Phase II Project Construction begins

Top: Artistic impression of the Phase II Project and Below: The signing ceremony between the contractor and the University.
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Islam,
Asalamu Aleikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakaatu.h
All praise is to Allah Alone and May Peace and Blessings be upon the seal of all messengers, leader of mutaqqeen, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and upon his noble companions, family and followers. On behalf of Umma University Sponsors, Trustee, Council, Board of Management, Senate, Staff, Students and the larger Umma University fraternity, I wish to take this opportunity to thank Allah SWT for enabling all of us witness the blessed Month of Ramdhan, 1437AH/2016.
May this Blessed Month be full of blessings, forgiveness and rewards for you and May Allah (SWT) accept all your fasts, duas, good deeds and sacrifices made during these most precious days. May Allah help us to use this special Month to increase our devotion to Him, strengthen our relationship with Him, and intensify our determination to overcome our weaknesses in our obedience to Him such that we become His devoted slaves, submitting to His every Command, no matter the difficulties we may face.
Brothers and sisters, this is the Month where Muslims have opportunities to change negative perceptions about Islam by upholding good character of caring and supporting poor people (both Muslims and non-Muslims). Muslims should always be kind to all humankind since such sense promotes justice, love, mercy, unity, peace and prosperity. All these are virtues associated with Ramadhan. It is time to harvest them.

In this Blessed Month that marks the revelation of the Glorious Qur’an and in which we strive to complete its recitation, let us also intensify our efforts to ensure that we work to implement every verse word that we recite in our lives in this world such that the light and Mercy contained in its Laws and rulings graces our lives and burns away oppression, injustices, corruption and darkness, leaving in its place unity, love, justice, mercy, care and harmony for humanity. May Allah (SWT) also bring great victories for this Ummah during this blessed Month against its oppressors and great successes in the Daawah to establish the blessed order for humanity under the protection, justice and shade of this glorious System of Allah. Ameen Allahumma Ameen!

DR. AHMED ABDI AHMED
Ag. Vice-Chancellor

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Recognition isn’t just about implementing employee programs to check them off a list; it’s about bringing out the best in people and improving your company’s bottom line. According to a survey recently commissioned, 82% of employed people don’t feel that their supervisors recognize them enough for their contributions. That lack of recognition takes a terrible toll on morale, productivity, and, ultimately, profitability.

The good news: It’s both simple and inexpensive for leaders to solve the recognition deficit in their organizations. Here are some of the key strategies that worked well:

- Keep in mind that the overwhelming majority of people aren’t simply motivated by a paycheck. They want to work hard and contribute and be noticed and respected for their efforts. If you truly appreciate them in your mind and heart, your attitude will come through naturally in what you say and do.
- Show respect by sharing as much information as possible. “The more they know, the more they’ll understand. The more they understand, the more they’ll care. Once they care, there’s no stopping them. If you don’t trust your associates to know what’s going on, they’ll know you really don’t consider them partners.”
- Ask lots of questions — not simply to your direct reports, but to as many frontline people as possible. One question I loved to ask is, “What would you do if you had my job?” Maybe the response will be a useful suggestion, in which case you should acknowledge it and implement it if possible, to prove that these conversations aren’t just for show. Even if you don’t get any great ideas, such discussions can still have a huge impact, as long as your staff sees that you really thought about their suggestions.
- Celebrate first downs, not just touchdowns. Publicly recognizing and rewarding small wins keeps everyone motivated over the long haul. Don’t be the Negative Nelly who says, “Well, it’s great that you just closed that new sale, but we’re still 5 million behind budget this year!”
- Make it personal. Another interesting point from the research: 76% of people save handwritten thank you notes. A customized, thoughtful gift will have a bigger impact than something mass-produced, regardless of the price tag.
- Make it timely. Don’t wait for monthly meetings or annual performance reviews. The survey respondents reported an average of 50 days since they last felt recognized in any way at work. That’s way too long. Good things are happening all around you; notice them and seize any opportunity to acknowledge them.
- Finally, remember recognition is a privilege, not just another item on your to-do list. As a leader you have the privilege of feeding people’s souls and helping them feel great about themselves. And by feeding their souls, you’ll feed yours in return.

A M. Shuria
HR Manager/Ag. Coordinator Thika campus

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Meeting with Kajiado County Officials

The VC and the Management team during the meeting with the Ministers from Kajiado County Government when they paid a courtesy call at Kajiado main campus. Umma University also paid a courtesy visit to the Governor’s Office and to brief him on the development of the Campus with the start of the Phase II Project which will greatly change the face of Kajiado County.
Meeting with Kajiado County Officials

Education Stakeholders’ Meeting in Garissa County

Umma University organised a stakeholders meeting in Garissa County to sensitize and discuss on educational matters affecting the community and the county in General. The meeting was held at Nomad Palace Hotel in Garissa County. The meeting brought together the VC, Dean of School of Sharia and Islamic Studies, education stakeholders and community leaders.

