



Inspiring Innovation and Leadership

The Karatina University Chronicle

ISSUE NO. 13, OCTOBER 2025

A NEWSLETTER OF THE OFFICE OF THE VICE CHANCELLOR

A Year of Dynamic Progress



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Registrar (AA)

KARATINA UNIVERSITY



Inspiring Innovation and Leadership

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

**KARATINA UNIVERSITY IS
ISO 9001:2015 CERTIFIED**

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A YEAR OF DYNAMIC PROGRESS



PROF. LINUS MUTHURI GITONGA
VICE CHANCELLOR, KARATINA UNIVERSITY

Welcome to *The 13th Issue of Karatina University Chronicle* that demonstrates a year of dynamic progress, setting a strong foundation for excellence.

Karatina University has witnessed significant growth and achievements across multiple domains, reinforcing its commitment to academic excellence, institutional development and community engagement.

Institutional Capacity and Leadership

The University strengthened its leadership structure through several high-profile appointments. Prof. Isaac Muthure Macharia was appointed the 2nd Chancellor of Karatina University for a five-year term, effective April 11, 2025. Prof. Macharia is an accomplished ENT surgeon, Associate Professor at the University of Nairobi, and holds significant executive roles, including Non-Executive Chairman of Equity Group Holdings Plc.

New council members' appointments effective July 25, 2025, include appointment of CPA, David Joseph Osero Nyakang'o (finance/audit expert) and Dr. Edward N. Kobuthi (seasoned executive/board leader). Mr. Abdul Malik Aman, an Environmental Economist, is serving as the representative of the Principal Secretary of The National Treasury.

The University also made key senior management appointments. Prof. Franklin Wabwoba, a pioneering scholar and Kenya's first Full Professor of Information Technology, was appointed Deputy Vice-Chancellor

(Academic, Research and Student Affairs), effective January 1, 2025. Prof. Richard M. Kiai, a Certified Public Accountant and Associate Professor of Finance, was appointed Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Planning, Finance and Administration), effective June 3, 2025.

Karatina University further enhanced its academic strength, boasting 118 PhD holders, with 64.97% of academic staff holding doctoral qualifications. A strategic recruitment drive led to new appointments, significantly strengthening the Schools of Health Sciences, Computing, and Informatics. Staff productivity was also enhanced through training initiatives, including a partnership with the National Productivity and Competitiveness Centre (NPCC).

Infrastructure and Expansion

The University is undertaking major capital investments to support its growing population and enhance service delivery. A new academic unit, School of Computing & Informatics, was established to independently manage and advance comprehensive programs in computing, cyber security, data science, and AI, responding directly to high student and industry demand for digital skills.

The Construction of a Student Centre valued at (Ksh 100 million) is at an advanced stage. The modern, multi-purpose unit is designed to be the heart of student life, featuring among others a spacious central courtyard, gym, sauna, and catering facilities.



The Upcoming iHub

To accommodate the increasing student population, an additional academic block worth KSh 500 million is under construction. The facility will provide six laboratories and fifty lecture rooms, offering improved learning environments and specialized training spaces.

Additionally, a six-storey building, also valued at KSh 500 million, is under construction at Karatina Town to house the School of Health Sciences, strategically positioning it for enhanced community engagement and delivery of essential medical services to the residents.

These three projects are scheduled for handover between January and June 2026. The University has adopted a full financing model at the commencement stage to ensure timely project completion and maximum value for money.

Additionally, construction of a six-storey ICT and Computing Complex (dubbed “iHub”), estimated at KSh 500 million, is set to commence by the end of 2025. Our journey to solarize the university has begun with earnest, starting with a 80KW project scheduled for hand over by end of October 2025.

The University’s transport capacity was also enhanced with the acquisition of a new Isuzu semi-luxury large bus, with another expected to be delivered soon.

Academic Milestones and Oversight

The 13th Graduation Ceremony celebrates the highest number of graduands at 1800 graduates. Additionally, a record has been achieved with the completion of eight

(8) postgraduate students within the expected timeframe, demonstrating the university’s commitment to academic excellence and timely program delivery.

The 2025/2026 first-year cohort was officially welcomed on 1st September 2025, recording an impressive 96% reporting rate and a total enrolment of 4,626 first year students. Their orientation week culminated in the Vice-Chancellor’s Address, during which he weaved his message and urging them to “protect their mental garden,” with an emphasis on the philosophy of Discipline, Practice, and Persistence (DPP) as key pillars for personal and academic success.

In March 2025, the Commission for University Education (CUE) conducted its regular, rigorous five-year institutional audit to assess compliance with national standards and quality benchmarks, subsequently granting the University a strong stamp of approval for its continued adherence to excellence.

Research Capacity and Partnerships

Karatina University partnered with the Max Planck Institute (Germany) to host a transformative seven-day workshop aimed at equipping postgraduate students with essential research skills.

A new partnership with the FAO-UN E-Learning Academy is now in place, granting students access to over 200 certified short courses, thereby enhancing their global exposure and professional development.

Staff capacity was further strengthened through Grant Writing Workshops, which focused on securing external funding, and specialized NACOSTI training designed to empower the Ethics Review Committee (ERC) and uphold high ethical standards in research. Staff capacity was significantly strengthened through Grant Writing Workshops (securing external funding) and specialized NACOSTI training to bolster the Ethics Review Committee (ERC) and ensure high ethical standards for research. Our journey with KENIA has just begun, with the future towards innovation and commercialization looking bright.

The University also hosted a Workshop on the Commercialization of Research Outputs in collaboration with KIPi, during which plans were announced to establish a dedicated Technology Transfer Office to support innovation and intellectual property management.

Culminating these research and innovation efforts, Karatina University successfully hosted the International Conference on Sustainable Knowledge Systems (ICSKS 2025) under the theme “AI for a Sustainable Future,” bringing together global scholars, researchers, and policymakers to explore the transformative potential of artificial intelligence in advancing sustainable development.

Industry and Technology Focus

The institution, tracing its origins to a tea training centre, celebrated a century of Kenyan tea by launching a specialized tea curriculum, including a Post-Graduate Diploma in Tea Science and Management, and hosted executive training for 33 professionals from 18 leading tea companies. The first training session had 33 participants, and the second one had a total of 66 participants.

The University hosted a landmark ‘Train the Trainer’ workshop in collaboration with Marketplace Simulations, Knoxville, Tennessee USA, utilizing virtual business environments to promote practical, experience-based learning. The university also joined the ACCESS 2.0 Project (2025–2029) project is implemented in collaboration with the University of Leipzig (Germany). Through these Karatina University will enhance entrepreneurship education and embed service-learning into academic programs to better prepare students for the world of work and impactful community engagement.

Community Outreach Initiatives

The University carried out several high-impact community service activities, including free medical camps, empowerment of church leaders, administration at different levels with Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) skills in collaboration with the Judiciary. A three-year Mathematics Locus Mentorship Programme was

launched to inspire high school students and build confidence in mathematics. Furthermore, the university conducted capacity-building workshops for both school principals, and guidance and counseling teachers to enhance leadership and student support systems in the region.

Student Welfare and Leadership

Notably, student leader and Vice-Chairperson Vivian Kinya achieved international recognition by being elected as the International Youth Representative for the Duke of Edinburgh Award where she will be representing Kenya and Africa. She is also an awardee of Kenya’s Presidential Award Scheme.

Karatina University hosted multiple workshops in partnership with NACADA to empower youth in drug prevention. This initiative led to the establishment of the Substance crisis and Response Centre, marking a proactive step towards addressing substance use among the youth.

The university also made history by holding the first All-Women Leadership Academy Graduation in Africa for the inaugural cohort of the World Academy for the Future of Women. The University also made history by hosting the first All-Women Leadership Academy Graduation in Africa for the inaugural cohort of the World Academy for the Future of Women (WAFW). Building on this milestone, the second WAFW cohort and the inaugural Men’s Academy were launched this year, further advancing the University’s commitment to gender-inclusive leadership development.

A major forum was held with local landlords and the university management to strengthen collaboration on student safety and welfare in off campus housing. The engagement resulted in resolutions to enhance security and streamline dispute resolution mechanisms.

Karatina University further celebrated a year of outstanding sporting achievements, dominating the KUSA Central League where the Handball Women’s and Football Men’s teams emerged as overall champions in their respective categories, finishing as overall champions in their respective events. The university also launched Students Inaugural Cultural Week as a vibrant celebration of diversity and unity.

In conclusion, Karatina University has made and continues to make remarkable strides in leadership, infrastructure development, academic excellence, research, and community impact. Through strategic engagements and partnerships, a strong student-centered approach, the university remains well-positioned for sustained growth and meaningful contribution to national and global development goals.

THE 2ND CHANCELLOR OF KARATINA UNIVERSITY



PROF. ISAAC MUTHURE MACHARIA (EBS)

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 38 (1) (a) of the Universities Act, 2012, the President of the Republic of Kenya and Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Forces, appointed PROF. ISAAC MUTHURE MACHARIA vide GAZETTE NOTICE No. 4653 to be the Chancellor of the Karatina University, for a period of five (5) years, with effect from 11th April 2025.

This prestigious appointment culminates into his installation as the 2nd Chancellor of Karatina University on 16th October 2025, preceding the 13th Congregation of Karatina University Graduation Ceremony.

PROF. ISAAC MUTHURE MACHARIA (EBS) PROFILE

Current Leadership Roles

Prof. Macharia holds several significant executive and advisory positions, including:

- Non-Executive Chairman, Equity Group Holdings Plc
- Chairman, Jadala Investments
- Chairman, Otolaryngology Associates
- Chairman and Co-Founder, Nairobi ENT Clinic
- Chairman, Savannah Informatics Ltd.
- Regional advisor for East Africa, CBM
- Member, Muranga County Budget and Economic Council
- Chairman, Cochlear Implant Group of Kenya

Previous leadership roles

His past distinguished appointments include:

- Non-Executive Chairman, Equity Bank (Kenya) Ltd.
- Chairman, Allergy Society of Kenya
- Chairman, Kenya ENT Society (KENTS)
- President, Pan African Federation of Otorhinolaryngology Societies (PAFOS)
- Regional Secretary, Africa and Middle East, International federation of Otorhinolaryngological Societies (IFOS)

Education and Professional Qualifications

Prof. Macharia's educational background includes:

- Fellow of the College of Surgeons of East, Central and Southern Africa (COSECSA) in 2004.
- Master of Medicine in Surgery (ENT) from the University of Nairobi in 1990.
- Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery (MB, ChB) from the University of Nairobi in 1984.
- He also completed his O Level (1972-1975) and A Level (1976-1977) at Thika High School.

Career Progression

Prof. Macharia has a distinguished career trajectory, primarily at the University of Nairobi and Kenyatta National Hospital, alongside private practice and district hospital roles:

- Professor, Department of Surgery, University of Nairobi (2014-2024)
- Associate Professor, Department of Surgery, University of Nairobi (2001-.2014)
- Senior Lecturer, Department of Surgery,

University of Nairobi (1997-2001).

- Lecturer, Department of Surgery, University Of Nairobi (1991-1997).
- Consultant ENT Surgeon, Kenyatta National Hospital since 1991-2024.
- Part-time private practice at Nairobi ENT clinic since 1993.
- Consultant ENT Surgeon, Machakos District Hospital (1990-1991).
- Senior House Officer, ENT Department, Kenyatta National Hospital (1987-1990).
- Medical Officer In Charge, Moyale Sub-District Hospital (1986-1987).
- Medical Officer, Meru District Hospital (1985-1986).
- Medical Officer (Intern), Provincial General Hospital, Nakuru (1984-1985).

Further Training

In addition to the Postgraduate training at the University of Nairobi, Prof Macharia has attended numerous international courses and workshops and has had clinical attachments at the University of Cape Town, KEM Hospital Bombay, Utrecht University, Massachusetts Eye and Ear Hospital and Harvard Medical School, Manchester University, Freiburg University Hospital, University of Nijmegen, and University of Liverpool.

University Responsibilities

He has held numerous key administrative and academic roles within the University of Nairobi:

- Coordinator, Academic link between University of Nairobi and University of Colorado at Denver (2012).
- Coordinator Academic link between University of Nairobi and Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (2010).
- Vice Chairman, University of Nairobi Institute of Head and Neck Surgical Sciences (UNIHANSS) Development Committee (2009-to date).
- Acting Chairman, Department of Surgery (Dec 2009-Feb 2010).
- Thematic Head, Section of ENT (2006-2010).
- Chairman, School of Medicine Library Committee (2005)
- Link coordinator, academic link between University of Nairobi and University of Manchester (1995-2001).

- Coordinator for ENT clinical teaching for Undergraduate medical students (1994-1999).
- Coordinator ENT postgraduate teaching (1994-2010).

Other Positions of Responsibility

Prof. Macharia has also taken on significant leadership roles in various national and international organizations:

- Chair, Technical sub-committee, Health Committee, Covid-19 Emergency National Response Fund (2020)
- Member World Hearing Forum executive committee (2019)
- Member, Global Advisory Board, Starkey Hearing Foundation (2014)
- Member, Advisory working group (AWG), Ear and Hearing Care-CBM (2012).
- Member GSK Advisory Panel on Chronic Suppurative Otitis Media (2011).
- Member, Board of Governors, Njumbi High School (2010).
- Chairman, Starkey Mission to Kenya organizing consortium (2009).
- Chairman, Kenya National Committee on Prevention and Management of Hearing Impairment (2008).
- Counsellor – Pan African Federation of Otorhinolaryngological Societies (PAFOS) (2000).
- Member, Board of Operation Ear Drop Kenya and Chairman, Technical and outreach committee of Operation Ear Drop Kenya (2000).
- Member, Board of Trustees, Impact East Africa (2000).
- Member, Board of Governors, Thika High School (2000).

Membership of Professional Societies

He has been a member of several local and international professional societies:

- InterAmerican Association of Pediatric Otorhinolaryngology (2010).
- American Academy of Otolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery (2008).
- Allergy Society of Kenya (2007).
- Kenya Surgical Society (2000).
- European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (1999).
- New York Academy of Sciences (1998).
- European Society of Rhinology (1997).
- Kenya Ear, Nose and Throat society (1988).
- Kenya Medical Association (1985).

Publications, Conference presentations

Prof Macharia has been a regular attendant of both local and international scientific conferences where he has made various presentations in addition to have published extensively in peer reviewed scientific journals. He has in addition supervised more than 30 Masters of Medicine dissertations.

External Examiner

He has also served as an External Examiner for M. Med (ENT) for Makerere University, Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences, Kilimanjaro Christian Medical College, Tumaini University, University of Zimbabwe, University of Malawi and The College of Surgeons of East Central and Southern Africa (COSECSA).



Congratulations

KARATINA UNIVERSITY COUNCIL



PROF. JOSEPH T. MAILUTHA
CHAIRMAN



MR. JAMES MWANGI KIBURI
REP. PRINCIPAL SECRETARY,
THE NATIONAL TREASURY



PROF. LINUS MUTHURI GITONGA
VICE CHANCELLOR / SECRETARY



MR. ABDUL MALIK AMAN
REP. PRINCIPAL SECRETARY,
THE NATIONAL TREASURY



ENG. DAVID K. OPIYO
MEMBER



MS. WINNIE MWAI
MEMBER



MR. DAVID JOSEPH OSERO
NYAKANG'O
MEMBER



DR. EDWARD N. KOBUTHI
MEMBER



KARATINA UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

NEW COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS

MR. DAVID JOSEPH OSERO NYAKANG'O, BA, B Com, CPA(K), CPS(K)



Mr. David Joseph Osero Nyakang'o is a highly accomplished professional with extensive experience in finance, audit, and corporate governance. He holds a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from the University of Cumbria and a Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting Option) from the University of Nairobi. He is also a Certified Public Accountant (CPA(K)) and a Certified Secretary (CPS(K)), accredited as a Corporate Governance Auditor by the Institute of Certified Secretaries of Kenya.

Mr. Nyakang'o has over 40 years of experience in financial management, audit, tax, company secretarial, and corporate governance advisory services. This includes ten years in high-level financial management,

serving as Financial Controller of Mumias Sugar Company for six years and Financial Accountant with Eastern Produce Africa Limited for four years. After training as an auditor with Price Waterhouse & Co, he gained over 30 years of professional practice experience as Managing Partner at MDN Kenya LLP since 1992, and over 20 years in company secretarial practice with Olmara Secretaries LLP.

His leadership extends to various boards, including serving as a Non-Executive director for the Rural Electrification Authority of Kenya, Jamii Bora Bank Kenya Limited, and Metropol Corporation Limited. He is the Chairman of the Audit Committee of the Board of Metropol Credit Reference Bureau Limited and a Commissioner/Director of the Privatization Commission/Authority since 2022, where he chairs the Audit and Governance Committee and has chaired Privatization Steering Committees for Kenya Wine Agencies and Kenya Meat Commission.

Beyond his professional career, Mr. Nyakang'o has made significant contributions to community service, including roles as Chairman of the Rotary Club of Kisumu and President of the East African Golf Federation from 2008 to 2016. He also served as Chairman of the Kenya Golf Union for the 2008-09 year.

DR. EDWARD N. KOBUTHI, PhD, MBA, BSc , Dip.



Dr. Edward N. Kobuthi is a seasoned executive and board leader with over 30 years of distinguished experience across manufacturing, food processing, aviation, and academia.

He has held significant executive roles, including Chief Executive Officer of AMREF's Lomidat Meat Processors, General Manager of Kenya Airways, and General Manager of the Kenya Airports Authority in charge of Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA). At East African Breweries Limited, his leadership spanned critical operational areas as Project Manager, Supply Chain Manager, Bottling Manager, and Distribution Manager.

His governance expertise is demonstrated through his service on numerous boards. He has been a board

member of the Water Services Regulatory Board and the Privatization Commission of Kenya. Currently, he serves on the University Council of the International Leadership University and is the Chair of CITAM Schools. He is also the immediate former Chair of the Embu County Professionals Development Association (ECPDA), an organization dedicated to community development initiatives.

Dr. Kobuthi's academic credentials are extensive and international. He holds a PhD in Strategic Management (Corporate Governance) from the University of Nairobi, an MBA in Strategic Management, and a B.Sc. in Marketing and Finance from the United States International University (USIU). His technical foundation

is in food and beverage science, with qualifications as a Brewmaster from the VLB, Technical University of Berlin, and a Diploma Master Brewer from the Institute of Brewing, London. He is also trained and certified by IoD/IFC to conduct board evaluations.

