



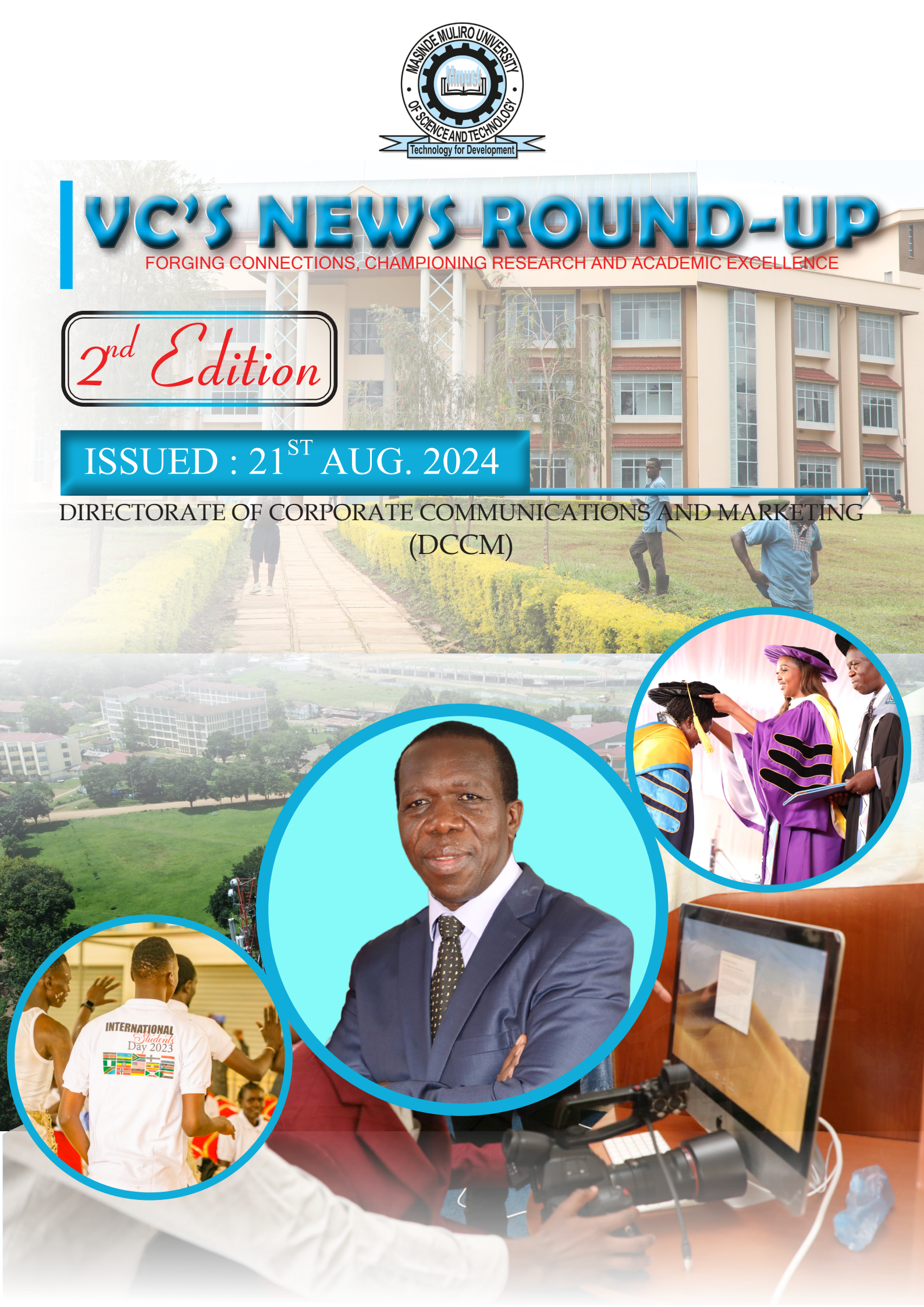
# VC'S NEWS ROUND-UP

FORGING CONNECTIONS, CHAMPIONING RESEARCH AND ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

*2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*

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DIRECTORATE OF CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING  
(DCCM)





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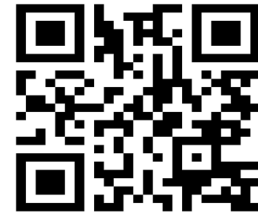


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**MMUST PROGRAMMES**

# MESSAGE FROM THE VICE CHANCELLOR



Dear Mmustians!

