



# MUNI UNIVERSITY NewsLetter

JUNE 2021 | ISSUE 45

## Free COVID-19 testing for University staff

*Muni University Management on 15th June organized a free Covid-19 testing for the thirty percent of staff running operations during the nationwide lockdown.*

This came on the heels of the Presidential directive of 6th June that has since led to the closure of schools and the suspension of non-essential travel between districts in an attempt to stem out a worrying trend in the rise in Covid-19 cases in the country. Institutions and organizations were asked to keep a 30% physical presence of staff at the workplace although this was later revised to a further reduction to 10% in non-core Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) as contained in the presidential address of June 18th.

Experts say, although the results for Covid 19 tests are confidential, it was very important exercise for the University because testing can help staff determine if they are infected with COVID-19 – regardless of whether they have symptoms – and whether they are at risk of spreading the infection to others. Taking measures to prevent the spread of infection is one of the most effective strategies of fighting the



**Covid-19 voluntary testing at the University Clinic, June 15th**

spread of the disease.

Shortly after samples were taken from staff for the Covid test, the University Vice Chancellor, Professor Christine Dranzoa urged staff to stand together and avoid stigmatization.

Stigma, she said is the social disapproval of, or discrimination against, a person based on perceivable social characteristics that serve to distinguish them from other members of a society.

## Campus greens up in the COVID-19 lockdown



*The Covid-19 lockdown period has chosen to adorn campus in an astonishing green accentuated by a well-trimmed lawn.*

# Heart-warming responses as VC checks on students

On 28th June, Muni University Vice Chancellor, Prof. Christine Dranzoa decided to send an email to check on how the students of the University are faring during this period of the Covid 19 lockdown and the responses she received are heart-warming indeed. Read the VC's message and some of the responses from the students.

## VC's message

"Dear Mr. Guild President and your team,

Dear students, I send you warm greetings and words of encouragements. I trust that you are doing relatively well and keeping safe in this period of your life that unfortunately turns to be turbulent with surges of the covid-19 pandemic.

In such times, remain connected, diligent, focused, compassionate and flexible so that

you are not derailed in your goals. Those who have not yet received their results should expect soon... get communication from the AR office.

Your wellness, academic careers and growth matter a lot to us and therefore your deans and heads are planning some online engagements and shall be communicated in due course.

However, I wish to emphasize the following:

-  
Please endeavour to keep safe,  
Maintain the SOPs,

Think through on how you can give back to your community and build yourself an attractive character for successful and unquestionable future.

God bless you for now".

## Responses

"Thanks for checking on us, mother. God bless you too and stay safe," **Gumisiriza Onesmus**

"Thank you for your email, thank you for caring about us. Personally, I am well and waiting patiently and prayerfully. I believe that this season will not last long, it came and it will pass. Therefore, let's continue to stand strong and know that God is for us and not against us. I wish you all the best and a productive life a head. Lots of love," **Emmanuel Byamugisha**

"All received with thanks. I appreciate for the love and care. God bless you", **Abel Nyesiga**

"Received with thanks. I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the management for putting student's welfare in consideration in such unprecedented times. I wish everyone a safe stay. Thanks," **Aaron Dradi Gamis, Guild President.**

# Death robs University of academic staff member

The late Acidri Stephen, an Assistant Lecturer in the Department of Education, Faculty of Education was laid to rest at his ancestral home in Godria village, Oluffe Sub county, Maracha district, June 25th 2021 after his tragic demise on 22nd June 2021. (Read a eulogy for late Acidri in the later sections of the newsletter.

Meanwhile, late Mama Beatrice Olipa, mother to Mr. Patrick Ojok, Driver to the University Bursar passed on 21st June 2021 at Amai Hospital, Amolator District. She was laid to rest at her home in Anamido Village, Etam Sub County, Amolator District. May the Souls of all departed Rest in Eternal Peace.



# Eulogy

## Late Acidri Stephen

(13th October 1976 - June 22nd 2021)

*It is never easy to say goodbye for someone who has been a part of our lives.*

When that person is gone, there is an emptiness he/she leaves in your life. That numbness of the heart is what many who knew the late Acidri Stephen felt following the news of his tragic demise on Tuesday, June 22nd 2021.

Some of you knew the late Acidri better than others but each person had a different way they experienced him and how he impacted their lives. Every supervisor and contemporary who interacted with him also had an opportunity to influence him, so a little bit of many of us has gone with his untimely departure.

During such times it is therefore important to remember the good memories we all have of him so that we can focus on the good times we had together and help each other find comfort in these difficult times.

The Muni University Vice Chancellor, Professor Christine Dranzoa remembers the last Friday when the late Acidri came to campus wearing his characteristic smile. "And also, he had added some flesh. I thought, oh well this is a sign of happy marriage, good job at the University and I was truly very happy for him as he previously served on part-time basis", recalls the Vice Chancellor.

Another significant aspect, which according to the Vice Chancellor, a number of people may not have known about late Acidri was his dedicated service to the Ombaci Community who went through the untold trauma of the Ombaci massacre of 1981. "Every year he (the late Acidri) led teams to reconnect to share their stories and carry on".



For the new University staff, especially of the November 2020 cohort, late Acidri was a true friend. He found accommodation for many of the new-comers, showed them where to eat and where to go in Arua City. "He was full of charisma and love. Always smart, a true teacher. Ever smiling and always helpful," says Associate Professor Okia Clement Akais of the Faculty of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences.