Complementing his professional career, he is an accomplished educator, having taught master's students at KCA University and USIU. He continues to contribute to academia by supervising PhD students at Africa International University, having already guided 8 master's students to completion.

Dr. Kobuthi is a respected leader known for his strategic vision, operational excellence, and deep commitment to corporate governance and community service.

MR. ABDUL MALIK AMAN, MSc., BEc, & PGD



Malik Aman is a distinguished Environmental Economist with over 20 years of expertise in climate finance, climate change adaptation, and policy advocacy. He holds a Master of Science in Environmental Economics and has consistently demonstrated exceptional leadership in advancing Kenya's climate resilience agenda.

As a Council Member at the University of Karatina, Malik serves as the alternate representative of the Principal Secretary of the National Treasury, contributing his expertise to governance and institutional development. At the National Treasury Climate Finance and Green Economy Unit, he plays a pivotal role in shaping strategies to mobilize resources and implement sustainable, impactful climate initiatives.

In his role as Program Manager for the Financing Locally Led Climate Action Program (FLLoCA), Malik oversees transformative efforts that empower national and county governments to deliver effective climate action to local communities, addressing climate risks and fostering resilience. With extensive experience in mobilizing climate finance, influencing policy frameworks at both local and international levels, and championing locally led approaches to climate adaptation, he integrates global climate goals with actionable, community-driven strategies to ensure sustainable and equitable resilience.

Congratulations

COUNCIL MEMBERS



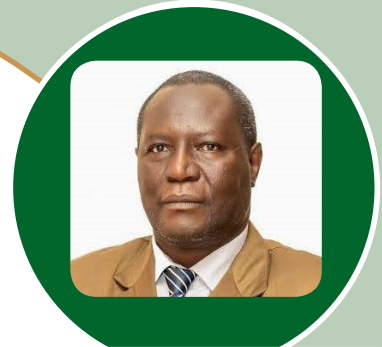
MEET THE CHANCELLOR



UNIVERSITY MANAGEMENT BOARD



PROF. LINUS MUTHURI GITONGA
VICE CHANCELLOR



PROF. FRANKLIN WABWOBA

DEPUTY VICE
CHANCELLOR (ARSA)



PROF. RICHARD KIAI
DEPUTY VICE CHANCELLOR (PFA)



Inspiring Innovation and Leadership

KARATINA UNIVERSITY MANAGEMENT



MR. RICHARD RUHIU

AG. REGISTRAR (P & A)



DR. WANGARI GATHUTHI
REGISTRAR (AA)



CPA, BETHSY KAINO

AG. FINANCE OFFICER



MS. ANNE MUMBI

LEGAL OFFICER (IN-ATTENDANCE)

KARATINA UNIVERSITY SENATE

MEMBERS OF UNIVERSITY MANAGEMENT

1. Prof. Linus Muthuri Gitonga - Vice Chancellor/ Chairman
2. Prof. Franklin Wabwoba - Deputy Vice Chancellor (ARSA)
3. Prof. Richard Kiai - Deputy Vice Chancellor (PFA)
4. Dr. Wangari Gathuthi - Registrar(AA)/Secretary
5. Mr. Richard Ruhiu - Ag. Registrar (P & A)
6. Ms. Bethsy Kaina - Ag. Finance Office

DEANS OF SCHOOLS AND STUDENTS

7. Dr. Dennis Maina - Dean, School of Agriculture and Biotechnology
8. Dr. Kabethi Miano - Dean, School of Business
9. Dr. Beatrice Gichuru - Dean, School of Health Sciences
10. Prof. Lucy Ndegwa - Dean, School of Education and Social Sciences
11. Dr. Jeremiah Kebwaro - Dean, School of Pure & Applied Sciences
12. Dr. Flora Namu - Dean, School of Natural Resource and Environmental Studies
13. Mr. Joseph Wanjau - Ag. Senior Assistant Dean of Students

DIRECTORS

14. Prof. Joseph Nyehitia Maitaria - Director, Board of Postgraduate Studies
15. Prof. Michael Lokuruka - Director, Research, Innovation and Extension
16. Dr. Dezzline Ondigo - Director, Career Services, University- Industry Linkages & Alumni Relations
17. Dr. Charles Wahogo - Director, Quality Assurance and ISO
18. Prof. Kellen Kiambati - Director Resource Mobilization & International Programmes
19. Dr. Dennis Maina Gatahi - Director, Tea Institute
20. Dr. Gilbert B. Mugeni - Director, ICT/Director, ODeL
21. Dr. Evelyn Anduvare - University Librarian
22. Dr. Nicholus Gitonga - Coordinator, University Timetable

HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS

23. Dr. Rebecca Karaya - HOD., Agricultural Sciences
24. Dr. Beatrice Ombaka - HOD., Human Resource Development

25. Dr. Jared. Ochwangi Motanya - HOD., Psychology, SNE and Education Foundation
26. Dr. David Mugo - HOD., Curriculum, Technology and Management
27. Dr. Pauline Thuku - HOD., Social Sciences
28. Dr. Leen Kavulavu - HOD., Humanities
29. Dr. Victor Ntabo - HOD., Languages
30. Dr. Marageret Mungai - HOD., Tourism and Hospitality Management
31. Mr. Benson Kinyua - HOD., Nursing Sciences and Public Health
32. Dr. Godfrey Mutuma Gitonga - HOD., Medical Laboratory Sciences
33. Ms. Ann K. Murugi - HOD., Clinical Medicine
34. Dr. Esther Kahariri - HOD., Biological and Physical Sciences
35. Dr. Sheilla Munanie Kilonzi - HOD., Food Science & Nutrition
36. Ms. Vancy Kebut - Ag. HOD., Computer Sci. and Informatics
37. Dr. Daniel Achola - HOD., Mathematic Statistics and Actuarial Science
38. Dr. John Karuitha - HOD., Business and Economics

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

39. Mr. Mark C. Kalama - SGC, Director of Academic Affairs
40. Mr. R. M. Mokumi - SGC, Director of Academic Affairs

IN-ATTENDANCE

41. Ms. Ann Ngochi - Ag. Medical Officer
42. Ms. Ann C. Mumbi - Senior Legal Officer
43. Ms. Jecinta Kabucho - Senior Student Counsellor
44. Mr. Grey Mausi - Asst. Registrar (AA)
45. Mr. Job Maina - Snr. Administrative Assistant, Examinations
46. Ms. Purity Mwongera - Snr. Administrative Assistant, Programmes
47. Ms. Monica Njau - Snr. Administrative Assistant, DVC PFA's Office
48. Mr. Evans Nalwa - Administrative Assistant, Examinations
49. Ms. Pauline Tapsaron - Administrative Assistant, Vice Chancellor's Office
50. Ms. Maryann Kinyua - Administrative Assistant, DVC ARSA's Office

INFRASTRUCTURE

STUDENT CENTRE



In a major boost for student welfare and extracurricular activities, Karatina University is at advanced level in construction of a modern, multi-purpose Student Centre at a cost of one hundred million shillings.

The project is designed to address a critical shortage of recreational and social facilities.

The university's rapidly growing student population has outpaced the development of supporting infrastructure. The institution relies on a limited number of sports pitches and a private businesses enterprise operating within the campus to serve student needs.

The new circular-designed centre, covering 2,500 square metres, aims to become the heart of student life at the main campus. It will feature a large central courtyard with a skylight roof, designed to host a variety of events and large gatherings for student bodies like the Christian

Union (CU) among other Christian Students Association (CSA) and student led Societies.

Beyond the main hall, the facility will house a diverse range of amenities including a gym, a sauna, a catering facility, and several small shops. It will also provide office space for the Dean of Students and student leaders, consolidating student services under one roof.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Linus M. Gitonga, has put all mitigation strategies in place to keep the project on its strict 11-month schedule. This include appointment of an internal Project Implementation Committee (PIC) alongside the consultants to monitor progress through monthly site meetings.

This development is aligned with the university's strategic plan and the national government's Vision 2030 goal of enhancing lifelong learning and innovation opportunities for Kenyan citizens.

DEVELOPMENTS

CONSTRUCTION OF SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES AT KARATINA TOWN



In a major move to expand its facilities and enhance community outreach, the University is setting up a School of Health Sciences at Karatina Town, a project that will cost Ksh 500 million. This new building is not just about creating space for the rise in number of students; it's also about strategically relocating a critical school to serve the community better.

The new six-storey building, complete with a basement parking lot, will house modern lecture rooms, specialized laboratories, and offices. Its location in the heart of Karatina Town is deliberate. The university aims to re-establish its presence in the town - following the relocation of the School of Business from a leased facility- and

provide essential medical services to local residents and users of the busy Nairobi-Nanyuki highway.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Linus Gitonga has given the works three-year timeline to be completed by November 2027. Once completed, the new School of Health Sciences is expected to be a landmark project, alleviating pressure on the main campus and positioning Karatina University as a key provider of healthcare education and services in the region. The project as well, aligns with the government's Vision 2030 goals of promoting lifelong learning and innovation. It also fulfills the university's philosophy of integrating knowledge with community outreach.

VC Charts Ambitious Course for School of Health Sciences

In a dynamic and forward-looking meeting, the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Linus M. Gitonga, laid out a strategic vision for the School of Health Sciences, emphasizing that its growth is pivotal to the institution's future. The interactive session, held on 1st October, 2025, provided a crucial platform for faculty and staff to

directly engage with the University's leadership. The meeting was focused on charting a clear way forward, sharing innovative ideas for expansion, and exploring new opportunities for improvement. A central part of the discussions involved a candid address of the current challenges facing the school. Prof. Gitonga listened attentively to the concerns raised, fostering

an environment of open dialogue and collective problem-solving.

In his address, the Vice Chancellor identified three core principles as the non-negotiable drivers for success: collaboration, innovation, and a shared commitment to excellence.

“The role of the School of Health Sciences in training the next generation of healthcare professionals has never been more critical,” stated Prof. Gitonga. “By strengthening our internal partnerships and embracing innovative teaching and research methods, we can

ensure that our graduates are not only competent but are leaders in their field.”

The meeting was widely regarded as a significant step towards reinforcing the academic and operational framework of the school. Attendees expressed optimism about the collaborative path outlined by the VC, noting that such engagement is essential for tangible progress.

This initiative is seen as a key component of the broader university-wide mission, underscoring a shared resolve to continue building a stronger and more impactful Karatina University for years to come.

CONSTRUCTION OF TUITION AND LABORATORY BLOCK



Tuition and Laboratory Block

In a major move to accommodate the rapidly growing student population, Karatina University is constructing an additional tuition and laboratory block at an estimated cost of Kshs. 500 million, which is a significant investment in the University infrastructure. The four/five-storey building is designed to house a mix of modern facilities, including six laboratories capable of holding 70-100 students, forty mid-sized lecture rooms, and ten large lecture theatres for 201-260 students. The project aims to “eliminate

congestion and provide “custom-made lecture rooms” to enhance the quality of teaching and learning.

The University Vice-Chancellor, has planned for completion of the project as at December 2026. The project aligns with the university’s strategic plan and the national government’s Vision 2030 goal of promoting quality education, innovation, and lifelong learning. Once completed, the new block is expected to significantly decongest the main campus and future-proof the institution against its steadily growing student intake.

ESTABLISHMENT OF SCHOOL OF COMPUTING & INFORMATICS

In a strategic move to address the rapidly evolving technological landscape, Karatina University has officially announced the establishment of the School of Computing & Informatics. This new academic unit will independently manage and advance a comprehensive suite of programs designed to produce skilled professionals for the digital age.

The newly formed school consolidates the university's robust computing disciplines into two focused departments:

- **The Department of Computer Science:** This department will host undergraduate and postgraduate programs, including BSc. Computer Science, BSc. and MSc. Cyber Security and Digital Forensics, and Data Science and Artificial Intelligence.
- **The Department of Information Systems and Technology:** This department will oversee a range of IT and information-focused programs, including BSc. Information Technology, BSc. Information Science, BSc. Knowledge Management, as well as PhD and MSc. degrees in Information Technology and Information Science.

The University is responding to a multiple compelling market needs including:

Growth and Industry Needs

A primary driver is the remarkable surge in student interest. This establishment is a direct response to the rising demand for computing education and the growing need for expertise in cutting-edge fields. The global and local job market is hungry for skilled professionals in areas like AI and cybersecurity, and the school aligns perfectly with national goals for technological advancement.

A Hub for Innovation and Collaboration

The School of Computing & Informatics is positioned to be more than just an academic unit; it is envisioned as a hub for innovation and industry partnership. The school will facilitate short-term, industry-aligned professional courses to support continuous skill development. This initiative is already underway, building on an existing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with global tech giant Huawei and ongoing staff training for the establishment of a Cisco academy.

Furthermore, the dedicated school structure is expected to significantly enhance research and innovation. It will promote focused research in high-impact areas such as machine learning, digital systems, and software engineering, thereby strengthening opportunities for research funding and partnerships with technology companies and innovation hubs.

Investment in Infrastructure and Faculty

To support its ambitious mandate, the school will drive the development of specialized, state-of-the-art laboratories. Planned facilities include dedicated labs for Robotics, Networking and Cybersecurity, AI and Machine Learning, Data Science and Big Data, and Digital Forensics and Ethical Hacking. This focused approach ensures efficient resource allocation and provides students with hands-on experience using industry-standard tools.

The launch of the School of Computing and Informatics at Karatina University marks a pivotal step in cementing the institution's role as a leading contributor to Kenya's and the region's digital future.

Karatina University Charts Digital Future as VC Engages Computing Faculty

On 1st October, 2025, In a noteworthy move to augment the University technological edge, the Vice Chancellor, Professor Linus M. Gitonga, held a comprehensive dialogue with the Faculty of Computer Science and Informatics, focusing on the faculty's pivotal role in the institution's strategic vision.

The interactive session, which brought together academic staff, served as a forward-looking forum to align the faculty's growth with the university's long-term ambitions.

Key highlights from the engagement included in-depth discussions on revitalizing academic programmes to meet modern demands, significantly enhancing research and innovation outputs, and the ambitious long-term plan to construct a state-of-the-art computing complex.

Professor Gitonga underscored the critical need for "future-fit solutions" and a stronger alignment with industry needs. He emphasized the faculty's central role in nurturing a new generation of tech talent capable of driving Kenya's ongoing digital transformation.

"This engagement is a clear indicator of the University's commitment to academic excellence and inclusive leadership," a university representative stated. "It is through such collaborative dialogues that we can truly foster institutional growth and ensure our programmes remain relevant and impactful."

The meeting is seen as a concrete step in Karatina University's continued commitment to positioning itself as a leader in technology education, directly contributing to the national agenda for a digitally skilled workforce.

UNIVERSITY TO LAUNCH STATE-OF-THE-ART "INNOVATION HUB," FORGING A NEW PATH FOR TECH AND ENTREPRENEURS



Karatina University is redefining the landscape of technology education and entrepreneurship, underway is construction of a cutting-edge ICT facility, to be known as the "Innovation Hub." The project is envisioned as a dynamic nucleus designed to fuse academic research with real-world industry collaboration and startup creation.

Slated to be more than just a building, the Innovation Hub will be a purpose-built ecosystem for creativity. Its design philosophy centers on breaking down traditional silos, fostering an environment where students, researchers, startup founders, and industry partners can collaborate under one roof.

The facility has an array of advanced features, organized into distinct yet interconnected zones:

A Smart and Flexible Foundation

The building itself will be a model of modern design, featuring an open floor plan to encourage spontaneous interaction, alongside modular workstations that can be reconfigured for hackathons or deep research. The commitment to sustainability is woven into its blueprint, with plans for rooftop solar panels, energy-efficient systems, and the use of sustainable materials.

High-Tech Powerhouse

At its core, the Hub will be powered by super-fast internet and 5G connectivity. It will house specialized labs equipped for the frontiers of technology, including an AI & Data Science Lab with GPU clusters, an AR/VR Lab for immersive development, and a 3D Printing & Prototyping Lab for rapid hardware iteration.

Nurturing the Innovation Lifecycle

The Hub is designed to support every stage of the innovation process. "Startup Pods" and an "Incubator

& Accelerator" space will provide a home for nascent companies, while a dedicated "Investor & Funding Hub" will offer private pods for teams to pitch to venture capitalists and angel investors. On-site legal and business advisory services will assist with intellectual property and company formation.

Focus on Community and Well-being

Recognizing that creativity thrives in a healthy environment, the plans include significant well-being spaces. An indoor fitness and recreation center, a wellness and meditation room, and a cafeteria focused on healthy menus are all part of the design. Community areas like "Startup Alley," a digital showcase for resident ventures, and a "Mentorship Hub" will facilitate networking and knowledge sharing.

Future-Forward and Secure

The facility will be secured with 24/7 biometric entry and an AI-powered surveillance system, while also being fully accessible with ramps, elevators, and adjustable workstations. In a forward-looking step, planners are also considering creating a digital twin of the entire Hub for real-time facility management and energy optimization.

The project extends beyond campus walls, with plans to partner with local tech clusters and government innovation agencies to source mentors and investors. The success of the Innovation Hub will be measured by key performance indicators such as startup survival rates, research publications, and successful technology transfers. Hub is poised to become a landmark destination for the next generation of innovators, signaling a major investment in the region's future as a leader in the digital economy.

CONSTRUCTION OF SOLAR PANELS



Our journey to solarize the University has begun with earnest, starting with a 80KW project scheduled for hand over by end of October 2025.

VC INSPECTS STATE-OF-THE-ART SPORTS FIELD



The development of the new sports field is a cornerstone of the university's pledge to ensure students have access to top-tier amenities beyond the classroom.

On Thursday 2nd October, 2025; the Vice-Chancellor conducted a comprehensive inspection of the ongoing sports field development project that will enhance students campus life.

