



# MMUST NEWS

A Weekly Digital Publication of Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology

## Post

Vol 2 Issue 13: 22<sup>nd</sup> April-28<sup>th</sup> April 2019

**We wish you all a  
Happy Labour  
Day 2019**

**In the next Issue:  
Know Your Professor**

**UPCOMING**

**EVENTS**



☐ 13th Multi Disciplinary International  
Conference-19<sup>th</sup> June, 2019



## Editor's Pen

Dear MMUST Community!

Welcome to the 13<sup>th</sup> Issue of the MMUST NewsPost.

In this issue, we briefly look at our continued collaborations and international linkages. We also take you through efforts to align to the greening initiatives through CSR activities.

In our next issue, we delve further into bringing our readers closer to the University Professors. In this weekly feature, we shall bring you up to speed through in-depth interviews with our professors in different disciplines within the University.

Finally, as we celebrate the International Labour Day 2019, on behalf of the Editorial Team, we wish our readers a Happy and Exciting Labour Day.

May everyday of your toil count in making MMUST a world class workplace.

Keep Reading.

**Meshack Nyambane**

**For: Chief Editor/Ag. Public Relations Officer**



Dorcas Sandra Awuor  
**Writer**



Wambugu Mary Wangari  
**Writer**



Simon Mwema  
**Photography**



# MMUST Environmental Club involved in Cleanup Exercise in Kakamega Town

By Agevi Humphrey


Stand Up Shout Out (SUSO) Kakamega division in conjunction with Organization of Environmental Conservationists (OEC) club within the Department of Biological Sciences was on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2019 involved in a peaceful campaign from MMUST graduation square to Kakamega town and thereafter involved in cleanup exercise of Kakamega town.

The aim was to sensitize the residence on proper waste disposal and waste management all geared towards a cleaner and healthy town. Before the Event, Mr. Agevi Humphrey the patron of the environmental Club gave a brief talk on the importance of Environmental Conservation in relation to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He noted that a cleaner environment begins with us and its important as an environmental club, we show a good example which other people can learn from. He was happy for the collaboration between OEC and SUSO which he noted was the beginning of greater things ahead.

The patron also noted that with a world population of around 7 billion people currently, we are producing wastes daily. Half of the wastes produced is not collected, treated or safely disposed of and this is causing a global waste crisis. Sustainable Development goals cannot be achieved if waste management is not addressed as a priority.

The Chairperson of SUSO noted that after the exercise, the next big activity will be tree planting in the university and in Kakamega town environments. The patron noted that Kenya Prisons were willing to partner with us and had 100 acres of land that they wanted to engage us to plant trees as part of contributing to the 10% tree cover that is envisaged in the Kenya constitution and which the president has reiterated to fully support. This initiative was also supported by the county government of Kakamega who provided the means to dispose of the wastes collected.





Dr. A.K. Masha of Walter Sisulu University

## Students urged to Embrace Afrocentric Research Methods

By Wambugu Mary Wangari

**D**ue to the existing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology and Walter Sisulu University (WSU), the Directorate of International Relations and Academic Linkages (DIAL) in conjunction with Dr. A.K. Masha of WSU conducted a workshop on Decolonising Research, on Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2019. According to Dr. Catherine Aurah, the director DIAL, this workshop was a call to expand knowledge in research and to learn alternative approaches which challenge the Eurocentric research methods that undermine African knowledge and experiences.

Dr. Masha defined decolonisation as “seeing the world from where we are, not from the perspective of the West, replacing views that see Europe as the centre of the world with knowledge and start looking at the world from Africa.” He urged researchers to challenge knowledge and have the ability to tell their own stories. In his presentation, he gave a quote from Chinua Achebe’s book, *Bravery of Lions*, which says, “Until lions have their own historians, tales of the hunt will always glorify the hunter.” He went on to encourage researchers and supervisors to reject the status quo and come up with new ideas. “Let’s not be colonised. Let’s change policies,” he insisted. “How is it possible to do research in Africa but refer to works abroad?” One question was posed from the audience. However, Dr. Masha discouraged researchers against full decolonisation especially when looking for donors as this would lead to lack of funding from some nationals.

Apart from the issue of decolonisation, people were encouraged to be diverse-do things differently and impact the world differently. “When we are studying, most of us think that we are just studying. Think big, dream big!” asserted Dr. Masha. He described a 22-step research process that he has developed, which he will be launching on 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2019. The process includes; wish to research, selecting a research title, reviewing the literature, introduction, identifying and defining the problem, determining and formulating the research questions, determining research objectives, formulating a hypothesis and operationalization.

In conclusion, supervisors were urged to work with students, move along with them, impact them positively, and nurture and mentor them.



# **FAWE-K Training at MMUST addresses Alarming rate of Girls out of School in Kenya**



**By Awuor Sandra Dorcas**

Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology (MMUST) Peer Counseling Club together with the Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE) organized training for students on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2019, which tackled Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health Rights (ASRHR).

Mr. Titus Oketch, Project Manager at FAWE-Kenya, led the students in interactive discussions during the training. It was noted during the discussions that adolescents in Kenya are still facing adverse complications related to Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights such as HIV/AIDS and STIs, sexual abuse and violence, drug and substance abuse and child marriages. In addition, adolescents and youths living in marginalized areas, those with disabilities, adolescents living with HIV/AIDS, married adolescents and orphans, are susceptible to such complications.

The training was meant to help peer counselors understand the National Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health policy framework and adduce activities that can help in implementation of the ASRHR policy at the grass root levels. The ASRHR policy framework focuses on promoting adolescent sexual health and rights, contribute to increased access to ASRH information and age appropriate comprehensive sexuality education, contribute to reduction of STIs burden, including HPV and HIV as well as improvement of appropriate response for infected adolescents, reduce early and unintended pregnancies, reduce drug and substance abuse, reduce sexual and gender based violence amongst adolescents and address the special SRHR- related needs of marginalized and vulnerable adolescents.

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The ASRHR project in Kenya involves Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology, Maseno University, Kenyatta University, University of Nairobi and Multimedia University and engages with teachers, peer educators, community leaders and health workers, Media advocacy, ASRHR advocacy engagement meeting with Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD). It targets Nairobi, Busia, Kisumu, Siaya and Kakamega counties.

FAWE is a Pan-African non-governmental organization that operates in 33 African countries, including Kenya, to empower girls and women through gender-responsive education. The organization, through the Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (ASRHR) programme, seeks to tackle issues that keep the girl child out of school. According to UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS), poverty levels are closely linked to gender disparities in education. A comparison of male and female out of school rates shows that in low income countries, females are likely to be out of school than males.

The organization addresses issues such as poverty, HIV/AIDS, environmental factors (cultural traditions), Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), early or forced marriages, child abuse/sexual abuse including rape and sexual harassment, remote geographical locations that hinder access to schools and education, gender discrimination, poor knowledge of menstrual cycle and fertility, complications from unsafe abortions, unintended pregnancies and re-entry to school for teenage mothers, which keep girls out of school.





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A publication of Masinde Muliro  
University of Science and Technology  
P.O Box 190-50100  
Kakamega, Kenya  
Tel No: +254 702 597360/1,  
+254 733 120020/2  
Email: [pr@mmust.ac.ke](mailto:pr@mmust.ac.ke)