



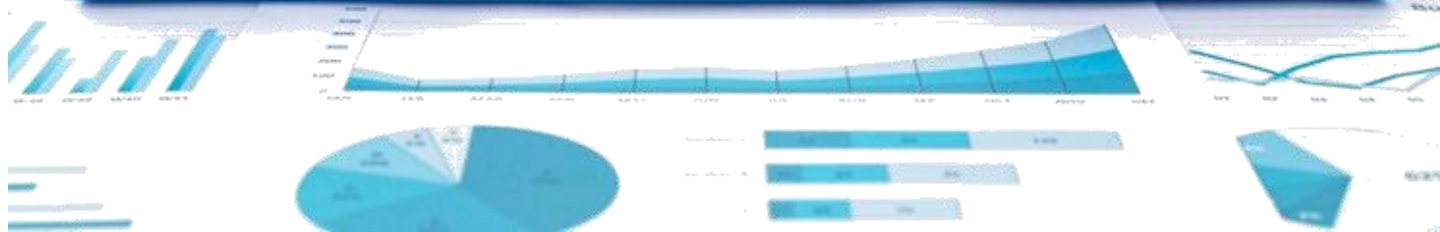
MMUST NEWS

A Digital Publication of Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology

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1ST INTERNAL QUALITY AUDIT BASED ON ISO 9001:2015 STANDARD



Management Audit



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Editor's Pen

Greetings MMUST Community,

We are glad to bring to you the latest edition of the News Post.

After the start of the year, the University is steadily picking up pace in terms of its activities. We thank you for involving the Editorial team in your events and functions. We urge you to continue reaching to us via pr@mmust.ac.ke. We shall be happy to carry your story in our next editions.

As we come to the end of January, we want to wish you a productive February 2021.

See you on the other side!



Nashilluh Brendah Kabindio
Chief Editor/Ag. Public Relations
Officer



Awuor Sandra Dorcas
Writer, Creative Design and
Layout



Wangari Wambugu
Writer, Creative Design and
Layout



Shiundu Wilberforce
Photographer

VARSITY BUILDS CAPACITY OF INTEGRITY ASSURANCE OFFICERS IN FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION



Ag. Vice Chancellor, Prof. Solomon Shibairo, presents a certificate to the Performance Monitoring and Evaluation (PME) Director- Mr. Henry Wati, one of MMUST Integrity Assurance officers.

By Awuor Sandra Dorcas [sdorcas@mmust.ac.ke]

Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology (MMUST) Ag. Vice Chancellor, Prof. Solomon Shibairo, presented certificates to fifteen (15) staff members who were trained as Integrity Assurance Officers. This was during the 5th Corruption Prevention Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, 19th January, 2021 in the Vice Chancellor's Boardroom.

The five- day training was facilitated by the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission from 3rd -7th June 2019 at Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology. The training covered the following areas:

- i. Identifying and sealing corruption loopholes in the procurement system.
- ii. Promoting integrity in public financial management.
- iii. Attitude change in the fight against corruption.
- iv. Corruption Reporting.
- v. Corruption Risk Assessment.
- vi. Entrenching good leadership and governance in public service.
- vii. Identifying and sealing corruption loopholes in human resource management.
- viii. Fostering organizational culture that promotes ethics and integrity.
- ix. Corruption prevention tools and strategies for public sector institutions.
- x. Psychology of corruption.
- xi. The role of Corruption Prevention Committees and Integrity Assurance Officers in mainstreaming ethics, integrity and anti-corruption.

The University Integrity Assurance Officers (IAOs) are mandated to implement the University's corruption prevention plans, institutionalize corruption prevention, sensitize the University community on corruption prevention, participate in carrying out corruption prevention surveys and corruption risk assessment, identify corruption loopholes and develop mitigation plans to address them.

The Officers were drawn from different Departments and Schools within the University. They include; Dr. Paul Ogenga- School of Education (SEDU), Dr. Wilberforce Cholo- School of Public Health, Biomedical Sciences and Technology (SPHBS&T), Dr. Ruth Simiyu- School of Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance (SDMHA), Dr. George Lawi- School of Natural Sciences (SONAS), Dr. Jackline Akoth Odero- School of Business and Economics (SOBE), Dr. Vitalis Ogemah- School of Agriculture Veterinary and Technology (SAVET), Mr. Henry Wati- Performance Monitoring and Evaluation (PME), Dr. Lucy Mandillah- School of Arts and Social Sciences (SASS), Dr. Bernard Omondi- School of Engineering and the Built Environment (SEBE), Mr. Paul Nasokho- School of Computing and Informatics (SCI), Mr. John Arudo- School of Nursing, Midwifery and Paramedical Sciences (SONMAPS), Dr. Beatrice Barasa- Senior Assistant Registrar (Academic Programmes), Mr. Daniel Chirchir- Quality Assurance Directorate, Mrs. Milka Aswa- Dean of Students Office and Ms. W. Chebii from the Finance Department.



SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING HOLDS WORKSHOP IN BID TO STRENGTHEN INDUSTRY-ACADEMIA LINKAGES



The Ag. Vice Chancellor, Prof. Solomon Shibairo, poses for a group photo together with workshop participants at the Best Western Kisumu Hotel.

By Wangari Wambugu [mwangari@mmust.ac.ke]

An inception Workshop on Engineering Curriculum Review, organized by the University's Steering Committee of the Higher Education Partnerships for Sub-Saharan Africa (HEP SSA) programme, was held at the Best Western Kisumu Hotel on Friday, 15th January, 2021. HEP SSA, established by the Royal Academy of Engineering, UK, in 2016, is a project that encourages interaction between academia and industry in order to improve the relevance and skills of engineering graduates. It is supported by the Anglo American Group Foundation and the UK Government through the Global Challenges Research Fund.

The Workshop, officially opened by the Acting Vice Chancellor, Prof. Solomon Shibairo, was spearheaded by the Dean, School of Engineering and the Built Environment (SEBE), Eng. Dr. Bernadette Sabuni, together with the Chairperson of Department, Civil and Structural Engineering, Dr. Micah Mukolwe. During the Workshop, participants were taken through the planned activities of the project, shared experiences on implementation of engineering programmes and how they can be made more pertinent. Industry expectations were also highlighted.

Prof. Eng. Simiyu Sitati of Moi University, Dr. Njenga Mburu and Dr. Mwenda Madaraka both of Dedan Kimathi University of Technology represented the academia partners while the industry partners were represented by Eng. Ahmed Mukhtar of Efficient Electrical Engineers Limited, Eng. Linda Otieno of the Institution of Engineers of Kenya (IEK) and Mr. Gabriel Odipo of Muhoroni Sugar Company. The Royal Academy of Engineering, UK was represented by Gaele Elisha who participated virtually.

Chairpersons of Department from the Electrical and Communications Engineering, Dr. James Owuor as well Dr. Peter Cherop from the Mechanical and Industrial Engineering Department were also present.

LEGISLATOR SPEAKS ON RECENT GRADUATION FROM MMUST AND CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION IN KENYA

By Awuor Sandra Dorcas

[\[sdorcas@mmust.ac.ke\]](mailto:sdorcas@mmust.ac.ke)

Hon. Johnson Manya Naicca is a recent graduate of Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology (MMUST). He is also a Member of Parliament for Mumias West Constituency. Having graduated from MMUST with a Bachelor's Degree in Disaster



From left: Ag. Vice Chancellor, Prof. Solomon Shikairo, Hon. Johnson Naicca - MP Mumias West, and Dr. Gordon Nguka, the Director - Open Distance and E-learning (ODEL) at MMUST, pose for a photo in the Vice Chancellor's Office before the 15th Graduation Ceremony on 18th December 2020.

Management and International Relations on 18th December 2020, we talked to Hon. Naicca about his experience of e-learning at MMUST and other matters concerning academia and politics.

Q. Tell us a little about yourself.

My name is Johnson Manya Naicca. It is a privilege to be serving the good people of Mumias West as their Member of Parliament.

I was born and raised in humbling circumstances by my parents, who were peasants. I am glad that consistency, resilience and hard work has given me the opportunity to serve the good people of Mumias West Constituency as their Member of Parliament. I consider myself a strong mix of both a leader and a servant, taking my stance as it is appropriate in each situation.

My leadership skills, and skills as a servant, both utilize my great abilities as a listener, problem solver and innate supporter of others.

Q. Congratulations on your graduation. What was your experience learning at MMUST?

My academic and intellectual journey at MMUST has been enriching. The profoundly conducive learning environment, an extremely social student population and industrious academic and non-academic staff are to credit for my success at MMUST. It was a good experience gaining insight and knowledge from this great University.