Born on 13th October 1976, the late Acidri joined Muni University in 2014 as a Part-time Assistant Lecturer of the Course Unit of Ethics and Peace Studies in the Department of Nursing in the Faculty of Health Sciences. In 2020, he was appointed full-time Assistant Lecturer in Ethics and Peace studies in the Department of Education in the Faculty of Education where he was in charge of Distance and In-service programmes where he directly coordinated the Bachelor of Education-Primary.

The Head of Department of Education, Mr Polycarp Omara describes the late Acidri as a committed and open-minded person who accomplished his tasks with minimal supervision.

Before joining Muni University, he worked with the Nile University Campus of Uganda

Martyrs University in various capacities including being the Academic Registrar.

On June 22nd 2019, he organised a memorable wedding with his beautiful wife at Holy Cross parish, Ombaci where in a few days he was also planning to baptise his child. But this has been disrupted by his death.

The University Deputy Vice Chancellor in charge of Finance and Administration, Rev Fr. Prof. Odubuker Picho Epiphany, MIDM, who matrimonised the late Acidri and his wife describes him as a God-fearing person who was committed to his work and discharged his duties quietly and calmly. "Very loving, amiable person, somebody committed to his work", says the Deputy Vice Chancellor.

He says he first got to know the late Acidri during an interview session in 2014 when he appeared for the position of part-time Lecturer.

"Just in the interview, he excelled among his competitors. The way he performed was very fascinating...above all he was a very religious person", he says.

The late Acidri holds a Master of Ethics and Public Management of Makerere University, Kampala, a Bachelor of Philosophy of Pontifical Urbaniana University, Rome, Diploma of Philosophical and Religious Studies of Queen of Apostle Philosophy Centre, Jinja, Postgraduate diploma in Teacher Education of Kyambogo University and a Certificate in Administrative Law of the Law Development Centre, Kampala. He was laid to rest at his ancestral home in Godria village, Oluffe Sub county, Maracha district, June 25th 2021. May his Soul Rest in Eternal Peace.

# National Day of Prayers

President Yoweri Museveni declared June 25th a public holiday designating the day as a national prayer day over the Covid-19 pandemic. Read some of the prayers from staff of Muni University in marking the National Day of Prayers.

"Heavenly Father we thank you for our Country Uganda. We thank you for the people of Uganda and the leadership of the country. We thank you for your word that is alive and active. 'Then the Lord appeared to Solomon in the night and said to him: I have heard your prayer, and have chosen this place for myself as a house of sacrifice. When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command the locust to devour the land, or send pestilence among my people, if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.' 2 Chronicles 7:12

Gracious and Merciful Lord, we repent of the sins we have committed as a nation. As a people we have not done as you have desired. Where we have failed your purpose in us, we beseech you to pardon us, the people and leadership of Uganda.

We thank you for the guidance through our leadership to protect us from the coronavirus infection. We pray for you to heal our people of the deadly Covid-19. We seek your wisdom for a cure against Covid-19. We thank you for the medical workers in our nation. Please protect them against infection so that they can attend to the sick people in their care. We pray for all institutions of learning including Muni

## Our Programmes

- BSc. Information Technology.
- B. Information Systems.
- BSc. with Education (Physical).
- BSc. with Education (Biological).
- B. Nursing Science.
- BSc. Agriculture.
- B. Business Admin & Mgt.
- B. Education Primary.
- Postgraduate Diploma in Financial Mgt.

University, May You Help us to be vigilant in the fight against Covid-19. We commit all Learners into You for safety and help them to keep learning in the lockdown period.

We praise your Holy and righteous name, and ask you to bless our nation Uganda. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen"

### Rev Can Patrick Acema, Chaplain

1. Sovereign Lord, we affirm Uganda for God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.
2. Sovereign Lord, we thank You for Your purpose to prosper Uganda.
3. Sovereign Lord, we ask You establish Your Kingdom agenda for Uganda.
4. Sovereign Lord, we ask for Your mercy and grace, and forgiveness for past and present sins committed by the people of Uganda.
5. Sovereign Lord, we ask for the end of Covid-19 pandemic in Uganda and the world.
6. Sovereign Lord, we ask for Your healing and comfort on those affected directly or indirectly by Covid-19 pandemic.
7. Sovereign Lord, we thank You for the healing and comfort, and receive Your blessings.
8. Sovereign Lord, we ask You bestow on our leaders Your wisdom to shepherd the people of Uganda in reverence of Your great name.
9. Sovereign Lord, Yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

### Dr. Geoffrey Andoga, Dean Faculty of Technoscience

"Most gracious and loving Father we humbly come before you this day repenting of our sins and iniquities. Forgive us Lord where we have fallen short

of your glory. We acknowledge you as our God and our helper for we are nothing without you oh Lord.

We thank you for your mercy and grace for we know that when we reach out to you in prayer, you always hear us and answer us, for we know that you have great plans for our nation Uganda.

Your word says in 2Chronicles 7:14 **"If my people who are called by my name shall humble themselves, pray, seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and forgive their sin and heal their land."**

Therefore, Lord we this day seek your face concerning our Nation Uganda.

We ask for your power to be manifest in our Nation Oh God.

We pray for our leaders and the citizens of this Nation.

Deliver our country from the deadly covid 19 pandemic.

We pray for the sick that you heal and make them well.

We pray for comfort and strength for those who have lost dear ones.

We pray for your protection over our Nation and total deliverance from the works of the evil one.

We pray oh God that you will continue to provide the needs of your people during this pandemic.

Give wisdom to our leaders to find lasting solutions to the problems affecting our country.

Let your peace that surpasses all understanding dwell among your people oh God.

And may the grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the Love of God and the Fellowship of the Holy spirit, be with us all Now and Forever More, Amen".

**Ms Ajidiru Annet, Communication Officer.**