

KARATINA UNIVERSITY HOSTS GREEN CAREERS CARAVAN TO INSPIRE STUDENT INNOVATION

Karatina University, through the Directorate of Research, Innovation and Extension, hosted the Green Careers Caravan (GCC) on Tuesday, 13 October 2026, providing students with an opportunity to explore career pathways in the green economy and learn how to turn innovative ideas into viable business ventures. In attendance were staff and students drawn from the University's seven schools, who participated in an engaging programme featuring discussions on the green economy, interactive activities, quizzes and practical innovation sessions.

Chancellor, Planning, Finance and Administration, Prof. Richard Kiai, speaking on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, welcomed the initiative, which aligns with the University's commitment to nurturing innovation, entrepreneur-



The Deputy Vice Chancellor Planning, Finance and Administration addressing the audience during the Green Careers Caravan.

A key highlight was an ideation session in which students worked in groups to identify challenges and develop innovative solutions. The session culminated in team presentations, giving participants an opportunity to communicate their ideas and gain experience in presenting potential solutions.

Through the greenlabs activities, students were introduced to the process of developing ideas, identifying opportunities and exploring how solutions to environmental and societal challenges can be transformed into sustainable enterprises. The programme encouraged students to view challenges in areas such as renewable energy, waste management and the circular economy as opportunities for innovation and entrepreneurship.

Students were also introduced to the Green Careers Caravan Innovation Challenge, which provides a pathway for young innovators to develop their ideas further through learning, mentorship and incubation opportunities. The



A section of the students during the Green Careers Caravan workshop

The event was organised by Jacob's Ladder Africa (JLA), in strategic partnership with the African Development Bank's Ennova Africa, through its greenlabs initiative. The caravan aims to bridge the gap between higher education and the growing green economy by equipping young people with relevant skills, entrepreneurial knowledge and opportunities to develop solutions to real-world challenges.

In his official opening remarks, the Deputy Vice-

initiative also offers participants opportunities to engage through the Ennova Africa online platform, enabling students to continue learning and participating beyond the campus activation.



The students in groups during the ideation session developing ideas

The Green Careers Caravan forms part of broader efforts to prepare young people for emerging opportunities in the green economy while encouraging entrepreneurship and the development of solutions that contribute to sustainable development. Through partnerships with industry and development organisations, Karatina University continues to provide students with opportunities to connect classroom learning with practical experiences, innovation and emerging career pathways.



The team poses for a group photo with student representatives from all the schools.

KARATINA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS SHOWCASE BUSINESS IDEAS AT ACCESS INNOVATION BOOTCAMP

Karatina University students are showcasing their entrepreneurial potential at the ACCESS Student Clubs Business Innovation Bootcamp 2026, a five-day programme running from 11 to 15 October 2026 in Nairobi. The event is held under the theme “*Innovate for Impact: Sustaining Kenyan MSMEs through SDG 9*,” the bootcamp brings together students from ten universities in the ACCESS 2.0 consortium to develop innovative business ideas and explore solutions that support the growth and sustainability of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Kenya.

The programme is funded by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and led by the Director Resource Mobilization and International Programmes Prof. Kellen Kiambati and Prof. Lucy Ndegwa. This initiative has provided a platform for students to strengthen their entrepreneurial skills through practical learning, collaboration and business idea development



A section of our student innovators pose for a photo with the Ag. Director Research Innovation and extension (Centre) Prof. Kellen Kiambati during the boot camp.

During the bootcamp, the students are participating in sessions on business innovation, including pitch practice and pitch crafting, which equip them with skills to communicate their ideas effectively and develop viable business concepts. The focus on SDG 9, which promotes industry, innovation and infrastructure, highlights the role of young in-

novators in developing solutions that enhance enterprise growth, resilience and sustainable economic development.



The University's participation reinforces the importance of student-led innovation in advancing sustainable development and strengthening Kenya's entrepreneurial ecosystem.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Directorate of Career Services, University-Industry Linkages and Alumni Affairs is calling on students to register for the 6th Start-Up Expo 2026! This annual innovation and entrepreneurship event brings together students from Karatina University and other invited universities to showcase their innovative ideas and develop creative solutions.

The Start-Up Expo provides a platform to turn your ideas into viable solutions and present them to industry leaders, potential investors, mentors, coaches and judges. You will gain exposure, networking opportunities and new skills, with a chance to have your innovations recognised and rewarded.

Ready to showcase your innovation? Scan the QR code to register or click the link below: <https://forms.gle/yWRJJYqtV6KmFYY99>

Karatina University's participation in the initiative reflects its commitment to nurturing innovation, promoting entrepreneurship and equipping students with practical competencies that extend beyond the classroom. Through platforms such as the ACCESS 2.0 consortium, students gain opportunities to collaborate with peers from other institutions, exchange ideas and develop solutions to real-world challenges affecting businesses and communities.



The students having a moment during the boot camp.



KARATINA UNIVERSITY
Inspiring Innovation and Leadership



ideation



6TH KARU START-UP EXPO 2026

Pitch your idea · Meet investors · Win awards



Team size: 3 – 5 members



Deadline: 6th November, 2026



Scan to register your team



Scan to register

Karatina University