Welcome to the second edition of the 'VC's News Round -Up', an e-publication that highlights current activities of the University. This publication has been put together by the Directorate of Corporate Communications and Marketing with support from the Vice Chancellor's office.

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our great university. This includes the possibility of setting up a cyber-security academy at MMUST as a boost to CBC implementation through collaboration with Dutch foundation, 'Student Ownership for Learning' based in Netherlands.

We share with you a showcase of MMUST's rich sports trajectory as it hosts eight hundred (800) Secondary School Students for training ahead of the upcoming East Africa Secondary School games, which will be held in Uganda from 18th August, 2024. This edition also endeavours to demonstrate the generosity of MMUST's friends as Ajira Kenya donates sporting kits for the MMUST Football team.

The highlight of this issue is the Vice Chancellor's informative online session on the 'New University Funding Model' for incoming students, hosted via X space to demystify the new University Funding Model. The session, organized under Prof. Shibairo's leadership in collaboration with the Directorate of Corporate Communications and Marketing (DCCM), aimed to provide students with essential insights into the new funding model.

I invite you to read and get acquainted with the success stories of MMUST - The University of Choice.

PROF SOLOMON SHIBAIRO

VICE CHANCELLOR, MMUST





## CYBERPRO GLOBAL TO SET UP A CYBER SECURITY ACADEMY AT MMUST AS THE TWO INSTITUTIONS KICK OFF DISCUSSIONS TO ESTABLISH A COLLABORATIVE AGREEMENT

By Wangari Wambugu [mwangari@mmust.ac.ke]  
Photos by Shiundu Masafu [wshiundu@mmust.ac.ke]

**C**yperpro Global, a world-class cyber education and training provider based in Kenya, is set to establish a cyber security academy at Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology. This is part of the company's initiative to decentralize



MMUST and Cyberpro Global teams at the Vice Chancellor's office.

the country in setting up cyber security academies. On Thursday, 15th August, 2024, delegates from Cyberpro Global, led by the Vice President in charge of cyber security and IT Infrastructure-Mr. Danstan Akwiri, visited MMUST to discuss the project, as well as to explore other possible areas of collaboration. The team was officially received by the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic and Students Affairs)-Prof. Hussein Golicha, who was standing in for the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Solomon Shibairo.

"As a University, we welcome the idea of partnering with organizations like Cyberpro Global in order to equip our students with employability skills. Although technology is the in thing globally, it poses a threat to users if certain security measures are not put in place. I commend Cyberpro for its role in educating people about how to tackle these threats, and I look forward to our students benefiting from this training," said Prof. Golicha. The DVC subsequently asked the delegates to document details of what the company does, and highlight areas in which they would like to collaborate with MMUST.



MMUST and Cyberpro teams share a light moment during the meeting at the Vice Chancellor's office.

peaking during the courtesy call at the Vice Chancellor's office, Mr. Akwiri revealed that Cyberpro Global offers industry specific courses in cyber security management as well as Artificial Intelligence. "Our programmes range from level zero to hero, meaning that if you don't know anything about technology but you want to be in cyber security, you can be able to enroll in our courses. Cyber security cuts across all fields and therefore, our target is not specific to only IT professionals," stated Mr. Akwiri. He added that the company gets most of its content from Israel, which is way advanced in technology, and customizes it to fit into the local needs.



“This discussion is indeed timely as we have been pushing for a programme in computer security and forensics at MMUST,” pointed out the Dean-School of Computing and Informatics (SCI), Dr. Daniel Otanga. Further, he stated that SCI is in the process of reviewing its programmes in order to align them to the Competency-Based Curriculum, hence ensuring that students are equipped with knowledge and skills that meet the current market demands.



