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Africa

MALAWI

The government said it will drop 21 of its institutions from the public budget at the end of the current financial year as a way of cutting expenses.

Among the institutions to be dropped from government funding are: the University of Malawi, the newly-formed National Research Council, the Commission for the Establishment of a University in the North (Comesun) and the Malawi Industrial Research Technology Development Centre. Others include the Medical Council of Malawi and the Malawi College of Accountancy.

The government will stop funding these at the end of the 1997/98 financial year.

Deputy Secretary to the President and Cabinet Kamphambe Nkhoma said the institutions will have to find alternative funding or close. Others, he said, may have to be privatized. He said the move was in line with ongoing financial reforms. Nkhoma said the government will have to find a niche for those whose institutions will fold in the wake of the reforms.

- *Malawi News Roundup*
(*Afrika News Network*)
June 9, 1998

NAMIBIA

Some 60 aspiring students have already applied for placement at the Flying Training School, which is due to open at Keetmanshoop later in 1998.

Christiaan Zel, chief air traffic control officer of the Directorate of Civil Aviation, said all interested Namibian students who wish to enter the aviation profession should apply as soon as possible.

Zel said students with a good background in mathematics and proficiency in English stood a better chance of securing a place.

He explained that one of the aims of the school is to attract potential students from Europe who normally undergo training in the United States due to frequently bad weather in Europe.

The school will offer courses in aircraft maintenance, air traffic control and airport operations and management.

Additional training and the necessary flying hours to obtain an instrument flight regulations rating, a commercial pilot license and a private helicopter pilot license will also be accommodated at the school, Zel said.

A German private flying school, Fliegerschule Schwabenflug, and Donier International Logistics are backing the project. Other stakeholders are the Municipality of Keetmanshoop, Air Namibia, the Ministry of Defense and the private aviation industry.

- *Panafrican News Agency*
July 3, 1998

TANZANIA

Four new private universities are set to open this year, increasing the number of registered Tanzania universities to 12. The new institutions are the University of Zanzibar, the University of Buko-

ba, the Medical University of Kilimanjaro and St. Augustine University at Nyegezi, Mwanza.

The four universities have already received interim accreditation to start offering programs.

The University of Zanzibar, to be run by the Dar Al Iman Charitable Association, will be the first institution offering degree programs on Zanzibar Island. It plans to start with programs in business administration.

The university was initially to open last year but technical hitches forced a delay. However, some students started classes in April, according to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Shamsel Din.

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Regional News

Din said he was highly encouraged by the recommendations of the Higher Learning Accreditation Council of Experts.

At the University of Bukoba, located in Kagemu in northwestern Tanzania, plans are in the final stages.

“Over 90 percent of preparations are complete, and we are confident we will open the college in September,” said a university official.

The institution will initially offer undergraduate programs in education.

The Moshi-based Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre referral hospital, which has been conducting a course for medical assistants, plans to upgrade to offer undergraduate degrees in medicine and dentistry.

St. Augustine University grew out of the Nyegezi Social Training Institute, which has been offering journalism courses at diploma level since 1957.

The new university will offer an undergraduate journalism degree beginning in September.

The four new universities join a number of others in providing higher education in Tanzania under a liberalized and broadened universities policy.

Others include the University of Dar es Salaam, Sokoine University of Agriculture, Muhimbili College of Health, the International Medicine and Technology University, Lutheran University College of Theology, Waldorf College and the Open University of Tanzania.

- *The East African (Kenya)*
 June 23, 1998

ZAMBIA

The government will transform the National College for Development and Management Studies into a university.

In June, Vice-President Christon Tembo said the cabinet had approved a proposal to turn the former President's Citizenship College into a university because of the rising demand for tertiary education at that level.

Tembo was speaking at the ninth graduation ceremony of the college. Its programs include disaster management, business studies and human resources management.

Tembo said the government was concerned with the rising number of school leavers who were languishing in the streets because they were unable to get jobs.

“We want the school leavers and in-service personnel to get acquainted with knowledge, especially in the disaster-management sector,” Tembo said.

He said the college was very conducive for studies because of its location outside the city of Kabwe.

The principal of the college, Dr. Joseph Bwalya,

appealed to the government to provide more funds because the institution could not survive with the present allocations.

- *Times of Zambia, June 27, 1998*

Asia-Pacific

AFGHANISTAN

In June, the fundamentalist Taliban's army shut down more than 100 private schools in Afghanistan that were educating girls in defiance of the regime's ban.

Taliban Religious Affairs Minister Haji Khulimuddin warned that violators would be punished.

The Taliban had allowed the schools to operate without official recognition.

It was not clear what caused the clampdown now. But Khulimud-

ty-based programs for girls and women," said an international aid worker.

The Taliban's brand of Islamic law bans women from working and girls from attending schools. It also bans music and most forms of light entertainment. It requires men to grow beards, wear a head covering and attend mosque.

