



# MMUST NEWS *Post*

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## MMUST HOSTS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE TO ADDRESS ISSUES VITAL IN THE ATTAINMENT OF THE BIG FOUR AGENDA





## Editor's Pen

**Dear MMUST Community,**

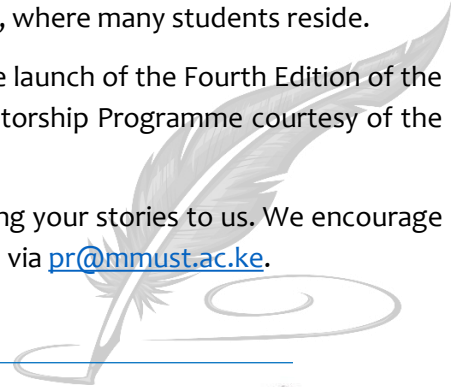
In this issue, we bring you proceedings during the 14th Multidisciplinary International Virtual Conference which is an annual event in the University calendar.

We also highlight the 6<sup>th</sup> UN Global Road Safety week campaign, a biennial event that brings together stakeholders drawn from Governments, NGOs, institutions and other organizations to raise awareness on road safety.

We join the MMUST security personnel in their meeting with the Kakamega County Police as they discuss on the rising incidences of insecurity in Kefinco, Koromatangi and Nyayo Tea Zone estates, where many students reside.

Finally, we bring you the launch of the Fourth Edition of the Female Journalism Mentorship Programme courtesy of the US Embassy, Kenya.

We thank you for sending your stories to us. We encourage you to keep on doing so via [pr@mmust.ac.ke](mailto:pr@mmust.ac.ke).



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# INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE



*Prof. Edwin Wamukoya gives his welcoming remarks during the official opening of the Conference.*

## MMUST HOSTS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE TO ADDRESS ISSUES VITAL IN THE ATTAINMENT OF THE BIG FOUR AGENDA

By Wangari Wambugu [[mwangari@mmust.ac.ke](mailto:mwangari@mmust.ac.ke)]

Researchers from around the globe joined Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology in marking its 14th Multi-disciplinary International Virtual Conference where they deliberated on issues that are crucial in improving the standard of living in the society. The Conference, whose theme was ‘Innovative Technology Transfer for Universal Health Care (UHC), Food Security, Affordable Housing and Manufacturing for Sustainable Development’, ran from 19th to 21st May, 2021.

Speaking during the Conference, the Chief Guest, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of ICT, Innovation and Youth Affairs, Hon. Joseph Mucheru, said that technology holds the answer to developmental challenges. “The Government is at the forefront of promoting technology by empowering the youth with skills and knowledge. Kenya is endowed with a mass of innovative talents that need to be nurtured,” he stated, adding that the Ministry of ICT is looking into supporting upcoming businesses and innovations through funding.

The Cabinet Secretary pointed out that Kenyans are not doing very well as far as patenting their research works and their traditional knowledge is concerned. “Let us be keen on commercializing research and I assure you that you’ll see returns,” he said.

Furthermore, Hon. Mucheru said that the Ministry of ICT is in the process of ensuring access to internet connectivity across the country using the Universal Service Fund (USF).

However, he noted that a major challenge in Kenya is lack of power in many areas.

MMUST Chancellor, Dr. Peter Wanyaga Muthoka, said that he would like to see the University lead in research especially in the areas of the Big 4 Agenda. “Although the Big 4 Agenda should be the preoccupation of all Kenyans, Universities have the responsibility, the manpower and the expertise to leap-frog the country into high productivity and excellence in all sectors, through research,” he said.

Dr. Muthoka urged the County Government of Kakamega, under the leadership of H.E Hon. Wycliffe Ambetsa Oparanya, to take advantage of the proximity and research expertise that MMUST has on offer and use it to enhance programs and projects in the County. “MMUST is a huge resource for this County. Collaboration between the County Government of Kakamega and MMUST in various areas such as agro- processing, engineering, disaster management, health and environment, can yield great benefits for the University, the community and the entire nation.”

Additionally, the Chancellor said that Universities should lead in solving society’s problems in order to remain relevant especially in this era of Covid-19. “I am proud to say that a big number of MMUST researchers have been allocated funds for their efforts in Covid-19 related researches,” he stated.

“This year’s Conference comes at a time when the Kenyan Government is focusing on the realization of the Big 4 Agenda, which was meant to focus on the key basic needs that are crucial in uplifting the standard of living of Kenyans. As researchers, we have a responsibility to transform the society and to create a better world for future generations by turning our ideas into reality,” said the Acting Vice Chancellor, Prof. Solomon Shibairo.

Prof. Solomon Shibairo said that he was glad that the Conference had provided scholars with an opportunity to exchange research findings from their various fields. “Applying knowledge of different disciplines to solve societal problems is the way to go. If there is one thing that the Covid-19 pandemic has taught us, is that different sectors can collaborate to confront humanitarian and development challenges such as poverty, unemployment and food insecurity,” he said.

The Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor (Planning, Research and Innovation), Rev. Prof. J.S.K. Achoka, in her speech said that Universities and Research Institutions should take up the mantle of conducting cutting-edge research and coming up with innovations. “We can do this through proper knowledge transfer, to ensure that we tackle the challenges our countries face,” she said, adding that researchers should embrace the ‘new normal’ and take up the challenge through research and innovation.

The Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academics and Student Affairs), Prof. Peter Odera, stated that the Conference was an opportunity for all researchers to provide suggestive solutions that face humanity such as the Covid-19 pandemic. The Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration and Finance), Prof. Charles Mutai, in his remarks acknowledged the importance of the Conference and further welcomed all the participants.

The Director Research and Postgraduate Support, Prof. Peter Bukhala, recognized the participation of fourteen (14) Guest Speakers in the Conference and also pointed out that there were about one hundred and ten (110) presentations. “This Conference provides a forum for researchers, educators and other stakeholders to present their findings in the areas of the Big 4 Agenda. It serves the best interests of not only scholars and scientists but also the regional and international research sector,” he said.



## MMUST MARKS 6TH UN ROAD SAFETY WEEK

By Dr. Lydia Anyonje [[lanyonje@mmust.ac.ke](mailto:lanyonje@mmust.ac.ke)] & Wangari Wambugu [[mwangari@mmust.ac.ke](mailto:mwangari@mmust.ac.ke)]

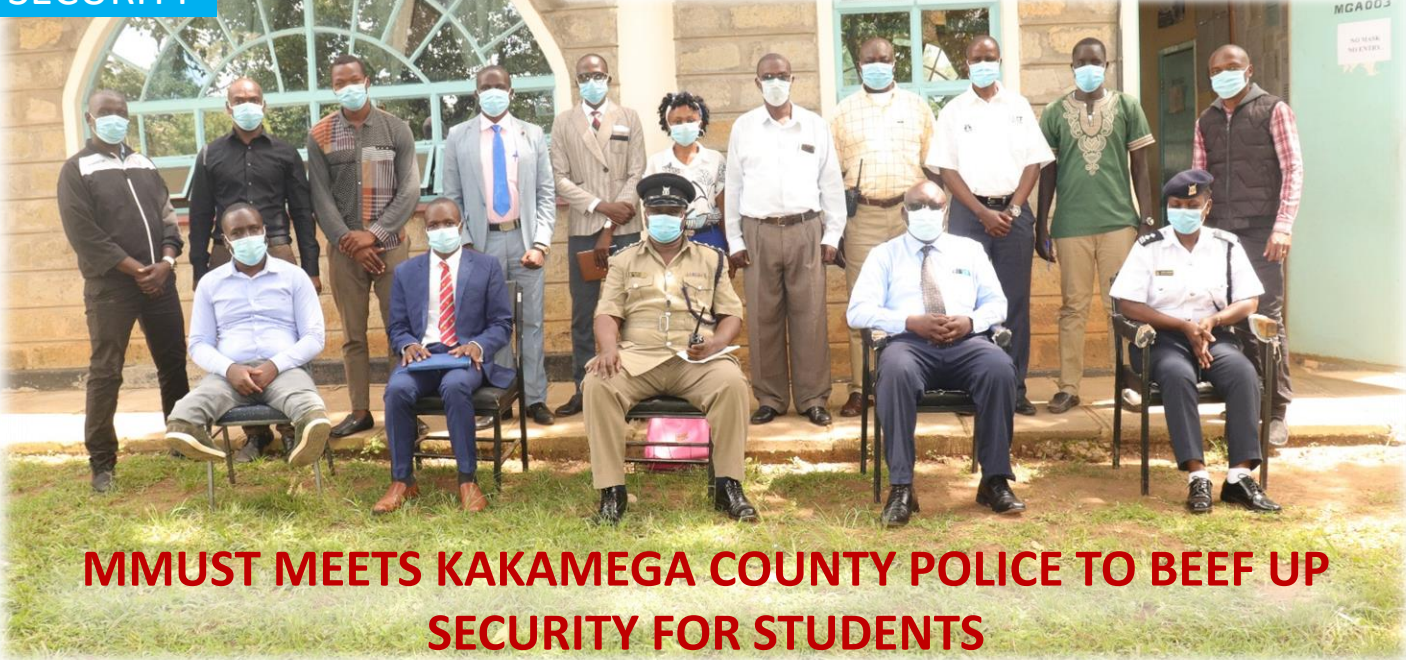
Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology on Thursday, 20th May, 2021 joined the rest of the world in marking the 6th UN Global Road Safety Week (UNGRSW). This is a United Nations biennial global road safety campaign that brings together stakeholders drawn from Governments, NGOs, institutions and other organizations to raise awareness on road safety.

Flagging off the event, the Acting Vice Chancellor, Prof. Solomon Shibairo, urged MMUST staff to stay true to the UN campaign by maintaining 30km/h speed limits within the University premises as well as the populated streets in the County and elsewhere. This event was timely since it was marked at a time when the entire world is concerned about the rising numbers of road accidents especially in highly populated areas due to over speeding by motorists.

