



KARATINA UNIVERSITY

Weekly Dispatch , 9 2025

Monday 4th August – 8th August, 2025

KARATINA UNIVERSITY HOSTS WAZEE WA NYUMBA KUMI WORKSHOP

On August 7, 2025, Karatina University, through its Directorate of Community Outreach, held a capacity-building workshop for the *Wazee wa Nyumba* at the Senior Common Hall in Main campus. The workshop attracted the local administration led by the Chiefs, Assistant Chiefs, Elders and community members from Muthea, Magutu and Gathehu locations. The workshop was held under the theme: ‘Strengthening Community leadership and Security management. This aimed to empower the elders for an inclusive and responsive governance.

The workshop was officially launched by the Deputy Vice Chancellor Planning, Finance and Administration Prof. Richard Kiai on behalf of the Vice Chancellor. He delivered the VC speech and urged the members to embrace dialogue unity and inclusivity. On the hand the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic, Research and Student Affairs Prof. Franklin Wabwoba encouraged community-driven solutions, “*Sisi kwa Sisi*” to promote peace and unity.



The participants keenly following through the presentations during the workshop.

Speaking during the workshop, Prof. Margaret Mwenje the Director Community Outreach appreciated the members for accepting their invitation and showing up for the workshop. The participants were taken through various sessions, including the mandate on *Nyumba Kumi Wazee* in governance, the role of *wazee* in enhancing intergenerational dialogue, unity, and conflict resolution, and security management in the community. Later on as the VC made an appearance, he emphasized on how his goal has always been to ensure that the university makes an impact in the society.

Throughout the sessions the participants had interactive discussions between the community members and the campus representatives. The workshop is a dedication to how Karatina University focuses on strengthening community leadership structures and promoting a secure society between the community and the students.



A section of the participants during the workshop.

KARATINA UNIVERSITY HOSTS BRIDGING MINDS WORKSHOP-BECOMING A RESEARCHER: A MAX PLANCK AFRICA 1-WEEK-EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS - INITIATIVE

Karatina University Karatina University, School of Natural Resources and Environmental Studies, in Collaboration with the Max Planck Institute, Animal Behaviour Group, Development and Evolution of Cognition (DECog) research group, in Konstanz, Germany, hosted a 7-day workshop on bridging the mind.

The Max Planck Society aims to strengthen Africa as a centre of science in the mid and long term. The aim is to bridge the educational gap between African students and the science education of the Global North, by providing local students and young researchers with the necessary tools, mentorship and resources to excel within their home countries. The program aims to retain their genius locally while preventing the loss of talent through emigration.



A section of the participants keenly following through the presentations.

During the one-week workshop at Karatina University, a 6-member DECog team from MPI trained 30 postgraduates on research, coming up with a research question, data collection, data analysis, publication, delivering scientific talks, landing a first job, securing research funds, and the power of collaboration. Each day focused on a distinct theme, ranging from

scientific writing to collaboration, funding, and Curriculum Vitae (CV) development. Participants engaged in practical exercises, including writing CVs and cover letters, programming, and conducting observation simulations. Afternoons were reserved for open discussions and mentorship sessions, providing opportunities to share insights gained during the day. Participants also explored potential research directions, ethical use of Artificial Intelligence, and received valuable feedback on their research proposals. Additionally, instructors shared reflections on their career journeys, offering inspiration and guidance to the aspiring researchers.

The workshop wrapped up with a thesis planning and mentorship session, sending the future researchers with not only technical expertise but also direction regarding their research.



The group poses for a group photo with the Max Planck Institute of Animal Behaviour at the end of the workshop.

This initiative is an example of how Karatina University is committed to advancing global academic partnerships and developing young researchers to take the lead in spearheading research in the African continent and beyond. Karatina University is grateful to the Max Planck Institute, Animal Behaviour, Development and Evolution of Cognition (DECog) research group for the partnership and the successful workshop.

KARATINA UNIVERSITY JOINS JUDICIARY TO MARK INTERNATIONAL DAY OF JUDICIAL WELL-BEING

In a powerful demonstration of its commitment to community empowerment and national development, Karatina University, through its Directorate of Community Outreach, partnered with the Chief Magistrate's Court in Gatundu South Sub-County, Kiambu County, to commemorate the International Day of Judicial Well-being on July 25, 2025.

This year's global theme, *"Judicial Well-being and Its Impact on Community Well-being,"* provided the perfect backdrop for a meaningful exchange between university experts and judicial officers including magistrates, judges, prosecutors, and court staff. The outreach aimed at promoting mental health awareness and emotional resilience within the judiciary — a critical but often overlooked aspect of public service.

The session was facilitated by the Director, Community Outreach, and focused on practical topics such as:

- The importance of mental health in high-pressure judicial roles;
- How emotional well-being influences performance and decision-making;
- Early signs of burnout and emotional exhaustion;
- Stress management and self-care strategies.

The workshop was interactive, with judicial staff openly sharing personal experiences and seeking guidance on coping mechanisms. Participants appreciated Karatina University's effort in addressing real issues affecting public servants and expressed interest in more structured engagements in future.

Speaking during the event, court officials commended the university's involvement, noting the timeliness and relevance of the discussions. The outreach not only met a professional need but also underscored the growing recognition of psychosocial support in sustaining judicial excellence.

This outreach reflects Karatina University's strategic vision of applying academic resources and expertise to respond to societal challenges and create lasting partnerships for development.

The Directorate expressed gratitude to the Vice Chancellor and University Management Board for supporting community-centered initiatives that extend the university's impact beyond lecture halls.



The Director Directorate of Community Outreach Prof. Margaret Mwenje addressing the audience on Mental health matters during the International Day of Judicial Well-being.

