



MMUST NEWS

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Post

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**“I am a Public Intellectual”
Meet Professor Frank Matanga.**



Inside:
BBC Swahili visits MMUST

UPCOMING

EVENTS



□ 13th Multi Disciplinary International
Conference-19th June, 2019



Editor's Pen



Dear MMUST Community,

In this issue, we interview an ambitious and hard working Prof. Frank Matanga and trace his academic journey up to where he is now.

We also bring you the exciting visit by BBC Swahili team to the University and community engagement by the School of Nursing, Midwifery and Paramedics in Kakamega town.

Enjoy the read.

Read on.

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Bungoma County Governor, His Excellency, Hon. Wycliffe Wangamati and Deputy Governor, Kakamega County, H.E. Prof. Philip Museve Kutima together with other visitors at one of MMUST's stalls during 2019 ASK Western Branch Show.

MMUST Tops the 2019 ASK Show Awards

By Awuor Sandra Dorcas, Wambugu Mary Wangari and Omukuba Mike

The 2019 ASK Western Kenya Branch Regional Show kicked off on a high note on Thursday 30th May 2019 at the Kakamega Show Ground. The three-day Agricultural Show, registered close to 100 exhibitors and a good number of visitors, mostly from the Western region.

The Show attracted a lot of folks from all walks of life. Schools, farmers, politicians, to mention just but a few, crowded the show ground to have a glimpse of what is new in the Agricultural as well as technological sectors. The Show provided a platform for business and companies to showcase their products, close sales and services of their products and benchmark with other competitors.

On Friday 31st May 2019, the Agricultural Society of Kenya (ASK) awarded Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology (MMUST) for being the best interpreters of this year's theme – Promoting Innovation and Technology in Agriculture and Trade. This follows an outstanding display exhibited by the University that proved superb innovation skills in agriculture. The exhibits ranged from new farm and home tools, new crop farming approaches, new farmer aid apps as well as new pest control mechanism with emphasis on the devastating army worm.

Bungoma governor H.E Wycliffe Wangamati and Deputy Governor Kakamega County, Prof. Philip Kutima are some of the renowned guests that visited MMUST exhibition stalls. They got off a contented lot.

The exhibitions were diverse, ranging from machinery, medical products and agricultural products all the way to taxidermy. The exhibitors were fully armed with an arsenal of details ready to pull the trigger to any challenge in terms of question or a quest for elaboration and further explanation.

At the machinery sector the MMUST proved its outstanding innovation skills through the creation of two types of laundry machines; a hand driven one and another propelled by cycling. Both machines are designed in a manner that there is no strain during washing, no breaking of nails for our lovely ladies and no back strains for the old mamas. The technology ensures that washing is done when one is comfortably seated. Other innovations include; a penta star staircase climber designed to carry loads up a staircase as if it is just a smooth flat surface, a solar poultry feeder, spot

welding machine and a compressor for making briquette— charcoal made from burnt banana stalk.

For a long time, Farmers in the western region have had low output from their farms due to lack of correct information on planting and pest control mechanisms to apply at their farms. MMUST has always had these grievances in mind. It was during this agricultural show that they launched two farmer aid apps, the MM-Kilimo and Agri-Helper. MM-Kilimo app provides information on the agricultural innovations from the Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology (MMUST), such as new farm equipment, new planting techniques, latest pest control methods as well as symptoms of crop diseases and their most preferred approach. On the other hand, the Agri-helper is a platform where the farmer gets to engage with specialists from the University. A farmer raises their concern by writing whatever issue they want addressed and gets detailed answers from specialists, through the same platform. Use of local materials to make products was also emphasised.



MMUST Students from the School of Computing and Informatics contracted for e-ticketing verification at the ASK show gate pass.

