

VC'S NEWS ROUND-UP

FORGING CONNECTIONS, CHAMPIONING RESEARCH AND ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE



1st Edition

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VC'S MESSAGE

Dear Mmustians!

Welcome to the new look 'VC's News Round -Up', an e-publication that will be highlighting current activities of the University. The revamped publication which has been put together in conjunction with the Directorate of Corporate Communications and Marketing, will be coming to you every Monday.

In this edition, we delve into the exciting advancements and initiatives shaping our University, from groundbreaking research that pushes the boundaries of knowledge to inspiring student led learning experiences. We aim to capture and feature events that highlight the incredible achievements of the various sections in the University. Though our stories, we showcase student welfare, and extra curricular activities such as sports, while offering a glimpse of innovations that define our University.

This week's Round-Up features MMUST's students of Nursing as they conduct community outreach, and International students navigating new horizons as they partake of opportunities offered by MMUST.

I invite you to read and connect with what is happening in MMUST - The University of Choice.

Prof. Solomon Shibairo

VICE CHANCELLOR, MMUST

PROF. SOLOMON SHIBAIRO RESUMES OFFICE AFTER A WELL-DESERVED REST!



The Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology's esteemed Vice Chancellor, Prof. Solomon Shibairo has officially resumed his duties after a well-deserved rest. Prof. Shibairo, known for his visionary leadership, has been instrumental in steering MMUST towards achieving its goals of academic excellence and impactful research since 2020, when he joined MMUST as the Ag. VC and later inaugurated as substantive Vice Chancellor in 2021.

Under his stewardship, MMUST has achieved numerous milestones, including enhanced academic programs, strengthened industry partnerships, and a growing reputation for research and innovation in the institution. His return signals the continuation of these efforts and the initiation of new projects aimed at positioning MMUST as a leading University in the region.

It is worth noting that during Prof. Shibairo's absence, the University's operations were adeptly and professionally managed by the Deputy Vice Chancellor- Planning Research and Innovation, Prof. Charles Mutai. Prof. Mutai's tenure was characterized by tranquility and expeditiousness in service delivery, ensuring that there was a conducive environment for staff to perform at peak. Together with the University management, he made sure that the institution's administrative, academic and financial activities went on unabated for continuity and achievement of MMUST's key mandates. The entire University fraternity thanks and appreciates Prof. Charles Mutai for his exemplary performance.

As Prof. Shibairo returns, the University community is optimistic about the future and confident that he will lead MMUST to greatness. He is expected to continue with the ongoing initiatives and inspire new ones, as the institution continues to build on its strong foundation. We warmly welcome Prof. Shibairo back and look forward to the exciting developments that lie ahead.

Dr. Lydia Anyonje and Caren Nekesa



MMUST STEPS UP EFFORTS TO BOOST HEALTH AND SANITATION IN COMMUNITIES AS STUDENTS OF NURSING TAKE SERVICES TO SIRISIA, BUNGOMA COUNTY

By Dr. Lydia Anyonje [lanyonje@mmust.ac.ke] and Shiundu Masafu
Photos by Shiundu Masafu [wshiundu@mmust.ac.ke]

Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology has stepped up efforts to boost the health and sanitation of communities through community outreach. Between 29th July and Friday, 2nd August, 2024, MMUST staff and students from the Department of



A section of community health promoters from Sirisia during the dissemination of the health and sanitation assessment findings by MMUST students.

Reproductive Health, Midwifery and Child Health, in the School of Nursing, Mid midwifery and Paramedical Sciences (SONMAPS) carried out an assessment of health and sanitation for Sirisia Sub-county in Bungoma County. The activities, funded by the University, were coordinated by the SONMAPS Clinical Placement and Attachment Coordinator - Dr. Roselyne Abwalaba together with the Chairperson of the Department of Reproductive Health, Midwifery and Child Health - Ms. Beatrice Mukabane.

The exercise has been ongoing for one month as part of clinical placement and attachment and this was the climax to share the findings with the community. One key finding was that the residents of Sirisia have some health challenges such as access to clean treated water and poor health seeking behaviour that require intervention by researchers, government and other stakeholders.