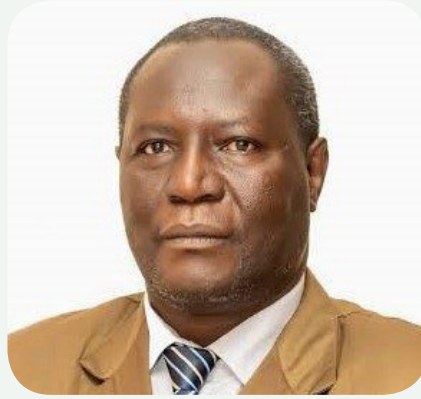
The visit, which saw the VC actively engaging with students on-site and reaffirmed the administration's commitment to upgrading student facilities. Professor Gitonga assured the student body that the project is advancing steadily and is on track to be unveiled for their use in the near future.

Speaking during the inspection, Prof. Gitonga emphasized the project's role in the university's broader vision. "Our commitment to improving student welfare and enhancing our facilities is unwavering," he stated. "We are continuously working to match the growing needs of the KarU community."

He encouraged students to anticipate the numerous positive changes currently underway across the institution, noting that the administration's primary focus is on fostering a conducive environment for academic excellence, personal growth, and holistic development.

DEPUTY VICE CHANCE

DVC ACADEMIC, RESEARCH AND STUDENT AFFAIRS



The Multifaceted Legacy of Prof. Franklin Wabwoba

Prof. Franklin Wabwoba is a distinguished academic and leader in Information Technology, currently holding the position of Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic, Research and Student Affairs) at Karatina University since his appointment on 1st January 2025.

In the dynamic landscape of Kenyan higher education, few figures embody the blend of cutting-edge technological leadership and rich cultural contribution as distinctly as Professor Franklin Wabwoba. A visionary academic and an award-winning artist, Prof. Wabwoba has carved a unique path, leaving an indelible mark on the nation's universities. His career is a testament to groundbreaking achievement, most notably when, in September 2021, he became the first person in Kenya to be awarded the rank of Full Professor of Information Technology.

"Prof. Wabwoba represents the very best of modern academic leadership," a colleague remarked. "He possesses a rare strategic vision that translates directly into tangible institutional growth."

This growth is quantified by his exceptional success in resource mobilization, having attracted over Ksh 245 million in grants and funding for critical university projects. His efforts secured a Ksh 64.6 million grant for the Kibabii University ICT Hub (KICTH) and established the institution as a Centre of Excellence in Computing.

His administrative acumen is equally impressive. Prof. Wabwoba has held nearly every high-level

office in academia, including Acting Vice Chancellor at Karatina University, Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor at Kibabii University, and long-serving Dean of the School of Computing and Informatics. In each role, he has been a driving force behind policy development, curriculum accreditation, and the creation of new academic programs, including pioneering PhDs in Computer Science and Digital Forensics.

As a scholar, his influence is profound. A prolific researcher in Green ICT, he has published over 80 articles and book chapters and has supervised a generation of postgraduate students to completion.

Perhaps most uniquely, Prof. Wabwoba's impact extends far beyond the server room and lecture hall. He is a nationally recognized figure in drama and the arts, winning numerous awards as a director and choreographer. He serves as the patron for university drama troupes and is a professional adjudicator, seamlessly blending his passion for technology with a deep commitment to cultural expression.

By forging strategic partnerships with tech giants like Google, IBM, and Cisco, he has directly enhanced graduate employability. Yet, it is this dual legacy—of a pioneering IT mind who champions the arts—that truly defines his contributions to education and public life in Kenya.

Prof. Wabwoba's career stands as a powerful example of how interdisciplinary leadership can build stronger, more versatile, and culturally rich institutions for the future.

DEANS APPOINTMENTS

DVC PLANNING, FINANCE, AND ADMINISTRATION



A Journey in Finance and Governance of Prof. Richard M. Kiai

Prof. Richard M. Kiai, a distinguished academic and certified public accountant, has cemented his reputation as a leading figure in finance and institutional governance, culminating in his substantive appointment as the Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Planning, Finance, and Administration at Karatina University effective 3rd June 2025.

Prof. Kiai's journey, spanning nearly two decades, is a testament to a career dedicated to excellence in both the public and academic spheres. He began his professional life as an audit supervisor at Peterson and Associates in 2005 before serving as a cooperative auditor in the Ministry of Cooperative Development and later as the head of internal audit at Dedan Kimathi University of Technology.

His impactful tenure at Karatina University began in 2011 as the Internal Auditor, where he rose to become a senior lecturer and later an Associate Professor of Finance in the School of Business.

Beyond the classroom, Prof. Kiai has been a pivotal force in shaping the university's operational framework. He is credited with introducing formal Risk Management strategies and was the lead auditor instrumental in securing the prestigious ISO 9001:2015 quality management certification for the institution. His commitment to integrity saw him serve as the secretary and technical advisor to the Corruption Prevention Committee.

A prolific researcher, Prof. Kiai's work focuses on critical national issues such as financial inclusion, youth employment, and poverty reduction. His research has transcended academic circles to influence real-world policy, leading to the development of a policy brief that contributed to national policy changes.

"My research aims to bridge the gap between theory and practice, ensuring our academic work provides tangible solutions for our community and the nation," Prof. Kiai stated at a forum.

His expertise is sought after nationally and internationally. He is a respected consultant for the finance industry and both national and county governments, a business development coach, and an external examiner. Prof. Kiai also plays key governance roles as a board member of several audit committees within the government and serves as the current chairman of the Karatina University Pension Scheme board, which he helped establish.

Holding a PhD in Finance from Karatina University, an MBA in Finance from JKUAT, and a suite of professional certifications including CPA(K) and CIFA, Prof. Kiai is a member of several prestigious professional bodies, including the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya (ICPAK) and the Information Systems Audit Control Association (ISACA).

STAFF APPOINTMENTS

LIST OF NEW APPOINTEES AND AREA OF SPECIALIZATION

The University is celebrating the remarkable strength of its faculty and a major expansion of its teaching staff which is demonstration of its commitment to academic excellence. The University now boasts an impressive 118 PhD holders, solidifying its reputation as a center for high-level scholarship. Of these, 115 are teaching faculty, meaning a stellar 64.97% of the academic staff hold doctoral degrees. This distinguished group includes 3 Professors, 17 Associate Professors, 19 Senior Lecturers, and 76 Lecturers.

This core team is strengthened by 26 lecturers serving in specialized areas and a cohort of 35 up-and-coming academics including 27 Assistant Lecturers and 8 Tutorial Fellows are currently pursuing their PhDs.

The University has undertaken a strategic appointments drive growth underscoring its dynamic growth by appointment of 29 new appointments, enhancing its expertise in key fields. The new hires highlight a particular investment in the health sciences and technology.

The key new appointees and their specializations in Technology & Sciences at PhD level include: Dr. Gilbert Barasa Mugeni (IT), Dr. Harriet Loise Tsinale (IT), Dr. Josphat Karani Mwai (Computer Science), Dr. Kennedy Malanga Ndenga (Computer Science), and Dr. Godfrey Mutuma Gitonga (Medical Biochemistry). The Health Sciences team include a substantial group of specialists in Epidemiology, Medical Physiology, Human Anatomy, Medical Immunology, Medical Laboratory Sciences, Community Health, Midwifery, Clinical Medicine, and various fields of Nursing. Additionally, is an appointees' specialist in Arts & Humanities that include Dr. James Muthomi Rintaugu (Special Needs Education) and Dr. Nelly Karimi Mbaka (Applied Linguistics).

These developments mark a period of robust growth for Karatina University as it continues its strategic pursuit of becoming a globally recognized institution of excellence.

1. Dr. Gilbert Barasa Mugeni, Information Technology
2. Dr. Harriet Loise Tsinale, Information Technology
3. Dr. James Muthomi Rintaugu, Special Needs Education
4. Dr. Nelly Karimi Mbaka, Applied Linguistics
5. Dr. Josphat Karani Mwai, Computer Sciences
6. Dr. Edwin Anakadi Butiya Juma, Geography
7. Dr. Kennedy Malanga Ndenga, Computer Sciences
8. Dr. Godfrey Mutuma Gitonga, Medical Biochemistry
9. Amos Mureithi Njeru, Epidemiology Disease Control
10. Anne Murugi Kanyugo, Medical Physiology
11. Mary Mumbi Ng'ang'a. Medical Surgical Nursing
12. Lydia Kerubo Ondiba, Obstetrics Pediatrics
13. Allan Wanjala Khisa, Human Anatomy
14. Clevin Wakisi Aswani, Human Anatomy
15. Briston Roberts Indieka, Medical Immunology
16. Roseline Muthoni Gakuanyi, Medical Surgical Nursing
17. Celestine Kanini Kyembeni, Medical Laboratory Sciences
18. Titus Kamau Karuga, Medical laboratory sciences
19. Festus Mwendia Muriuki Medical Surgical Nursing
20. Lewis Muendo Mutinda Medical laboratory sciences
21. Margaret Wambui Mureithi, Nursing Education
22. Joshua Mose Omwega Boraya, Community Health
23. Benjamin Mwangi Murage, Midwifery
24. Leah Wambui Gathogo, Nursing Education
25. Gibson Waweru Nyamu, Medical laboratory sciences
26. Jane Wanjiru Kuria, Clinical Medicine
27. Monicah Wambui Kiraki, Community Health
28. John Mwaniki Kiama, Nursing Education
29. Mary Mugure Kung'u, Medical Surgical Nursing

NEW PHDS

1. Dr. Gladys Wanjiku Mathenge, Human Resource Management
2. Dr. Esther Gathoni Wanjau, Literature
3. Dr. Peter Kinyae Musyimi, Geography
4. Dr. Regina B. Nyawira Wahome Hospitality Management
5. Dr. David Musyoka Mwanzia, Pure Mathematics

*More PhDs,
More Growth
Congratulations*

THE TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKING OF UNIVERSITIES (2026)



The Times Higher Education World University Ranking of Universities (2026) has positioned Karatina University No. 6. This demonstration Karatina University's strong performance across various indicators and impact areas reflecting steady progress in terms of global engagement, teaching quality and societal contribution.

SOURCE: (<https://share.google/PEodYLjKr4AcIYEai>).

Boosting Productivity with Strategic Training Initiative



In a significant move to enhance institutional efficiency and competitiveness, Karatina University, in partnership with the National Productivity and Competitiveness Centre (NPCC), successfully concluded a comprehensive three-day Productivity Mainstreaming Training Workshop.

Held at the university's Senate Chambers from May 26th to 28th, 2025 the workshop brought together academic and non-academic heads of departments, section leaders, and members of the Productivity Mainstreaming Committee. The timing of the training was strategic, coinciding with the first surveillance audit by the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS), underscoring the institution's commitment to quality and continuous improvement.

The event was officially opened by the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Linus M. Gitonga. In his opening address, Prof. Gitonga inspired attendees by emphasizing the power of collective, consistent effort. "It is the small, consistent efforts that drive the university forward," he stated, reinforcing the core principle that "everybody counts and little things matter." He called on the entire university community to work collaboratively towards building an institution they can all be proud of.

The Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor for Planning, Prof. Richard Kiai, highlighted the critical link between clear roles, teamwork, and productivity. "Productivity is essential to the institution's success," Prof. Kiai noted, encouraging staff to set measurable targets that are directly aligned with the university's overarching goals. He further drew a direct connection between robust quality management systems and positive productivity outcomes.

Facilitated by experts from the Ministry of Labour, Director of Productivity Mr. Miano Kariuki and Engineer Titus Wekesa, the workshop was highly interactive. Participants were guided through practical productivity assessment exercises, focusing on three key performance indicators: labour efficiency, operational efficiency, and customer satisfaction.



Essential topics

The curriculum covered essential topics designed to provide practical tools and strategies including:

- **Productivity Management: Implementing best practices and strategic approaches in line with the university's Strategic Plan.**
- **Productivity Metrics: Learning how to accurately measure, analyze, and create department-specific metrics.**
- **Weighing of Metrics: Techniques for prioritizing various indicators to optimize overall performance.**
- **The hands-on, collaborative nature of the sessions allowed attendees to immediately apply new concepts, fostering a deeper understanding and a sense of shared purpose.**

The workshop concluded with participants equipped with actionable insights and strategies. The university now looks forward to implementing the tailored metrics developed during the sessions, marking a decisive step toward realizing tangible improvements in institutional productivity and fortifying its position as a centre of excellence and innovation.

KARATINA UNIVERSITY BOOSTS FLEET WITH

In a move set to improve transport services for students and staff, Karatina University welcomed a brand-new Isuzu semi-luxury large bus into its fleet.

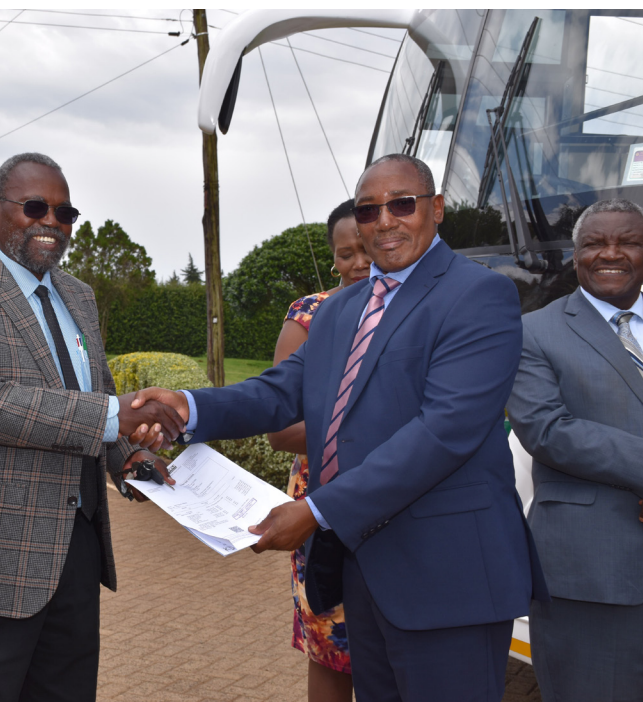
The vehicle, an Isuzu FVR 34S with a seating capacity of 64 to 67 passengers, was officially received in a handover ceremony on December 18, 2024. The event was attended by students, staff, and members of the university community, all gathered to witness the new addition.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Linus Gitonga and the University Council Chairman, Professor Mailutha, led the reception of the bus. The acquisition highlights the university's ongoing commitment to enhancing mobility for academic trips, co-curricular activities, and administrative functions.

In receiving the bus, the university leadership was praised for its focus on infrastructure development, a key factor in supporting the institution's strategic goals. The new bus is expected to address transportation challenges and provide reliable service for the university community.



NEW ISUZU BUS



DRIVERS SHARPEN SKILLS WITH EXPERT ISUZU TRAINING

On Wednesday, January 29, 2025, transport services participated in an intensive drivers' training and defensive driving course facilitated by experts from ISUZU.

The specialized training, held on campus, was designed to enhance efficiency, improve cost management, and reinforce the highest standards of road safety and professional conduct among the university's drivers.

The session was officially inaugurated by the Registrar of Planning and Administration, Mr. Murage. In his opening remarks, Mr. Murage underscored the critical role of continuous learning and professionalism in maintaining safe and efficient transport operations for the university community.

Leading the ISUZU training team was Humphrey Khaoya, who guided the participants through a comprehensive curriculum. Key areas of focus included:

- Implementing effective cost-cutting strategies for vehicle maintenance.
- Advanced techniques for managing fuel consumption.
- Reinforcing disciplined driving and road etiquette.
- Elevating customer service and professionalism in all transport-related duties.

Beyond the classroom theory, the training included a hands-on, practical driving session. Participants utilized the university's new vehicles to apply the newly acquired defensive driving techniques in real-time scenarios, solidifying the day's lessons.

The initiative is part of the university's broader commitment to empowering its staff. By equipping the transport team with industry best practices, the training aims to ensure a safer, more cost-effective, and customer-focused transport system for Karatina University.

ACADEMIC, RESEA

The 13th Karatina University



CELEBRATING THE CLASS OF 2025

The stage is set for the 13th Graduation Ceremony of Karatina University, Thursday, 16th October, 2025; where a record of **1,800 students** will cross the podium, marking a significant milestone in their academic and professional journeys.

The School of Education and Social Sciences has the highest number of students in this year's Graduation, producing a **remarkable 990 graduates**. The school also has the ceremony's sole Ph.D. graduate, 7 Master's candidates, and 3 Diploma recipients, showcasing its breadth of academic programs.

The School of Pure and Applied Sciences follows with **404 graduates**, while the School of Business graduates 279 new professionals into the commercial world; School of Health Sciences (Nursing) 66 graduates and School of Agriculture and Biotechnology 49 graduates. School

RCH AND INNOVATION

Graduation Ceremony



of Natural Resources and Environmental Studies has demonstrated a unique focus on advanced studies, graduating **11 students** at the Master's level which highlights the school's specialized role in developing experts for the critical fields of environmental management and conservation.

This year's graduation is a testament to the commitment of nurturing talent across diverse fields, including education, sciences, and business continuing to thrive and supply the job market with highly qualified graduates.

As the university community gathers to celebrate the achievements of its **1,800 graduands**, the focus is not just on the numbers, but on the potential they represent. These new graduates are poised to become the next generation of teachers, health workers, scientists, business leaders, and environmental stewards, totaling to an Alumni of **15, 434 graduates** ready to make their mark on the world.



VC'S ADDRESS TO 2025/2026 FIRST YEARS



TEND YOUR MIND'S GARDEN: VC WELCOMES FRESHERS WITH A POWERFUL MESSAGE OF GROWTH

The 2025/2026 cohort of first-year students at Karatina University was officially welcomed into the academic community 17th September, 2025 with an inspiring address from the Vice Chancellor, Professor Linus Muthuri Gitonga, who urged them to view their minds as gardens requiring diligent cultivation.

Speaking during the welcome ceremony on Wednesday, from the Vice Chancellor congratulated the students on their significant achievement and framed their university journey around a powerful, timeless metaphor: “the mind as a garden.”

“Your mind, like any fertile land, requires deliberate tending,” the VC stated. “What you plant and nurture will ultimately determine your harvest. If you allow weeds—fear, procrastination, and doubt—to grow unchecked, they will choke your potential. But if you choose to sow seeds of discipline, consistency, and curiosity, your life will blossom.”

