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Church to start university

By NATION Correspondents

The African Independent Pentecostal Church of Africa is set to start a university.

The archbishop-elect, the Reverend Samson Mwangi Gaitho, told the congregation yesterday that President Moi had agreed to give the church land to build the college.

The church will, therefore, apply to the Commission for Higher Education to be allowed to offer university education.

A committee will meet later this month to decide on the courses.

The Rev Gaitho was speaking at the church's cathedral at Bahati, Nairobi. It was his first official function since his consecration on October 4.

The archbishop said the government will also give the church control of schools under the district education boards. These were formerly *Gikuyu Karing'a* schools that were started in the 1930s by Africans as an alternative to missionary ones.

The archbishop informed worshippers that the church would establish a secretariat so as to serve them better.

In another development, police dispersed worshippers at an

AIPCA church in Githunguri after fighting broke out between two warring factions.

The worshippers of Githa church fought following a dispute over who between two preachers should lead the Sunday service.

A group of elderly members went for Pastor Samuel Kamukwa. However, Pastor Kamukwa cried for help and members opposed to the elderly group went to rescue him, prompting the fight.

Another church member, a Mr Peter Mbiri, in his late 70s, blew a whistle alerting police who were stationed at the church gates.

The officers stormed the church and ordered all the worshippers to walk out. Those who hesitated were beaten and kicked out.

Outside the church, the members abused each other as police ordered them out of the church compound.

At this juncture, Deacon John Gikoni, who is allied to the elderly group, moved back to the altar calling on his group for prayers but the opposing group broke from the police dragnet and pulled out the deacon.

The police pleaded with the fighting worshippers to calm down and leave the deacon alone.