest book *Americanah*. Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie grew up in Nigeria.

Her work has been translated into thirty languages and has appeared in various publications, including *The New Yorker*, *Granta*, *The O. Henry Prize Stories*, the *Financial Times* and *Zoetrope*. She is the author of the novels *Purple Hibiscus*, which won the Commonwealth Writers' Prize and the Hurston/Wright Legacy Award, and *Half of a Yellow Sun*, which won the Orange Prize and was a National Book Critics Circle Award Finalist, a *New York Times* Notable Book, and a *People* and *Black Issues Book Review* Best Book of the Year; and the story collection *The Thing Around Your Neck*. Her new novel, *Americanah*, is being published around the world in April and May 2013.

A recipient of a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship, she divides her time between the United States and Nigeria.

7.0 TRAININGS ORGANISED BY THE DEPARTMENT

Workshop for Regional Film Coordinators and Drama Secretaries: December 4-5, 2013

The department of Literature in-collaboration with the Ministry of Education conducted a capacity building workshop at the YMCA in order to enhance capacity of teachers in different aspects of film-making Evaluate the films presented in 2012, assess the set out rules and regulations for the film festival, Assess the needs of the teachers in the film festival and Analyse adjudication process for film.

The workshop was attended by directors and drama teachers from all over the country.



Participants following the presentation keenly

8.0 THE FREE TRAVELLING THREATRE (FTT)

In September 2013, 18 students and 2 staff from the Free Travelling Theatre group went to Japan on a cultural trip organized by Osaka in the World Programme. The Group also performed during RRI meetings in School of Law, Main Campus and during the University's 2 graduations

9.0 PUBLICATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE DEPARTMENT

(a) Prof. Wanjiku Mukabi Kabira

- i. W. M. Kabira & K. N. Elishiba, (2014): *National Policies and Food Security in Kenya Gender and policy analysis tools*, HEKIMA Journal of the humanities and social sciences, University of Nairobi, Faculty of Arts.
- ii. W. M. Kabira, (2013): *Women's Experiences as Sources of Public and Legitimate Knowledge: Constitution Making in Kenya*. African Women's Studies Centre, University of Nairobi.
- iii. W. M. Kabira, (2013): *Our Second Homecoming: Voices from African Women*, The Journal of the Department of Literature University of Nairobi, 2013 (with the printers).

(b) Dr. Miriam Maranga-Musonye

- i. “*Literacy Insurgence in the Kenyan Urban Space: Mchongoano and the Popular Art scene in Nairobi*” in Stephanie Newell and Onookone Okome, eds., *Popular Culture in Africa: The Episteme of the Everyday*. New York & London: ROUTLEDGE, 2014. PP 195-217.

(c) Prof. Peter Wasamba

- i. Wasamba, P. “Quest for Ethnic Tolerance in Kenya: *The Role of Oral History*”. *Journal of African Affairs*. Vol. 33. February 2013, 247-272.
- ii. _____. “Going beyond Data Collection in Ethnography: *Options for Bridging the Gap between Researchers and Archivists.*” *Journal of African Renaissance Studies*. Vol. 7. No. 2. April 2013, 4-17.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/18186874.2013.774695>.
- iii. _____. “Tradition, Borrowing and Plagiarism: an Examination of Joseph Conrad’s *Under Western Eyes* and Ngugi wa Thiongo’s *A Grain of Wheat*.” *African Affairs Journal*. Hankuk University. Vol. 34. September 2013. Pp 95-126.
- iv. Wasamba, P & Ben Sihanya. What do Kenyan artists get for their skill? Reforming compensation under copyright. *Journal of African Cultural Studies*. SOAS. Vol. 24, No. 2, December 2012, 171–183.
<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/13696815.2012.732303>.
- v. _____. “Echoes of Dialogue in African and Korean Literatures”. *The Nairobi Journal of Literature*. (in print).
- vi. _____. “Voicing Seoul Metropolis: The Other Side of Urbanization in Korea.” *HEKIMA: Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences* (in print).

(d) Dr. Alex Nelungo Wanjala

- i. “*Ngang’a Mbugua’s Different Colours as an Allegory of the Kenyan Nation.*” *Chemchemi Journal*, Forthcoming 2014.
- ii. “*Defining the self through Autobiography: Saga Mc Odongo’s Deadly Money Maker.*” *Nairobi Journal of Literature*, Forthcoming 2014.
- iii. “*Understanding Modern Korea through Oral Testimonies.*” *HEKIMA journal*, Forthcoming 2014.

- iv. *"The art of narrating pain in Margaret Ogola's Place of Destiny."* In **Readings on Margaret Ogola** (Nairobi: Goethe Institute and Native Intelligence) Forthcoming 2014.