THE THREE TASKS OF A MASTER GARDENER

Prof. Gitonga outlined three essential tasks for students to master:

- 1. Prepare the Soil:** Students were advised to cultivate self-contentment and resist comparing themselves to others, weed out the fear of external judgment, and embrace change as a “fertilizer for growth.”
- 2. Plant the Right Seeds:** The VC emphasized sowing seeds of consistency in daily effort, choosing rich experiences over material possessions, and starting immediately rather than waiting for perfect conditions.
- 3. Tend Your Plot:** This involves setting strong boundaries, valuing solitude for reflection, pruning overthinking, learning from setbacks, and nourishing one's body—the “soil of the mind.”

THE GUIDING SLOGAN: DPP

Central to this philosophy is the mantra of Discipline, Practice, and Persistence (DPP).

“Think of this as your guiding slogan:

‘Discipline to begin, practice to improve, persistence to finish’,” the Vice Chancellor said, encouraging students to let these three words become their daily affirmations. “Your journey begins in the mind, and when the mind is trained with DPP, there is truly no limit to what you can achieve.”

A WARNING AGAINST COMMON PITFALLS

The address also served as a cautionary guide, highlighting seven common pitfalls that can derail a student's progress:

- Poor financial management of student loans.
- Misusing newfound freedom by confusing it with irresponsibility.
- Graduating with a blank CV, lacking leadership or extracurricular experience.
- Succumbing to the trap of procrastination.
- Keeping toxic associations that drain potential.
- Neglecting physical and mental well-being.
- Losing sight of their core purpose and long-term vision.

THE UNIVERSITY'S COMMITMENT

Reaffirming the institution's role, the VC stated that Karatina University's mission is to be a university of global excellence that prepares students to transform society.

“Our core values—Equity, Excellence, Mutual Respect, and others—are the fertile soil in which your character and intellect will grow,” he said. The university promises to provide the resources, mentors, and environment for students to flourish, but emphasized that the daily work of “planting, weeding, and tending” rests with the individual.

Concluding on a note of hope and solidarity, from the Vice Chancellor reminded students that everyone is “tending to their own garden, fighting their own hidden weeds,” and encouraged them to seek help from provided counselling services when needed.

“Build not just a career, but a character. Not just a CV, but a compelling story of growth,” he concluded. “The stage is set. The journey begins.”

Karatina University Rolls Out the Matriculation for Class of 2025



Karatina University buzzed with vibrant energy on 1st September 2025 as it officially welcomed the Class of 2025, marking the beginning of a new academic journey for hundreds of new students.

The first day of registration saw a steady stream of eager students from across Kenya arriving at the university. Key locations like the Resource Centre, New Library, and field grounds were hubs of activity as newcomers completed their admission formalities, their excitement palpable for the opportunities that lie ahead.

The official welcome was cemented on 4th September 2025 with a day-long, school-led orientation program. All five schools—Health Sciences, Business, Agriculture and Biotechnology, Education and Social Sciences, and Pure and Applied Sciences—hosted sessions to introduce students to university life.

The orientations focused on academic expectations, institutional values, and the wide range of support services available, fostering an immediate sense of belonging and community.

Further integrating of the new students into academic life was taken up through the Library Services.

The Department held dedicated orientation sessions which emphasized crucial skills like self-discipline and time management, while also introducing students to the extensive physical and Digital Library resources. An open forum allowed for questions and discussions, ensuring students left better equipped to utilize these vital tools for their studies.

The university takes pride in welcoming a diverse cohort that reflects the rich cultural fabric of the nation. “This diversity not only strengthens the University community but also embodies the spirit of unity and shared commitment to academic excellence,” the university noted.

The week’s activities provided a holistic introduction, designed not only to ease the transition into higher education but to set the stage for students to thrive academically, socially, and personally.

CUE CONDUCTS RIGOROUS FIVE-YEAR AUDIT

The Commission for University Education (CUE) has commenced a comprehensive institutional audit of Karatina University, a mandatory exercise designed to ensure the institution's adherence to national standards and quality education benchmarks.

The four-day evaluation, which began on Monday, March 24, 2025, conducted by an eleven-member delegation of experts led by Prof. James Tuitoek. The audit team meticulously assess all facets of the university's operations, including the quality of academic programs, physical infrastructure, library services, financial management, institutional governance, and human resources.

The process, mandated to occur every five years, is a critical component of Kenya's higher education oversight. The CUE team's assessment is based on a stringent set of regulatory frameworks, including the Universities Act 2012, the revised University

Regulations of 2023, and the CUE's own Standards for University Education.

A university spokesperson stated that the institution's proactive engagement in the audit underscores its unwavering dedication to maintaining excellence in education and administration. "This reflects a commitment to continuous improvement and accountability," the statement read, highlighting the collaborative effort between the university's leadership and regulatory bodies to uphold the highest standards of quality and integrity.

The audit concluded on Thursday, March 27, with the formal handover of the team's report to the University's Vice Chancellor, Prof. Linus Gitonga. The findings of the report will be pivotal in guiding the university's strategic development and ensuring its programs remain relevant amidst rapid technological shifts and evolving statutory requirements.

COMPLIANT, GROWING, AND STUDENT-CENTERED INSTITUTION

The Commission for University Education (CUE) Institutional Quality Audit conducted from March 24th to 27th, 2025 included findings that position the University as a compliant, growing, and student-centered institution. Some of the strengths highlighted included:

The University demonstrates significant strength in its robust governance and management, with a fully constituted Council, a substantively appointed Vice-Chancellor, and regular, effective operations of its Senate and University Management Board.

Academically, the institution is distinguished by its highly qualified staff, with 82% of academic staff holding PhDs, and a portfolio of 41 CUE-approved programmes aligned with both its mission and national manpower needs. The University further excels in providing comprehensive student support services, including welfare initiatives, counseling, health services, and well-maintained facilities, with a notable focus on vulnerable students.

Infrastructure is a key asset, featuring a developing ultra-modern library, well-designed

and accessible lecture rooms, and a secure, serene environment conducive to learning. The University also shows strong financial health, with an average annual surplus of Kshs. 156 million over five years.

A culture of strategic engagement is evident through active linkages with industry, a dedicated Centre for Community Outreach, impactful research, and both local and international partnerships. Overall, the University maintains high levels of satisfaction among its staff, students, alumni, and employers, who affirm the quality of education and the competitiveness of its graduates.

Key Strengths Summary include:

- Strong, functional governance structure.
- High-quality academic staff (82% PhD holders).
- Robust student support and welfare systems.
- Modern and accessible infrastructure.
- Strategic community engagement and research.
- Demonstrated financial stability



The audit concluded on Thursday, March 27, with the formal handover of the team's report to the University's Vice Chancellor, Prof. Linus Gitonga. The findings of the report will be pivotal in guiding the university's strategic development and ensuring its programs remain relevant amidst rapid technological shifts and evolving statutory requirements.

THE 13TH ANNUAL



The 13th Annual Career Week was held on March 12th and 13th 2025, under the theme “Bridging the Gap: Education, Industry and Career Excellence.” Organized by the Directorate of Career Services, University Industry Linkages and Alumni Services, the event was a vibrant confluence of students, educators, and industry leaders.

OPENING INSIGHTS: THE POWER OF INFORMED CHOICES

The event was officially opened by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic, Research, and Student Affairs, who emphasized the critical importance of early career planning. He urged students to actively utilize such forums to make informed decisions about their futures, reaffirming the university’s unwavering commitment to mentorship and guidance.



“BRIDGING THE GAP: EDUCATION,

INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT AND ALUMNI INSPIRATION

The event was proudly supported by key industry partners including Britam, KUCCPS, HELB, Pioneer Insurance, ICT Authority, and Mathira Water and Sanitation Company. They provided invaluable insights on career growth, financial support, and professional development.

Ms. Naomi Ndung'u, CEO of Finance Global and a proud Karatina University alumna (Actuarial Science, 2021) passionately encouraged students to leverage opportunities like the extensive Career Week networks and continuously upskill themselves to remain competitive.

CAREER WEEK



INDUSTRY AND CAREER EXCELLENCE."

LOOKING AHEAD

The second day featured BioCosmos Kenya, which introduced students to research opportunities and proposed a collaboration to establish a student club in intelligence design. Through insightful discussions and mentorship, the 13th Annual Career Week successfully bridged the gap between academia and industry, equipping our students with the knowledge and tools for career excellence. The event underscored the University role in preparing students to seize future opportunities and make confident, informed decisions on their journeys.

Karatina University appreciates all 12th Career Week participants, partners, and organizers for making this event a resounding success!

KEYNOTE WISDOM FROM THE CEO OF KUCCPS

The Chief Guest, Dr. Agnes Wahome, CEO of the Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Service (KUCCPS), delivered an inspiring keynote address. She applauded the University for its initiative and provided students with a powerful framework for choosing their paths. She advised them to be intentional by considering: Their ambitions, What they love doing, The subjects they excel in, and The needs of the job market.

Dr. Wahome strongly encouraged students to network with experts at the event and to view Karatina University as a world-class institution for building their futures.

FOSTERING NEXT GENERATION OF INNO



On Friday, May 9, 2023 The School of Pure and Applied Sciences (SPAS) at Karatina University successfully launched its inaugural SPAS Innovation Week, a dynamic event designed to empower students and transform academic knowledge into real-world solutions. Held under the theme “Harnessing Science and Innovation for Youth-Led Entrepreneurship,” the event showcased a vibrant display of student ingenuity aimed at addressing pressing global challenges.

The event was officially launched by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic, Research, and Student Affairs (ARSA), Prof. Franklin Wabwoba, on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor. In his address, Prof. Wabwoba commended the school for its initiative, which aligns directly with the university’s core mission.

“Whatever idea you have can take you far,” Prof. Wabwoba told the gathering of student innovators. “Seek guidance, accept support, and take it further.” He reaffirmed the university management’s commitment to providing continued resources and challenged the organizers to bring in industry experts to help commercialize the best innovations.

Dr. Shadrack Kimani, Chairperson of the planning committee, emphasized that innovation is a key pillar of the institution’s identity. Dr. Jeremiah Kebwaro, Dean of SPAS, explained that the week was created to celebrate the innovative spirit of the student body and encourage them to learn crucial entrepreneurial skills.

VATORS AT SPAS INNOVATION WEEK



Echoing this sentiment, Dr. Dezzline Ondingo, Director of Career Services, University Industry Linkages, and Alumni Affairs, stated the event's primary objective was to "empower students to be job creators, not job seekers."

The event served as a critical platform for nurturing creativity and practical problem-solving. Students exhibited groundbreaking projects and participated in vibrant discussions focused on converting scientific research into viable business opportunities.

A key highlight was the recognition of outstanding innovators. Certificates and rewards were awarded to students whose projects demonstrated exceptional creativity, sustainability, and potential for tangible impact, encouraging a culture of innovation and resilience.

Through initiatives like the SPAS Innovation Week, Karatina University continues to empower its students beyond academic excellence, equipping them with the skillset and confidence to become the entrepreneurs, innovators, and future leaders of tomorrow. The university remains steadfast in its mission to shape a future where students drive change and create opportunities for themselves and their communities.

The School of Pure and Applied Sciences extends its heartfelt appreciation to all participants, mentors, judges, and partners who contributed to the resounding success of the event.

Egochi Teachers' College Tech Benchmarking Visit



In a significant step towards enhancing its digital infrastructure, a delegation from Egochi Teachers' College paid a benchmarking visit to Karatina University on Wednesday May 7th, 2025. The primary focus of the visit was to study the implementation and management of the University's Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system.

The six-member team, comprising officials from various departments of Egochi Teachers' College, was received by the Karatina University Directorate of Information and Communication Technology (ICT). The visit facilitated an extensive exchange of insights on ERP system implementation, integration challenges, and best practices for leveraging technology to streamline institutional management and academic support.

The delegation expressed strong admiration for the strides Karatina University has made in digitizing its operations and efficiently managing institutional data through its partnership with its vendor, AppKings. The fruitful discussions highlighted the critical role of robust technological solutions in modern educational administration.

Looking beyond the benchmarking exercise, the visiting team indicated a keen interest in pursuing



future collaborative partnerships with Karatina University on various education-focused initiatives. This gesture signals a growing relationship between the two institutions, united by a common goal of advancing education through innovation.

Karatina University has welcomed this development, stating it looks forward to strengthening this budding relationship and fostering collaboration aimed at mutual growth and institutional development. This visit marks a promising chapter of knowledge sharing and technological advancement in the region's educational landscape.

A Century of Kenyan Tea with New Vision for the Future



In a vibrant celebration of a national icon, Karatina University, in partnership with the Tea Board of Kenya (TBK), held a historic three-day Tea Heritage Week. The event marked 100 years of Kenyan tea, blending reflections on a rich legacy with bold innovations aimed at securing the industry's future.

The event drew a host of high-profile dignitaries, including the Principal Secretary for Agriculture, Dr. Paul Ronoh, TBK CEO Mr. Willy K. Mutai, Nyeri County leadership, and representatives from major industry players like the Kenya Tea Development Agency (KTDA), KCB, and Cooperative Bank.

Bridging Heritage and Innovation

Officially opening the centenary celebrations, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Linus M. Gitonga, highlighted the university's deep-rooted history in the sector, tracing its origins to the Kagochi Tea Training Centre in the 1950s. Under the theme "100 Years of Serving Kenyan Tea to the World," Prof. Gitonga underscored the institution's dual focus: "proudly celebrating the legacy of Kenyan tea while focusing on the research and innovations that will shape its future."

The Chief Guest, Dr. Paul Ronoh, Principal Secretary for the State Department of Agriculture, delivered a powerful call to action. He urged collaboration with the university to commercialize Kenyan tea globally by adopting unique, environmentally friendly packaging and designs. Dr. Ronoh showcased groundbreaking student innovations, including tea-based shoe polish, purple tea, tea yogurt, and a tea area calculating software app.

"We at the State Department are here to support you in making history," Dr. Ronoh declared before officially



launching the centenary celebrations. "Join hands with Karatina University in research, innovation, and commercialization of Kenyan tea, both locally and globally."

A Curriculum for the Next Century

A cornerstone of the week was the launch of a specialized tea curriculum designed by the university. The new programs, including a Post-Graduate Diploma in Tea Science and Management and Diplomas in Tea Processing and Quality Assurance, aim to equip a new generation with the specialized skills needed to drive the industry forward.

The launch was presided over by Nyeri County Deputy Governor, Mr. David Kinaniri, and TBK Chairman, Mr. Jacob Kahi. Representing the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Kellen stated, "This curriculum launch marks a pivotal step in our journey as the center for tea excellence in Kenya. Our role is to cultivate skilled manpower through research and innovation, supporting the tea industry's entire value chain."

The event also featured expert-led Tea Science Series sessions, a site visit to Kangaita Tea Factory, and interactive exhibitions. Attendees experienced tastings from renowned brands and boutique teas like Horera, nurtured by the university's own Tea Institute.

As the event concluded, TBK CEO Willy Mutai extended an invitation to the upcoming Kenya Tea Summit in Mombasa, which will further explore sustainability and global positioning. With the successful launch of its new curriculum and a reinforced commitment to innovation, Karatina University has positioned itself as a crucial engine for the next century of Kenyan tea.

Brewing Success with Executive Tea Training



In a significant boost to the local tea industry, Karatina University successfully undertook a specialized executive training program designed to equip professionals with advanced skills in tea production and quality assurance.

The intensive two-week course, hosted by the University's Tea Institute from June 3rd to 13th, 2025, attracted 33 participants from 18 leading companies across the Kenyan tea sector. Attendees represented a wide spectrum of the industry, including major players like Lipton Teas and Infusions, the Kenya Tea Development Agency (KTDA), Sotik Tea, Venus Tea Brokers, and several independent factories and estates.

The program was meticulously designed to bridge the gap between theory and practice. While classroom sessions covered critical topics such as global market trends, ISO and HACCP compliance, and innovations in green tea production, the learning was brought to life through hands-on practical sessions. In collaboration with neighbouring Ragati, Ndima, and Kangaita tea factories, participants were immersed in the entire tea value chain.

They gained firsthand experience in tea tasting, sensory evaluation, and processing technologies,



including the Orthodox and CTC methods. The curriculum also addressed the business end of the industry, focusing on how value addition through effective packaging, branding, and marketing can significantly boost profitability for producers.

Key insights from the training highlighted the growing global demand for specialty teas and the critical need for precision at every stage of production to meet stringent international export standards. Participants left with a renewed understanding of how quality management systems directly impact market competitiveness and income.

The overwhelming response to the course has revealed a substantial training gap within the industry. It positions Karatina University's Tea Institute as a pivotal leader in capacity-building efforts. The program's success, which also generated revenue for the university, underscores the demand and sustainability for such high-level training.

Looking ahead, the University plans to build on this momentum by organizing regular refresher courses and investing in a fully equipped, on-site "tea cottage" to further enhance its practical training capabilities, solidifying its role as a future centre of excellence for tea research and training in the region.



NACOSTI Training Bolsters Research Ethics



In a significant step towards strengthening its research governance, Karatina University's Ethics Review Committee (ERC) underwent an intensive four-day training workshop facilitated by the National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI). The training, held from June 16th to 19th, 2025, was designed to equip committee members with the expertise needed for national accreditation and to ensure all university research meets the highest ethical standards.

The workshop was officially opened by the University ERC Chairperson, Prof. Agnes Kihurani, who delivered remarks on behalf of the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Linus Gitoha. She emphasized the committee's vital role in upholding research integrity and protecting the rights and welfare of human and animal participants in scientific studies.

The comprehensive curriculum covered critical areas essential for a functional ethics committee, including the roles and responsibilities of ERC members, ethical principles for research involving humans, animals, plants, and the environment, and detailed procedures for proposal review and post-approval monitoring. The

sessions were highly interactive, featuring group work, peer learning, and discussions of real-life ethical case studies.

Speaking at the closing ceremony, the Deputy Vice Chancellor in charge of Academic, Research and Student Affairs, Prof. Franklin Wabwoba, lauded the initiative. He highlighted that a fully accredited and robust ERC would be central to the university's strategic goals, noting that "licensing all student research will enhance the University's visibility and improve its global and national rankings." He reaffirmed the University Management's full support for the ERC's accreditation process.

NACOSTI facilitators reaffirmed their commitment to supporting Karatina University through continued mentorship and guidance as the committee works towards its formal accreditation.

The training underscores Karatina University's steadfast commitment to fostering a culture of ethical research and upholding the highest standards of academic integrity, ensuring its research outputs are both impactful and responsibly conducted.

