



KARATINA UNIVERSITY

Weekly Dispatch 6, 2025

Monday 5th – 9th May, 2025

## SPAS INNOVATION WEEK: EMPOWERING STUDENTS THROUGH SCIENCE, INNOVATION, AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP.

**O**n Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2025, Karatina University's School of pure and Applied Sciences successfully organized the SPAS innovation week under the theme:

**"Harnessing Science and Innovation for Youth-Led Entrepreneurship."** The event brought together student innovators to show case their innovative projects, research findings and entrepreneurial ideas geared towards addressing real-world challenges and creating sustainable solutions.

Speaking during the event the Chairperson of the planning committee Dr. Shadrack stated that innovation is a key element and the event speaks for the mission and vision of the university. On the hand the Dean of the School of Pure and Applied Sciences Dr. Jeremiah Kebwaro gave a brief overview of the event. He stated that week was created to celebrate the spirit of innovation of our students and also the vision of the university hence this initiative to encourage the students to innovate and also learn entrepreneurial skills. The Director Career services, university industry linkages and Alumni Affairs Dr. Dezzline Ondingo who was in attendance stated that the objective was to empower students to be job creators not job seekers as well leveraging innovation for the youth.



*The DVC ARSA Prof. Franklin Wabwoba addressing the audience during the launch of the SPAS innovation competition.*

The event was launched by the Deputy Vice Chancellor Prof. Franklin Wabwoba on behalf of the Vice Chancellor. He appreciated the school for organizing the event that speaks a lot towards the rallying call of the university. 'Whatever you have, the idea you have can take you far, seek guidance, accept support and take it further,' he said. He further went and stated that the management is committed to the initiative and shall continue providing resources. He challenged the school to include industry gurus to help in commercialization of the best innovators.



*The student innovators pose for a group photo with the planning committee, Dean SPAS, DVC ARSA and members of the staff during the SPAS innovation week competition.*

The students exhibited groundbreaking ideas and participated in vibrant discussions aimed at transforming scientific knowledge into viable business opportunities. The Innovation Week served as a critical platform for nurturing creativity, practical problem-solving skills, and entrepreneurial thinking among students.

One of the key highlights of the event was the awarding of certificates and rewards to outstand-

ing innovators whose projects demonstrated creativity, sustainability, and potential for real-world impact. The recognition of these students not only celebrated their achievements but also encouraged a culture of innovation, resilience, and leadership among the youth.



*The winning teams pose a photo with the organizing committee after awarding of certificates.*

Through initiatives like SPAS Innovation Week, Karatina University continues to empower students beyond academic excellence, equipping them with the skills, mindset, and confidence to become entrepreneurs, innovators, and future leaders. The University's commitment to linking science with entrepreneurship reflects its broader vision of transforming lives through education, innovation, and community engagement. The School of Pure and Applied Sciences expresses its heartfelt appreciation to all participants, mentors, judges, and partners who contributed to the success of the event. As Karatina University continues to invest in research, innovation, and entrepreneurship, it remains steadfast in its mission to shape a future where students are at the forefront of driving change and creating opportunities for themselves and their communities.

**KARATINA UNIVERSITY HOSTS 3-DAY NACADA WORKSHOP ON ENGAGING YOUTH IN DRUG USE PREVENTION**

Karatina University, in partnership with the National Authority for the Campaign Against Alcohol and Drug Abuse (NACADA), successfully hosted a three-day sensitization and capacity-building workshop under the theme “Engaging Youth in Drug Use Prevention.” The workshop, held at the University’s

Main Campus, brought together students, staff, and NACADA officials for a series of powerful discussions, training sessions, and action planning aimed at empowering young people to take an active role in combating drug and substance abuse within their communities.



*Participants keenly following through the presentations during the workshop*

The workshop was officially launched by the Deputy Vice Chancellor Prof. Franklin Wabwoba on behalf of the Vice Chancellor. He expressed his gratitude to the team from NACADA for choosing Karatina University as a strategic partner and for recognizing the university’s commitment to nurturing holistic leaders. He welcomed the students and urged them to be careful and not to conform in the things of the world. ‘Just because everyone is doing it, you don’t have to do it.’ He further emphasized that the university remains steadfast in creating a safe, supportive, and drug-free environment where students can thrive academically, socially, and professionally.

Throughout the three days, participants were taken through critical areas including:

- The role of youth as change agents in drug demand reduction.
- Peer-to-peer mentorship and leadership in drug prevention initiatives.
- Recognizing early warning signs of substance abuse and strategies for timely intervention.
- Building life skills such as resilience, decision-making, and positive peer influence.
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- Developing action plans for student-led drug prevention activities within the university and surrounding communities.

The sessions were highly interactive, featuring experience sharing, group discussions, role-playing, and practical workshops designed to equip students with the tools and confidence to spearhead the anti-drug campaign. Students were encouraged to take leadership in preventive efforts and be ambassadors of healthy living.

