



Inspiring Innovation and Leadership

**KARATINA UNIVERSITY**

**Weekly Dispatch 3, 2025**

**Monday 3rd – 8th March, 2025**

## **KARATINA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS EMBARK ON AN EYE-OPENING ACADEMIC TRIP TO NAIROBI**

A group of students from the School of Business, Karatina University, accompanied by distinguished faculty members, embarked on an enriching academic trip to Nairobi, where they visited top-tier institutions HRMPEB, KASNEB, and Nairobi Water Company.

This visit, led by Dr. Beatrice Ombaka (Head of the Human Resource Development Department), alongside Dr. Esther Maina, Dr. Macharia Stephen and Mr. Samuel Wanjema, provided students with first-hand exposure to professional environments and industry expectations.

The tour was designed to bridge the gap between classroom learning and real-world application, offering students valuable insights into their career paths. Throughout the visit, students actively engaged with professionals in the field, asking insightful and relevant questions that showcased their keen interest and academic preparedness.

The first stop was at the Human Resource Management Professionals Examination Board (HRMPEB), where the students received a warm welcome. The CEO of HRMPEB encouraged Karatina University to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the examination board to encourage students to pursue the Certified Human Resource Professional (CHRP) qualification alongside their degree course programmes and graduate with dual certification. This strategic partnership will aim at prioritizing Karatina University students, giving them a competitive advantage in the HR field. If this is successful, it will be a golden opportunity to the students to advance their careers.



During the interactive session, students who included Erick Njoroge, Christine Murugi, and Nicholas Omuka asked thought-provoking questions that deepened their understanding of HR certifications and their impact on employability.

The second destination was KASNEB, a renowned institution responsible for professional examinations in accounting, finance, and governance. Students were exposed to career-enhancing courses such as CPA (Certified Public Accountant), CPS (Certified Public Secretary), and CIFA (Certified Investment and Financial Analyst). The highlight of the visit was an inspiring encounter with a Karatina University alumnus who is now an ICT personnel at KASNEB. The graduate, who completed his studies in 2021, serves as a testament to the university's ability to produce competent professionals who excel in the job market.

Standing in for the CEO, Mr. Collins Okomo expressed admiration for Karatina University, commending the institution for nurturing top-tier professionals. His words resonated with the students, reinforcing their confidence in their university and the quality of education they receive at the premier institution.

The trip concluded with a visit to Nairobi Water Company, where students gained practical insights

into corporate operations, environmental management, and the role of water resource management in urban development. Professionals from various departments took the students through real-world applications of their academic disciplines, demonstrating how HR, finance, engineering, and other fields contribute to the success of essential service industries.

The interactive nature of the session allowed students to appreciate the intersection between academic knowledge and industry practice, broadening their perspectives on career opportunities.

All in all, the trip was more than just a learning experience, it was a defining moment for the students, shaping their career outlooks and inspiring them to reach greater heights.

## **KARATINA UNIVERSITY HOSTS DR. DAVID KENFACK, AFRICAN COORDINATOR FOR FORESTGEO**

Karatina University had the honor of hosting Dr. David Kenfack, the African Coordinator for ForestGEO and a Staff Scientist at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, based at the National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C. Dr. Kenfack paid a courtesy visit to the University, where discussions centered on strengthening the existing partnership between Karatina University and ForestGEO.

ForestGEO is a globally recognized network of forest research sites and scientists dedicated to studying the function and diversity of tropical and temperate forests. With 78 forest research sites across multiple continents, the network monitors the growth and survival of approximately seven million trees, representing nearly 13,000 species. Additionally, ForestGEO conducts critical scientific research on carbon fluxes, climate change impacts on biodiversity, and forest ecosystem dynamics.

Karatina University has an active Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with ForestGEO, fostering collaboration in research, capacity building, and knowledge exchange. The visit by Dr. Kenfack pro-

vided an opportunity to explore ways to further enhance this partnership.

Representing Karatina University during the discussions were the Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Academic, Research, and Student Affairs, Prof. Franklin Wabwoba; the Dean, School of Natural Resources and Environmental Studies, Dr. Flora Namu; and the School Coordinator for Research, Innovations, and Extension, Dr. Duncan Kimuyu, a beneficiary of the Smithsonian Postdoctoral Fellowship.

Dr. Kenfack was accompanied by Dr. Paul Musili, a Senior Research Scientist and Plant Systematics expert at the National Museums of Kenya.



*From Left: Dr. Paul Musili, Dr. David Kenfack, DVC AR-SA Prof. Franklin Wabwoba, Dr. Flora Namu, Dr. Duncan Kimuyu during the visit at the Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic Affairs Office.*

## **KARATINA UNIVERSITY HOSTS GRANT WRITING WORKSHOP TO STRENGTHEN RESEARCH CAPACITY**

The Directorate of Research, Innovation, and Extension (RIE) successfully organized a two-day Grant Writing Workshop. The workshop aimed to equip the academic departments and researchers with essential skills in developing competitive grant proposals, identifying funding opportunities, and fostering collaborative research engagements. The workshop was facilitated by Beeline Research Limited. The participants that took place in the work-

shop had been nominated from various academic departments.

The workshop was officially opened by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (AR&SA), Prof. Franklin Wabwoba, on behalf of the Vice Chancellor. In his remarks he emphasized on the critical role of research funding in advancing academic excellence and innovation. He underscored that actively responding to funding calls enhances researchers' potential to secure grants and contribute significantly to the global body of knowledge. He urged the participants to take advantage of the workshop so that they can come up with skills to develop competitive grant proposals.



*The participants during the interactive session*

Throughout the workshop, participants engaged in hands-on sessions covering key aspects of grant writing, including:

- Strengthening researchers' capacity in grant writing and funding acquisition.
- Effective strategies for sourcing and selecting grant opportunities.
- Fostering collaborations and partnerships in research.
- Practical experience in proposal writing and submission.
- Best practices in grant management and research team coordination.

Understanding funders' expectations and aligning proposals accordingly.

A highlight of the workshop was the formation of multidisciplinary teams, encouraging collaborative research efforts. Beeline Research Ltd provid-

ed practical exposure to grant search methodologies through its specialized database, allowing participants to gain valuable insights into crafting compelling and fundable grant proposals.

The workshop was hailed as a resounding success, significantly enhancing the research capacity of participants. The Directorate of Research, Innovation, and Extension extends its sincere appreciation to the facilitators, participants, and the University Management for their unwavering support in making this initiative impactful.



*Seated in the center is the DVC ARSA, flanked by the facilitator on the left and the Director Career Services who was representing the Director RIE on the right, alongside participants of the Grant Writing Workshop.*

Karatina University emerged as the overall winner in the Karate Women category and Runners Up in Rugby women at the KUSF national playoffs held at Masinde Muliro University on 22nd and 23rd February. This is a great achievement by our students who are not only excelling in the academia world but also excelling in co-curricular activi-



*The rugby and karate teams display their trophies after winning.*

**PICTURE SPEAK TRAIN THE TRAINER WORKSHOP SCENES FROM THE TRAINING**

**PICTURE SPEAK SCENES FROM THE MEDICAL CAMP**

