



KARATINA UNIVERSITY

Weekly Dispatch

Monday 5th – Friday 9th December, 2022

OVER ONE THOUSAND KARATINA UNIVERSITY GRADUATES CHURNED INTO THE MARKET

On Friday, 9th December, 2022, Karatina University held its 10th Graduation Ceremony where over one thousand qualified graduates were churned into the market. The students graduated in various fields from Diploma to PhD levels. The breakdown of the one thousand one hundred and twenty one students is as follows: 3 PhDs, 7 Masters, 1103 undergraduates and 8 Diplomas.



Happy graduands following proceedings

The Ceremony was presided over by the Chancellor, Prof. Francis Gichaga, who is also the Chairman of Council. It was also graced by the Principal Secretary, State Department for Technical and Vocational Education and Training, Dr. Esther Thaara Muoria who represented the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Higher Education, Hon. Ezekiel Machogu. The Senator, Nyeri County, Hon. Wahome Wamatinga and the area Member of Parliament, Hon. Eric Wamumbi were also in attendance.

The Council Chairman, Prof Francis Gichaga, called on the government to assist public universities in generating income to supplement the state funding.



Chairman of Council, Prof. Francis Gichaga

"Council calls upon the different government agencies charged with managing the higher education sector in Kenya to link up public universities with potential national and international donors or partners who can support research development," Prof Gichaga said.

"We believe that when such opportunities are made available, public universities can build capacity on innovation, technology and research to generate extra income to supplement Government funding," he added.



Principal Secretary, State Department for Technical and Vocational Education and Training, Dr. Esther Thaara Muoria

In her speech, the Principal Secretary called for concerted efforts and mentorship of women and girls to enrol in universities and to also take up Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics courses. She called on players in the education sector to towards bridging the gender gap in this area. She also urged the sector players to support the efforts of the government as it pursues education reforms. This is in reference to the Presidential Working Party on Education Reforms which is working on a raft of proposals to bring these reforms.

The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Mucai Muchiri, while mentioning that the graduation ceremony was significant and nostalgic to him given that it was his last ceremony that he would participate in as Vice Chancellor, he reflected on the achievements the University had made over the last ten years. Prof. Muchiri paid tribute to the founding Council, led by its Chairman, the Late Prof. Charles Okidi for guiding policy development and implementation that led to the firm foundation of the institution at the initial stages.



VICE CHANCELLOR'S SPEECH DURING THE 10TH GRADUATION CEREMONY

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

I take this opportunity to welcome you all to Karatina University to celebrate with us during this 10th graduation ceremony for the conferment of degrees and diplomas. The ceremony is unique in the sense that the previous two ceremonies were virtual with only a handful of students appearing physically.

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

We present 1,121 under graduate and post graduate students whom Senate has tested and found qualified for conferment of various undergraduate and post graduate degrees. Given the rigorous processes they have gone through from classroom teaching to practical and field work attachments, I am confident that they have what it takes to move to the next level of their careers. We have been receiving testimonials of what our alumni are doing in society and we are indeed very proud.



Vice Chancellor, Prof. Mucai Muchiri

Beginning last year, we have been showcasing the achievements of these alumni on our social media platforms and I encourage you to look at the success stories. Our alumni are doing very well.

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

This graduation ceremony is significant and nostalgic to me given that it is my last ceremony that I will participate in as Vice Chancellor. I will therefore take a few minutes to reflect on the achievements we have made over the last ten years.

Even as I do that, I acknowledge the great support I have received from my colleague staff, the members of Council, the community and the government. I particularly acknowledge the founding Council, led by its Chairman, the Late Prof. Charles Okidi for guiding policy development and implementation that led to the firm foundation of the institution at the initial stages.

On a personal level, I pay special tribute to Prof. Okidi for leading the Council at the time to foster a conducive working environment that resulted tremendous growth of the University.

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

Karatina university has recorded significant growth in student numbers moving from 23 admitted in the year 2007 through 4,911 at the time of Charter in 2013 to 7,518 in 2022.

Over the same period, we have graduated more than 11,000 students beginning with 331 in our inaugural graduation held in 2013. The total number of postgraduate students who have been conferred PhDs and Masters stand at 165 to date.

The number of programmes has equally increased to 07 up from 68 accredited by Commission for University Education (CUE) in 2013. I am particularly proud of the success the University has made in establishing programmes in Health Sciences given the rigours of the accreditation process.

The university has a well-established and functional anatomy laboratory and have made reasonable progress in equipping the medical physiology laboratory. I urge Senate to maintain the momentum with a view of having a fully-fledged School of Health Sciences in the next two years.

The School of Pure and Applied Sciences has developed unique programmes such as BSc. In Electronics with informatics as well as specialized Masters in Physics, Chemistry and Biochemistry. These are currently before CUE.