In tandem with the current UN's theme, 'Streets for Life #Love30', MMUST held a walk within and outside the University calling for 30 km/h default speed limits in a bid to keep the University as well as the County safe for both pedestrians and motorists.

"Every year, the world loses close to 1.35 million people, while 50 million others are injured as a result of road accidents. In fact, each day, 3400 deaths occur globally due to high speeds on our roads," said the Director Performance Monitoring and Evaluation (PME), Dr. Joseph Nasongo.

In Kenya, 3975 people die every year due to road accidents, while 11000 injuries are recorded at our hospitals. This means that the country is losing Kshs. 300 billion annually which is a burden on the economy. According to the Coordinator PME, Mr. Henry Wati, "by April this year, in Kenya alone, 1178 people died as a result of road accidents."



## MMUST MEETS KAKAMEGA COUNTY POLICE TO BEEF UP SECURITY FOR STUDENTS

By Dr. Lydia Anyonje [[lanyonje@mmust.ac.ke](mailto:lanyonje@mmust.ac.ke)] & Wangari Wambugu [[mwangari@mmust.ac.ke](mailto:mwangari@mmust.ac.ke)]

The rising incidences of insecurity in Kefinco, Koromatangi and Nyayo Tea Zone estates, where many students reside, has prompted Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology to initiate a high level security discussion with the Kakamega County police, MMUST security personnel and student leaders. The meeting, which took place on Wednesday, 19th May, 2021, was also attended by the OCS Kakamega County, Chief Inspector Mohammed Godana and Inspector Claire Nafula.

Speaking during the discussions, the OCS decried the rise of insecurity especially in Kefinco estate where thugs are disguising themselves and inventing new operations to avoid getting caught. He assured the University security and the students leaders that the police have also changed their mode of operations and will go undercover to ensure that the culprits are brought to book. “Students must also take personal responsibility for their own safety. Please contact me immediately you witness any suspicious activities,” he stated.

MMUST’s Chief Security Officer, Mr. Julius Mabia, said that the County Government had promised to help with lighting up the problem spots in order to maintain security in those areas. “We must activate our community policing. MMUST Security will meet the landlords and the Bodaboda Chairman to ensure that this is done.”

Inspector Nafula urged the students to walk in groups and avoid being out beyond curfew hours, since the late hours predispose them to attacks by thugs. She advised them to have the contacts of the police in case of such incidences and to stay in more secure environments.

Some of the student leaders who spoke during the meeting included; MMUSO President, Mr. Brian Odhiambo, MMUSO Treasurer, Mr. Gilbert Muriasi and the Non-resident Female Representative, Ms. Cynthia Muthoni.

# MMUST AMONG FIVE UNIVERSITIES SET FOR FEMALE JOURNALISM STUDENTS MENTORSHIP, 2021 COHORT



*Participants during the launch.*

By Marvin Wangatiah [[mwangatiah@mmust.ac.ke](mailto:mwangatiah@mmust.ac.ke)]

Ten MMUST female journalism students are among the Fourth Edition of the Female Journalism Mentorship Programme courtesy of the US Embassy, Kenya. The fourth edition was launched on 8th May, 2021, bringing together a fresh cohort from five local universities.

The programme is coordinated by the International Association of Women in Radio and Television (IAWRT), Kenya Chapter. It will involve fifty (50) female students from Moi University, Maseno University, Maasai Mara University, Technical University of Mombasa and Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology.

Speaking at the launch at Brackenhurst Hotel in Limuru, Acting Deputy Chief of Mission at the US Embassy, Mr. Erick Watnik, said that the mentor-ship is crucial in addressing gender imbalance in the media industry. “It is important to bring up new generation of women in a profession that is still underrepresented by women, for inclusion and diversity of ideas,” he stated.

Mr. Watnik encouraged the cohort to make the best of the opportunity that they competitively got selected for. “You stand on the shoulders of giants. Your mentors have broken many barriers and have set examples for you,” he said. “Around the world, there are few mentors, so you are privileged to have women in media to walk with you and set you in the right direction,” added Mr. Watnik.

Among the top media women leaders present, Ms. Josephine Karani, Chairperson of International Association of Women in Radio and Television, (IAWRT) Kenyan Chapter, said that the choice of women as world political leaders shows that they have what it takes to lead the world. She cited the nomination of the Court of Appeal Judge Martha Koome as Chief Justice to succeed David Maraga, President of the Republic of Tanzania, Samia Suluhu and US Vice President Kamala Harris. “Mentors serve as role models, teachers, counsellors and examples to mentees, the goal being to produce people better than themselves”, said Ms. Karani.

The Mentorship Programme takes one year. Thematic areas to be covered include: Digital Media, Safety of Women Journalists, Media Ethics and last but not least is learning during the COVID-19 Pandemic. The MMUST team was led by the Chaperone, Ms. Marvin Wangatiah and Mr. Wafula Nyongesa, Acting CoD, Journalism and Mass Communication Department.



*MMUST student giving her experience.*





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