*Dr. Leonard Wakoli gives his remarks during the meeting*

In his remarks, Cyberpro’s Dr. Leonard Wakoli emphasized the need to train students to use the latest softwares, especially in Mobile Application development. “I am eager to see Cyberpro Global partner with MMUST in not only cyber security training, but also in Mobile Application development. Let us ensure that this partnership comes to fruition,” said Dr. Wakoli, who is also the Acting Dean-School of Informatics and Innovative Systems at Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology (JOUST).

“I am eager to see Cyberpro Global partner with MMUST in not only cyber security training, but also in Mobile Application development. Let us ensure that this partnership comes to fruition,”

The establishment of a cyber security academy at MMUST by Cyberpro Global is without doubt a great initiative that will benefit staff and students interested in acquiring new skills. In a world where technology impacts almost all aspects of life, it is prudent for everyone to at least learn the basics of cyber security, and this academy presents a perfect platform for that.



*Cyber security analyst and trainer at Cyberpro Global, Mr. Sam Kariuki, speaks at the event.*

Cyberpro Global, in conjunction with the University of Nairobi (UoN), is organizing a Conference dubbed ‘Cyberweek Africa 2024’, which is scheduled for 23rd to 27th September, 2024 at UoN. Please follow this link for more information about the Conference: <https://cyberweekafrica.com/>







## MMUST VC EMBARKS ON CAMPAIGN TO DEMYSTIFY NEW UNIVERSITY FUNDING MODEL IN ADDRESS TO FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS ON X SPACE!

Story by Caren Nekesa [cnekesa@mmust.ac.ke]

Photos by Stephen Omondi



*The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Solomon Shibairo together with other Key Managers during the X space discussion.*

**M**asinde Muliro University of Science and Technology's (MMUST) Vice Chancellor, Prof. Solomon Shibairo, has embarked on a campaign to demystify the new University Funding Model. Today 14th August, 2024, Prof. Shibairo successfully led an informative online session on the 'New University Funding Model' for incoming students, hosted via X space. This initiative was particularly timely as students prepare to join the University on 29th August, 2024. The

session, organized under Prof. Shibairo's leadership in collaboration with the Directorate of Corporate Communications and Marketing (DCCM), aimed to provide students with essential insights into the new funding model. The University's top management, including the Ag. Deputy Vice Chancellor Planning Research and Innovation, Prof. Josephine Ngaira;



*A section of the University's top management, the Ag. Deputy Vice Chancellor Planning Research and Innovation, Prof. Josephine Ngaira (right); Registrar of Academic Affairs, Prof. Judah Ndiku (centre); Ag. Principal MMUST TVET, Prof. Basil Ong'or (far left).*

Registrar of Academic Affairs, Prof. Judah Ndiku; Director Quality Assurance, Prof. Danstone Lilechi; Director MMUST TVET, Prof. Basil Ong'or; Director ICT, Mr. Geoffrey Konnes, and the Director DCCM, Dr. Lydia Anyonje together with her Team, were also present to guide students through the complexities of the model and to address any concerns.



In his address, Prof. Shibairo highlighted the significant financial challenges currently facing the higher education sector, driven by the increasing number of students qualifying for and enrolling in various programs. He explained that this growth has led to a substantial



*Prof. Solomon Shibairo making his address to the students.*

rise in budgetary demands, which are not being met by existing allocations, thereby placing considerable financial strain on higher learning institutions. Prof. Shibairo emphasized the critical need for students to fully grasp the new funding system in order to capitalize on the opportunities it offers. He provided a comprehensive overview of the new funding framework and discussed its implications for financing students' academic programs.



*Director Quality Assurance, Prof. Danstone Lilechi and the Director ICT, Mr. Geoffrey Kones during the event.*

ia comprehensive understanding of the new funding model. The active participation and insightful questions from attendees highlighted the importance of the dialogue, ultimately ensuring that students are well-prepared and informed as they embark on their academic journey at MMUST.

