



To 2022

As all the reports have made clear, 2021 has been an active year for Moi-ACC. It is not my wish to repeat what has already been described so comprehensively. My remarks look forward, to 2022. I nevertheless start with a glance back. I recall colleagues we lost in 2021. Professors Omar Egesah and Peter Odhiambo Ndege were here with us last year. Their contributions to the achievements we celebrate as Moi-ACC are invaluable. Let us have a round of applause for these heroes of the Centre.

To happier recollections. There are with us in this room two colleagues who were promoted to the position of Associate Professor. I suspect that their participation in Moi-ACC in particular and Africa Multiple in general accounted in some way for their elevation. Let us put our hands together for Professors Hassan Ndzovu and Mark Kandagor.

I look forward to an active and productive 2022. The *Almanac of Regular Activities for 2022* that is before you hints at our busyness for the year.

Each Research Section will host TWO workshops over 2022. Only TWO workshops. And they will be of two kinds.

The first workshop will be in-house, the participants being members of the hosting Research Section. The workshop is envisaged as a crucial component in the team-building exercises that have now become most necessary in ALL Research Sections. There are Research Sections that are reconstituting; there are Research Sections that are losing members; and there are Research

Sections that have lost their fire. Towards the end of this year, Research Spokespersons were struggling to get regular activities done. Attendance at seminars and workshops was dwindling. There is a need to rejuvenate our Research Sections and by implication the Centre.

This is not to suggest that I have forgotten the resolutions we passed here last year, the first of which was that Research Section Spokespersons were to grow Research Section membership by getting out of their way to recruit members to the section while locking in those who are already enlisted. I ask Research Section Spokespersons to reflect on their own performance in relation to this resolution - and then once again join the battle.

In coming up with the idea for the in-house workshop, I am also thinking of a forum where Research Section Spokespersons will give their teams directions forward. We do not lose sight of the point that the real work in Africa Multiple takes the form of funded research projects. The in-house workshop will be an opportunity to explore research project ideas.

The in-house workshops will all come in the first third of 2022. Subsequent Research Section activities should have them for foundation.

The second workshop will be a regular one as per Moi-ACC custom. We will encourage the invitation of a participant or two from the institutions we partner with in Africa Multiple in these workshops - in addition to, as our custom is, having colleague researchers from the East African region.

We, Research Sections and the Centre, have not been as big on collaborations as we should have. I exhort members to utilize the opportunities we have to create linkages with colleagues in

other Cluster Centres. It is a puzzling fact that not one person from Moi-ACC has participated in „The Africa Multiple Mobility Programme.“ We are seized of information about this programme that enables visits to other Cluster Centres, and whose objectives are:

- (1) To join ongoing projects in order to share expertise and to learn from one another
- (2) To join a research group in order to work together on a new project or to create synergies between projects and/or Research Sections
- (3) To give lectures and seminars at the respective centres. This can take place in the context of PhD programmes as well as in the context of ongoing or envisaged projects
- (4) To utilize library holdings and/or archival collections of the centres to be visited

We know that research project proposals in Africa Multiple are deemed stronger if the research teams are made up of members from the different partnering institutions. I advice that the second workshop be aligned to a major idea under exploration as a potential research area.

The Gender and Diversity Office will host a workshop of the second type. I think it would be a good idea to bring together all the Gender and Diversity Officers of Africa Multiple in Eldoret, to initiate conversations around this area that is critical to the success of our research project proposals.

The Directorate will host three workshops of the second type. Directorate-hosted workshops are initiated by individual members outside the ambit of the Research Sections. Last week, on 2nd and 3rd of December 2021, we had such a workshop - *Tafsiri na Ukalimani: Nafasi na Changamoto Zake*, convened by Professor Mark Kandagor - and it went very well.

I expect that we will also have project-tied workshops over 2022. I know that our proposal budgets include a workshop or two. We should therefore have quite a number of workshops.

And quite a number of seminars, too.

Each Research Section will host THREE Africa Colloquium seminars over 2022. ONE of the three should showcase local talent. A researcher based in Moi - not necessarily in the ACC - should be given a forum to share what he or she has with us, with Africa Multiple, with the world.

The Directorate will host six seminars.

Finally, 2022 is the year we should start seeing our publications.

I wish us all the best of luck for 2022.