One of the MMUST students presents the health and Sanitation findings at the event.

Speaking during the dissemination meeting at Sirisia, Dr. Roselyne Abwalaba, assured the community members and their leaders at Sirisia that the University will support this initiative. “MMUST is committed towards enhancing its connection with the community. We are doing this to meet the requirements as stipulated by the Nursing Council of Kenya but also as an effort to partner with other counties in the former Western Province. This will upscale the health and well-being

of citizens,” stated Dr. Abwalaba, adding that a healthy community is a healthy nation. She was accompanied by Ms. Mable Wanyonyi and Clinical Instructor, Ms Dina Okwiri. The local leadership of Sirisia Sub county was represented by the Sirisia Chief- Fred Simiyu Sikala and Senior Assistant Chief, Sirisia Location, James Mauka. Concurring with other leaders present at the function, Sirisia Chief, Mr. Fred Simiyu Sikala pointed out that the ‘Home visiting’, ‘Community diagnosis’, ‘School health programs’, ‘Meat inspection at Malakisi’, and the ‘inspection of the water treatment cite at Matisi’ undertaken by MMUST students and their lecturers will be helpful in assessing the community and being able to diagnose the community problems and find solutions for them.



MMUST's Dr. Roselyne Abwalaba addresses participants during the meeting with community members and other stakeholders.

The highly successful and visible community activities were orchestrated in collaboration with the public health department at Sirisia, including Medical Superintendent-Dr. Mathias Lukorito, Public health officers, nursing officers, Sub-county coordinators, Gender-based violence coordinators, Community health administrators and Community health extension workers.

The activities, which were conducted in thirty-eight villages, involved Ninety-seven(97)MMUST students of Nursing drawn from the 2nd and 3rd years. “We work closely with the office of the Chief, and are delighted to partner with the University in enabling the people of Sirisia to access better health services. I assure you that the Government is ready

to workwith MMUST to boost health outcomes in Sirisia. We want them to work together with our Community Health Champions,” said the Public Health Officer, Mr. Thomas Sikuku.

Higher institutions of learning such as MMUST are expected, as part of their mandate, to undertake community outreach and transform communities through evidence-based interventions. These activities in Sirisia have undoubtedly and uniquely positioned MMUST among the leading universities championing communities’ resilience and improvement of livelihoods through achievement of positive health outcomes.

MMUST is indeed the university to watch in this sector.





Navigating New Horizons, MMUST Offers Multi-layered Opportunities to International Students

By Linet Owuor; lowuor@mmust.ac.ke

Photos by Shiundu Masafu (wshiundu@mmust.ac.ke)



A section of the International students having a light moment at the University

In pursuit of addressing the multifaceted needs of international students, Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology (MMUST), offers diverse opportunities to this special group of students as they forge new paths in a foreign country.

International students, from diverse corners of the globe, have made MMUST their preferred center for academic excellence. Their experiences are a unique blend of excitement, challenge, and adaptation in the quest to pursue their careers. This is a testament to the power of education in bridging gaps and building a more interconnected world.

MMUST is a beacon of hope to the International students. It has robust resources tailored to international students, including orientation programs, language assistance, and counseling services. These resources make a world of difference, providing



A section of the International students during an excursion at the Nabongo Mumia Cultural Centre

help and emotional reassurance. The support systems MMUST has put in place for seamless integration of international students, including academic and peer advisors, is crucial in their transition, helping them to navigate their new academic landscapes with confidence.

Commenting on some of the challenges international students face, Zachariah Kuir Mapor noted that cultural adaptation is a pivotal aspect of the international student experience. The process of acclimatizing to a new country's customs, language, and social norms can be both exciting and overwhelming. Many students experience 'culture shock,' where the initial thrill of a new environment gives way to feelings of isolation and homesickness. Beyond academics and culture, international students also face the challenge of building relationships and creating networks. Developing friendships and professional connections is crucial in enhancing their University experience. MMUST has diverse activities for International students to tackle this challenge. The 'International Students' Day' is one of the many initiatives, the University has adopted to enhance their integration while exploring their academic pursuits.