BACHELOR OF EDUCATION ARTS CONSULTATIVE STAKEHOLDERS WORKSHOP

The consultative workshop was held on 5th May, 2016 at the Meridian Hotel. The participants were drawn from other universities including University of Nairobi and Kenyatta. All the participants lauded the efforts made by the University for a job well done and in filling in the gap existing in the education sector in Kenya, East African region and globally.

Among other suggestions they made was the inclusion of Islamic Religious Education units for secondary school teachers, addition of units on the physically challenged and reducing the number of electives, just to mention a few.

VISIT BY THE COUNCIL FOR LEGAL EDUCATION

The Council for Legal Education sent a team of its officers from the Quality Assurance Department on a fact finding mission of our preparedness to start the School of Law and Sharia. The team Visited Umma University Thursday 19th May, 2016 at the Thika Campus. The team was received by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Academic Affairs Professor Karama. While the team from CLE was led by Ms Mary Mugure , the Manager, Quality Assurance.

The CLE team leader in her opening remarks emphasized on the primary responsibility of the Council to ensure that Institutions offering Law were adhering to the laid down requirements. While the Council acted as the main regulator of the programme, the team had visited Umma University to assist in ensuring that the requirements were met. She indicated that the curriculum had been subjected to peer reviews by both a law Professor and an Education Professor and a report was submitted to Umma University to review the programme.
Umma University in collaboration with Taskforce for the Review of the Waqf Commissioners of Kenya Act 1951 organized a one day workshop on Tuesday 24th May 2016 at Laico Regency Hotel-Nairobi. The workshop was a reflection on the constitutional values and principles of the Waqf system goal, objectives and its operational framework for the benefit of Kenyan Muslim community and others in general. It was a platform that generated discussion and collection of views from Muslim professionals, organizations and institutions within Nairobi on the review of the Waqf Commissioners Act of 1951. The Chief Guest was Deputy Chief Khadi, Sheikh Rashid Ali Omar representing the Hon. Chief Justice of the Republic of Kenya. More than 30 participants from various organizations, institutions and professional bodies attended the workshop. Various amendments of the Act were proposed by the participants, stakeholders and eventually submitted to the taskforce for incorporation in the review of the Act.

School of Sharia and Islamic Studies host Seminar on Waqf Act Review

Directorate of Research, Innovation and Outreach Affairs in collaboration with School of Sharia and Islamic studies organized a seminar on Wednesday 18th May 2016 at Thika Campus of Umma University. The objective of the seminar was to sensitize the faculty members of the School on the importance of Waqf in Muslim community and in the Kenya Constitution. The seminar was also to debate how Umma University was to contribute a scholarly paper to the upcoming National Waqf Workshop on Waqf Commissioners of Kenya Act 1951 of 25th May 2016. The scholars agreed that Prof. Hassan Nandwa will lead the team to prepare a scholarly paper to be presented to the forthcoming workshop.

Umma University hosted a National Workshop on Waqf Act. Review

Umma University in collaboration with Taskforce for the Review of the Waqf Commissioners of Kenya Act 1951 organized a one day workshop on Tuesday 24th May 2016 at Laico Regency Hotel-Nairobi. The workshop was a reflection on the constitutional values and principles of the Waqf system goal, objectives and its operational framework for the benefit of Kenyan Muslim community and others in general. It was a platform that generated discussion and collection of views from Muslim professionals, organizations and institutions within Nairobi on the review of the Waqf Commissioners Act of 1951. The Chief Guest was Deputy Chief Khadi, Sheikh Rashid Ali Omar representing the Hon. Chief Justice of the Republic of Kenya. More than 30 participants from various organizations, institutions and professional bodies attended the workshop. Various amendments of the Act were proposed by the participants, stakeholders and eventually submitted to the taskforce for incorporation in the review of the Act.
Umma University Participated in the DAAD/Kenya DAAD Conference

Umma University participated in the DAAD/KDSA Annual Scientific Conference held at Pwani University-Mnarani Club in Kilifi on 26-27th May 2016. The conference was organized by KDSA Coastal Region Chapter comprising of Pwani University, Technical University of Mombasa and Taita Taveta University College. It was attended by more than 70 scholars from all public and private universities in Kenya. The conference theme was “Access, Equity, And Quality to University Education: Critical Assessment of Current Strategies in Kenya”. Dr. Ali Adan, Umma University Director of Research, Innovation and Outreach Affairs attended the conference. The conference attracted different stakeholders including Commission for University Education (CUE), National Commission for Science and Technology (NACOSTI), Education Financing, County Governments, Development Partners, Policy Makers, Scholars and Researchers. About 20 papers on different themes were presented, discussed and lessons derived.

KLISC Pre-Conference and 2016 Annual General Meeting at Kisumu Hotel
National Education Conference for Muslim Scholars and Educationists

Umma University successfully participated in the national education conference for Muslim Scholars and Educationists at Kenyatta International Conference Centre, Nairobi under theme: **Mainstreaming Muslim Education in Kenya-Opportunities and Challenges** on 25th May 2016. The National conference was organized by Muslim Education Council in partnership with several Muslim organizations and institutions and it was attended by more than 250 persons.

