

## **INTRODUCTION**

Kenya's forest cover has tripled over the last 10 years increasing allaying fears of massive environmental degradation. According to Kenyan government statistics released in March 2012, forest cover had risen from a low of 1.7 per cent in 2002 to 5.9 per cent. Kenya Forest Service director Mr. David Mbugua said the natural resource that was facing extinction in 2002 resulting in weather changes was now on a trend towards the United Nation's recommended 10 per cent cover. From 2008 to 2012, over 300 million trees have been planted in more than 107,500 acres repossessed forest land by the government. Forest cover is increasing by day thanks to the conservation efforts carried out by various institutions and individuals in ensuring that we have a sufficient cover in our land.

In our continuing efforts as Green Africa Foundation to counter deforestation and its effects through promoting tree planting culture we had tree planting exercise with Africa Nazarene University community. Through the support of Auto Terminal Japan Ltd. of their "One car, One dollar" programme the organization has managed to have a stock of trees that are availed upon demand by institutions and groups. The event dubbed "Plant Your Stay, Save the Earth" rallied the staff and students of Africa Nazarene University to plant trees equivalent to the number of years they have been at the institution.



***Section of Africa Nazarene University students planting trees***

12/03/2013

The occasion was graced by the institution's Vice Chancellor Prof. Leah Marangu, DVC Academic Affairs Prof. Rodney Reed among many other senior and junior staff with the whole student fraternity. The tree planting exercise was done in three consecutive days during the short rains period of March – June.



***Dr. Isaac Kalua, Africa Nazarene University (ANU) Vice Chancellor Prof. Marangu and ANU Environmental Club Chair John Henry planting their ceremonial trees***

The institution came up with the campaign “Plant Your Stay, Save the Earth” to encourage the staff to plant trees equivalent to the number of years of service at the institution while the students were made to plant triple the number of trimesters they are remaining with in order to nurture and see the tree planted matures and grows. The aims and objectives of the campaign are anchored in our core vision of realizing a green Africa through involvement of institutions and communities in conservation efforts.



***Dr. Kalua planting a tree with a security officer***

What is encouraging is the acceptability and embrace of this noble effort by all in various status divide and the clear innate call to care and watch over our environment for future generations. As an organization we are geared towards making Kenya and the whole Africa at large green one step at a time through promoting planting of trees to be every citizen's culture and responsibility. During the event dubbed "Plant Your Stay, Save the Earth" we donated 2000 trees seedlings from the Kitui farm to Africa Nazarene University community.

*"As an institution we are very privileged and glad to have reputable organization like Green Africa Foundation through their Chairperson Dr. Kalua who are true champions for the conservation of our environment come and join us in such exercise. It is our belief as a community that this is not going to be a one-off affair but a journey where we will walk with you in your conservation efforts and doing justice to our environment," said a delighted VC Prof. Marangu.*

It is our engagement with environmental clubs in various learning institutions like the Environmental Club Africa Nazarene University that we contribute towards achieving the 10 per cent tree cover goal of the United Nations.



***Dr. Isaac Kalua together with ANU Deputy Vice Chancellor Academics Prof. Rodney Reed and Students planting trees***



***Dr. Kalua demonstrating to staff and students on how to plant a tree***



***Section of Africa Nazarene University students planting trees***

On his part Green Africa Foundation Founder and Chairman Dr. Isaac Kalua while addressing the institution community he reiterated the need for taking care of our environment and applying the “three greens” in our daily lives. “The **First Green** is to treat people kindly through upholding ethics and training on life skills. The **Second Green** is to promote good health, peace within communities and to create sustainable livelihood and the **Third Green** is the actual environmental conservation. Our vision is a “**Green**” Africa, so lets Think Green and Act Green.”

*Dr Isaac P. Kalua MBS, HSC*

*Founder/Chairperson*

*Green Africa Foundation*