

KARATINA UNIVERSITY BULLETIN

A Digital Publication of Karatina University



Inspiring Innovation and Leadership

KARATINA UNIVERSITY



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Inside this Issue



Dear KarU Community,

We are glad to bring to you this first digital edition of the Karatina University Chronicles.

We envisage that this will be a monthly publication where we showcase events and functions that have taken place at the University. Our signature line is *'Let us tell the KarU story. Together.'* We, therefore, welcome you to reach out to us via corporate_comms@karu.ac.ke in case you need coverage of any kind.

In this edition, we have covered events and activities which made headlines at the University in the last one and a half months. We hope you enjoy the read.



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Editor's Pen



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It is Important to Document KarU Growth

Dear Reader,

We have recently established the Corporate Communications Office whose mandate is, among others, to oversee, prepare and contribute stories, photos and editing of the internal newsletter. We are happy, therefore, to bring to you this first digital edition of the Karatina University Chronicles.



Foreword

Since its inception in 2010, Karatina University has made great strides and achieved tremendous growth in teaching, research, consultancy and community service. It is important that this growth is well-documented in a manner that can be referred back to in future. Through channels such as this Newsletter, we have an assurance that our stories are told and documented. We will also be made visible within and outside of the institution. Hence, I urge you to make use of this platform to amplify the voice of the University both locally and internationally.

We hope the read is educative and enjoyable.

Prof. Mucai Muchiri

Vice Chancellor – Karatina University



Vision

To be a University of global excellence, meeting the dynamic needs and development of society

Mission

To conserve, create and disseminate knowledge through, training, research, innovation and community outreach

Core Values

Equity
Teamwork
Meritocracy
Academic Freedom
Accountability
Excellence
Probity

Philosophy

Karatina University seeks to create network that creates an environment that integrates disparate disciplines to conserve, create and disseminate knowledge that promotes development in a dynamic and developing society passionate in community outreach, research and innovation. The University strives to develop programmes that nurture leadership skills and innovation in all its graduates as well as enable them interact with the world wide community and contributing towards the development of solutions to a broad range of environmental, economics, entrepreneurial, social and scientific issues. This shall be facilitated by encouraging intellectual rigor that respects academic freedom and provide the necessary capacity needed by members of the University.

COLLABORATIVE VISIT BY KWAZULU NATAL UNIVERSITY, SOUTH AFRICA



A group photo with the team from UKZN

On Friday, 29th July 2022, the University hosted a delegation from KwaZulu Natal University (UKZN), South Africa. The team, led by the Dean and Head of School of Management, IT and Governance, Prof. Stephen Mutula, were on a mission to recruit postgraduate students and to engage on collaboration and partnership deliberations.

The two institutions agreed to sign a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) to collaborate on areas such as:

- Joint research programmes
- Joint application for research grants
- Joint multidisciplinary research teams
- Joint degree offering
- Joint curriculum development
- Joint publications
- Joint cohort PhD supervision
- Joint conferences
- Consultancies
- Exchange of students
- Exchange of faculty and research staff
- Honorary appointments
- Promotion reviews

External examination among others.

The Directorate of Resource Mobilization and International Programmes will coordinate the activities with UKZN on behalf of the University.

Other members from UKZN included: Prof. M. Sibanda, Dr. T. Ngwenya, Yolanda Malaza, Angela Pearce and Dr. B. Qwabe.

KARU SUCCESSFULLY HOLDS COHESION AND INTEGRATION PEACE WALK, 2022



Flagging off of the event.

Karatina University successfully held the first Cohesion and Integration Peace Walk, 2022 on Friday, 22nd July 2022. The event saw staff and students preach the message of peace as they walked through the streets of Karatina.

Ms. Asha Mokami, the Assistant County Commissioner, Mathira East, who represented the County Commissioner, Mr. Muhammed Baare, thanked everyone who found time to join in the Walk.

“This is, indeed, a noble activity whose purpose is to preach peace. We are sensitizing the public on the importance of maintaining peace during and after the elections. We are Kenyans and we will still remain to be Kenyans even after the elections,” she said.