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

To support the increased number of students, the university has been recruiting qualified academic and administrative staff. This has been supplemented with a staff development programme that has seen a majority of Tutorial Fellows pursue PhDs with the support of the university. Currently, the university has 106 staff members with earned PhD.

Equally, we have developed physical and other resources to support service delivery. One such resource is the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software. So far, the system has seven fully developed modules, key among them being the academic management module. Through this module, lecturers are able to manage and monitor students' performance while students on the other hand can access important information including their academic reports and fee statements.

Prompted by the Covid-19 pandemic, the University acquired and installed a Learning Management System through which online classes have been offered. Recently, a recording studio was developed to enhance preparation of audio and visual lessons. It is expected that the University will now be in a position to recruit long distance and part-time students.

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

The University has equally done well in the field of research and community outreach. Academic staff have been involved in high level research. The most recent which is by no means the only one is the involvement of the Coordinator, Centre for Mountain Studies and Climate Change in the 20th Technical review of Biennial Update reports submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate change (UNFCCC). The Tea Institute has also developed purple tea products that have since been commercialized.

This is in addition to having their trademarks registered.

On community engagement, the University has in conjunction with various hospitals organized numerous medical camps that have targeted the vulnerable members of the society in immediate neighborhood and beyond. During the Covid-19 pandemic, the University donated both masks and foodstuffs to these same group.

While I am proud of these achievements, I am fully aware that more need to be done to generate finances for research and outreach. Academic faculty have been thoroughly sensitized on this endeavor.

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

The University started off with facilities inherited from KTDA. During the last ten years, we have built additional infrastructure such as the Multi-Purpose Resource Centre, a tuition block, 920 and 360-bed capacity hostels and a number of semi-permanent laboratories. The University has also procured high-end laboratory equipment and computing gadgets to enhance learning.

Currently, the University is constructing a 3000 siting capacity University library which is expected to be complete in early 2023. It is my hope that in the next financial year, the university will give priority to a Science and Innovation Building whose concept is already developed and submitted to the Ministry.

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

The place of financial resources in the growth of the University cannot be over emphasized. The major source of funding has been the government which finances both recurrent and development budgets. There has been a marginal increase in recurrent grants required to finance the University activities. On the other hand, internally generated funds in respect to tuition fees has been declining over time owing to severe decline in self sponsored students.

To address this, the University developed and has been implementing the Resource Mobilization Policy. A major effort in this direction has been an increased focus on fundable proposals writing. Several of the proposals have

already been funded.

Further, the University has rationalized its expenditures so as to ensure financial sustainability. Cumulatively, the asset base has grown to over Kshs. 2.4B. Over the years, we have put in place measures to ensure the resources are applied prudently with no wastage. As I stand before you, I am proud that we have been reviewed positively by the Office of the Auditor General for prudent management of financial and other resources. I will be handing over an institution that does not owe any statutory or other monthly deductions. I pray that this culture continues.

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

Over the time of our existence as a University, we have made deliberate effort to work with several partners. These include academic and industry players. A few of those that have been very active include Zhangzhou College of Science and Technology in China and the Tea Directorate on tea training, Humboldt University in the field of research and co-teaching, Saarland University for assisting the University entrench the Entrepreneurial Concept and running innovation start-ups, Huawei ICT Academic on training and certification of staff.

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

As I conclude, I would like once again, on behalf of the University Senate and the University Community, to sincerely congratulate our graduands. I would like to thank you all for the truly humbling resilience and diligence that you have displayed in facing the challenges associated with online learning due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Your courage and proactivity demonstrates a mature understanding of the demands on 21st Century especially on the role of ICT.

We have done our part as a University to prepare you for the future ahead. It is our hope that you will remain good ambassadors of the University and trust that you will serve the country with dedication. I also encourage you to join the alumni association as this will give you a platform for continued engagement with the University and your former comrades.

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

The Book of Ecclesiastics in the Bible reminds us that to 'everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven... a time for being born and a time to die, a time to laugh and a time to cry'. For me the time is almost here to hand over. This has been a very wonderful opportunity to have, with the help of the Almighty God, served as the founding Vice Chancellor of Karatina University. I have cherished my time at Karatina University and I am grateful to have joined this inspiring community. And although in June, 2023 I will exit the Vice Chancellor's office, I will always be a part of this community and a champion for our University. There is much I will miss - the wonderful students, faculty, staff, alumni, Council member, donors. Friends and supporters who have been by my side along the way. I am also fully aware that in our interactions, some of you may have been offended by actions that I took in the interest of the University. I indulge you to free yourselves from any hard feelings you may have developed.

