

## DeKUT MAUMAU EDUCATIONAL CENTRE

### Background

Dedan Kimathi University of Technology is named after Kenya's dauntless freedom fighter Dedan Wachiuri Kimathi, hence is part of a memorial to all the freedom fighters and to Kenyan's liberation struggles. In the last seven years, DeKUT fraternity has worked to give value and meaning to this aspect of the University identity. In this regard DeKUT, has on a continual basis marked the Kimathi week every February of the year, within a specific week selected to be around 18<sup>th</sup> February, the date Kimathi was executed. There have been various positive experiences arising from hosting the Kimathi Week.

Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (DeKUT) Council approved the establishment of a Mau Mau Education Centre (MMEC) in 2012. The objectives of the Centre are:

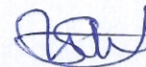
- i. To provide a repository of records on Mau Mau history.
- ii. To create a framework for collection of information and materials to serve research and scholarly interest for posterity.
- iii. To provide a platform/forum for scholarly discourses on the Mau Mau with a view of providing a better understanding to the Mau Mau effort.

### The MMEC committee's Terms of Reference includes among others:

- i. To create a framework for establishment of a repository of Mau Mau records/library as a component of the MMEEC.
- ii. To develop a brief for design and creation of a suitable statue for the Field Marshal, and identify an artist to do the work. The statue will be the focal point of the Heroes Garden.
- iii. To plan and organize international conferences/seminars and workshops on Mau Mau, regularly.
- iv. To identify other Black/African liberation heroes, who should be honoured with a statue at the "*DeKUT Heroes Garden*".
- v. To create framework for resource mobilization, to support the establishment and running of the MMEEC, as well as other useful courses of University which may be undertaken in commemoration of Mau Mau struggle and Field Marshal Dedan Waciuri Kimathi.

In 2009, the university organized a public lecture where the former Chancellor, late Prof. Ali Mazrui was invited to give a lecture and during the talk, he devoted part of the time discussing the Mau Mau struggle in the context of the history of the black people and struggle for freedom in Africa, Americas and the rest of the world.

The trustees of the predecessor of DeKUT, Dedan Kimathi University of Technology had discussed and made initial arrangement towards the establishment of a hero's garden as part of a memorial to liberation heroes in line with the history of the institution. Currently the institution has grown and is an intellectual center and also being a University named after Dedan Kimathi, it is expected



internationally to be reference point when it comes to matters to do with Kenyan's independence struggle beginning from the 1940s, 50s and 60s and specifically on matters of the Mau Mau efforts.

The independence struggle is still an area of great international interest and even though this happened over fifty years ago, there are still scholars around the world-Europe, Britain, United States, South Africa and other parts of the world who still study and continue to write on the Mau Mau effort. Furthermore in Kenya, it is still a live issue and it generates lots of interest.

#### **Achievements made so far:**

Since the inception of the Committee the following have been realized:

- Preliminary information gathering activities from the surviving Mau Mau war veterans.
- Organized:
  - i. Workshops in 2012 where several scholars deliberated on the subject of Mau Mau.
  - ii. International Conferences in 2014 and 2015 and where several scholars met and several academic papers were presented further generating a lot of interest in the subject.
  - iii. Produced the conference proceedings report and plans are underway to produce more publications.
  - iv. Organized the African Liberation Lectures in 2016.
  - v. Plans and preparations are underway for another international conference in Feb .2017.
  - vi. Architectural drawings of the proposed centre complete with the various facilities; and the design of the "Dedan Kimathi University Heroes Park"
  - vii. The development of (1) the specifications for the Dedan Kimathi's statue. (2) The job description of the research fellow to do some of the activities for the centre.
  - viii. Hedging of the Heroes park
  - ix. On annual basis celebrates Kimathi Week every February of the year.

#### **Areas for collaboration**

- i. Research on the Mau Mau history in Kenya
- ii. Research on the various Kenya and other African heroes/heroines
- iii. Scholarships for scholars to research on Kenya liberation history
- iv. Partners to fund the building of the Mau Mau Centre partially or wholly
- v. Linkages with local and international development organizations, individuals, government and corporate bodies to assist in the acquisition of materials that could be housed in the centre and also fund the project partially or wholly.