There was focus on banana plant and cassava. Packing bags, ropes and mats are some of the products exhibited that were made from the backs of banana plant. The quality of the products was unquestionable calling for efforts to embrace this new trend in the market. Cassava products included *chapati*, *mandazi* and doughnuts, which are rich in nutrients. Farmers were also able to learn a few techniques on mushroom farming. That is use of either hot soaked maize combs or compressed saw dust to act as the planting soil. In addition, MMUST mug porridge flour made from mushroom was presented to the farmers for testing. Its nutritious value clearly elaborated over the monotonous porridge flour. Other new fresh products include palm oil from palm tree, and wine and juice from the infamous hibiscus plant.

Perhaps another innovation that could not go unnoticed was the M-Mboga digital kiosk by Sigalagala National Polytechnic. The M-Mboga digital kiosk is meant to improve the cash flow of small business persons, focusing especially on *mama mboga*. Some of its functions include selling of clean vegetables and fruits, blending of juice, renting for services like barber shop, entertainment(music),charging of electric gargets ,printing, scanning and photocopying services.

This is an innovation of its own kind, whose objectives include encouraging employability and marketability of students, create employment opportunities for others, cope with new technological changes, encourage entrepreneurial culture amongst youths, bring essential services nearer to the

clients and also ensure maximum utilization of available resources. Its mobility, 24 hours operation, use of solar energy (green energy), multiple income sources, centralized service base and use of hygienically improved products are some of the innovations that made the M-Mboga Kiosk stand out during the show.

The ASK 2019 Western Kenya Agricultural was wrapped on Saturday 1st June 2019. The Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KFRI), Eco2liobrium and Solibrium Limited companies were also amongst organizations that showcased remarkable innovations. KFRI showcased a variety of exhibitions on new innovations and technologies on forestry and were awarded a trophy for being the best stand demonstrating application of environmental standards. Eco2liobrium and Solibrium Limited companies, dealing with high quality solar products with less environmental impacts, emerged position one in *"The best energy services and conservation sector stand"* and were also awarded with a certificate for being the second best *"Most Striking Display (demonstration of locally manufactured products."*



A part of MMUST Exhibitors pose with a trophy for Best University Stand



Prof. Frank Matanga

In this issue, we interview an ambitious and hard working Prof. Frank Matanga. Being the first Professor of MMUST to give a public lecture, we trace his academic journey up to where he is now.

**By Wambugu Mary Wangari and Sandra
Awuor Dorcas**

Q: Tell us about yourself

My name is Frank Matanga, a Professor of Political Science, from the School of Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance, Department of Peace and Conflict Studies. I am also a public intellectual, educating society on certain matters especially in my field.

Q: Do you have a family? Please tell us about it

I do. I'm married with three children, two beautiful daughters and a son. One of my daughters is already working and has good enough given me my first ever granddaughter. The other one is doing her masters in procurement logistics, and my son is doing masters, here in MMUST, in peace and conflict studies.



Q: What is a typical day like for you?

I wake up by 3:00 in the morning and do some exercises to keep fit; I have a cold shower as early as 4:00 am and breakfast by 7:00 am. By half past 7:00 I am in my office receiving and teaching undergraduates and postgraduates. On average in a year I supervise successfully around six PhDs and possibly four masters.

Depending on the amount of work, I leave the office preferably at 6:00 in the evening to meet my family and have a quiet supper while I watch news.

Q: What do you do in your free time?

Being a family man, I listen to my children and wife, and occasionally we go out for a drink and meal. I also keep dairy animals and enjoy farming. Besides that, I am a huge soccer fan. In Kenya, AFC Leopards is my team and in Europe, it is Liverpool.

Q: Please tell us about your academic life

I have been in academia in many capacities, of course as a student, the highlights being University life. I have a Bachelor's and Master's degree in political science from the University of Nairobi. By then it was not called Political Science. The regime of president Moi was harsh about political science. We were considered radicals and anti-system. He actually directed that the University of Nairobi renames the discipline to 'government'. So, in our qualifications, you will not find political science.

