

COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

ACCREDITATION REPORT

ON

MOUNT KENYA UNIVERSITY

JANUARY 2011

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

On behalf of the Commission for Higher Education. I would like to thank members of the Commission for their tireless effort in ensuring that Mount Kenya University was prepared for the award of Charter. Their individual and collective experiences were invaluable for the process of accreditation.

I would like also to thank the Sponsor, Vice-Chancellor, Staff and Students of Mount Kenya University for their cooperation in the process of accreditation without which the university would have taken a much longer period to attain charter status.

I would also like to register my appreciation to the resource persons who assisted the Commission in the performance of its duties.

I wish to thank the secretariat who under the guidance of my deputies Prof. Florence K. Lenga and Mr. Joel M. Mberia worked long hours, to ensure that all the relevant documentation and materials were prepared on schedule.

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COMMISSION SECRETARY/CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Historical background

Mount Kenya University has developed from the vision of Mr. Simon Gicharu who in 1996 developed a computer research programme. The programme developed into Thika Institute of Technology which started offering certificate and diploma programmes of various universities.

In 2006, with the approval of the Commission for Higher Education, Thika Institute started collaboration with Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology to offer various diploma and degree programmes.

In the same year Thika Institute of Technology constituted into a university by the name of Mount Kenya University.

2. Interaction with the Commission

The Commission carried out a series of inspection to establish the suitability of Thika Institute of Technology for upgrading into a university. The inspections focused in the following areas:

- Governance
- Curriculum
- Physical Resources
- Library Resources
- Financial Resources
- Human Resources
- Research
- Development plans.

The Commission made detailed recommendations in all these areas which the sponsor implemented over a period of two years. Consequently the Commission awarded a Letter of Interim Authority (LIA) to Mount Kenya University in accordance with the provisions of section 9 and 10 of the Universities (Establishment of Universities) (Standardization, Accreditation and Supervision) Rules, 1989. The LIA gave the sponsor authority to set up a governing body for the university, to continue developing physical facilities to continue assembly of academic resources, to advertise programmes and to admit students.

The university opened with one approved degree programme in addition to the ones it was collaborating with Jomo Kenyatta of Agriculture and Technology. In the next two years the university developed seven (7) other programmes all of which were approved by the Commission. Degree students grew to over 1000 while the total population of students including diploma and certificate students to 5,800.

In April 2010, the university applied to the Commission for award of Charter

Having evaluated the academic programmes and the resources of Mount Kenya University, the Commission has come to the conclusion that Mount Kenya University is ready for the award of Charter. The Commission is particularly encouraged by the fact that Mount Kenya University is one of the few private universities offering science based programmes. For this reason the Commission recommends the award of Charter to Mount Kenya University.