Certainly, MMUST is committed to supporting its students by fostering a well-prepared and informed community. As the students prepare to join MMUST, they can do so with confidence, knowing that they are stepping into an environment which is wholeheartedly dedicated to their success and growth.

“The discussion provided an invaluable opportunity for incoming students to connect with University leadership, setting the stage for a confident start to their studies at MMUST. The session was not only highly engaging but also exceptionally informative, offering both students and their guardians

“The discussion provided an invaluable opportunity for incoming students to connect with University leadership, setting the stage for a confident start to their studies at MMUST.









# MMUST PARTNERS WITH DUTCH FOUNDATION ON STUDENT-LED LEARNING PROJECT TO BOOST CBC IMPLEMENTATION IN KENYA

By Caren Nekesa [cnekesa@mmust.ac.ke](mailto:cnekesa@mmust.ac.ke) and Rhoda Mwikali [[mwikalirhoda811@gmail.com](mailto:mwikalirhoda811@gmail.com)].  
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**M**asinde Muliro University of Science and Technology (MMUST) has joined forces with a Dutch foundation- 'Student Ownership for Learning' based in Netherlands in an innovative partnership aimed at advancing student-led learning initiatives. The two have taken a significant step towards revolutionizing the implementation of Competency Based



*Participants gather for a group photo after the workshop.*

Curriculum (CBC) in Kenya. The innovative project bringing together these two parties, aims to develop a tool that will enable stakeholders in the schools to gauge the effectiveness of the CBC curriculum, in promoting student ownership of their own education. On Thursday 15th August, 2024, the two partners hosted a workshop at the Main Catering Unit (MCU-MMUST), which brought together students, student-teachers, Junior Secondary Schools teachers and Curriculum Support as well as curriculum developers to introduce this innovative initiative. The workshop marked the beginning of a broader effort to re-orient teachers towards thinking, and practicing a culture of shared learning ownership as a means to spark interest and accountability of students.

The initiative is anchored on the development and implementation of a unique game designed to be played by learners, teachers and school leaders. This game will serve as a diagnostic tool that will create awareness of a school's current standing in terms of student engagement and ownership of learning. The game aims to stimulate constructive dialogue about desired educational changes and to generate evidence for advocacy, decision making and CBC implementation process.

Recognizing the need for a local approach, MMUST and the SOL Foundation are working on customizing the game to suit the Kenyan situation. The MMUST-SOL planned pilot project will be tailored to raise the voice of students, introduce greater flexibility in curriculum control, encouraging more student input and equipping teachers with new approaches for assessment.



*A section of workshop participants engage in group discussion.*



Dr. Rose Opiyo, one of the pioneers of the initiative and an Early Childhood Education psychologist, emphasized that its primary goal is to transform the CBC into a more dynamic system that prioritizes mentorship over traditional teaching methods. “This initiative seeks to empower learners with 21<sup>st</sup> century skills through hands-on practical learning experiences and foster a collaborative learning environment where both teachers and students share ownership of the educational process,” she said.



*Dr. Rose Opiyo of MMUST gives an insightful presentation at the workshop.*

Dr. Bill Ouda, a pioneer and lecturer in the Department of Educational Psychology also pointed out two significant challenges facing the CBC: the inadequate training provided to Junior Secondary School teachers and the pressing need for enhanced professional development. He emphasized that addressing these issues is crucial for the successful implementation of the new curriculum.

The highly interactive workshop featured a role-playing game that highlighted the critical role of data analytics in implementing student-centered policies. “To truly give students ownership of their learning, we must first give them a voice. This approach empowers learners to feel safe in taking risks, to engage more deeply, to stay motivated and to collaborate effectively in problem-solving,” remarked Dr. Henk Van Woudenberg, Founder of the Student Ownership of Learning (SOL) Foundation.



*Dr. Henk Van Woudenberg, Founder of the Student Ownership of Learning (SOL) Foundation addressing the participants.*





Dr. Caroline Wekullo, one of the pioneers of the initiative and a Lecturer in the Department of Educational Planning and Management emphasized that adopting this student-centered approach would not only reduce the burden on teachers, but also provide students with greater opportunities to have a voice and make choices in their educational journey.