Staff Empowered for



In a significant move to boost its research profile and competitiveness, Karatina University successfully concluded an intensive three-day Grant Writing Training Workshop. The event, held from June 4th to 6th, was designed to equip academic and research staff with the essential skills to develop compelling proposals and secure vital external funding.

The workshop was officially opened by the Vice Chancellor, Professor Linus M. Gitonga, who set a high level rigour for the institution. He underscored grant writing as a core strategy for advancing academic excellence and innovation, challenging staff to be bold in their pursuit of funding.

“Let’s turn our academic excellence into funded innovation,” Prof. Gitonga stated. “Grant writing is not just about money. It is about relevance, partnerships, and prestige.” He envisioned a future where every school within the University operates a flagship project supported by external grants.

The University’s leadership unanimously echoed this strategic focus. Professor Franklin Wabwobwa, Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic, Research and Student Affairs, emphasized the direct link between successful grant applications and high-impact research. He called upon faculty to integrate grant writing into their core academic responsibilities, setting clear annual targets for applications.

From an administrative perspective, Professor Richard Kiai, Deputy Vice Chancellor for Planning,

Global Research Funding



Finance and Administration, highlighted the necessity of internal readiness. He pledged full institutional support, assuring that the university's systems would be aligned to be 'grant-ready' and encouraged departments to view this effort as a catalyst for transformation rather than an added burden.

Organized by the Directorate of Research, Innovation and Extension, the workshop was highly practical. Participants were taken through the entire grant development cycle, from initial idea generation and

proposal design to meticulous budgeting, compliance, and final submission. The training incorporated modern tools, including AI-assisted software, peer review sessions, and realistic simulations to prepare participants for actual funding opportunities.

The investment in capacity building yielded immediate results. By the conclusion of the training, participants had developed near-complete proposals and crafted personalized submission timelines, positioning them to actively pursue real-world funding. The event culminated in a certification ceremony, celebrating the staff's commitment to securing the university's future through innovation-driven funding.

This workshop marks a key step in Karatina University's strategic plan to build a robust research ecosystem, enhance its global competitiveness, and foster a sustainable culture of continuous capacity building.

Africa's AI Champions



Karatina University has firmly positioned itself at the forefront of Africa's technological evolution by successfully hosting the groundbreaking International Conference on Sustainable Knowledge Systems (ICSKS 2025). The three-day event, held from April 14th to April 16th, 2025 at the university's main campus, brought together a global assembly of scholars, researchers, librarians, and tech experts to explore the transformative role of Artificial Intelligence.

Organized in collaboration with Optimistic Concept Services of the Netherlands and spearheaded by the University Librarian, Dr. Evelyn Anduvare, the conference operated under the powerful theme: "AI for a Sustainable Future: Advancing Information, Communication, and Libraries for Innovation, Access, and Ethics."

The conference was officially inaugurated by Prof. Franklin Wabwoba, Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Academic, Research and Student Affairs, who represented the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Linus M. Gitonga. In his opening address, Prof. Wabwoba underscored the university's dedication to merging academic excellence with technological innovation. "We are honoured to host a dialogue of this magnitude," he stated, highlighting the institution's commitment to supporting Africa's sustainable development. The event featured insightful keynote addresses from renowned international experts, including Prof. Marlene Holmner of the University of Pretoria, Prof. Peter Gatiti of Aga Khan University (and Chair of the Kenya Library Association), and Marco van Hout, Director and Co-founder of the Digital Society School.

at Landmark Conference



A major highlight was a dynamic, student-focused workshop facilitated by Pathways Technologies. Students from the university's Knowledge Ambassadors Club engaged directly with AI experts, exploring real-world applications. The session was kicked off by two talented students, Moses Vundi and Charles Osoro from the KADOSA AI Group, who presented on "From Sci-Fi to Society: Real AI Use Cases Transforming Africa and the World."

Throughout the conference, participants engaged in vibrant panel discussions and hands-on workshops that delved into AI's practical applications in education, the development of "green libraries," climate action, and crucially, its ethical use. Research presentations further illustrated AI's cross-sectoral impact, from healthcare and

archives to environmental sustainability and media.

In her closing remarks, Dr. Everlyn Anduvare, the Conference Co-chair, issued a powerful call to action. "ICSKS 2025 has set a new course," she declared. "Let us build on this momentum and ensure Africa leads with purpose in shaping an inclusive, intelligent future."

This sentiment was strongly echoed by the Conference Chair, Dr. Ayodele John Alonge, who emphasized, "Africa must not only use AI—we must shape it."

Hailed as a transformative space for learning and reimagining knowledge systems in the AI age, the conference concluded on a high note with the awarding of certificates to participants, celebrating their engagement and shared commitment to building a sustainable future.

GLOBAL BUSINESS EDUCATORS EMPOWERED AT



Karatina University has taken a significant stride in redefining business education by successfully hosting a major international ‘Train the Trainer’ workshop. The four-day event, held from February 24th to 27th, 2025 was organized by the University’s School of Business in collaboration with the renowned US-based firm, Marketplace Simulations.

The workshop served as a global melting pot, bringing together lecturers and educators from over 34 institutions across more than 10 countries. The event was spearheaded by Prof. Teresiah Kyalo of Karatina University’s School of Business and Prof. Cadotte, the CEO and Founder of Marketplace Simulations.

The primary objective of the workshop was to address the long-standing critique of theoretical-heavy business curricula by championing a shift towards practical, experience-based learning. Through advanced business simulation platforms provided by Marketplace Simulations, participants were immersed in a dynamic virtual business environment designed to mirror real-world challenges.

The core of the workshop was a hands-on simulation structured across seven business quarters. Participants

were tasked with organizing a virtual firm, testing the market, analysing financial data, and making strategic adjustments for expansion—a process that provided invaluable firsthand experience in managing all aspects of a business, from marketing and HR to sales and finance.

This initiative is particularly timely, aligning seamlessly with Kenya’s recent adoption of the Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC). The workshop underscores a growing commitment to ensuring graduates are not just theoretically knowledgeable but are also equipped with the practical skills demanded by today’s competitive job market.

“This partnership marks a pivotal step for business education in Kenya and beyond,” said a representative from the organizing committee. “By empowering our educators with these innovative tools, we are directly impacting the quality and readiness of the next generation of business leaders.”

The success of the ‘Train the Trainer’ workshop positions Karatina University at the forefront of educational innovation, demonstrating a firm commitment to enhancing the quality and relevance of higher education in Africa.

A LANDMARK 'TRAIN THE TRAINER' WORKSHOP



Turning Research



In a significant move to bridge the gap between academic research and the marketplace, Karatina University hosted an intensive two-day workshop on the Commercialization of Research Outputs. The event, held on 29th and 30th May 2025 the university, aimed to empower academic staff with the skills to transform their scholarly work into viable products and businesses.

Organized by the Directorate of Research, Innovation, and Extension (RIE) in collaboration with the Kenya Industrial Property Institute (KIPI), the workshop featured various experts among them, Mr. Fred Otswong'o, a certified KIPI agent specializing in patenting and commercialization.

The workshop was officially opened by Prof. Franklin Wabwoba, the Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academics, Research, and Student Affairs, who represented the



into Revenue

Vice Chancellor, Prof. Linus Gitonga. Prof. Wabwoba emphasized the critical role of research commercialization in driving both individual career growth and institutional development. In a major announcement, he revealed the university's plans to establish a dedicated Technology Transfer Office to spearhead innovation and guide future commercialization efforts.

Prof. Michael Lokuruka, Director of RIE, welcomed the participants, highlighting the importance of such initiatives in building a robust and impactful research ecosystem at the university.

Over the two days, attendees engaged in interactive sessions covering essential topics such as Intellectual Property (IP) rights, various commercialization pathways, crafting effective business pitches, and navigating patent licensing negotiations. The training was highly

practical, featuring mock pitching exercises and plenary discussions designed to foster entrepreneurial thinking.

The initiative was met with overwhelming approval. A post-training survey revealed a 96% satisfaction rate, with participants particularly valuing the insights into IP commercialization and pitching techniques. Many proposed expanding future workshops to include more hands-on exercises, more frequent sessions, and a broader inclusion of disciplines beyond science and technology.

The workshop marks a pivotal step in Karatina University's strategic mission to translate academic excellence into tangible, market-ready innovations that benefit society and contribute to national economic development.



2025 SUSTAINABILITY YOUTH SUMMIT

Empowering a Greener Future



Karatina University Hosts The 2025 Sustainability Youth Summit

Karatina University was abuzz with innovative energy on Friday 27th May, 2025 as it hosted the 2025 Sustainability Youth Summit. The event, held under the powerful theme “Preparing Youth for a Sustainable Future in the Era of Climate Change,” successfully convened students, academic leaders, policymakers, and stakeholders to champion youth-led climate action.

Organized by the University’s Directorate of Career Services in collaboration with partners including Pioneer Child Development Programme, Kenya Commercial Bank, and Equity Bank, the summit provided a unique platform for the next generation of leaders to deliberate on pressing environmental challenges.

In his opening address, the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Linus M. Gitonga, reaffirmed the institution’s commitment to

fostering leadership in environmental stewardship. He inspired the audience with a call to embrace the “Three Cs”: “You Count, Everybody Counts, and the Youth Count,” emphasizing inclusivity and shared responsibility.

Echoing this sentiment, the Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, Prof. Franklin Wabwoba, urged participants to think long-term. “We must sustain what we have so that the future can be there for us,” he stated.

The chief guest, Principal Secretary for Energy Hon. Alex Wachira, CBS, delivered a stirring keynote address. He highlighted the transformative power of young people, declaring, “The energy of youth is the very fuel that drives sustainable transformation.” He challenged them to embrace clean energy, adopt responsible consumption,

and actively participate in national development conversations. Aligning with the government's Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), he reiterated commitments to policy support and green energy partnerships. He added a crucial fourth 'C', cautioning the youth that "Time Counts" in the race against climate change.

The summit also featured insights from Ms. Esther Ndung'u, CECM for Gender, Youth, and Social Services, on inclusive development, and Mr. Fredrick Wanjohi Kinyua, CECM for Water, Environment, and Climate Change, who stressed the importance of youth-led innovation in conservation.

A highlight of the day was the exhibition, where students from high schools, technical colleges, and universities, including Dedan Kimathi University of Science and Technology, showcased a variety of sustainable solutions and technologies designed to address local environmental issues. The dynamic space facilitated networking and the exchange of groundbreaking ideas between students and experts.

The event culminated in a vibrant awards ceremony, where the most outstanding innovations were recognized with trophies and certificates.

The 2025 Sustainability Youth Summit not only amplified youth voices in the critical climate discourse but also laid the groundwork for strategic collaborations, solidifying Karatina University's role in mentoring and empowering the next generation of sustainability champions.



THE 2025 SUSTAINABILITY YOUTH SUMMIT NOT ONLY AMPLIFIED YOUTH VOICES IN THE CRITICAL CLIMATE DISCOURSE BUT ALSO LAID THE GROUNDWORK FOR STRATEGIC COLLABORATIONS, SOLIDIFYING KARATINA UNIVERSITY'S ROLE IN MENTORING AND EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION OF SUSTAINABILITY CHAMPIONS.

Renowned **Global Forest Scientist** Visits Karatina University to Strengthen Research Ties



Karatina University welcomed Dr. David Kenfack, the African Coordinator for the prestigious Forest Global Earth Observatory (ForestGEO), in a significant visit aimed at deepening a strategic partnership dedicated to advancing forest science and conservation.

Dr. Kenfack, who also serves as a Staff Scientist at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in the United States, held high-level discussions with university leadership to explore avenues for enhancing collaboration in research, capacity building, and knowledge exchange.

ForestGEO is a globally recognized network of forest research sites and scientists focused on understanding the diversity and functioning of tropical and temperate forests. Its extensive network spans 78 research sites across the globe, monitoring the growth and survival of nearly seven million trees representing about 13,000 species. The organization is at the forefront of critical research on carbon cycles, the impacts of climate change on biodiversity, and the dynamics of forest ecosystems.

The existing partnership between Karatina University and ForestGEO is formalized through an active

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). Dr. Kenfack's courtesy visit provided a timely opportunity to build on this foundation and identify new areas for mutual growth.

Representing Karatina University during the talks were Prof. Franklin Wabwoba, Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Academic, Research, and Student Affairs; Dr. Flora Namu, Dean of the School of Natural Resources and Environmental Studies; and Dr. Duncan Kimuyu, the School Coordinator for Research, Innovations, and Extension. Dr. Kimuyu's presence underscored the partnership's tangible benefits, as he is a distinguished beneficiary of the Smithsonian Postdoctoral Fellowship.

Dr. Kenfack was accompanied by Dr. Paul Musili, a Senior Research Scientist and plant systematics expert from the National Museums of Kenya.

The engagement signals a strengthened commitment to positioning Karatina University as a key hub for cutting-edge environmental research in Africa, leveraging global expertise to address local and regional ecological challenges.

BOOSTS OF RESEARCH CAPACITY WITH SUCCESSFUL GRANT WRITING WORKSHOP



Karatina University's Directorate of Research, Innovation, and Extension (RIE) successfully concluded a two-day Grant Writing Workshop on February 20th and 21st, 2025. The workshop, facilitated by Beeline Research Ltd, aimed to equip researchers with essential skills to develop competitive grant proposals, identify crucial funding opportunities, and foster collaborative research engagements.

The event was officially opened by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic, Research, and Student Affairs (DVC ARSA), Prof. Franklin Wabwoba, on behalf of the Vice Chancellor. Prof. Wabwoba emphasized the critical importance of research funding for academic growth and innovation, drawing on his extensive experience. He highlighted that consistently responding to calls for proposals significantly enhances researchers' potential to secure grants and make substantial contributions to academic research.

The workshop was designed with several key objectives, including strengthening researchers' capacity in grant writing and funding acquisition, introducing effective grant sourcing and selection strategies, and fostering collaborations and partnerships in research endeavors. Participants also gained hands-on experience in proposal writing and submission, learned best practices in grant

management and research team coordination, and enhanced their understanding of funders' expectations and proposal alignment.

Participants were organized into multidisciplinary teams to promote collaborative research efforts. Beeline Research Ltd provided practical exposure to grant search methodologies through its database, offering critical insights into crafting compelling and fundable grant proposals during interactive sessions. Dr. John Kinyuru from Research Beeline Ltd was noted as a facilitator, working alongside Ag. Director RIE, Dr. Dezzline Ondigo, and DVC ARSA Prof. Frankline Wabwoba.

Dr. Dezzline Ondigo, Ph.D., who is the Ag. Director for Research, Innovation & Extension, led the organization of the workshop. The Directorate of Research, Innovation, and Extension expressed sincere appreciation to the University Management, facilitators, and participants for their support in making the workshop a resounding success.

The workshop was lauded as highly successful in strengthening research capacity, with the expertise and hands-on approach provided by Beeline Research Ltd significantly enriching participants' understanding of the grant writing process.



KARATINA UNIVERSITY JOINS ACCESS 2.0 PROJECT, TO FUEL INNOVATION AND JOB CREATION

In a significant move to bolster entrepreneurship and community-focused education, Karatina University has been selected as a key partner in the prestigious ACCESS 2.0 Project, a Pan-African initiative running from 2025 to 2029.

The University is among an elite group of ten Kenyan institutions participating in the transformative project, which is led by Mount Kenya University (MKU) and funded under the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) strategy. The programme, “Accelerating Competence-based Entrepreneurship and Service-learning in Sub-Saharan Africa,” is implemented in collaboration with the University of Leipzig, Germany, and a consortium of international partners.

The project at Karatina University will be spearheaded by Project Coordinator, Prof. Kellen Kiambati, and Deputy Coordinator, Prof. Lucy Ndegwa. Through this strategic engagement, the University aims to deeply embed practical entrepreneurship and service-learning into its academic fabric, better preparing students for the modern workforce and empowering them to drive positive change in their communities.

Key Pillars of the ACCESS 2.0 Project at Karatina University:

The five-year initiative will roll out several flagship activities designed to translate theory into practice:

A New National Entrepreneurship Curriculum:

Karatina University is playing an active role in a national committee to co-develop a joint, competence-based entrepreneurship curriculum. This forward-looking programme will feature capstone projects, self-paced online modules hosted on the university’s Virtual Learning Management System (VLMS), and will leverage artificial intelligence to track student progress and outcomes.

Real-World Problem Solving for SMEs:

The University will integrate Problem-Based Service-Learning (SL) into its MBA and other programmes. Students will act as consultants for local small and medium enterprises (SMEs), using their research projects to develop practical, impactful solutions for real business challenges.

The ACCESS Business Ideas Club:

Annually, a competitive process will select the university’s top two student innovators to participate in a intensive five-day entrepreneurship bootcamp. There, they will receive mentorship from industry leaders and innovation hubs, helping to refine their ideas into viable business ventures. Faculty mentors will provide dedicated support throughout the process.