During this day, MMUST leverages on its strategic location and the beauty of Western Kenya to reinforce the students' experiential and relational learning. The University takes them excursions to explore the region's cultural, regional and historical sites, including the Kakamega Crying Stone and Nabongo



A group of the International students showcasing their cultural diversity during the International Students, Day 2023.

Cultural Centre. Many international students find solace and strength in student organizations and cultural groups. Cognizant of profound personal development in studying abroad, MMUST's support systems have enhanced adaptability, resilience, and a broader worldview of its international students. Reflecting on his transformation, Zachariah Kuir Mapor attested to the seamless integration, holistic development and comfortable stay he has had at MMUST.



A section of International students sharing a light moment with MMUST staff and Dr. Cathy Lee Arcuino from the United States of America.

international student is one of remarkable resilience and achievement. As Universities continue to embrace diversity and inclusivity, the contributions of international students will undoubtedly continue to enrich the global academic community. With its supportive environment, well-structured support systems and quality education, MMUST is the defined hub for international students.



“Living and studying in a new country has made me more independent and open-minded. I have learned to embrace uncertainty and view challenges as opportunities for growth,” said Zachariah. I n d e e d , t h e experience of b e i n g an



KK OPTICS LTD TO OFFER FREE COMPUTERIZED EYE TESTING TO MMUST STAFF AND STUDENTS!!



DVC PRI Prof. Charles Mutai and Dr. Vishwateja Ponugoti at his office during a courtesy call

Kamlesh Kapadia Optics Limited (KK Optics LTD) will be offering free computerized eye testing to MMUST staff and students from 12th to 13th August, 2024 at 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM. The KK Optics team will conduct the free services at the LBB B02 (Optometry Department), which is behind the University health centre. Regular eye examinations are important for detecting certain eye conditions, hence we encourage all



MMUST SET TO ESTABLISH COLLABORATIVE AGREEMENT WITH COMMUNITY BASED CONSORTIUM

By Caren Nekesa [cnekesa@mmust.ac.ke]
Photos by Shiundu Masafu [wshiundu@mmust.ac.ke]



Mr. Nicholas Ayimba of BCDP, Mr. Erick Bosire of WREACH, and Mr. George Mugalla of BUSINDE during the meeting.

Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology (MMUST) is poised to enter a collaborative agreement with a consortium comprising of Kerith Brook Educational Centre (KBEC), Bondo Community Development Programme (BCDP), We Reach (WREACH), and Businde Passion Nursery Farmers School (BUSINDE). On 8th August 2024, representatives from these organizations met with the MMUST team to discuss the possibility of working together on a number of projects and programmes, including Research, Innovation and Development; Training and Capacity Building; Extension and Outreach; Consultancy; Knowledge Management; Resource Mobilization; Policy and Advocacy; and Corporate Social Responsibility.

The collaboration meeting, which was hosted by the Directorate of International and Academic Linkages (DIAL), aims to strengthen academic-industry linkages in pursuit of consultancy, academic excellence, and national development, with a focus on sustainable development. The Director- DIAL, Dr. Umulkher Ali moderated the discussions.



Dr. Umulkher Ali, Prof. Danstone Lilechi and Prof. Francis Orata discuss a point at the talks.





The collaboration will encompass broad thematic areas such as Food and Commercial Crop Development; Fertilizer Development and Use; Renewable Energy Production and Use; Solid and Liquid Waste Management; Decarbonization; Blue, Green, and Circular Economy; Digital Climate-Smart Agriculture; Sustainable Financing of Smallholder Agri-entrepreneurship; and all aspects of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



Prof. Alice Ndiema keenly following the discussions.