I also have a PhD in political studies from Rhodes University, South Africa. I had a very interesting experience there as a

student. How I ended up there was also very interesting. I just applied, I didn't have a scholarship. By then things were very difficult. However, following my application, whoever became my supervisor came all the way to Nairobi. A professor Roger Southall, he was interested and researching on politics in Kenya. So when he saw an applicant to Rhodes from Kenya, he got interested and he came. The interview was very interesting and informal. It was held at New Stanley Hotel. We just shared a meal and a drink, and he asked me several questions about Kenyan politics and after 30 minutes he told me, "Frank, you are coming to study at Rhodes".

In South Africa, the Universities were divided on colour lines. We know the history of South Africa. I went there in early 1990s and apartheid was still visible in terms of faculty membership and student enrolment. I am also a history student, so I had been reading about apartheid, but now I was experiencing it first-hand. Rhodes was a very well furnished and resourced University. I was given my own office, computer and everything that goes with it.



The Inaugural Lecture by Prof. Matanga



As I had put it earlier, I was not on scholarship. I had to apply for one and lucky me, I became the first ever East African to win the Andrew Mellon Scholarship.

At Rhodes, they take their education so serious that they sponsored me to go and defend my PhD thesis at the University of Cambridge, Europe, for two weeks. This was because I had quoted many scholars from that institution. My thesis was recommended to be published into a book. Before I came back to Kenya, I was offered a job to teach there because of my extemporary performance but maybe because I am a patriot, I declined.

Q: How about working life?

Immediately after my Masters, I joined Kikuyu Campus which was, by then, a Campus of the University of Nairobi, as a graduate assistant, a small boy. Hardly could you tell, in class, the difference between me and some of the undergraduate students. I was still at such a tender age.

Thereafter, I was among the scholars who came to establish Maseno University. While at the institution, I became a founding Director of a new School, known as the School of Development and Strategic Studies which was housing a number of programmes. Interestingly, I happened to interact with some of the very prominent academicians in this country.

After Maseno, I came to MMUST, as an Associate Professor, when it was still a very young University. Together with other colleagues, in particular Professor Okoth Pontian, we established a number of academic programmes: PhD

and Masters in Peace and Conflict Studies and the famous Bachelors in Disaster Management and International Diplomacy. Besides Peace and Conflict Studies, we also established programmes in International Relations running from Undergraduate to PhD.

Being a member of Senate, I was able to chair a number of committees including the development of official terms of service documents for non-teaching staff and a medical scheme of service.

Q: You are known for being the first to deliver an Inaugural Lecture at MMUST. Tell us about it.

The Inaugural Lecture was a landmark in my life. I became a full Professor in 2012 after four years of associate professorship. I had this burning ambition to be recognized, so I had to prove myself by delivering a professorial inaugural lecture, entitled, 'Conceptualizing Peace, Security and Development: A Critical Discourse' in February 2018, a first of its kind in MMUST. My contribution to the field of political science was to offer a systematized analysis of the relationship between peace, security and development.

Q: What is your comment on the current state of the country especially with every politician eyeing the 2022 elections?

It is unfortunate that year in year out Kenyans have been forced to focus so much on electioneering at the expense of development. No sooner do we finish elections, than we are pushed again into yet another electioneering mode, therefore, impacting negatively on the development process.



Q: What are your current research interests?

At the moment, I am working on a proposal that, hopefully, will lead to the establishment of a Research Institute, which was one of my recommendations at the Inaugural Lecture. The Institute is meant to bring together many schools within the University on matters of research, innovation and consultancy.

Q: What about teaching in this University appeals to you?

MMUST provides a thoroughly conducive environment for teaching.

I am happy because, initially we had problems with office space, but now, Professors have been properly taken care of making their work easier.

Q: Tell us some of the challenges you encounter in your profession.

Unlike our days, students of today are not very serious. For example, at Undergraduate level, I get shocked when I step in class and students start asking

you for hand-outs. Hand-outs are not part of learning. I call it rote learning and yet that is what characterizes the Undergraduate students today. They hardly go to the library. All they want to do is to reproduce what the lecturer says.