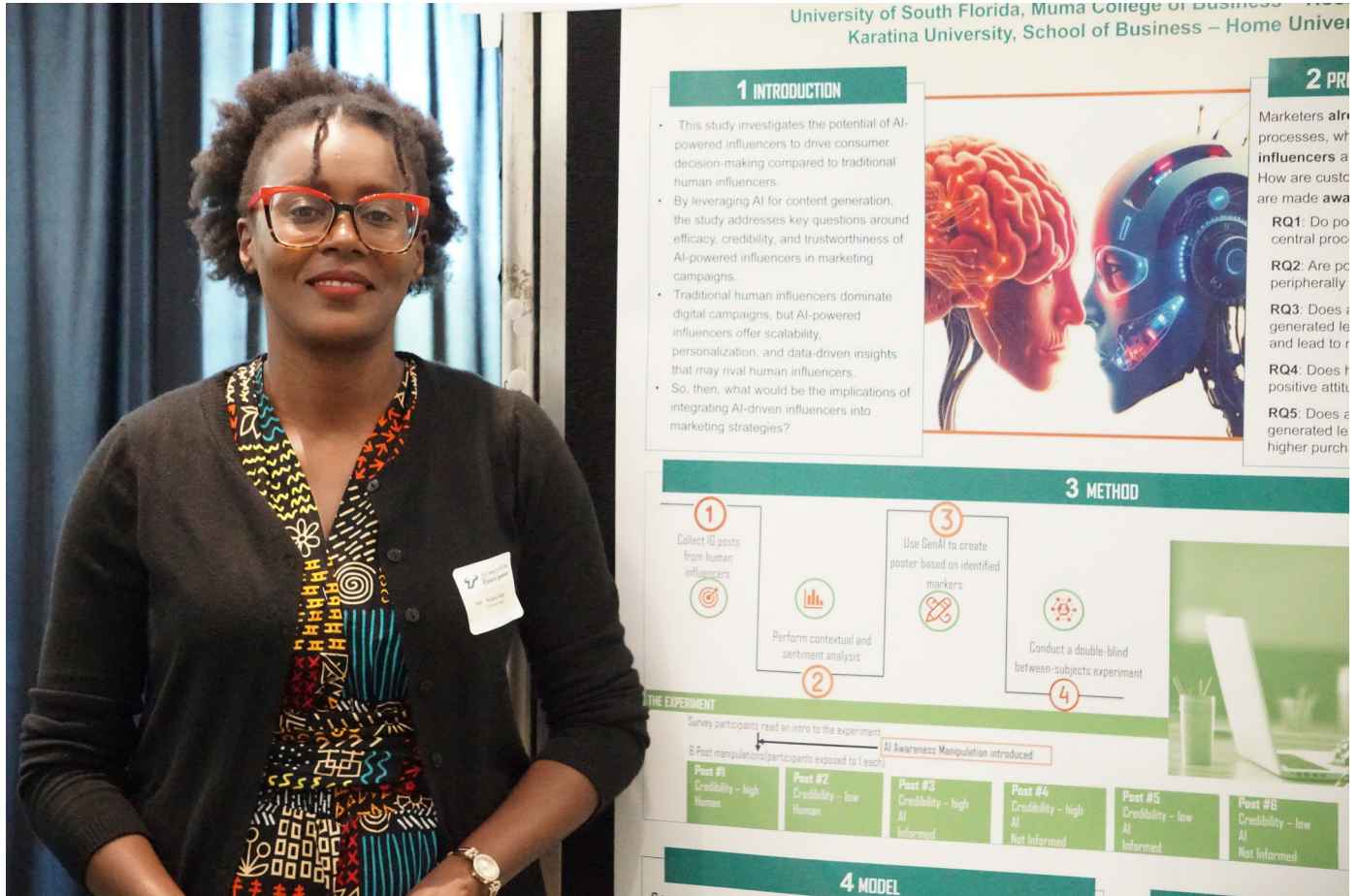
In a further boost for student ventures, a partnership with ‘Enrich Africa’ will provide additional support and create valuable collaborative linkages between the European and African Union ecosystems.

Why It Matters:

For Karatina University, this project is more than a programme; it is a strategic commitment to strengthening industry-academia partnerships, championing experiential learning, and contributing directly to Kenya’s socio-economic transformation through innovation and job creation.

This initiative positions Karatina University at the forefront of educational innovation, ensuring its graduates are not just job seekers, but the job creators and community leaders of tomorrow.

Varsity Scholar wins International Research Award in Florida, US



The entire Karatina University community extends its heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Mengo and wishes her continued success in her scholarly endeavors.

Dr. Nyabisi Mengo, a lecturer from Karatina University, has brought international acclaim to the institution after securing second place for research excellence at the prestigious University of South Florida (USF) International Visiting Scholar Research Showcase.

Dr. Mengo, who is currently a Visiting Scholar at USF in Tampa, was honored for her groundbreaking research project, "AI Influencers Vs Human Influencers: Redefining Digital Consumer Behavior and Marketing Strategies in the Age of Artificial Intelligence."

The event, organized by USF World, gathered distinguished international scholars from various disciplines to present

their work and foster academic collaboration. Among the many presentations, Dr. Mengo's research was singled out for its high relevance, academic rigor, and significant potential for global impact in the evolving fields of digital marketing and consumer behavior.

This award highlights Dr. Mengo's personal academic dedication and underscores Karatina University's growing commitment to fostering high-quality research and building strong international partnerships. The university community has expressed immense pride in her achievement, celebrating it as a testament to its mission of promoting academic excellence on a world stage.

WOMEN LEADERS



NAIROBI, Friday, June 27, 2025. A delegation of promising young women from Karatina University's World Academy for the Future of Women (WAFW) received a powerful lesson in leadership and resilience during a special visit to the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON).

The group was graciously hosted by the UNON Director-General, Ms. Zainab Hawa Bangura, a renowned global icon in women's leadership. The delegation was led by Prof. Kellen Kiambati, Karatina University's Director of

Resource Mobilization and International Programmes and WAFW Team Leader, and included WAFW Liaison Officer Jecinta Kabucho and facilitator Ms. Sandra Perez.

Ms. Bangura, with characteristic poise and wisdom, spoke passionately to the students about the true meaning of leadership in the modern world. She challenged them to pursue their goals with clarity and conviction, urging them to be bold in defining a personal vision and committed to seeing it through despite obstacles.

INSPIRED AT UN NAIROBI



She emphasized that identifying problems is not enough; the young women must be the ones to craft the solutions. A central, powerful message from her address resonated deeply with the participants: “No one will invite you to the decision-making table. You must prepare yourself and take your seat. Be bold, be prepared, and show up.”

Her words served as a direct call to action, moving beyond ambition to speak to their inherent potential. The visit inspired the students to return to their communities and campuses as change-makers, carrying not just dreams

but a renewed sense of responsibility to lead.

Karatina University holds the distinction of being the first African university to host the WAFW program. This initiative continues to shape a generation of visionary, courageous, and globally aware women leaders poised to transform society. This visit to the UN was more than a learning experience; it was a pivotal moment empowering them to claim their place at the table.

Partnership with UN Agency to Offer Global Digital Learning

FAO elearning Academy



Karatina University students are set to gain a significant international edge through a new partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO-UN). The collaboration integrates the university's curriculum with the FAO's globally recognized E-learning Academy, providing students with access to over 200 certified short courses.

The initiative, coordinated by Dr. Mwangi Kinyanjui from the School of Natural Resources and Environmental Studies, seamlessly links specific university courses with relevant FAO online modules. For instance, students enrolled in GEO114 (International Migration) can choose from five specialized certificates in migration, while those in GEO312 (GIS) and GEO415 (Digital Image Processing) can undertake courses on using land cover data to monitor Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

"The students will undertake examinable short courses and get certificates upon completion." To ensure the programme is a core part of the learning process, performance, the courses will contribute to students' Continuous Assessment Tests (CATs) marks.

A key advantage of the programme is its flexibility. The courses are entirely self-paced, allowing students to learn online or download materials for offline study using their computers or mobile phones at their convenience, effectively making it a "take away assignment."

The benefits for the university are substantial. Beyond providing students with international learning experiences and access to rigorously developed quality notes, the partnership boosts the institution's global profile.

"The University will be invited to do testimonials either online or physically, and this increases international exposure for both students and the university,". Furthermore, linking the courses through the Karatina University Open, Distance, and E-Learning (ODEL) platform is expected to drive significant traffic to the university's website, enhancing its digital presence.

Dr. Kinyanjui confirmed that all necessary links for student access and certificate awards are available on the KarU ODEL platform under the respective courses. This partnership marks a significant step in Karatina University's commitment to offering innovative, globally-connected education.

Karatina University and Max Planck Institute bridge the gap in Scientific Training

In a significant step towards strengthening Africa's position as a hub for scientific excellence, Karatina University hosted a transformative seven-day workshop for postgraduate students in collaboration with Germany's prestigious Max Planck Institute.

The workshop, titled "Bridging Minds: Becoming a Researcher," was part of the Max Planck Africa Initiative. Its core mission is to address the educational gap between African students and the Global North by equipping local talent with the essential tools, mentorship, and resources to thrive within their home countries. The initiative aims to retain genius and prevent the loss of valuable talent through emigration.

A six-member team from the Institute's Development and Evolution of Cognition (DECog) research group journeyed from Konstanz, Germany, to train 30 postgraduate students from Karatina University. The curriculum was comprehensive, covering the entire research lifecycle—from formulating a compelling research question and collecting data to analysis, publication, and securing vital research funding.

Each day of the intensive workshop focused on a distinct theme, including scientific writing, collaboration, and CV development. Participants engaged in hands-on exercises, crafting CVs and cover letters, programming, and conducting observation simulations. The afternoons were dedicated to open discussions and mentorship, allowing students to digest the day's lessons and share insights.

The workshop also delved into modern research challenges and opportunities, exploring potential research directions and the ethical use of Artificial Intelligence in academia. Participants received valuable, direct feedback on their research proposals, while instructors shared personal reflections on their career journeys, offering both inspiration and practical guidance.

The event concluded with a focused session on thesis planning, ensuring the future researchers left not only with enhanced technical expertise but also with a clear direction for their academic and professional paths.

This successful partnership stands as a testament to Karatina University's commitment to advancing global academic collaborations. By developing a new generation of young researchers, the university is taking a leading



role in spearheading innovative and homegrown research across the African continent and beyond.

Karatina University has expressed its profound gratitude to the Max Planck Institute for Animal Behaviour, and specifically the DECog research group, for their partnership and the resounding success of the workshop.

Annual Corporate Day

EQUIPPING STUDENTS FOR “THE FUTURE OF WORK”

Karatina University successfully hosted its “Annual Corporate Day” event on March 3rd, 2025, under the insightful theme: “The Future of Work - Skills for a Changing World”. Organized by the Directorate of Career Services, University-Industry Linkage, and Alumni Affairs, the event aimed to equip students with crucial insights and skills needed to navigate the evolving demands of the job market.

Dr. D. Ondigo, Director of Career Services, University-Industry Linkage, and Alumni Affairs, opened the forum by emphasizing the vital importance of such gatherings in enlightening students about career growth and development.

The day featured inspiring presentations from successful alumni, offering practical advice and motivation. Benjamin M. Joshua, an alumnus who enrolled in 2012, shared his career journey, highlighting his proactive pursuit of scholarships, numerous applications, and short courses to enhance his prospects. Joshua stressed that the future of work is not solely defined by automation and artificial intelligence, but rather by adaptability, sustainability, and interdisciplinary collaboration. He asserted that individuals committed to continuous learning and teamwork will be the drivers of future change, whether in conservation, business, or technology. He concluded with a powerful quote: “The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn”.

Another distinguished alumnus, Daniel Kioko, who graduated with First-Class Honors in Banking and Finance (2009-2013) and immediately pursued a master’s degree, spoke on “The Power of Habits”. Kioko underscored the significance of forming productive habits that foster growth and success in the workplace, emphasizing the impact of developing resilience, discipline, and a proactive attitude on one’s career trajectory.

Key skills for a changing world

Key skills highlighted for a changing world included:

- **Attitude:** Maintaining a positive and proactive mindset.
- **Focus:** Setting clear goals and staying committed.
- **Self-belief:** Having confidence in one’s abilities and potential.
- **Versatility:** Adapting to different roles and learning new skills.
- **Negotiation:** Mastering the art of persuasion and collaboration.

Dr. Peter Ngigi further elaborated on three crucial aspects of career development: managing oneself by understanding personal strengths and setting clear goals; applying for jobs by actively seeking opportunities and continuously improving skills; and perseverance in receiving feedback, encouraging students not to expect immediate positive responses but to refine their approach.

The Corporate Day event was a valuable opportunity for students to engage with successful alumni and gain a deeper understanding of the demands of the modern workforce.



The illiterate of the 21st century
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and write, but those who cannot
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In her closing remarks, **Dr. Dezzline Ondigo** spoke about the importance of consistent effort and the invaluable role of mentorship. She encouraged students to actively pursue short courses, register with professional bodies, apply for scholarships, and remain dedicated to their aspirations.

The Corporate Day event was hailed as a valuable opportunity for students to engage with successful alumni and gain a deeper understanding of the demands of the modern workforce. The sessions provided not only motivation but also actionable strategies for career development, ensuring Karatina University students are well-prepared for the future of work.

Students Gain Industry Edge



In a significant step to bridge academic theory with real-world practice, students from Karatina University's School of Business undertook a highly productive academic trip to Nairobi. The visit, led by Dr. Beatrice Ombaka, Head of the Human Resource Development Department, and accompanied by Dr. Esther Maina, Dr. Macharia Stephen, and Mr. Samuel Wanjema, provided an immersive experience at leading professional institutions.

The tour was designed to offer students firsthand exposure to industry operations and career expectations, fostering a deeper understanding of their future professional paths.

The first stop was the Human Resource Management Professionals Examination Board (HRMPEB), where

students received a warm welcome. In a promising development, the CEO of HRMPEB encouraged Karatina University to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). This partnership would allow business students to pursue the Certified Human Resource Professional (CHRP) qualification alongside their degrees, enabling them to graduate with dual certification and a significant competitive advantage in the job market.

The visit featured an engaging interactive session where students like Erick Njoroge, Christine Murugi, and Nicholas Omuka asked insightful questions, deepening their understanding of HR certifications and employability.

The second destination was KASNEB, the renowned body for professional examinations in accounting, finance, and governance. Students learned about career-enhancing courses like CPA, CPS, and CIFA. A highlight was an inspiring encounter with a Karatina University alumnus from the class of 2021, who now works as an ICT professional at KASNEB. His success stands as a testament to the university's capacity to produce highly competent graduates.

Representing the CEO, Mr. Collins Okomo commended Karatina University for nurturing top-tier professionals, a sentiment that bolstered the students' confidence in their education.

The trip concluded with a visit to the Nairobi Water Company, where students gained practical insights into corporate operations and public utility management.

CHAWAKAMA-Kenya Conference 2025

Kiswahili students, under the CHAKIKA association, participated in the national CHAWAKAMA-Kenya conference at Egerton University from March 14th to 15th, 2025. Accompanied by their patron, Prof. Maitaria, the students leveraged the platform for knowledge exchange and professional networking. The initiative underscore Karatina University's commitment to providing holistic education that extends beyond the classroom, preparing students to excel as the next generation of industry leaders.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

FUTURE LEADERS MENTORED ON INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



In a powerful celebration of International Women's Day, Karatina University took its commitment to education beyond its campus walls with an inspirational Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) outreach at St. Anne's Girls Secondary School in Kiriari on 8th March, 2025.

The visiting team, comprised of the university's Internal Audit staff, led by Senior Internal Auditor Ms. Cicely Mukami Kamwengu, who is also an alumna of St. Anne's, making the homecoming particularly significant. They were warmly received by the school's Chief Principal, Mrs. Lucy Mwangangi.

The outreach program featured a series of tailored motivational talks and academic mentorship sessions designed to address the specific needs of different student levels.

For the Form Four candidates poised for national examinations, Dr. Michael Gachahi and Ms. Anne Nkatha led crucial sessions on exam preparedness. They equipped the students with strategic study techniques, essential time management skills, and the mental resilience needed to excel under pressure. Meanwhile, Dr. Flora Runji and Ms. Cicely Mukami inspired Form Two and Three students to take ownership of their academic journeys. Their talks emphasized the importance of goal-setting, personal discipline, and unwavering self-belief as foundational pillars for success.

Beyond academics, the program also focused on holistic personal development. Ms. Anne Karugu led an



empowering session on self-awareness, encouraging the young women to recognize and embrace their unique strengths and aspirations. In a critical address, Mr. Silas Kimathi confronted the pressing issues of drug abuse and mental health, urging students to make informed and healthy choices to secure a brighter future.

The university team also provided the students with valuable insights into diverse university programs and career pathways, opening their eyes to the possibilities that lie ahead.

This impactful visit served to reinforce Karatina University's dedicated commitment to nurturing young talent and actively shaping the next generation of women leaders, marking International Women's Day with a profound investment in the future.

Karatina University Empowers Church Leaders with ADR Skills



The event concluded with a powerful call to action for further training sessions, aiming to expand this vital knowledge to even more community leaders and stakeholders.

On Friday, May 23rd, 2025, the University held a Capacity-Building Workshop for Pastors and Church Leaders on Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) through the Directorate of Community Outreach. The event brought together local pastors and church leaders for a day of learning and engagement, featuring special guests from the Judiciary, including the Court Annexed Mediation team and the Principal Magistrate of Karatina Law Courts.

The workshop provided a crucial platform for leaders to gain practical skills for applying ADR techniques to land disputes and other community conflicts. Participants were guided through the principles of ADR, learning how these methods offer a more cost-effective, timely, and relationship-preserving alternative to traditional litigation.

In his address, Vice-Chancellor Prof. Linus M. Gitonga

underscored the university's commitment to impactful community engagement. He noted that ADR's emphasis on dialogue and mutual respect aligns perfectly with the University's mission and strategic goals. The Vice Chancellor expressed profound gratitude to the Judiciary for their invaluable partnership in this initiative.

The event concluded with a powerful call to action for further training sessions, aiming to expand this vital knowledge to even more community leaders and stakeholders. This workshop stands as a testament to Karatina University's dedication to fostering community resilience and promoting harmonious, amicable ways to resolve disputes. For more information on future community outreach programs, please contact the Directorate of Community Outreach, Karatina University.

Capacity Building Workshop Equips Teachers for Fostering Student Excellence

The workshop comprehensively up-skilled teachers in understanding, handling and supporting students.

Key sessions:

- **Supporting Students for Academic Excellence**
- **Building Students**
- **Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) for Academic Excellence**
- **Supporting Students' Mental Health for Academic Excellence**

Directorate of Community Outreach, under the leadership of Professor Mwenje, successfully conducted a Capacity Building Workshop for School Guidance and Counseling Teachers on Friday, 31st January 2025 in order to strengthen student support systems.

The event, held at the Senate Chambers, brought together educators dedicated to student welfare, focusing on the central theme of "Academic Excellence."