MMUST remains committed to supporting the CBC by continuing to train teachers to the highest standards, identifying areas of weakness in the current system and advocating for improvements that ensure the best outcomes for learners. Through active participation in policy development and ongoing efforts to enhance the implementation of CBC, MMUST is certainly playing a key role in shaping the future of education in Kenya.

Other notable members present during the workshop include Mr. Elvis Kauka, a Lecturer of Philosophy of Education at MMUST and Mrs. Geor-gine Anyango, Principal at Mitukuyu Secondary School in Bungoma.

## MMUST SET TO PARTNER WITH AGAKHAN HOSPITAL IN STUDENT TRAINING

By Shiundu Masafu ([wshiundu@mmust.ac.ke](mailto:wshiundu@mmust.ac.ke))

The Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic and Student Affairs Prof. Hussein Golicha on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2024 led a team from the School Nursing, Midwifery and Paramedical Sciences in paying a courtesy call to AgaKhan hospital in Kisumu County.

The purpose of the visit was to negotiate a collaborative agreement between the two institutions. Through this agreement, MMUST Students of nursing are set to benefit by securing their clinical placement, attachment and internship opportunities at the Agakhan hospital. Currently, MMUST Occupational Health Safety student is attached at the hospital. Prof. Golicha was accompanied by the



Prof. Hussein Golicha with a team from the School of Nursing, Midwifery and Paramedical Sciences at Agakhan hospital

Dean School Nursing, Midwifery and Paramedical Sciences Mr. John Arudo, the CoD Department of Community Health, Dr Gregory Sakwa, Clinical Placement and Attachment Coordinator Dr. Abwalaba Roselyne, the COD Reproductive Health Midwifery and Child Health Mrs. Beatrice Mukabana and Lynn Mukwa from the office of the Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic and Student Affairs.



## MMUST FOOTBALL TEAM RECEIVES A DONATION OF KITS FROM AJIRA DIGITAL PROGRAM-WESTERN KENYA REGION

By Steven Omondi and Rhoda Mwikali

Stevenomondi2001@gmail.com, rowiemwikali224@gmail.com



*MMUST football team players pose for a photo with the Ajira Digital team*

**M**asinde Muliro University of Science and Technology (MMUST) football team received a generous donation of 18 pairs of football kits, courtesy of Ajira Digital Program. The handing over ceremony was held at the MMUST administration block on 16th August 2024. In attendance was the MMUST technical team, Ajira team and MMUST football players.

Ajira Digital Program is a government driven initiative by the Ministry of ICT and Digital Economy that focuses on enhancing youth employment through provision of online jobs. Wendy Apiyo, the Ajira digital Center manager support leader for Western Kenya appreciated the students turn up for embracing this platform and promised that Ajira will continue

partnering with MMUST to share these digital skills with their students. Consequently, she urged MMUST students to register as members of this platform so as to gain these digital skills such as web design and data analysis that will definitely place them on a competitive edge. The skills are offered both virtually and physically at designated centers in Butere, Matungu, Ikolomani among other constituencies in Kakamega county.

“We are excited to see MMUST students embracing this initiative. We train both virtually and physically on 27 modules completed in just 2 days, followed by mentorship to help youths start monetizing the skills. I therefore urge all MMUST students to register and gain a strong advantage with this program,” she remarked.

While receiving the significant donation, Mr. Shisoka Akaka- MMUST team chairman lauded the Ajira Digital team for their continued support and mentorship to MMUST students.

“ I express my sincere gratitude to the Ajira team for this kits donation that will undoubtedly see that our football team moves a step higher in their performance . Currently, our team qualifies for division two and we are now looking forward to moving to division one. With these new resources, we are certain that this will be possible,” he said.