Unfortunately, the same problem spills over to postgraduates. Whereas we expect them to be a 'do it yourself' mode of study, hardly are they serious. No wonder most of them take more time to finish their Masters.

Q: What advice do you have for students that want to become like you?

Focus, discipline and having a vision are very important. It is unfortunate that today, many people just think about money. I put more emphasis on self-actualization and hard work. I am a full professor and yet I get to my office at 7:30am in the morning, and I still publish.

Q: Describe yourself in three words

Self-made, hardworking and disciplined.

**Coming
Soon....
Newspost
Classifieds**





MMUST Paramedics and Kakamega County Lead Campaign for Pre-Hospital Health Care

By Wambugu Mary Wangari

MMUST School of Nursing Midwifery and Paramedics (SONMAPS), in collaboration with the County Government of Kakamega, held a free medical camp and training on basic life support skills on Tuesday 11th June 2019 at Muliro Gardens.

MMUST Paramedic Science students, together with Kakamega County Disaster Management Unit and Red Cross team, carried out a drill exercise to simulate a road accident with a number of casualties. This was the highlight of the day as it attracted the attention of several people who rushed to the 'scene' of the supposed accident. Paramedics from Aga Khan Health Services located at Tuskys Mega Mall were quick to respond, assuming it was a real accident. The purpose of the drill was to educate road users on the 'do' and 'don'ts' for when an accident occurs.

Mercy Mukopi, the Principal Administrator-County Disaster Management Unit, urged members of the public to ensure their safety by keeping a fair distance from the scene of the crime.

NEXT



Prof. Charles Mutai, the Acting DVC(PRI), sitting in for the Acting VC, Prof. Joseph Bosire appreciated the School of Nursing Midwifery and Paramedics(SONMAPS) for organizing the medical camp as it provided a learning opportunity for members of the public.

"We have different departments here. For us to achieve much, we should work together as a team," he said.

He declared the free medical camp officially open, urging everyone to take advantage of the rare opportunity.

Dr. Tecla Sum, Chair of Paramedics Department (MMUST), said that paramedical science caters for premedical environment as demonstrated during the drill. She added that accidents of any nature occur anywhere at any time of the clock and it never chooses the characteristic population it affects.

"According to World Health Organization (WHO) and Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 2017, more than 6 million people of all ages and economic groups die every year from unintentional injuries and violence," she said.

She went ahead to say that how trauma scenes are handled, especially within the golden hour (first hour after trauma when emergency treatment is likely to be successful), determines the outcomes of the trauma patients. She added that the speed and quality of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) are critical factors in a patient's ultimate outcome and First Aid given makes a huge difference between life and death.

Dr. Sum asked for support from the County Government to establish a National Referral Trauma Centre in the country since there is none.

"Pre-hospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS) focuses on principles of good trauma that promote critical thinking. The EMS training at MMUST, adopted an "evidence based approach" and we offer nothing but the very best. Learners tackle cases on scene assessment and management, management of all medical emergencies, environmental emergencies, disaster management, civilian tactical EMS, trauma care in the wilderness, vehicle extrication, just to mention but a few," she concluded.

In 2016, MMUST was the first in Africa to establish a Paramedical Sciences program aiming at improving pre-hospital care levels. This was after a needs assessment that identified a growing need for emergency medical services at pre-hospital levels in the country including Kakamega County.

Dr. Sum urged for team work in order to increase survival rates of casualties involved in trauma accidents.

NEXT



The Deputy Base Commander, Kakamega County, Inspector A. Sang was the Chief Guest. He was accompanied by faculty members from SONMAPS and other invited guests as he visited the different tents for demonstrations by paramedic students. The demonstrations were on arresting bleeding, shock and resuscitation, administering CPR, transportation of casualties, nutrition and taking care of burns. Other medical services included treating minor ailments, providing dental services, answering health-related questions, blood donation and screening of patients.