Khulimuddin said school operators had to apply for a license so "we can control them."

- *Cape Times*
(*Independent Online*)
June 17, 1998

AUSTRALIA

Australia's oldest public provider of visual-arts education, the National Art School (NAS), has for the first time been granted the right to offer a bachelor's degree in fine

was granted by a committee of art academics, practicing artists and representatives of the state Vice-Chancellors' Committee.

The decision makes NAS the second non-university art school, along with the private KvB School of Visual Communication, to be allowed to issue degrees. The current NAS advanced diploma in fine arts will be phased out, with continuing students having the chance to transfer into the degree program.

Students will take drawing and art history/theory as core subjects.

In later years, they'll be able to specialize in painting, printmaking, photography, sculpture or ceramics. Graduate-level degrees are now under consideration, as well.

- *Campus Review, July 1-7, 1998*

CHINA

Beginning in September 1998, Hong Kong Baptist University will offer Hong Kong's first full-time degree program in Chinese medicine. The five-year program will have cross-cultural coverage of the essence of Chinese and Western medicine, and interdisciplinary integration with social science subjects within medical perspectives.

The program will initially enroll 30 students. Graduates can plan careers in clinical practice, further studies or related disciplines in Chinese medicine.

- *Campus Review*
June 24-30, 1998

INDIA

The Indira Gandhi National Open University will start a one-year vocational course in translation from Hindi to English, and vice-versa, beginning in January 1999.

The one-year program will be targeted at people in remote areas who do not have access to institutions where they can effectively learn the skills of translation.

The course, leading to a post-graduate diploma in translation,

In June, the fundamentalist Taliban's army shut down more than 100 private schools in Afghanistan that were educating girls in defiance of the regime's ban.

din complained they had discovered several girls, ages 14 and 15, receiving education in private homes.

An international aid group survey in January found about 107 so-called informal schools for more than 6,500 children, half of them girls.

When the Muslim fundamentalist army swept into Kabul in September 1996, it shut down schools for girls, saying the curriculum was against the tenets of Islam.

The Taliban have allowed girls younger than nine to study only the Qur'an.

The Taliban shut down vocational training programs for girls, "seriously affecting all communi-

arts. This milestone makes NAS New South Wales' newest higher-education institution.

The NAS, which formerly operated under the state's Technical and Further Education Authority, was granted its independence in 1996 by the New South Wales government. This followed a promise given in 1995, after students, staff and arts-community activists marched at Parliament House in Sydney to oppose the imposition of competency-based training at the school.

The NAS is now an independent, publicly funded institution.

In accreditation arrangements made under the state Higher Education Act, approval for the degree

has been prepared in view of the importance of translation in the sociocultural life of India and its utility in the professional areas, said the director of the School of Humanities.

Students enrolling in the course will be taught through printed material, audiovisual lessons and teleconferencing sessions.

The program will be divided into four parts: theory of translation; linguistic and social aspects of translation; practical translation; and translation in officialese with a project comprising practical translation.

Graduates with Hindi and English as subjects at the degree level will be eligible to apply for the program. It will enable students to enhance their qualification for employment in the fields of teaching, translation, journalism, official language and tourism.

In addition to the translation diploma, the university will also introduce a Bachelor of Education degree program and three new certificate programs (in participatory forest management, disaster management and writing for radio).

- *University News*
June 1 & July 6, 1998

The Maharashtra University of Medical Sciences was founded in Nashik this year. One hundred thirty-five colleges will offer education in medical and allied disciplines under the auspices of this first medical university in the state.

The new university will decide the issues related to examinations, faculties and the content of medical and related syllabuses being taught in Maharashtra.

Speaking at an inaugural function, the state governor of Maharashtra suggested the university should conduct research on the most effective way to provide medical facilities to the rural population.

He added that special attention

should be given to the training of doctors.

The state public health and education minister said the decision to establish a separate university for medical sciences was made to bring uniformity to medical education in Maharashtra.

He said branches of the university would be set up in each revenue division of the state.

- *University News*
June 29, 1998

JAPAN

As many as 700 Japanese schools have applied for a government subsidy to pay for rooms in

As many as 700 Japanese schools have applied for a government subsidy to pay for rooms in which students can relax or receive counseling.

which students can relax or receive counseling.

Half these schools plan to construct the rooms over the summer break, according to Education Ministry officials.

The ministry is keen to promote these relaxation areas after a series of incidents in which stress and uncontrollable rage were cited as the causes of junior high school students attacking their peers or teachers.

The Education Ministry will use this year's supplementary budget to help furnish unused classrooms with air conditioning — usually not permitted in public schools — and carpeting or tatami mats, so students can take off their shoes and feel more at ease.

Most classrooms have wooden floors and require indoor shoes.

There will also be space for students to talk to counselors in private.

Computers linked to the Inter-

net will be set up in schools with more than 15 classes.

The ministry hopes to install the relaxation rooms in half of all junior high schools in the next three years, starting with 2,000 schools this fiscal year.