*Mr. Akaka Shisoka, the MMUST games tutor receiving a jersey from one of the Ajira Digital Team members*





*A courtesy call meeting between MMUST team and the Ajira Digital team at the senate boardroom in MMUST*

Additionally, Mr Evans Akumu- Head coach and Ms. Selphine Muyonga- Team manager also acknowledged that the donation will be incredibly beneficial to the the MMUST football team and they expect similar partnerships in the future. Moreover, the MMUST football players appreciated this donation pledging to place MMUST as an iconic sports-brand university while embracing these digital skills.

Mmust being a key player in this initiative by facilitating the Ajira Digital Club for its students, clearly underscores its steadfast dedication towards producing all rounded and highly digitally skilled professionals



*MMUST sports team together with the Ajira Digital team at the University Library*



## MMUST'S DR. GEORGE LUTOMIA AND PROF. JUDAH NDIKU AMONG CO-AUTHORS OF A NEWLY-LAUNCHED BOOK, SET TO PROMOTE SAFER LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS IN AFRICA

By Steven Omondi and Joshua Chiro Chilago stevenomondi2001@gmail.com



*A team of contributors led Prof. Judha Ndiru and Dr. George Lutomia poses with a dummy of the newly lauched book in Nairobi*

**M**asinde Muliro University of Science and Technology's Council Member-Dr. George Akolo Lutomia and the Registrar (Academic Affairs)-Prof. Judah Ndiru, are among the three (3) co-authors of a book, titled 'Managing Security and Safety in Educational Institutions in Africa'. The book, officially launched on 6th August, 2024 in a colourful event that was graced by the Vice Chancellor-Prof. Solomon Shibairo, is set to promote safer learning environments in African schools. The well-attended event brought together Government officials, heads of various schools, as well as education experts from across the continent. The third co-author of the book is the Director, Curriculum Training and Research at Center for Parliamentary Studies and Training-Dr. Phillip Brightone Buchere.

Prof. Shibairo while speaking at the book launch congratulated the three (3) co-authors on attaining the milestone, and acknowledged them for their efforts towards addressing security concerns in schools. "Issues of security among students have been a major challenge. I am glad that the authors have provided solutions to some of these problems in their book. A University should be known for its ability to create and share knowledge, and these authors have done exactly that," stated Prof. Shibairo. The Vice Chancellor also asked the participants present at the launch to join MMUST, saying that the University is the premier institution of higher learning in Western Kenya, which focuses on science, technology and innovation. Dr. Lutomia emphasized the need to address critical issues facing the education sector in Africa. "Too many young people are suffering due to unsafe and insecure learning environments. This book offers practical strategies and evidence-based solutions to help school



*Dr. George Lutomia poses with a dummy of the newly lauched book in Nairobi*



communities protect their students and staff, so that learning can take place in a safe and nurturing atmosphere,” he said.

In his presentation, Prof. Ndiku provided a comprehensive overview of the book’s content and its ongoing relevance. “This book is a living resource in Africa. We must continue learning, innovating and sharing best practices to ensure that every child in Africa learns and thrives in a safe and secure environment. This book aims to sensitize educators on the importance of health, safety, and security as crucial elements for effective learning,” said Prof. Ndiku. He revealed that the book delves into a comprehensive approach, covering a wide range of issues, from the safety of the learner as they enter the school environment to their social, psychological, and physical well-being. It also emphasizes the importance of positive relationships between learners and teachers, as well as the role of support staff in creating a stable learning environment,” he added. “Safety and security isn’t just the responsibility of school administrators, as it requires collaboration between educators, law enforcement, policymakers, and the broader community. This book equips readers with the knowledge and tools to build these vital partnerships,” pointed out Dr. Buchere, who is also an expert in school safety.

He outlined the book’s key topics, which include emergency preparedness planning, campus security infrastructure, de-escalation techniques, and mental health support for students affected by trauma. The Executive Director of the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA), Dr. Rose Ngugi, appreciated the co-authors for producing something that will make a difference in the lives of the young people, adding that this is the way to go. “I am very eager to read the book and see what you are prescribing, and to find a way in which as KIPPRA, we can incorporate the recommendations into the policy arena,” said Dr. Ngugi. The book launch was followed by a networking reception, where attendees had the opportunity to purchase copies of the book and engage directly with the authors. Many were optimistic that this new resource would make a real difference in improving safety and security across African schools. Indeed, this book marks a significant step forward in addressing the critical issue of school safety in Africa. MMUST’s commitment to this important initiative, coupled with the book’s comprehensive approach and practical guidance, offers hope for a future where all African children can learn and thrive in a safe and secure environment.