The Chief Guest responded to road safety concerns from the public promising to deploy more officers to clear roads when road accidents occur. Inspector Sang urged people not to give bribes to traffic police and instead report such cases. He also added that motorists and *bodaboda* riders should not carry more than the required number of passengers.

Representing the County Disaster Management Unit were Abigael Chepkorir, Mercy Mukopi and Mr. Moses Anambo (Chief Fire Officer). The team expressed their gratitude for such an event. Mercy Mukopi encouraged members of the public present to respond positively to the ongoing registration of disabled people for planning purposes by the County Government.

Prof. John Okoth, the Dean SONMAPS, said that there is lack of premedical health services in the county and that is why the University wants to work together with the County Government to fill this gap.

Also present during the medical camp was Mr. Saitera-Regional Traffic Enforcement Officer (Western Region), Mr. Nyongesa-Deputy Sub-County Police Commander and Inspector Ambani-County Head of Urban Enforcement.

Pictorial



BBC Swahili Meets MMUST

BBC
NEWS

SWAHILI



Students from the Journalism and Mass Communication Department after a motivational talk by the BBC team

Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology, through the Directorate of Corporate Communication and Marketing (DCCM), in conjunction with the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, was privileged to host the BBC Swahili crew from 29th May, 2019 to 31st May, 2019. The team comprised of renowned media personalities; Anne Ngugi, Wanyama Wa Chebusiri and Idris Situma.

During their visit, the crew, together with Journalism and Mass Communication students, carried out a number of activities such as; the live recording of their flagship programme, *Dira ya Dunia*, *Amka na BBC*, as well as Facebook and Instagram Live Broadcast. They also conducted a visit to Kakamega town and held a motivational talk to the students.

In one of their Facebook live sessions, which involved members of the *Chama Cha Kiswahili Cha MMUST (CHAKIMAMU)*, the topic of discussion was why Kiswahili is different in Swahili-speaking countries like Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). There was also a conversation on the challenges facing Kiswahili language, such as mother tongue and the preference of English to Swahili, among others. From the debate, it was evident that something should be done to grow Kiswahili especially in Kenya where it is the national language.

The struggle that African couples go through in their quest to get children was another area of discussion during the *Dira ya Dunia* live broadcast. This talk featured a couple that had stayed for twenty (20) years without getting a child but were blessed with one in 2019. In the show, where the nominated Senator of Kakamega County, Naomi Shiyonga, was present, the couple shared challenges that they have gone through over the years including loss of friends and stigma. One Dr. Chebet, a gynaecologist, was also present to answer questions from students as well as expound on the issue of barrenness.

The media personalities shared their journalism journeys in a motivational talk to students. Anne Ngugi said that her inspiration to become a journalist started when she was young. She would watch television through her neighbour's window, because her family did not have one, and would see these beautiful women reading news which made her want to be like them. In high school, Anne used to write news of what was happening in school, and even though some people discouraged her, she never stopped. Fast forward after she graduated from the University, she got her first job and started hitting Kenyan Television screens. However, that was not the end of her story. She was once fired from her job and went through failed interviews before she landed a job on BBC Swahili. Anne described herself as a woman who has fought for her space, and as she said, "you have to push! This world needs fighters."

The second talk was given by Idris Situma, a social media guru at BBC Swahili, who encouraged students to take advantage of their phones.

"Your phone is your office. Mobile phones are the next big thing," he said.

He emphasized that, as a journalist, one does not need a lot/expensive equipment to work.

Wanyama Wa Chebusiri, who has been in the media industry for twenty two (22) years, went ahead to explain to the students on how to brand themselves as media professionals. He reiterated that students should live to the fact that the news trend in the world is consumed mainly through the phone, which has led to citizen journalism.

"What value do you add to a story that has already been shared to the public?" he asked.

Mr. Wanyama also urged students to be aggressive journalists, to embrace creative and original journalism as well as ethics and editorial guidelines in journalism, and to read beyond books because journalism is going through tremendous changes.



Ms. Anne Ngugi and MMUST students during the Facebook Live session



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