Notable personalities present during the meeting included Prof. Francis Orata, Prof. Danstone Lilechi, Prof. Alice Ndiema, Prof. Peter Bukhala, Dr. Lydia Anyonje and Mr. Nelman Monari. The visiting consortium team included Mr. Nicholas Ayimba of BCDP, Mr. Erick Bosire of WREACH, and Mr. George Mugalla of BUSINDE. By engaging in this collaboration, MMUST will not only boost its academic excellence but also expand its impact on community development and global sustainability efforts.



RESEARCH

MMUST IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CMARN, AND CGIAR, SET TO HOST THE FIRST EVER AFRICA CLIMATE MOBILITY ACADEMY FOR SUSTAINABLE CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

Masinde Muliro University for Science and Technology (MMUST) in partnership with the Climate Mobility Africa Research Network (CMARN), and the Consortium of International Agricultural Research Centers (CGIAR), is set to host the first ever Africa Climate Mobility Academy 2024. This is a programme of mentorship, in-person peer support, expert guidance, and small research grants, aimed at fostering locally relevant research and creating opportunities for exchange and networking for African researchers. It also seeks to enhance the nexus of climate change, human mobility and peacebuilding, as well as fostering mentorship between institutions in Africa. The event will be hosted by MMUST in October 2024 and is steered by Dr. Nicodemus Nyandiko.



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This programme is significant as it increase the numbers of peer-reviewed publications with African researchers as lead authors. Further, is set to strengthen the position of southern-led science to inform policy practice on climate resilience and human mobility in Africa and globally.

The Academy programme offers a combined package of mentorship, writing support and small research grants, granting each candidate an opportunity to participate in a writing academy with the guidance of seasoned researchers. Similarly, through the mentors and with the support from the CPD partnership team, the candidates will be taken through drafting a paper, preparing it for submission to a peer-reviewed journal, and addressing review comments. They will also receive a small research grant to cover costs such as access to literature, conference participation and publishing in open-access, peer-reviewed journals. MMUST's strategic partnerships with CMARN and CGIAR is certainly crucial in fostering resilience, promoting sustainable practices, and empowering communities to tackle the multifaceted challenges posed by climate change. True to its mandate, MMUST is contributing to the creation and implementation of effective policies that address climate mobility to ensure that they are grounded in the latest research and practical experiences.

By Linet Owuor; lowuor@mmust.ac.ke

GWEN CONSULT CONDUCTS ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT IN ANTICIPATION OF THE PROPOSED MMUST'S CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING!!

By Wangari Wambugu (mwangari@mmust.ac.ke)

Photos by Shiundu Masafu (wshiundu@mmust.ac.ke)



MMUST staff, community representatives and student leaders with officials from Gwen Consult during the ESIA exercise at the University.

On 6th August, 2024, Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology hosted a team from Gwen Consult for an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) exercise. The assessment was carried out in preparation for the establishment of the Centre of Excellence in Industrial Engineering, and was spearheaded by Gwen Consult's Mr. Patrick Kituta. The activity, aimed at evaluating potential environmental, social and economic impact of the proposed project, involved key stakeholders, including staff from various Departments, community representatives and student leaders.



ESIA exercise participants inspect the site of the proposed Centre of Excellence in Industrial Engineering.

Notably, the proposed Centre is funded by the African Development Bank (AfDB). It is an initiative of the State Department for Higher Education and Research, and MMUST's School of Engineering and Built Environment (SEBE), in collaboration with the Commission for University Education (CUE). The structure, which is set to link the University with the industry, will house state-of-the-art laboratories and workshops, as well as conference and seminar rooms, just to mention a few. The stakeholders visited the site of the proposed project, and subsequently held discussions regarding the Centre. It is worth noting that this exercise is in adherence with the Environmental Management and Coordination Act (EMCA, 1999), and the Environmental Impact Assessment and Audit Regulations (2003).