*Prof. Judah Ndiku poses with a dummy of the newly launched book in Nairobi*







# 800 SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS TRAIN ON MMUST FIELDS AHEAD OF THE EAST AFRICA GAMES IN UGANDA

By Wangari Wambugu [mwangari@mmust.ac.ke]  
Photos by Shiundu Masafu and Steven Omondi



Secondary School Students practice volleyball at MMUST grounds ahead of the East Africa games in Uganda.

Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology is currently hosting eight hundred (800) Secondary School Students for practice. This is in preparation for the upcoming East Africa Secondary School games, which will be held in Uganda from 18th August, 2024. On Monday, 12th August, 2024, a team representing the Kenya Secondary Schools Sports Association (KSSSA), led by the Western Region Director of Education, Mr. Jared Obiero, paid a courtesy call on the Vice Chancellor-Prof. Solomon Shibairo, to brief him on the ongoing training. The delegates were accompanied by the Registrar (Planning, Research, and Innovation), Dr. Collins Matemba. Notably, MMUST has been identified as a central point for the 2025 East Africa Secondary School games, which will be hosted in Kenya, Kakamega County. During the courtesy call, Mr. Obiero pointed out that there is a need for the University to start putting in place

measures to ensure the success of these competitions. Prof. Shibairo assured the team that the MMUST grounds will be ready for the 2025 games. He stated that the Olympic-size swimming pool will be complete by then, and that the University will avail two (2) long Tennis courts, as well as modern Table Tennis tables.



The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Solomon Shibairo, with KSSSA representatives and MMUST staff during the courtesy call at his office.





*Western Region Director of Education, Mr. Jared Obiero, gives his remarks during the courtesy call to the MMUST VC.*

The East Africa Secondary School games attracts participants from Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania, Uganda and South Sudan, and involves a wide range of sports including, rugby, football, handball, volleyball, basketball, hockey, tennis and athletics. The training at MMUST kicked off on Sunday, 11th August, 2024 and will go up to Thursday, 15th August, 2024. The students are set to depart for Uganda on Friday, 16th August, 2024.

Other members present during the courtesy call were; the KSSSA Eastern and Western Region Secretary Generals, Mr. Elijah Kiarie and Mr. Quinto Omusugu respectively. We thank KSSSA for selecting MMUST to be one of their training grounds for the 2024 games, and wish the Secondary school students all the best in the upcoming Uganda competitions!



*Secondary School students train at the MMUST basketball court.*





## RESEARCH

# MMUST RESEARCHERS WIN GRANT FROM THE NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE OF KENYA TO CONDUCT A PROJECT ON CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING AND TREATMENT FOR WOMEN!!

Researchers at Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology has clinched a Kshs. 2,954,000 grant from the National Cancer Institute of Kenya (NCI-K). The award is for a project, titled 'Co-Designing a Culturally Acceptable Strategy to Optimize Uptake of HPV Self-Sample Collection to Increase Cervical Cancer Screening and Treatment for Women in Kenya (SELHP)'.

The Principal Investigator (PI) is Dr. Gregory Sakwa of the School of Nursing, Midwifery and Paramedical Sciences (SONMAPS), while the Co-PIs are MMUST's Prof. Peter Bukhala and Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization's (KALRO) Dr. Zachary Kwena. The other member of the group is Ms. Hellen Odeny, a Master's student.



*The PI, Dr. Gregory Sakwa during a past graduation ceremony*

The specific objectives of the project are;

- i. To explore potential barriers and facilitators to optimizing self-sample collection for HPV testing
- ii. Using data from objective (i), co-design a culturally acceptable strategy to enhance uptake of self-sample collection for HPV testing to increase Cervical Cancer Screening (CCS) and treatment follow-up for women

The study setting is Kakamega County due to its high prevalence of risk factors among women, and low CC screening rate. Congratulations to the team for securing the competitive grant!