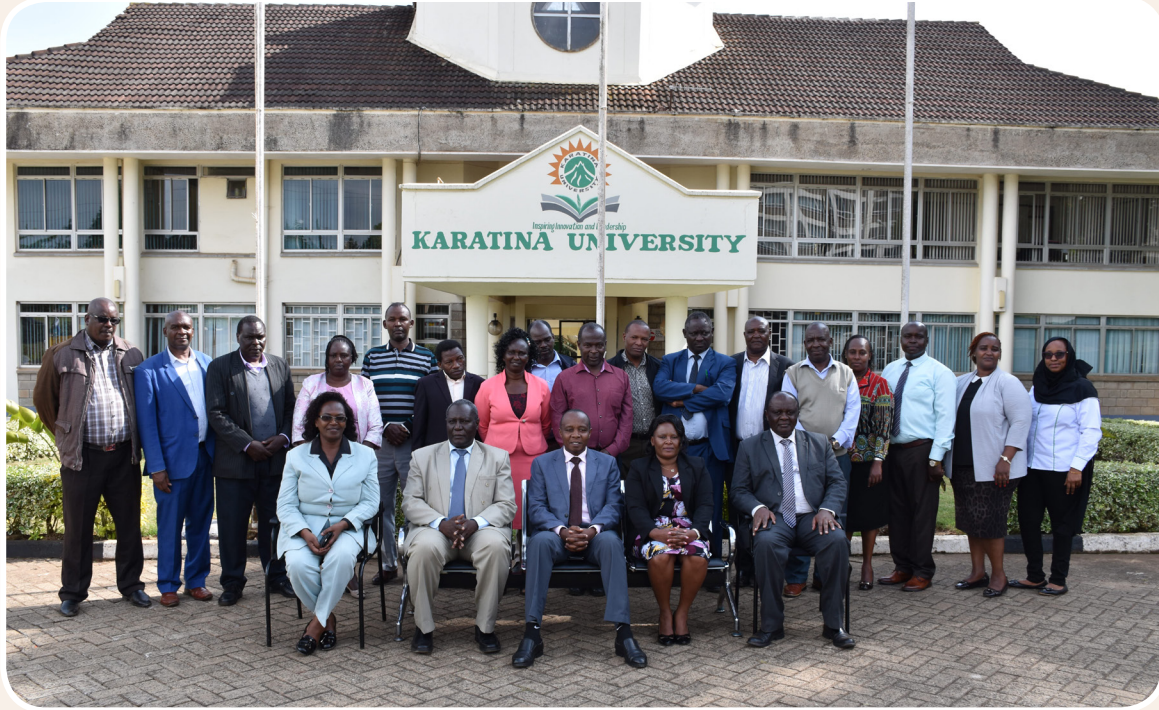
The workshop was designed to provide teachers with advanced strategies and essential skills to comprehensively support their students. Participants engaged in several key sessions, including "Supporting Students for Academic Excellence," "Building Students' Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) for Academic Excellence," and "Supporting Students' Mental Health for Academic Excellence." A core message of the day was the indispensable role guidance and

counseling teachers play in shaping students' academic journeys. The sessions emphasized that academic success is deeply intertwined with emotional well-being and resilience. By fostering a supportive learning environment and addressing the social-emotional needs of students, teachers are better equipped to help them overcome challenges and achieve their full potential.

Professor Mwenje highlighted the initiative's importance, stating that the workshop underscored the critical need to equip educators with the tools to nurture not just scholars, but well-rounded, resilient individuals.

The workshop concluded with a renewed commitment from attendees to implement these strategies in their respective schools, marking a positive step towards enhancing the overall educational experience for students across the region.

School Principals *empowered* in Leadership Workshop



The event was officially opened by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Academic, Research & Student Affairs, Professor Franklin Wabwoba, who represented the Vice Chancellor. In his opening remarks, Prof. Wabwoba underscored the critical role principals play in shaping students into disciplined and well-rounded individuals. He reaffirmed the university's commitment to collaborating with schools in the Mathira East region to foster a strong academic culture and build a community that takes pride in educational achievement.

The workshop, organized by the Directorate of Community Outreach under the leadership of Professor Mwenje, brought together key stakeholders from the education sector. Prof. Mwenje expressed his appreciation for the principals' participation, highlighting the importance of collaboration in strengthening school leadership.

The initiative received strong endorsements from government bodies. Mr. Kimani, the Director of the Teachers Service Commission (TSC), commended Karatina University for organizing the forum, noting that knowledge sharing is essential for improving

school management and student outcomes. He encouraged continued engagement between the university and the education sector.

Echoing this sentiment, Mr. Ndung'u, representing the Director of Education for Mathira East, thanked the university for its proactive community outreach. He praised the institution for identifying existing gaps in education and providing practical solutions through such workshops, pledging their commitment to a meaningful impact through strengthened partnerships.

During the sessions, principals were taken through various academic strategies aimed at promoting excellence and fostering a positive school culture. The training provided a valuable platform for school leaders to share common challenges, exchange best practices, and strengthen their collaborative ties with the university.

Through this initiative, Karatina University continues to demonstrate its pivotal role in empowering education leaders and enhancing the quality of education in the region.



SCENES FROM THE EVENT



‘LOCUS’ TO THE FUTURE WITH NEW MATHS MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME



The event, orchestrated by the Department of Mathematics and Actuarial Science under the leadership of its Head, Dr. Daniel Achola, brought together university officials, staff, and students from various secondary schools including Gitunduti Secondary, St. Mary's Nyangwa Girls, Kangocho Secondary, and Mathaithi Girls.

The programme is designed to be more than just an academic exercise. It aims to provide holistic development by instilling confidence, perseverance, and a genuine passion for mathematics among young learners.

Speaking during the launch, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Academic, Research and Students Affairs, Professor Franklin Wabwoba, reaffirmed the university's commitment to the initiative. "If students do well in mathematics, the world opens up for them," he stated, emphasizing that mathematics is all about practice and that dedication can unlock endless opportunities. He highlighted the programme as a key part of the university's community outreach efforts.

Dr. Wahogo, the Director of Quality Assurance and ISO, who spoke on behalf of the Dean of the School of Pure and Applied Sciences, stressed that the mentorship is about building character and resilience. "The journey requires consistent effort, engagement, and unwavering commitment from both mentors and mentees," he said, encouraging students to believe in their abilities and never give up on their potential.

A unique feature of the programme is its peer-to-peer approach, where Karatina University students will serve as mentors. They will work hand-in-hand with the high school students to help change their mindset, build confidence, and develop critical problem-solving skills.

The launch event included interactive sessions where high school students engaged in discussions with their university mentors, covering mathematical concepts, problem-solving strategies, and insights into future careers in fields like data analysis, digital marketing, and actuarial science.



Interactive sessions: High School Students and university mentors, covering mathematical concepts, problem-solving strategies, and insights into future careers in fields like data analysis, digital marketing, and actuarial science.

Quoting the 13th Century Philosopher Roger Bacon, “Mathematics is the door and key to the sciences,” the university has begun its journey to open those doors for future mathematicians, empowering them with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to excel. The programme promises to have a profound impact on

the attitudes of young minds towards mathematics and academic excellence.

In a significant move to shape the next generation of thinkers, Karatina University has officially launched a three-year Mathematics Locus Mentorship Programme aimed at inspiring high school students across the region.

Karatina University takes **FREE HEALTHCARE** to Kahuru Community



In a significant boost to local healthcare access, Karatina University, in collaboration with the Aga Khan University Hospital, City Eye Hospital, and the Nyeri County Government, successfully hosted a free medical camp on Saturday 16th August, 2025.

The event, held at Kahuru Comprehensive School in Iria-ini Ward, provided vital medical services to over 330 members of the community. Organized through the University's Directorate of Community Outreach, the camp underscored a shared commitment to improving public welfare and bridging gaps in healthcare accessibility.

A team of dedicated medical professionals and volunteers, including staff from Karatina University's clinic and the Department of Food Sciences and Nutrition, offered a comprehensive range of services. Residents received free blood pressure monitoring, BMI measurements, diabetes screening, eye check-ups by specialists from City Eye Hospital, nutrition consultations, and general medical consultations.

Beyond immediate treatment, the initiative placed a strong emphasis on preventive care and health education. Students led by Ms. Lydia Asiko played an active role, empowering participants with knowledge on nutrition and wellness and engaging them in simple exercises to promote healthier lifestyles.

The medical camp stands as a testament to Karatina University's steadfast mission to serve society through impactful partnerships and outreach initiatives, proving that collaborative effort can make a tangible difference in community health.



Meru Residents receive Free Healthcare

In a significant boost to accessible healthcare, Karatina University, in collaboration with leading health partners, provided free medical services to over 650 residents of Imenti South during a large-scale medical camp held on Saturday.

The event, organized by the University's Directorate of Community Outreach, took place at Mikumbune Primary School. It saw a high-level delegation from the university in attendance, including the Chairman of Council, Professor Joseph T. Mailutha, who officially opened the camp. The Vice Chancellor Professor Linus Gitonga, and Deputy Vice Chancellor ARSA Professor Franklin Wabwoba were also in attendance.

The initiative brought together a consortium of healthcare providers, including Marie Stopes Kenya, LifeCare Hospitals, Kanyakine Sub-County Hospital, Elephant Dental, and Aga Khan University Hospital. This collaboration enabled the offering of a wide range of essential services, from general checkups and dental care to critical reproductive health consultations and cancer screenings.

Local residents turned out in large numbers, queuing to receive the much-needed medical attention. The community expressed profound gratitude for the initiative, widely praising Karatina University for its direct role in addressing healthcare needs and reinforcing its commitment to positive social impact.

The medical camp underscores Karatina University's dedication to extending its reach beyond the classroom and into the heart of the community, fostering well-being through practical and impactful outreach programs.



International Tea Day Festivities



Karatina University was a pillar of innovation and academic excellence at the International Tea Day celebrations held on Wednesday 21st May 2025 at Gacharage Tea Factory in Murang'a County.

The event, themed “Celebrating Tea for Sustainable Livelihoods and Climate Resilience,” brought together a wide array of stakeholders from the tea sector, including government agencies, farmers, processors, researchers, and academics.

The university's vibrant exhibition tent served as a major hub, where representatives marketed its specialized academic programs under the University Industry and the Tea Institute. Visitors were introduced to a growing portfolio of tea-related courses and groundbreaking research initiatives designed to strengthen the industry through sustainability, innovation, and capacity building.

The occasion was graced by the Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture and Livestock Development, Hon. Mutahi Kagwe, who paid a visit to the Karatina University booth. The CS commended the institution for its critical role in bridging academic training with the practical needs of the industry.

“Karatina University continues to play a pivotal role in equipping young people with the knowledge and skills needed to transform the tea sector. Their work in research and innovation is exemplary,” remarked Hon. Kagwe, recognizing the university's commitment to student involvement in research and the development of specialized programs.

A key highlight of the day was a presentation by Dr. Dennis Maina, the Director of the Tea Institute at Karatina University. Addressing the audience on “The Role of Innovation in Sustainable Tea Production and Processing,” Dr. Maina emphasized the urgent need to integrate technology and research into the tea value chain. He stressed that this is essential for ensuring the viability of tea farming amidst the challenges of climate change and shifting global market dynamics.

International Tea Day aims to raise global awareness of tea's deep cultural and economic significance. For Karatina University, the celebration provided a strategic platform to reinforce its dedication to sustainable agriculture, community development, and fostering impactful partnerships between academia and industry, solidifying its position as a leader in agricultural innovation.

FAREWELL BID TO PUBLIC SERVICE INTERNS

Karatina University celebrated the conclusion of a successful one-year internship program for its Cohort 6 Public Service Interns in a special farewell ceremony held on 27th January, 2025 at Mani Campus. The event served to honor the interns for their dedication and significant contributions to the university throughout their tenure.

The ceremony was officially opened by then, Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Planning, Finance, and Administration, Professor Richard Kiai. In his address, Prof. Kiai extended gratitude to the government for assigning the interns to the university. He highlighted the immense value of internship opportunities, urging the departing cohort to reflect on their experiences, remain curious, and actively build professional networks.

“Focus on your strengths, continuously seek growth, and embrace a mindset of lifelong learning,” Prof. Kiai advised, setting an inspirational tone for the day.

The event was facilitated by members of the Human Resource department and the Registrar (Planning & Administration), who commended the interns for their commitment and encouraged them to apply the knowledge gained in their future endeavors.

To equip the interns for the next stage of their careers, the university organized a series of career development sessions. These included expert talks on survival skills, networking, and professional growth by Prof. Kellen Kiambati; managing career expectations by Dr. Anne Kariuki from the School of Business; and essential guidance on CV writing and interview preparation by Dr. Stephen Macharia. The Communication Officer also shared insights on navigating corporate experiences in professional settings.

The Registrar (Planning & Administration) emphasized the importance of professionalism, adaptability, and continuous improvement as the interns transition into the wider job market.

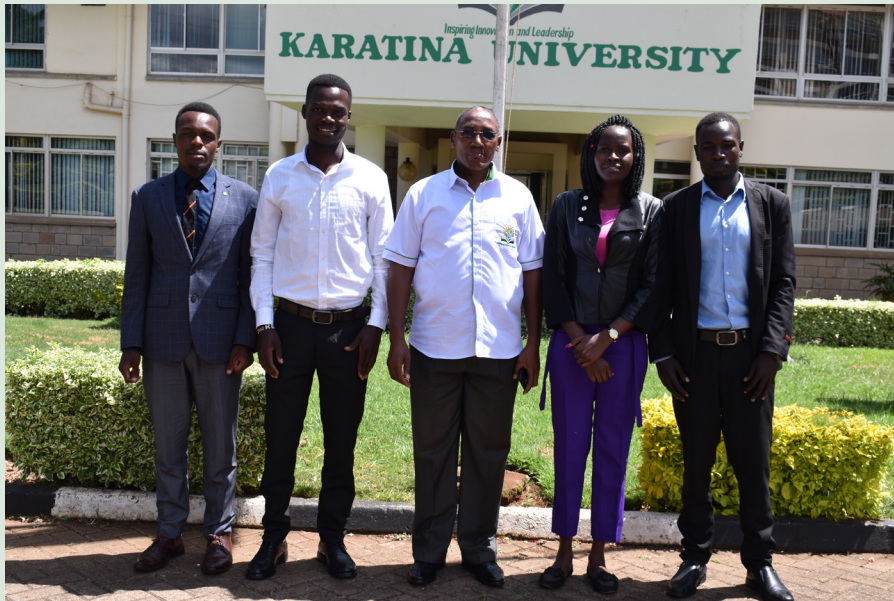
As a token of appreciation for their service, the interns were presented with gifts from the university management. In return, the interns expressed their heartfelt thanks for the opportunity to gain hands-on experience and enhance their professional skills at Karatina University.

The farewell ceremony marked the culmination of a transformative year, having equipped the interns with practical skills, valuable insights, and a robust professional network that will undoubtedly prove instrumental in their future career journeys.



The University has continued to look into the general welfare of the students, outside of academic activities by presenting various opportunities and forums of engagement including:

KARATINA UNIVERSITY STUDENT LEADERSHIP FOR 2024/2025



Elected Student Leaders

1. **Chairperson:** Mark Collins Kalama
2. **Vice-Chairperson:** Vivian Kinya
3. **Secretary General:** Kombo James
4. **Treasurer:** Omuka Nicholas
5. **Director for Special Needs, Gender, and International Relations:** Christine Nyaga
6. **Director for Academics:** Masisa Richard
7. **Director for Sports, Games, and Entertainment:** Peter Munyoki

Karatina University officially inaugurated its 2024/2025 Students Governing Council (SGC) following a successful electoral process that culminated in an online elections held on November 28, 2024.

The democratic exercise, which began in October 2024 with the appointment of electoral officials by the Vice-Chancellor, saw a strong turnout with 7,290 students casting their votes across 13 electoral colleges. The student body elected 37 delegates, who in turn selected seven individuals to lead the student association for the academic year 2024/2025.

The seven leaders took their oath of office on December 18th, 2024, in a ceremony presided over by the University Legal Officer, Ms. Anne Mumbi, and witnessed by the Vice-Chancellor.

To equip the new council for their mandate, a comprehensive two-day induction workshop was held from January 25-26, 2025, at the Kenya Education Management Institute (KEMI) in Nairobi. The training covered critical areas including financial management, university procurement processes, balancing academic work with leadership duties, mental health awareness, and communication protocols.



THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

SGC VICE-CHAIRPERSON ELECTED GLOBAL YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE

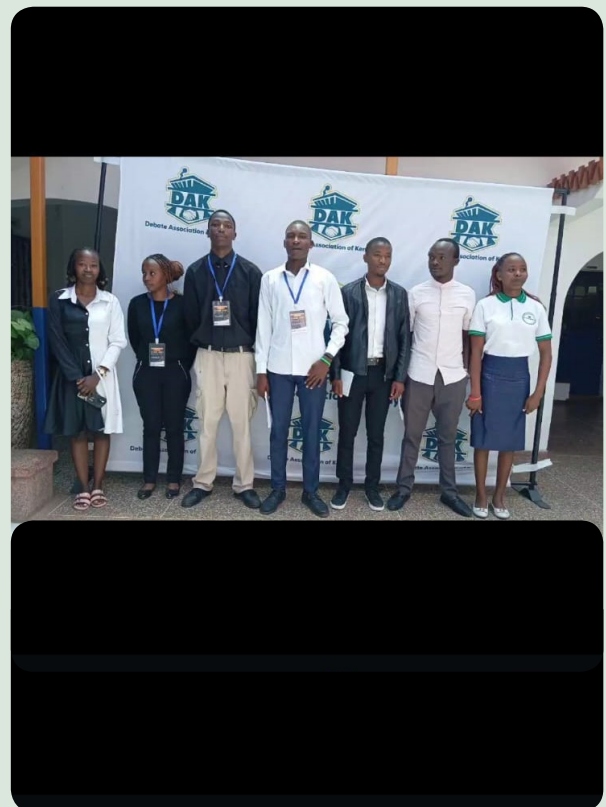
In a landmark achievement for the university, **SGC Vice-Chairperson Vivian Kinya** has been elected as the International Youth Representative under the prestigious Duke of Edinburgh Award. Ms. Kinya emerged victorious from a pool of 300 global candidates, becoming one of only five representatives from Africa and one of just eight youth worldwide who will serve in this capacity from 2025 to 2028.

STUDENTS COUNCIL ENGAGES IN NATIONAL DISCOURSE

The new SGC has already begun representing student interests at a national level. Three student leaders, alongside the Dean of Students, attended a HELB consultative forum at Dedan Kimathi University on April 4, 2025. This forum, part of a nationwide public participation exercise directed by the court regarding the new funding model, allowed students to contribute to the critical discussion on university financing.