The ministry's budget will also be used to install counseling rooms next to the school nurses' rooms.

Students who want to escape the stress of the classroom are increasingly seeking solace in the nurses' rooms, occupying beds that should be used for those who are physically ill or injured.

The counseling rooms will give these students a place where they

can talk to someone about their problems.

However, Yasutaka Koku-bu, the chairman of the Japan Counseling Society, said teachers, and not counselors, should be given a larger role in the development of children's emotional stability.

He suggested all teachers be trained in counseling.

The government subsidies will be available to projects that cost more than 4 million yen. One-third of the costs will be borne by the Education Ministry. The rest will be paid through bonds issued by municipal governments.

- *Asahi Shimbun*, July 24, 1998

NEPAL

The High Level National Education Commission (HLNEC) recommended strict implementation of a plan to phase out the two-year post-secondary Proficiency Certificate program from universities by next year.

It also recommends introduction of one-year Master of Philosophy degree programs as a prerequisite for doctoral study.

The HLNEC, formed under the chairmanship of the education minister, recently submitted its report to the prime minister after working on it for more than a year.

In 1992, the National Education Commission had recommended introduction of a 12-year (10 + 2) primary/secondary education cycle. It also recommended the phasing out of proficiency level — currently offered by universities

regional universities on the basis of people's participation and government grants.

The report pointed out that higher education in Nepal is full of problems.

Because clear objectives for higher education are lacking, its expansion has been driven by social demand rather than the country's needs.

At present, only 2.5 percent of the total eligible population between ages 18 and 22 have access to higher education. This accounts for 13 percent of the annual education budget.

The bulk of higher education students study general subjects, and only 4 percent have the opportunity to study technical subjects, thus adding to the number of educated unemployed.

Though five universities have already been established in the country, 98 percent of the students are

Accordingly the department moved for the approval of Sindh's chief minister.

The Education Department source noted that 100 million rupees had already been earmarked by the Sindh government for this purpose.

Sources said documents regarding establishment of a degree-awarding institute would be prepared as soon as the chief minister gave approval. And after careful review, the documents would be placed before the provincial assembly.

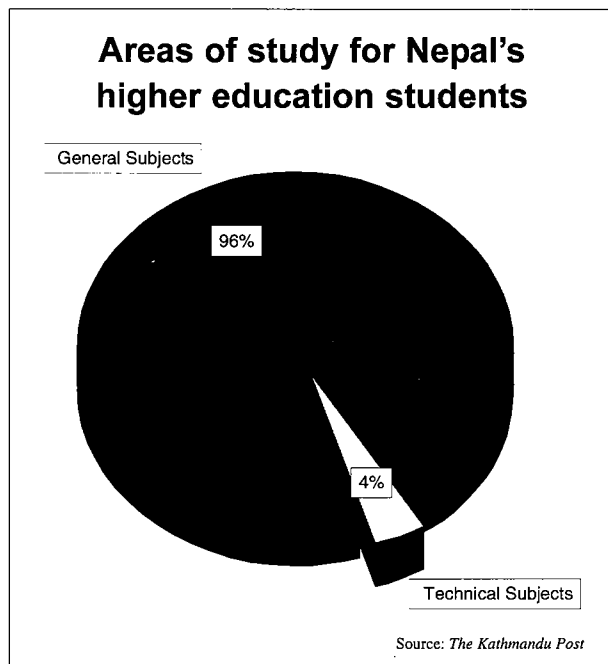
In the first stage, admission would be given for bachelor's and master's degree programs in computer science and food science — the subjects already being taught at the proposed institution.

Initially, the college would have no power to grant affiliation to other institutions.

Fresh appointments of teachers and other staff would be made while the ongoing degree and intermediate classes at Adamjee Science College continue in order to supply students for higher-level classes there.

The proposed science and technology institute would start functioning by the end of 1998 with a fresh intake for its degree programs, added the source.

- *The News International*
July 9, 1998



after 10 years of primary/secondary education — by the year 1998.

Under the heading of general higher education, the report suggested establishing an open university with its own curriculum, self-study materials and an examination system.

Among its other recommendations, the HLNEC also suggested a gradual increase in tuition fees to reduce dependency upon the government and entrance exams for every level of study.

The report suggests that Eastern University and Pokhara University should be developed as

enrolled in Tribhuvan University and its campuses.

- *The Kathmandu Post*
July 22, 1998

PAKISTAN

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has given its clearance for the upgrading of Government Adamjee Science College, Karachi, to the status of a degree-awarding institution.

Sources in the Sindh Education Department report that the UGC informed the department it would have no objection if the college were to be granted the status.

Europe

GREECE

The Greek Supreme Court has ruled that degrees from foreign universities are invalid if part of the studies take place at a branch in Greece.

The ruling directly blocks the way for the establishment of private universities.

Many foreign universities, particularly British, have set up outposts called liberal studies