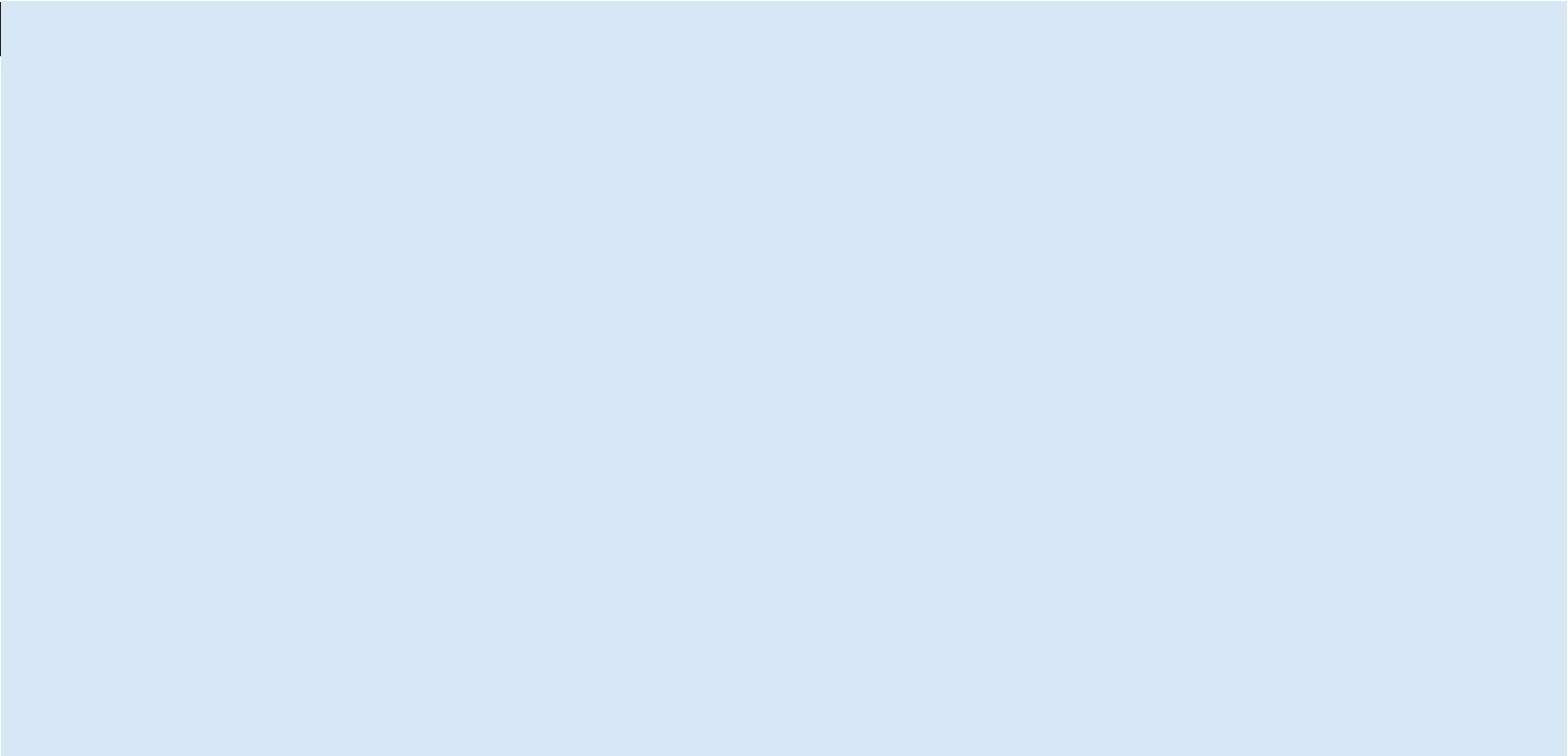


*Prof. Peter Bukhala in a past event*













*The University of Choice*