Finally, I wish to thank all stakeholders who have supported us greatly and without whom our work would be impossible. We thank the Ministry of Education, The National Treasury, parents and guardians of the graduands before us today. I also wish to thank various philanthropists and bursary committees who have assisted needy students. Finally, may I reiterate our appreciation to all of you that joined us today for this auspicious occasion.

May God Bless you all. God Bless Karatina University, God Bless Kenya.

KARATINA UNIVERSITY MARKS 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



Students took part in a sensitization walk

The Counselling section, in partnership with the Gender Mainstreaming Committee, today, Thursday, 8th December 2022, held a sensitisation walk against gender-based violence within the University.

This was to mark 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence; an annual campaign that begins on 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and runs through International Human Rights Day on 10 December. This year, the UN marks 16 Days under the theme **"UNITE! Activism to end violence against women and girls"**.

SWEARING-IN OF NEW STUDENT LEADERS



The elected student leaders

The 13th Student Governing Council (SGC) was sworn in on Tuesday, 6th December 2022 at a jovial ceremony held at the Conference Hall. The ceremony was graced by the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Mucai Muchiri and the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic, Research and Students Affairs), Prof. Peninah Aloo-Obudho. The University Legal Officer Ms. Anne Mumbi officiated the swearing-in.

In his remarks, the Vice Chancellor congratulated the incoming student leadership and thanked the outgoing leaders for showing maturity in embracing the democratic will of the students. He also indicated that the University leadership, together with various stakeholders, is working towards addressing challenges facing students.

In her remarks, the DVC(ARSA) noted the harmonious working relationship she has had with the outgoing SGC and urged the new leadership to emulate their predecessors by embracing dialogue.

The Dean of Students, Mr. Peter Ngugi, noted that the Karatina University Students Association (KUSA) leadership had met the constitutional threshold as per the University Amendment Act of 2016 and the KUSA Constitution.

The incoming Chairperson enumerated a plethora of issues that they will focus on during their tenure.

The election was conducted on Monday, 28th November 2022 under the leadership of the Returning Officer, Dr. Michael Gachahi, and his two deputies; Dr. Dennis Maina and Dr. Nyambisi Mengo, who were also present during the swearing-in ceremony.

Over three thousand students participated in the free, fair and credible online elections. There were no appeals either.

MT. KENYA INNOVATION WEEK, 2022



Participants during the Innovation Week

The Directorate of Career Services hosted the Mt. Kenya Innovation week closing ceremony on 2nd December, 2022. This was after a whole week of students working on their ideas to perfect their ideas. The theme of the innovation week was “Smart Innovations for a Clean Economy”. The University was a key partner in support of the Mt. Kenya Innovation week 2.0.

The closing ceremony was graced by Prof. Peninah Aloo-Obudho, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academic Research and Students Affairs (DVC-AR & SA) who represented the Vice Chancellor, Karatina University. In her re-

marks, she appreciated Mt. Kenya Hub team for choosing Karatina University to host the closing ceremony. DVC (ARSA) highlighted the importance of innovations in enhancing skills, courage, confidence and determination in their business life. She also informed the innovators that innovations were the major drivers in business strategies. In her closing remarks she stated that entrepreneurs and innovators have the power to change the world using technology.



Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic, Research and Student Affairs), Prof. Peninah Aloo-Obudho

The Key guest speakers were **Mr. Kenneth Kibet** from *Konza Technopolis Development Authority* who gave a talk on importance of commercialization of innovations, **Ms. Elizabeth Adongo**, *Senior Policy Advisor at Government of Kenya* who gave a talk on Intellectual Properties and Policy and **Mr. Biden Thendu** from *SatNav Africa/ Joint Programme Office, AU-EU, based in Dakar Office* gave a talk on Satellite Applications in Africa. He discussed extensively solutions satellites provide to innovations suitable for Africa market.

There was also a panel discussion on Sport, Youth and technology which was moderated by Mr. Savio Wambugu.

The panelists were members Kenya Footballers Welfare Association (KEFWA) led by their President Mr. James Situma. Mr. Situma encouraged innovators to develop sports innovations and showcase them during the 3rd KarU Start-Up Expo.

In conclusion, out of the thirty (30) teams that pitched their ideas, the top three (3) teams were awarded each **Kshs. 300,000.00**. The teams were:

1. **Soctrify** (Converting Sound energy to electrical energy) [from Dedan Kimathi University of Technology](#)
2. **Alphine Agribuz** (Connecting farmers to Consumers) from Dedan Kimathi University of Technology and
3. **CBC PRO Resources** (to ensure CBC resources are available to all) from Karatina University

The event was coordinated by Prof. Kenneth Wanjau, Director, Career Services & University-Industry Linkages and Mr. Savio Wambugu, CEO Mt. Kenya Hub.

Click on this link for photos https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1-GpNbueNIIRNU5zwQeAYxAaVu_XuY4z?usp=share_link