Bishop Joseph Kagunda of the Anglican Church of Kenya, Mt. Kenya West, who was the Guest of Honor, addressed the participants on *‘Endeavoring to Keep the Bond of Peace’*.



Bishop Joseph Kagunda in religious attire

“Our aspiration as a nation, as depicted in our National Anthem is to dwell in unity, peace and liberty. This is regardless of the activities that we carry on as a nation. Our aspiration for peace should be demonstrated by the way we endeavor to keep the bond of peace”, he stated.

The Bishop further noted that as Kenyans, we need to bear with one another and to make best one of another. *“United we stand but divided we fall. Hasira ni hasara. Lets us not get into provoking one another or give in to provocation. Anger and resentment can only lead to resentment which in turn leads to destruction, loss of life and property,”* said Bishop Kagunda.

The Imam, Mohamed Osman Isaak, from the Karatina Mosque, also graced the occasion. In his remarks, the Imam thanked God for enabling participants to mark the event. He was grateful to Karatina University for organizing the event which would be used to remind everyone about keeping peace. *“Peace is everything. Without it, there is nothing. It is the responsibility of everyone to keep this peace,”* he said.

The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Mucai Muchiri, said that Kenya is made up of a people of diverse identities politically and ideologically. He noted, however, that it was important to derive strength from these diversities.

“Let us remember that we are one people under one nation. We need to learn lessons from our past even as we go into general elections on Tuesday, 9th August 2022,” he stated.

The Vice Chancellor also noted that Karatina University has been at the forefront in promoting national cohesion and integration through various activities since 2017. It has established the annual National Cohesion and Integration Week & International Conference whose goal is to promote cultural diversity as a unifying factor. This is achieved by providing a forum for displaying the diverse cultures in Kenya and to discuss and conceptualize multiculturalism.

The Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academics, Research and Students Affairs), and the Chairperson, Cohesion and Integration Committee, Prof. Peninah Aloo-Obudho stated that the Cohesion and Integration Peace Walk was organized to sensitize Kenyans on the importance of maintaining peace. She further reminded those presented that if Kenya went up in flames, we would all burn in it.

“We have no other home apart from our motherland Kenya. Tulinde Amani Kenya,” she concluded.

A representative from the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) reminded the participants that the election date was Tuesday, 9th August 2022. He said that it was most important to remember the voting time.

“Polling stations shall be opened as early as 6am and shall remain open until 5pm. Let us vote within this time and not wait until the last minute. We further advise that you should go back home or your work station after voting. Remember to carry your original identification document that you registered with,” he said.

Student leaders were also in attendance led by their Chairperson, Victor Kipkoech Ndiema. The event was capped with the planting of peace trees at Mathaithi Primary School.

DESH BHAGAT UNIVERSITY, INDIA; A WORTHY INTERNATIONAL PARTNER

Karatina University (KarU), guided by its Vision 'To be a University of global excellence, meeting the dynamic needs and development of society' continuously pursues collaborations with like-minded national and international organizations. Driven by this Vision, the University recently hosted a delegation from Desh Bhagat University (DBU), India who were on a collaborative visit. Founded in 1972, DBU was established with the mission of pursuing excellence in higher education by providing young students with a distinct and unique combination of academic, professional and personal development.



Entrance to DBU (Photo courtesy)

Offering a variety of courses in Agricultural Sciences, Animation, Applied Sciences, Commerce, Computer Science, Education, Engineering, Tourism and Hospitality Management, Languages, Law, Management, Nursing, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Social Sciences among others.

DBU's ultimate aim is to make its students not only highly successful professionals, managers, entrepreneurs and technologists but also fully responsible and awakened members of the society by imparting them with the much-needed value education and soft skills.

KarU, having only been chartered in March 2013, seems to have found itself a worthy international institution to partner with in the areas of ICT development, entrepreneurship, research development, joint research publications, staff and students exchange, Science, Technology and Innovation among others.