Dr. Ali Adan, Umma University Director of Research, Innovation and Outreach Affairs represented Umma University Ag. Vice Chancellor during the conference, where he was also the conference moderator. Dr. Ibrahim M. Amin, Dean School of Sharia and Islamic Studies also attended the conference. The conference open with prayer from Imam Jamia Mosque, Sheikh Mohamed Salihu. Dr. Reuben Nthamburi, Deputy Director Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development, presented a key paper on “need for national curriculum reforms” which was full of recent data on the glaring situation of education quality in Kenya. The government is envisioning to move educational assessment from academic to competence and skills based assessment. Dr. Reuben stated that achieving vision 2030 will not be easy unless the country reform its curriculum which is old and outdated due global and national changes that had occurred during the last three decades.

Bro Munawar Khan Chief Executive Officer of Muslim Education Council delivered his paper detailing background, vision, objectives and current programmes of the Council. He stated that Muslim education has achieved a great success since MEC is legal entity representing Muslim interest in both national and county education boards. He added that government is very happy with MEC for promoting education, dialogue and partnership.

The Principal Secretary, Dr. Bellio Kipsang made short and welcome the Cabinet Secretary in charge of Education, Science and Technology to make his official speech. The Cabinet Secretary urged the conference participants that they must all support government initiative to make education in value-based. Some of the values the Cabinet Secretary stated included inclusivity, tolerance, respect, appreciation, human rights, life and human perspective, rule of law, patriotism, national values as enshrine in the constitution, transparency, accountability, competence and skills buildings, responsibility and citizen. The CS Muslim educational institutions must stand to promote these and other values for the national interest of our country.

The conference participants requested Umma University to urgently introduce faculty of education to train more teachers in IRE, Arabic and Sciences; degree in information communication technology and lead in research on the Muslim Education Status in Kenya and beyond. Professional short courses on educational administration, management and quality assurance was also desired. Chairman of Muslim Education Council bro. Zafar Niaz also made remarks applauding the support from various partners and advised them to remain in the already cultivated spirit of partnership in order to advance status of Muslim Education in Kenya. He specifically thanked participants and members of various organization participating in the conference. Dr. Ahmed Yusuf Chairman of Kenya Madrasa Curriculum Development Board also presented a paper detailing journey travelled during the draft curriculum consensus building, planning, training, drafting of curriculum and validation stages. He informed the participants that relevant and strategic partners in various part of the country were consulted and their inputs taken for value addition of curriculum content.

Sister Fatma Saman, a renowned educationist also made remarks touching on Islamic objectives and perspectives of education in society where she narrated how Islam lead to European renaissance and later development of science, technology and innovation. Mzee Ibrahim Mohamed, former chairman of Teacher Service Commission made a plea to the Minister of Education, Science and Technology to assist marginalized counties in Kenya by allowing them to recruit untrained teachers to avert the bad situation of shortage of teachers.
The Office of the Dean of Students organized a highly successful three day training workshop for the Members of the University Students Union. This workshop was held at Syracuse Research and Retreat Centre situated at Ongata Rongai along Olekasasi road on 27th to 29th May 2016. The workshop was officially opened by Prof. Mohamed Karama, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academics, Research and Student Affairs) of the University who delivered his words of wisdom on Time Management in Islamic perspective. The main goal of the training workshop was to disclose to our Students’ Union leaders to both the basics of Student leadership and a bonding session amongst themselves and the University representatives.

Red Cross Society visits Childrens Home

On the Saturday 21st of May 2016, Umma University Red Cross Society comprising of 50 members visited St. Teresa children’s home located in Majengo Slums in Kajiado town. The UURES donated food stuffs and clothes for the children. The UURES with the children and management of the Childrens Home during a group photo. From Left Muhsin Dahir (UURES President), Madam Lucy (Centre Manager) and (squatting) Amer Swaleh (Secretary General).
Umma University wishes all Muslims Ramadhan Mubarak

Ramadhan Mubarak

“O you who believe fasting is prescribed for you as it was prescribed to those before you, that you may attain Taqwa (Purity)” Al-Baqara: 183

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Timings prepared by the Da’wah Office Jama Mosque Committee, Nairobi. P.O. Box 100786-00101. Nairobi. Email: jamamajis@gmail.com

Marwan Ibn Salim al-Mugaffa’ said:
I saw Ibn Umar holding his beard with his hand and cutting what exceeded the handful of it. He (Ibn Umar) told that the Prophet (peace be upon him) said when he breaks his fast Thirst has gone, the arteries are moist, and the reward is sure, if Allah wills.

Sunan Abi Dawud Book 13, Hadith 2350

DUA FOR IFTAR
ذَهَبَ الظَّمَآءُ وَأَوْتِلَتِ النَّعُومُ وَثَبَتَ الأَجْرُ إِن شَاءَ اللَّهُ
“The thirst is gone, the vein are moistened and the reward is confirmed, if Allah wills”