Embracing the Art of Lifelong Learning at MMUST, for a Sustainable Future

By Rhoda Mwikali; rowiemwikali224@gmail.com



Alvin Eugene Toffler, an American author and futurist once wrote, “The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those that cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn.” In my early years as a young girl, I believed that learning concluded once formal education was completed. This belief was rooted in the misconception that learning only occurred within the confines of a classroom, with a teacher and fellow students. However, as I matured, I realized that learning is a continuous process that can happen at any time and in any place. This realization, therefore, ignited my passion for lifelong learning. My journey as a Journalism student at Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology (MMUST) has reinforced the idea that education is an ongoing process, unrestricted by age and setting.

This concept of lifelong learning has garnered considerable momentum over the years, and for good reason. It is a natural human drive to seek knowledge through exploration and education, an attribute that should be nurtured for we never acquire enough knowledge that we cannot take anymore! While learning extends beyond formal education systems, the role of formal education in the lifelong learning process, as emphasized by SDG 4, is crucial. Formal education provides the foundational knowledge and skills necessary for individuals to thrive in today’s world. Education empowers people to make informed decisions, develop better policies, and advocate for sustainable practices.

MMUST is a prime institution that offers quality education. Its state-of-the-art facilities, diverse programs, academics, sports, mentorship, and internships contribute significantly to lifelong learning, aligning with the SDGs. The University provides an environment that fosters continuous learning and development, equipping students with the skills and knowledge needed to address the challenges of the modern world. In the quest for lifelong learning, I have realised that MMUST recognizes that embracing quality education is vital not only for the individual but for sustainable development.

Truly, MMUST is The University of Choice! Wouldn’t you love to join this vibrant community where lifelong learning is our guiding principle?

MMUST'S TRANSFORMATIVE COMMITMENT TO EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND INNOVATION

Steven Omondi Otieno; Stevenomondi2001@gmail.com

Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology has consistently demonstrated its commitment to equipping communities in the Western region with the knowledge and skills needed for effective emergency response, as well as fostering innovation and entrepreneurship.

MMUST's planning initiatives include robust training and capacity-building programs. The University has developed comprehensive curricula through strategic partnerships with private security organizations, law enforcement agencies, and healthcare providers. Alongside its emergency response efforts, MMUST has also established a Science Park Innovation and Incubation Centre. This state-of-the-art facility serves as a hub for technological innovation, providing a supportive environment for startups, researchers, and entrepreneurs to develop cutting-edge solutions.

The Science Park Innovation and Incubation Centre offers a range of services, including access to specialized equipment, funding opportunities, mentorship, and networking events. This has helped nurture a vibrant ecosystem of innovators, driving the development of transformative technologies to address pressing societal challenges.

Similarly, MMUST has established the state-of-the-art laboratories and with key stakeholders which has positioned it as a major training hub for professionals, strengthening the teaching and learning of Optometry & Vision Sciences, Biosafety and Biosecurity as well as Paramedical. Such initiatives have ensured that professionals in these fields are equipped a wide range of emergencies from natural disasters to civil unrest.

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Sciences.
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Beyond training first responders, MMUST has played a crucial role in supporting emergency victims. Its top-notch facilities and researches have solutions for emergency medical care. MMUST's commitment to emergency preparedness and innovation extends to the mental well-being of its staff and students. The university has empowered its community to navigate the psychological challenges that arise during emergencies, ensuring holistic support through counseling, stress management workshops, and trauma-informed care programs. Moreover, the University has been at the forefront of championing the re-imagination of natural hazards and disaster preparedness.

innovative

MMUST's transformative efforts in emergency preparedness and innovation have positioned it as a beacon of hope and a catalyst for positive change. By empowering communities, fostering innovation, and championing sustainable solutions, MMUST is leading the charge in building a more resilient and secure future for all.



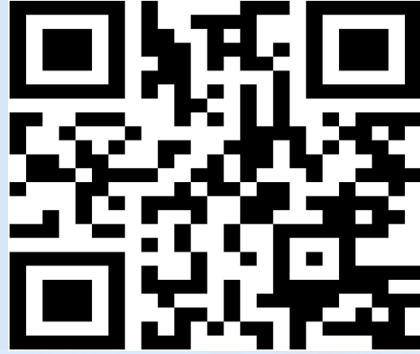
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