► A chance at internationalization

Since there is already in place a signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with DBU, the Directorate of Resource Mobilization and International Programmes has its work cut out for it. KarU, a public institution, depends, to a large extent, on the Government of Kenya exchequer. However, the Government is choked by many competing priorities with limited resources available to meet all these needs. Resource mobilization and institutional capacity, being one of the Key Result Areas as outlined in the Strategic Plan (2021-2025), infers that the University has to mobilize resources by itself in order to make the institution grow. KarU looks to learn from DBU which has over one hundred and fifty functional national and international MoUs with reputable organizations in the academia, industry and innovation.



► Focus on Industry

The focus of DBU on industry inclusion in academia, under the country's initiative of New Education Policy (NEP), 2020, has seen the institution add practical knowledge to their curriculum by giving their students exposure to the industry. Due to their link to the industry as well as commercial and non-commercial organizations, this has ensured that their students graduate with demonstrable professional abilities in the subjects of their choice which, in turn, improves their employability. This strong focus of DBU with the industry challenges KarU's Directorate of Career Services and University-Industry Linkages to benchmark on best practice on how to produce competent KarU graduates. Of note is that DBU's Innovation and Entrepreneurship Campus (IEDC) partners with students and funds their projects and innovations. The innovations, therefore, are either jointly or singly owned by the students. The aim of this support to students is not only to train them but also to make them employers who can drive enterprises, register companies, run businesses and dabble in manufacturing.

► Centres of Excellence

Apart from the Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Development Campus (IEDC), some other outstanding areas KarU looks forward to learn from DBU are in their already established Centre of Excellence in Information, Technology and Research, and the Centre of Excellence in Emerging Technology. It is also envisioned that the KarU Directorate of Open and Distance e-Learning (ODEL) will join with DBU's Open and Distance e-Learning (ODL) to establish an international Centre of Excellence. Through this CoE, KarU hopes to attract international students who can study beyond their territorial jurisdiction.

Collaboration in Health Sciences

The KarU School of Nursing, which has set its eyes to becoming a College of Health Sciences, has an opportunity to work out modalities of enrolling Bachelor of Science in Nursing students to the Faculty of Nursing at DBU. The Faculty offers B.Sc Nursing, Post B.Sc Nursing, M.Sc Nursing and PhD Nursing programmes. The two institutions anticipate to pursue workable ways in which DBU can host Bachelor of Science Nursing students who would like to further their studies. This is after fulfilling all the regulatory requirements, from both countries, on the validity of the certificates that will be awarded. This offers a greater opportunity for KarU to grow its alumni. DBU also has a vibrant School of Pharmacy which offers B. Pharmacy, M. Pharmacy and D. Pharmacy Allopathic courses fully accredited by the Pharmacy Council of India.



Planting of a commemorative tree

Way Forward

As a way forward, a raft of recommendations were made to chart the next course of action. KarU, through the Directorate of Resource Mobilization and International Programmes, will, among others, organize to hold joint discussions on the availability and provision of scholarships to KarU students across all the programmes. There will also be formation of multidisciplinary research teams which can write joint research and grant proposals. In addition, DBU will host an online training on how to write and publish a research paper. This will see scholars from both institutions publish research papers in highly rated and credible journals. It will also open an opportunity for staff exchange as

Students from KarU will also have the prospect of being taught and instructed by faculty from DBU either through blended learning or on the available online platforms. This will enable students attain quality education from a qualified pool of scholars.



Participants during the collaborative meeting

The team from DBU was led by its Chancellor, Dr. Zora Singh accompanied by Mrs. Tanager Kaur. The KarU team was represented by the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Mucai Muchiri, Prof. Peninah Aloo-Obudho, Deputy Vice Chancellor (ARSA), Dr. Humphrey Omondi (Registrar, Planning and Administration), Prof. Mugo Mware, Director of Quality Assurance and ISO, Prof. Kenneth Wanjau, Director of Career Services and University-Industry Linkages, Dr. Kellen Kiambati, Director of Resource Mobilization and International Programmes, Dr. Joan Wakasa, Director of ODeL/Ag. Director, ICT, Mr. Richard Ruhio (Planning Officer) and Ms. Brendah Kabindio, the Corporate Communications Officer.