I look forward to pursuing my Postgraduate studies at MMUST as soon as is practically possible.

Q. Why did you choose to pursue your course at MMUST?

MMUST is universally acclaimed on matters pertaining to disaster management and humanitarian assistance. It struck me off as a University where I could get quality education. MMUST as a University of Choice stands for values that I believe in such as excellence, hard work and good ethical conduct. In life, all of us want the best and I knew I could get that at MMUST.

Q. With the shift to hybrid learning, what do you think universities should do better?

Hybrid or blended learning is here to stay. Universities should take advantage of technology by investing more on ICT to manage the transition and thrive in the new teaching environment. Hybrid learning offers a holistic re-imagined learning experience. It is not a temporary response to a crisis rather it is the new norm for education. It is the path universities must follow to succeed in the future.

A new access model that serves all students also must eliminate the digital divide created not only by lack of access to devices by some students, but also poor or even non-existent internet connectivity. This will require universities to provide wireless hot spots for areas without reliable internet connection.

There has been a massive disruption to the educational system that comes with an element of risk. Opening up and scaling education networks can allow bad actors to take advantage of the new undetected vulnerabilities. Thus, information technology decision makers should consider technologies that ensure secure access to network resources by students, instructors and third-party stakeholders. We should embrace hybrid learning strategy that relies on digital technologies, community partnerships and input from students, educators and researchers.

Q. What are your plans for the future in academia and/or politics?

My focus is now on the choice of my Postgraduate studies.

Politically, I am determined to deliver my mandate as MP for Mumias West. At the end of the term, and based on my performance, the people of Mumias West will make a decision. I want my constituents to view me as the leader of their choice when it comes to their representation.

Q. Any comment on the current political situation in the country?

The current political situation in the country is tensed to say the least. A re-balancing of politics in Kenya seems to be underway as the country begins to look forward to the next election in 2022.

There are the changing political fault lines that are likely to lead us to a new era for Kenyan democracy. It is unclear whether it will be less acrimonious than the last. The politics of class struggle is quite dangerous. The Hustler versus Dynasty talk is hurting the political atmosphere. The country is slowly degenerating to the dogs.

Our solace lies in the Building Bridges Initiative (BBI) spearheaded by President Uhuru Kenyatta and Hon. Raila Odinga. The two gentlemen mean well for our great nation. Let us rally behind their clarion call for national unity, cohesion and inclusivity.

Q. What is your advice to Kenyans especially with the forthcoming 2022 general elections?

Fellow Kenyans, let us all exercise tolerance ahead of 2022. Personal and tribal interests should not threaten our sense of nationhood. We are one!

Q. Parting Shot?

Success is reserved for those who sacrifice.

ICT DIRECTORATE IN DRIVE TOWARDS IMPLEMENTING A PAPERLESS SYSTEM AT MMUST

By Diana Nyatichi [dianyatichi@gmail.com]

On Thursday, 28th January, 2021, Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology's Deans and Directors underwent a semi-virtual demonstration-based training organized by the Directorate of ICT on the Paperless Software project. According to the Directorate's Systems Administrator, Mr. Pastor Akhusama, this particular training was the first phase of the ICT's Paperless Software project whose main aim is to ensure digitalization of documents at the University.

"Today, we started by training them on how to write and send Memos electronically. We want MMUST to go paperless and that includes the admission and finance processes. This way, there will be easier movement of documents. Accessing, storing and retrieving them will also be easier not forgetting that it will also save on cost," he said, adding that the response was very positive.

The second phase of this project will be the User-acceptance Testing where ICT personnel will be visiting Departments to physically train staff as they assess the user perception of the software.



1ST INTERNAL QUALITY AUDIT BASED ON ISO 9001:2015 STANDARD



Photo: Courtesy of Pilgrim Quality Solutions

The University will conduct an Internal Quality Audit based on the new ISO 9001:2015 standard starting on 8th to 12th February 2021. The scope of the Audit is Educational Training, Research and Community Engagement. The objectives of the Audit are to:

- Verify conformance to ISO 9001: 2015 requirements,
- Verify that the Quality Management System (QMS) meets applicable Statutory, Regulatory and Legal requirements,
- Identify opportunities of improvement,
- Verify conformance to documented procedures among others.





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P.O.Box 190-50100

Kakamega, Kenya

Tel No: +254 702597360/1,

+254 733120020/2

Email: pr@mmust.ac.ke