The representatives from NACADA emphasized on the urgent need to engage the youth meaningfully in national strategies against drug and substance abuse, highlighting that prevention is more sustainable and cost-effective than rehabilitation and treatment.



*The students pose for a photo with the team from NACADA and organizing team from Karatina University.*

The three-day workshop concluded with a strong call to action: for every student and stakeholder to become a champion of drug prevention, not only within the university but also in their families, neighborhoods, and future workplaces.

Karatina University remains committed to producing innovative, responsible, and visionary graduates, in line with its mission to inspire innovation and leadership for sustainable development.

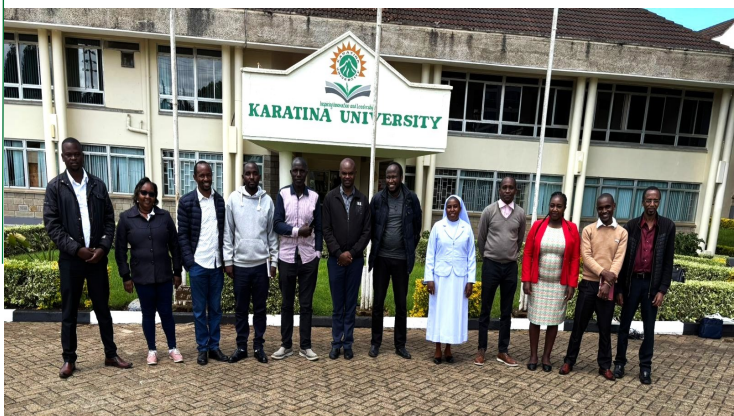
## EGOJI TEACHERS' COLLEGE VISITS KARATINA UNIVERSITY FOR ERP BENCHMARKING

On 7th May 2025, Karatina University was privileged to host a team from Egoji Teachers' College for a fact-finding and benchmarking visit focused on our Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system, particularly our engagement with the current vendor, AppKings.

The visiting team comprised six members drawn from various departments at Egochi Teachers' College. They engaged in fruitful discussions with the Karatina University Directorate of ICT, exchanging insights on ERP system implementation, integration, and best practices in leveraging technology for institutional management and academic support.

Following the discussions, the team expressed admiration for the strides Karatina University has made in digitizing its operations and managing institutional data through ERP solutions. They also indicated their intention to pursue future partnerships with Karatina University in various education-focused initiatives.

The University looks forward to strengthening this budding relationship and fostering collaboration aimed at advancing education and institutional development.



*The members of the ICT department pose for a photo with the team from Egoji Teachers College after the successful benchmarking session*



KARATINA UNIVERSITY STUDENT SHINES ON THE GLOBAL STAGE WITH DUKE OF EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL AWARD

Karatina University proudly celebrates the outstanding achievement of Vivian Muriuki Kinya who is currently serving as the Students Governing Council Vice President. She also served as the Director Gender, special needs and international relations. Vivian has been honoured with the prestigious Duke of Edinburgh International Award – a globally recognized accolade that celebrates young people’s achievements in personal development, leadership, community service, and resilience.

Vivian’s remarkable accomplishment underscores the spirit of excellence that Karatina University strives to nurture among its students. Through her dedication, leadership, and community engagement, Vivian exemplified the Award’s core values: commitment to personal growth, perseverance, and making a positive impact on society.

The Duke of Edinburgh International Award empowers young people across more than 130 countries to explore their potential and contribute meaningfully to their communities.

At Karatina University, we believe in holistic education that goes beyond academic learning. Vivian’s success reflects the University's commitment to supporting students' leadership journeys, encouraging community engagement, and fostering innovation and resilience. We are proud to provide platforms and mentorship that enable our students to achieve not only academic milestones but also to grow as influential global citizens.

Vivian’s achievement is an inspiration to her fellow students and a testament to what young people can accomplish when they are empowered, supported, and determined to create positive change. As we celebrate her success, we reaffirm our commitment to cultivating an environment where all students can thrive, lead, and leave a lasting legacy.

Karatina University congratulates Vivian on this outstanding milestone and looks forward to supporting many more students in achieving global excellence.

AFRICA

VIVIAN KINYA  
KENYA

*Vivian is a passionate leader and youth advocate, currently serving as the Vice President of the Karatina University Student Governing Council, President of the local IAESTE community, and Campus Director for the Ghana-based Reformation Community.*

*A proud Bronze, Silver, and Gold Award holder, they have trained as a volunteer assessor and support others on their Award journey. Now serving as an International Youth Representative, Vivian is focused on empowering youth across Africa through education, advocacy, and inclusive programming. They are especially passionate about engaging local communities, advancing mental health awareness, and introducing Award programs into correctional institutions to support rehabilitation and personal development. With a strong commitment to leadership, mentorship, and social change, their vision is grounded in action—and their voice, in purpose.*