KARU TAKES POSITION THREE IN THE 5TH EDITION OF THE KUSA CENTRAL CONFERENCE STAFF GAMES

Karatina University took Position Three (3) in the **5th Edition** of the KUSA Central Conference Staff Games held on Saturday, 23rd July 2022 at the University grounds. Tharaka University College took Position One (1), Chuka University Position Two (2), Meru University Position Four (4) while Kirinyaga University took Position Five (5).

The University participated in Volleyball (Men and Women), Football (Men) and Netball (Women). *“The turnout was good and all teams were well represented,”* said Mr. Jonah Michubu, the Games Tutor.

This is the first time KarU participated in the KUSA staff games.
We congratulate all the teams which represented the University!

Sports Day Pictorials



COUNSELLORS MEET TO SHARE PROFESSIONAL AND MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS



Mr. Joseph Wanjau, extreme right is the Chairperson of KUPCA, Central Kenya region and Students Counsellor at Karatina University

A section of members of the Kenya Universities Professional Counsellors Association (KUPCA), Central Kenya region, today, Friday, 29th July 2022 held a meeting at the School of Business. The members met for counsellors supervision which entails sharing and solving professional and mental health issues that may affect counsellors. This is according to Mr. Joseph Wanjau who is the Chairperson of KUPCA, Central region and the Students' Counsellor at KarU. Universities present were Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT), Kirinyaga University and Karatina University. Other member universities of the Central Kenya region are Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (DeKUT), Mount Kenya University (MKU) and Murang'a University of Technology (MUT).

VISIT BY ST. LUKE KIRIMA MIXED SECONDARY SCHOOL, EMBU

On Friday, 29th July 2022, the University received students from St. Luke Kirima Mixed Secondary, Embu who were on an academic visit.



The students had a guided tour of the University and a career guidance and mentorship session by Dr. Charles Wahogo from the Department of Mathematics, Statistics and Actuarial Sciences.

Students from St. Luke Kirima Mixed Secondary School, Embu

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE FREE MEDICAL CAMP, COMMUNITY THANKS VARSITY

In pursuit of its vision of maintaining good neighborliness and relations with the community, the University, in conjunction with the Karen Hospital and the Nyeri County Government, on Saturday, 9th July 2022, held a Free Medical Camp at Gatei Health Centre. Coordinated by the Centre for Community Outreach, the event attracted over five hundred and eighty (580) members of the community, among them the elderly and children, from Gatei area and the larger Mathira East Sub-county.

According to Dr. Josphat Kagema, the Coordinator, Centre for Community Outreach, the medical camp was one way of making the presence of the University felt in the community.



▶ *Dr. Josphat Kagema, Coordinator, Centre for Community Outreach addressing the community*



▶ *Ms. Anne Njeri Karigithi, Nurse-in-Charge, Gatei Health Centre*

“I thank the University management for supporting this event. The extension of these services to the people of Nyeri County, and particularly Mathira East Sub-county, will go a long way in cementing University-community relationships,” said Dr. Kagema.

The Coordinator expressed his delight in seeing the fruition of the partnership between the University, Nyeri County Government and the Karen Hospital.

Standing in for the Ministry of Health, Mathira East Sub-county, the Nurse-in-Charge at Gatei Health Centre, Ms. Anne Njeri Karigithi, said she was glad that the medical camp was being held at the Health Centre because it would benefit the community.

“This is the first event being held in this community in a span of four years. We would like to see more of these events being held in small hospitals found within these communities,” she said.

Ms. Millicent Kaoga, the Regional Business Development Officer representing the Karen Hospital stated that the event was one of a series of regular Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities conducted by the Karen Hospital.

“This is our way of giving back to the people. To the Gatei community, we will be offering free services on one-on-one doctor consultation, screening for diseases, checking blood pressure as well as optical services,” she said

Speaking on behalf of the community, Mr. Solomon Gichohi Gitahi, a community leader, thanked the University, together with other partners, for bringing the medical services closer to the people.