Furthermore, the university's commitment to broader youth issues was demonstrated by the attendance of the Director for Special Needs, Gender, and IR at a meeting in Nyeri on May 23, 2025. The event, organized by the Nyeri County Government, focused on discussing health progress for Adolescents and Young People (AYP).

The 2024/2025 SGC commenced its term with a strong foundation of training and early achievements, positioning it as a proactive advocate for the Karatina University student body.



Workshop Galvanizes Students Against Drug Abuse



In a powerful move to combat the rising challenge of substance abuse among the youth, Karatina University hosted a highly impactful Drug and Substance Abuse (DSA) Sensitization Workshop for its student body on Thursday, 7th November, 2024.

The event, a collaborative effort between the university's DSA committee, the Office of the Dean of Students, and facilitated by experts from the National Authority for the Campaign Against Alcohol and Drug Abuse (NACADA), served as a crucial platform for education, awareness, and a collective call to action.

Speaking on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Linus M. Gitonga, the Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Planning, Finance & Administration, Professor Kellen Kiambati, set a resolute tone for the day. She urged students to recognize their personal and collective responsibility in fostering a safe and supportive campus environment.

"The university's commitment extends beyond academic excellence to ensure the holistic development of students," Prof. Kiambati emphasized. "A healthy, aware, and united student body is integral to achieving your fullest potential."

A key highlight of the workshop was the official introduction of the university's new Substance

Crisis Response Centre. This pioneering initiative is designed to provide immediate support, counseling, and resources for students grappling with substance use crises, signaling the institution's proactive approach to student welfare.

NACADA representatives provided critical insights, shedding light on emerging drug use trends among Kenyan youth. They detailed the significant risk factors and the profound bio-psychosocial effects that substance abuse can have on young lives, equipping students with the knowledge to make informed decisions.

The session took a deeply personal turn when Ms. Silvia Rodrigues, a facilitator from the World Academy for the Future of Women, shared a candid and moving personal testimony related to substance abuse. Her story of overcoming challenges served as a powerful beacon of hope and resilience, deeply resonating with the attentive audience.

More than just a seminar, the workshop was a clear call to action. It underscored Karatina University's unwavering commitment to building a compassionate and vigilant community, prioritizing the health, well-being, and positive transformation of every student.



Empowering the Next Generation of Young Women with Knowledge and Confidence

In a powerful move to bolster the confidence and well-being of young women, a collaborative outreach program visited Ihwagi Secondary School on Thursday 6th March, 2025, delivering crucial lessons on health, hygiene, and self-esteem.

The event, organized by the World Academy for the Future of Women (WAFW) and the Girls Empowerment, Mentoring, and Sanitization (G.E.M.S) project, aimed to provide students with the essential tools and knowledge to navigate adolescence with dignity.

The visiting delegation, which included ten peer mentors from the G.E.M.S project, was welcomed by the school's Life Skills Teacher. The session fostered an environment of open dialogue, focusing on critical yet often stigmatized topics. Key discussions included proper menstrual hygiene management, the safe disposal of sanitary products, and the importance of daily hygiene practices.

Moving beyond physical health, the mentors engaged the students in thoughtful conversations about combating negative peer pressure and fostering a positive body image. The core message centered on building self-acceptance, resilience, and unwavering self-confidence.

A dedicated question-and-answer segment allowed students to voice personal concerns in a supportive setting, receiving practical and empathetic guidance from the team.

To ensure the lessons had a lasting impact, each participating student received a comprehensive hygiene care package. The kits contained essential items such as sanitary





pads, deodorant, pocket tissues, toothpaste, face towels, and lotions, providing tangible support for their daily needs.

School officials praised the initiative, noting its significance in breaking down barriers and equipping young girls with vital resources. The resounding success of the visit at Ihwagi Secondary School marks a promising start, with WAFW and GEMS announcing plans to extend this empowering program to more schools in the region, committed to building a brighter, more confident future for all young women.

First All-Women Leadership Academy Graduation



Karatina University etched its name in the annals of leadership development on 1st July 2025 as it celebrated the landmark graduation of the inaugural cohort of the World Academy for the Future of Women (WAFW). The ceremony marked not only a first for the University but also the very first WAFW graduation in Kenya and across Africa.

The event, held at the university's library grounds, was a confluence of joy, pride, and transformative stories. It brought together key partners including the Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB) Foundation, the Africa Leadership Transformation Foundation, international WAFW facilitators, and proud parents.

The journey to this historic moment was traced back by Prof. Kellen Kiambati, Director of Resource Mobilization and WAFW team leader, to a "simple WhatsApp message during the COVID-19 pandemic." Highlighting the program's rapid growth and profound impact, Prof. Kiambati announced a significant evolution: future cohorts will be inclusive of both genders. She also revealed plans for a major summit following the graduation of the third cohort.

The 43 graduates underwent a rigorous curriculum designed to unlock their potential. Through weekly forums, they engaged with critical topics led by experts, including enhancing self-esteem, achieving financial

freedom, navigating toxic relationships, mastering cross-cultural communication, and understanding human rights.

Miss Emma Wangari, one of the pioneer graduates, delivered a moving valedictory speech. "This program has taught me that there is more to life," she said, reflecting on her transformative journey and emphasizing the importance of sustaining the WAFW legacy.

The strong partnership with the KCB Foundation was acknowledged, with representatives applauding the University's commitment to nurturing young leaders. Dr. Daniel Kamanga from the Africa Leadership Transformational Network praised the university's initiative and urged the graduates to apply their knowledge for societal betterment.

Representing the Vice-Chancellor, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Academic Research and Student Affairs, Prof. Franklin Wabwoba, conveyed the university's pride and commitment to continuing its support for the WAFW program.

Jerrie Ueberle, the founder of WAFW who joined virtually, addressed the graduates before they took a solemn oath of leadership, pledging to uphold the program's values. Facilitator Ms. Sandra Perez



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commended the cohort's passion and thanked the university and parents for their unwavering support. The graduation of these 43 young women signifies a

transformational moment for Karatina University and a bold step forward in empowering a new generation of ethical, skilled, and confident leaders ready to shape the future of Africa.

Landlords Forge Pact for Student Welfare



In a significant move to address the challenges of a growing off-campus student population, Karatina University on 1st July 2025 convened a major stakeholders' forum with local landlords and hostel owners. The meeting, held on campus, aimed to strengthen partnerships focused on the safety, welfare, and holistic development of the over 10,000 students who reside in the community.

The forum brought together university management, led by Vice Chancellor Prof. Linus M. Gitonga, student leaders, and local landlords for a candid dialogue on shared responsibilities.

In his opening address, Prof. Gitonga highlighted the rapid increase in student numbers and the pressing need for more investment in quality student housing. "This place is yours—you own it," he told the assembled landlords. "Let's walk together to build a supportive environment for our students. We must prepare for the future and treat every student as we would our own child."

Echoing this sentiment, Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, Prof. Franklin Wabwoba, commended the landlords for their support. He encouraged year-round tenancy agreements for mutual benefit and urged compassion towards students facing financial or emotional difficulties. Prof. Wabwoba also stressed the importance of early reporting of concerning behaviors such as drug abuse or mental health struggles.

The meeting yielded several key resolutions, with a strong emphasis on safety and structured support. Landlords were encouraged to equip their properties with basic firefighting equipment, ensure professional electrical

wiring, and consider property insurance. There were also calls to improve street lighting and establish a local police post to enhance security.

To improve conflict resolution, the forum emphasized the need for respectful and lawful processes for handling rent arrears and safeguarding students' property during breaks. Proposals were made for a dedicated university emergency hotline and a formal grievance mechanism for landlords.

Further plans include establishing a physical office at the university to facilitate ongoing engagement with landlords and providing orientation on official hostel registration processes. The need for mental health sensitization days and better systems for tracking student movement in and out of hostels was also acknowledged.

Local leaders, including area chiefs and village elders, added their voices, encouraging landlords to take a proactive role in guiding the youth on sensitive issues like drug use and suicide.

In his closing remarks, VC Prof. Gitonga promised to lobby the County Government for enhanced support, including a police patrol vehicle, social workers, and collaborative town infrastructure development. "Let us continue walking together," he stated passionately. "I told you we will build this University until people are shaken. God willing, that day is coming. Let's build for our children."

The meeting marks a pivotal step in transforming Karatina into a safer, more supportive university town, built on a foundation of collaboration between the institution and the community it calls home.

NACADA EMPOWER YOUTH IN DRUG PREVENTION

Karatina University and NACADA Empower Youth in Landmark Drug Prevention Workshop

In a significant move to combat substance abuse among young people, Karatina University, in partnership with the National Authority for the Campaign Against Alcohol and Drug Abuse (NACADA), successfully hosted a three-day intensive workshop focused on engaging youth in drug use prevention.

The event, held at the university's main campus under the theme "Engaging Youth in Drug Use Prevention,"



brought together students, staff, and NACADA officials for a series of powerful discussions, training sessions, and collaborative action planning.

Officially opening the workshop, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Franklin Wabwoba commended NACADA for selecting the university as a strategic partner. He urged students to be cautious and resist negative peer pressure, stating, "Just because everyone is doing it, you don't have to do it." He reaffirmed the university's commitment to fostering a safe, supportive, and drug-free environment for students to thrive.



The workshop curriculum was comprehensive and interactive, designed to equip students with practical skills. Key areas covered included: The pivotal role of youth as change agents in reducing drug demand; Peer-to-peer mentorship and leadership in prevention initiatives; Identifying early warning signs of substance abuse and strategies for intervention; Building essential life skills like resilience, critical decision-making, and positive influence; and Developing actionable plans for student-led anti-drug activities on campus and in surrounding communities.

Sessions were highly participatory, featuring experience sharing, group discussions, and role-playing exercises. NACADA representatives emphasized the urgent need to meaningfully involve youth in national anti-drug strategies, noting that prevention is far more sustainable and cost-effective than rehabilitation.

The workshop concluded with a powerful call to action for every participant to become a champion of drug prevention, extending their influence beyond the university to their families, neighborhoods, and future workplaces.

The event underscores Karatina University's ongoing mission to inspire innovation and leadership for sustainable development by producing innovative, responsible, and visionary graduates.

Student Empower

Dedicated to the Holistic Development of Our Student Body

The academic year has been a landmark period for student wellness at the university, with the Counseling Section and its dedicated team of Peer Counselors spearheading a diverse array of initiatives aimed at promoting mental, emotional, and physical well-being across the campus community.

The commitment to student care was evident in a packed calendar of events, ranging from large-scale advocacy campaigns to intimate support groups and professional development workshops.

Taking a Stand: Advocacy and Awareness

The university community came together in a powerful display of solidarity to mark the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence. On November 29th, the Counseling Section and Peer Counselors organized a symbolic walk across campus, raising awareness and championing a culture of respect and safety for all students.

Further strengthening the support network, a sensitization workshop on Healthy Relationships and Family Planning was held on February 11th, providing students with essential knowledge for building positive interpersonal connections.

Combating one of the most pressing issues facing youth, the university partnered with the National Authority for the Campaign Against Alcohol and Drug Abuse (NACADA) and the Substance Use Crisis Response Centre (SUCRE) to host a crucial Drug Use Prevention training from May 7th to 9th. This initiative was complemented by a seminar on the same topic at the Presbyterian University of East Africa (PUEA) on February 8th, which included empowering young leaders to drive change in their communities.

Building a Resilient Community

Recognizing the importance of mental health, the university hosted a monumental Mental Health and Emotional Well-Being Forum on April 10th, in collaboration with the Kenya Red Cross Society, Nyeri Chapter. The event, held at the University Runda Grounds, attracted an impressive 800 students who engaged in wellness activities and talks designed to destigmatize mental health issues and provide coping strategies.

The university's commitment extends to specific student groups, as seen on April 1st when the Counseling Section met with 110 student mothers to offer tailored psychosocial support and life skills empowerment, acknowledging and addressing their unique challenges.

Investing in Student Leaders, The Peer Counselors

The backbone of the university's wellness outreach, the Peer Counselors, received continuous training and support. Forty new peer counselors underwent essential training on February 2nd, 9th, and 16th, equipping them for their critical roles in client referral and mobilization.

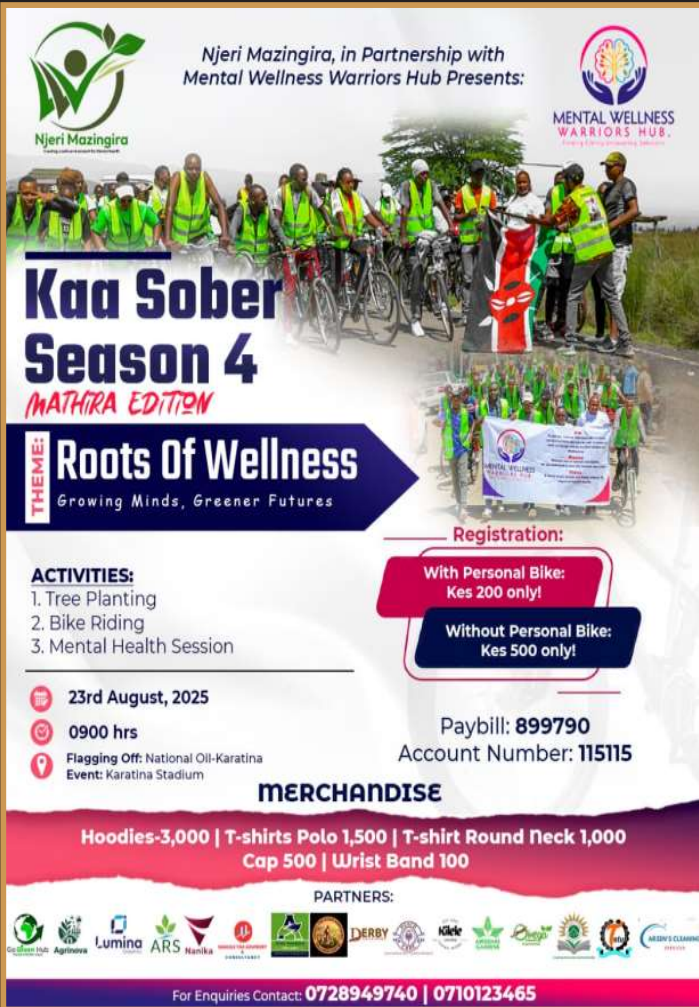
To prevent burnout and foster camaraderie, the counselors participated in not one, but two team-building exercises at the Mau Mau Caves in Marua. The first was held on April 8th, and a second followed on November 12th, 2024, designed to motivate the team and manage the stresses of their extra responsibilities.

The professional development extended beyond campus, with two student counselors attending the Kenya Universities Professional Counselors Association (KUPCA) workshop at Pwani University from March 5th-7th to discuss mental health strategies for university staff and students nationwide.

This year's expansive wellness program underscores the university's proactive and holistic approach to student care, ensuring that every student has the support and resources needed to thrive both academically and personally.

ment Initiatives

Positive Mind advocacy



Njeri Mazingira, in Partnership with Mental Wellness Warriors Hub Presents:

Kaa Sober Season 4
MATHIRA EDITION

THEME: Roots Of Wellness
Growing Minds, Greener Futures

ACTIVITIES:

1. Tree Planting
2. Bike Riding
3. Mental Health Session

Registration:

- With Personal Bike: Kes 200 only!
- Without Personal Bike: Kes 500 only!

23rd August, 2025
0900 hrs
Flagging Off: National Oil-Karatina
Event: Karatina Stadium

Paybill: 899790
Account Number: 115115

MERCHANDISE

Hoodies-3,000 | T-shirts Polo 1,500 | T-shirt Round Neck 1,000
Cap 500 | Wrist Band 100

PARTNERS:

For Enquiries Contact: **0728949740 | 0710123465**



Sports



Roundup



KARATINA UNIVERSITY STAFF PUBLICATIONS

2025 Brief

The 2025 publication list showcases a diverse and robust research output across multiple disciplines, including agriculture, environmental science, education, business, health, technology, and social sciences. The publications also include a book, book chapter, journal articles, and conference papers, reflecting both local and international collaborations.

Key Research Themes

Agriculture & Food Security

- Studies on potato farming systems, disease management (e.g., bacterial wilt, cyst nematode), and pest control.
- Research on banana production, common bean breeding, and the use of botanical extracts for crop protection.

Environmental Science & Conservation

- Multiple studies on soil organic carbon, land use impacts, and climate change.
- Wildlife conservation efforts, including elephant behavior, road mortality, and fire management in African ecosystems.
- Water quality assessments in lakes, rivers, and streams.

Education & Social Sciences

- Investigations into blended learning, teacher preparedness, school governance, and technology in education.
- Studies on workplace violence, legislative processes, gender orientation in schools, and public policy.

Health & Food Safety

- Research on medicinal plants, microbial contamination of street foods, and the health benefits of docosapentaenoic acid.

- Larvicidal properties of plant extracts against malaria vectors.

Technology & Innovation

- Applications of AI and deep learning in crop disease detection and consumer behavior.
- Advances in digital soil mapping, holography, and biosensor technology for malaria detection.

Business & Economics

- Studies on financial literacy, micro-insurance, revenue diversification in banking, and tourism performance.
- Explorations of service innovation, competitive strategy, and public-private partnerships.

Interdisciplinary & Collaborative Research

- Several publications involve international co-authors and cross-institutional collaborations, particularly in ecology, climate science, and mathematics.

Notable Highlights

- High-impact journals such as *Nature Sustainability*, *Plant Physiology*, and *PLOS One* are represented.
- Several articles are advance online publications, indicating ongoing and timely research.
- A strong focus on local contexts (e.g., Kenyan counties, Mount Kenya region) with global relevance.

Conclusion

Karatina University's 2025 publications reflect a strong commitment to addressing local and global challenges through applied and interdisciplinary research. The work spans traditional and emerging fields, with a clear emphasis on sustainability, innovation, and community impact.

List of Publications 2025

Books

1. Njoki, C., Wanjau, K., & Ayuma, A. (2025). Entrepreneurial marketing. Hidden Legacy Publishers.

Book Chapters

2. Nzilu, D. M., Makhanu, D. S., Madivoli, E. S., Kirui, G., Mwangi, V., & Kareru, P. G. (2025). Overview of medicinal plants-mediated bio-nanoparticles:

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Classes are undertaken on Full time or Part time basis as follows:

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The Registrar (Academic Affairs)
P.O. Box 1957-10101, Karatina, Kenya
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