10.0 CONFERENCES ATTENDED AND PAPERS PRESENTED IN 2013

(a) Prof. Wanjiku M. Kabira

Papers written and presented

- i. *African Women's Health: Speaking for Ourselves* presented at the 3rd International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) Africa Regional Conference, Inauguration of the Confederation of African Midwives Associations (CONAMA) at Safari Park Hotel from July 14-19, 2013.
- ii. *Women Negotiating for Space in Leadership and Governance in Africa: Lessons from the Kenyan Women* presented at Joint Biennial Workshop of the United Nations (IANWGE) and OECD (GENDRNET) on November 6 & 7, 2013 in Paris, France.
- iii. *Influencing National Policies towards Sustainable Food Security in Africa through Research* presented at International Network of Women Engineers and Scientists (INWES) Regional Conference, from November 19-21, 2013, Nairobi Kenya.
- iv. *Devolution & Public Finance Management* presented to UoN administration staff at UoN Rapid Results Initiative (RRI) workshop on implementation of Kenya constitution (2010) held at Central Catering Unit on September 6, 2013.

Conferences/Key meetings attended in 2012/2013

- i. Dissemination workshop on *Water Harvesting for Sustainable Environment, Food Security and Community Development in Kenya* held on July 23, 2013 at the Council Chamber, UoN.
- ii. Key stakeholders consultative meeting with Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Devolution and Planning Held on July 31, 2013 at the Ministry of Devolution and Planning Board room.
- iii. Launch of UWEZO fund for youth and women on September 8, 2013 at University of Nairobi Chancellor's Court.
- iv. Joint Biennial Workshop of the United Nations (IANWGE) and OECD (GENDRNET) on November 6-7, 2013 in Paris, France

- v. International Network of Women Engineers and Scientists (INWES) Regional Conference, from November 19-21, 2013, Nairobi Kenya.
- vi. Launch of the Kenya National Commission for UNESCO Board and Programme Expert Committees held on November 26, 2013 at Hilton Hotel, Nairobi.
- vii. Validation workshop for the *Impact and Cost of Gender Gaps in Agriculture* held at Safari Park Hotel from November 19-21, 2013.
- viii. One day training of research assistants and enumerators for the *Impact and Cost of Gender Gaps in Agriculture* (pre-testing) in 1 County held on December 19-21, 2013 at the Kenya Science Campus, University of Nairobi.

(b) Prof. Peter Wasamba

Conferences Attended and Papers Presented

- i. Wasamba, Peter, “Ethical Issues in Digitalization and Repatriation of Oral Literature.” A paper presented at the Multimedia Research and Documentation Colloquium, Mohammed V University-Agdal, Rabat, Morocco. 13-14 December 2013.

Funded Research Projects

- i. 2012 July-June 2015: Researcher, “Establishment of Korean Studies at the University of Nairobi Project.” Supported by the Academy of Korean Studies, Seoul. (USD129,000).
- ii. 2011-2013: Research Director; “Voices from the Cities: A comparative Study on Urbanization in Kenya and Korea”, supported by the Academy of Korean Studies, Seoul. (USD 82000)
- iii. 2011-2014: Research: “Bridging the Divide: Networking African and Korean Researchers,” supported by the Academy of Korean Studies, Seoul. (USD 63,000).

a) Prof. Henry Indangasi

Editing

- i. The Nairobi Journal of Literature, A publication of the Department of Literature.
- ii. Rapid Results Initiative (RRI) articles for publication.

11.0 ARTICLES WRITTEN BY STAFF/STUDENT

a. Prof. Chris Wanjala

- ♣ Literary Discourse, A look at the golden era for scholars: Demand for evidence smacks disrespect, Saturday Nation, February 1, 2014.
- ♣ The Harvest is great, we need literary critics. Saturday Nation, January 18, 2014.

b. Dr. Tom Odhiambo

- ♣ Literary Discourse, Where is the Evidence, Saturday Nation, January 25, 2014.

c. Dr. Godwin Siundu

- ♣ Literary Discourse, *Moyez Vassanji*, Physicist who quit the lab for writing, Saturday Nation, January 25, 2014.

d. Kingwa Kamencu (Student)

- ♣ Perspective, Binyavanga and swinging from pathos lies of non-conformity, January 25, 2014.

12.0 STAFF DEVELOPMENT

The Department aims to have a dynamic team of literary scholars with local and international recognition. The Department hopes to achieve this by supporting members of staff currently pursuing their PhD programmes to complete within two years. Scholars with PhDs are also encouraged to conduct research, and disseminate their findings through seminars, conferences and publications. In 2012/2013, one member of staff was promoted to senior lecturer's position.

There are three opportunities for staff members to complete their PhDs.

- ♣ Mr. Kimingichi Wabende
- ♣ Mrs Judith Jefwa
- ♣ Mr. Kitata Makau
- ♣ Mr. Osaaji Mumia

The Department of Literature also organises seminars for Ph.D. students to present progress reports and chapters on their thesis.