“We are happy to have these services brought closer to us. This is good especially for the elderly who, during this cold season, suffer from many ailments but are not able to access these services due to long distances to access hospital facilities and lack of finances. This free medical camp is good for them.” he said.

The University Acting Medical Officer, Ms. Anne Ngochi, together with students from Nursing Sciences and Public Health, participated in offering a number of services including diabetes screening, laboratory services, drug administration and giving referrals for further management of different medical issues



Team from the University led by the Acting Medical Officer, Ms. Anne Ngochi

Also present were Dr. Joan Wakasa Murumba, the Director (ODEL)/Ag. Director, ICT representing the Senate Committee on Outreach and Extension, Ms. Brendah Kabindio, the Corporate Communications Officer and staff from other sections of the University. The medical camp marked one of the targets lined up as a deliverable in the Performance Contract for the 2022/2023 Financial Year.

KARU SIGNS MoA WITH BAYERO UNIVERSITY, NIGERIA

Karatina University (KarU), on Tuesday, 21st June 2022, signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA), as a partner, with the Africa Center of Excellence for Population Health and Policy (ACEPH) of Bayero University in Kano, Nigeria and the Kenya Nutritionists and Dieticians Institute (KNDI) as the main coordinating partners. The overall goal of the MOA is to collaborate on matters of nutrition and dietetics mentorship, research and training in order to produce skilled nutritionists and other health related to population health.

The focus will be on conducting research to achieve sustainable development goals through linking research findings to policy formulation and implementation in Kenya and Nigeria. The Agreement will benefit students and teaching staff undertaking nutrition and dietetics and health sciences research through a variety of programmes.



➤ *Dr. Sarah Ruto, the Chief Administrative Officer in the Ministry of Education*



➤ *Vice Chancellor, Prof. Mucai Muchiri, giving his remarks*

The Chief Administrative Secretary (CAS) in the Ministry of Education, Dr. Sarah Ruto, who spoke on behalf of the Cabinet Secretary for Education, Prof. George Magoha, lauded this south-south collaboration stating that it fits into the research priorities of the Ministry. The CAS stressed the role nutrition plays in the Vision 2030 and pledged the Ministry's support towards strengthening research and collaboration.

Speaking during the event, the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Mucai Muchiri, underscored the role of nutrition in human health. He congratulated the Kenya Nutrition and Dietetics Institute (KNDI) for bringing together six universities to partner in the call for a healthy society. The Vice Chancellor emphasized the need for local collaborations and sharing of available resources to enhance research and innovation activities in the country. He further expressed his support, and that of Karatina University, to the venture indicating that several programmes in the institution will benefit from the partnership.



The Vice Chancellor of Bayero University, Prof. Sidira Ademo, said that the move to partner with Kenyan universities was motivated by the fact that there are many common areas of interests among the institutions. He noted that Bayero University looks forward to improving nutrition through ACEPH and the Kenyan universities.

➤ *Prof. Sidira Ademo, Vice Chancellor of Bayero University, Nigeria*

The Chief Executive Officer, Kenya Nutritionists and Dieticians Institute (KNDI), Dr. David Okeyo, emphasized the need for multi-sectoral approach towards broadening skills for learners through student and faculty exchange programmes. He further noted that KNDI looks forward to improving nutrition and dietetics programmes within universities.



➤ *Dr. David Okeyo, Chief Executive Officer, Kenya Nutritionists and Dieticians Institute (KNDI)*

The other universities in the partnership include Pwani University, Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology, Technical University of Kenya, Mount Kenya University and Eastern Africa Baraton University. KarU is accredited by KNDI to train and research in nutrition and dietetics. The Institution endeavors to become a centre of excellence for nutrition and health in research, training, outreach services and capacity building. The signing ceremony was also witnessed by the Dean, School of Agriculture and Biotechnology, Dr. Grace Kamotho and the Head of Department, Food Science and Nutrition, Dr. Sheila Kilonzi.



➤ *The CAS, Ministry of Education together with the Vice Chancellor, Bayero University, CEO, KNDI, Vice Chancellors of partner universities and other guests*



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