



# KIBU NEWS

A Monthly Digital Newsletter of Kibabii University

*Week*

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## KIBU Alumni Elect the First Office Bearers



### KNOW YOUR SCHOLAR:

**Meet the Mathematical Dr. Mulambula Andanje – Pg. 9**



- KIBU & ACU WORKSHOP: 27<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2021
- 5<sup>TH</sup> VIRTUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE : 15<sup>TH</sup> – 16<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2021
- WORKSHOP ON GENDER AND THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC : 21<sup>ST</sup> – 22<sup>ND</sup> JULY, 2021



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# VC Leads Varsity in Planting 5,000 Tree Seedlings Donated by Equity Bank

By Meshack Nyambane

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Forests, due to their capacity to act as carbon sinks and by providing key environmental services, are globally recognized as critical in climate change mitigation and adaptation. This capacity is enhanced through conservation, rehabilitation of degraded areas, afforestation, and reforestation. According to the Kenya Forests Service, despite all mitigation efforts, Kenya continues to lose about 12,000 hectares of trees each year through deforestation. It is in this background that President Uhuru Kenyatta gave a directive to the Ministry of Environment and Forestry to draw a roadmap to achieve 10% forest cover by 2022.

Kibabii University, through the Environmental Management and Mainstreaming Committee has over the recent past demonstrated her commitment by planting indigenous trees to achieve the said threshold. To support these efforts, Equity Bank donated 5,000 seedlings to Kibabii University on 16th April, 2021.



The seedlings were handed over to the University by the Regional Manager Customer Service Ms. Albina Ochembo and the Branch Manager Mr. Stephen Wasiche in an occasion that saw part of the seedlings planted at the University's extension land at Sirisia Sub County.

To extend the exercise, the University staff and faculty led by the Vice Chancellor Prof. Isaac Ipara Odeo on 7th May, 2021 embarked on the exercise of planting more trees within the University Main Campus' Sports Complex.

"In years to come, Kibabii University shall be a place to behold, we encourage each one who plants a tree to guard and protect it to its full maturity" said the Chairman of the Environmental Committee Dr. Paul Obino.

In his remarks, the Vice Chancellor appreciated Equity Bank for the worthy donation.

"Bungoma County is one of the most challenged counties in Kenya with Mt. Elgon being degraded towards a susceptible extinction if something urgent is not done. Equity Bank has been one of our faithful partners. This donation is a blessing to us and a testimony of the Bank's commitment to issues that matter to mankind, major one being the environment. We really appreciate them."

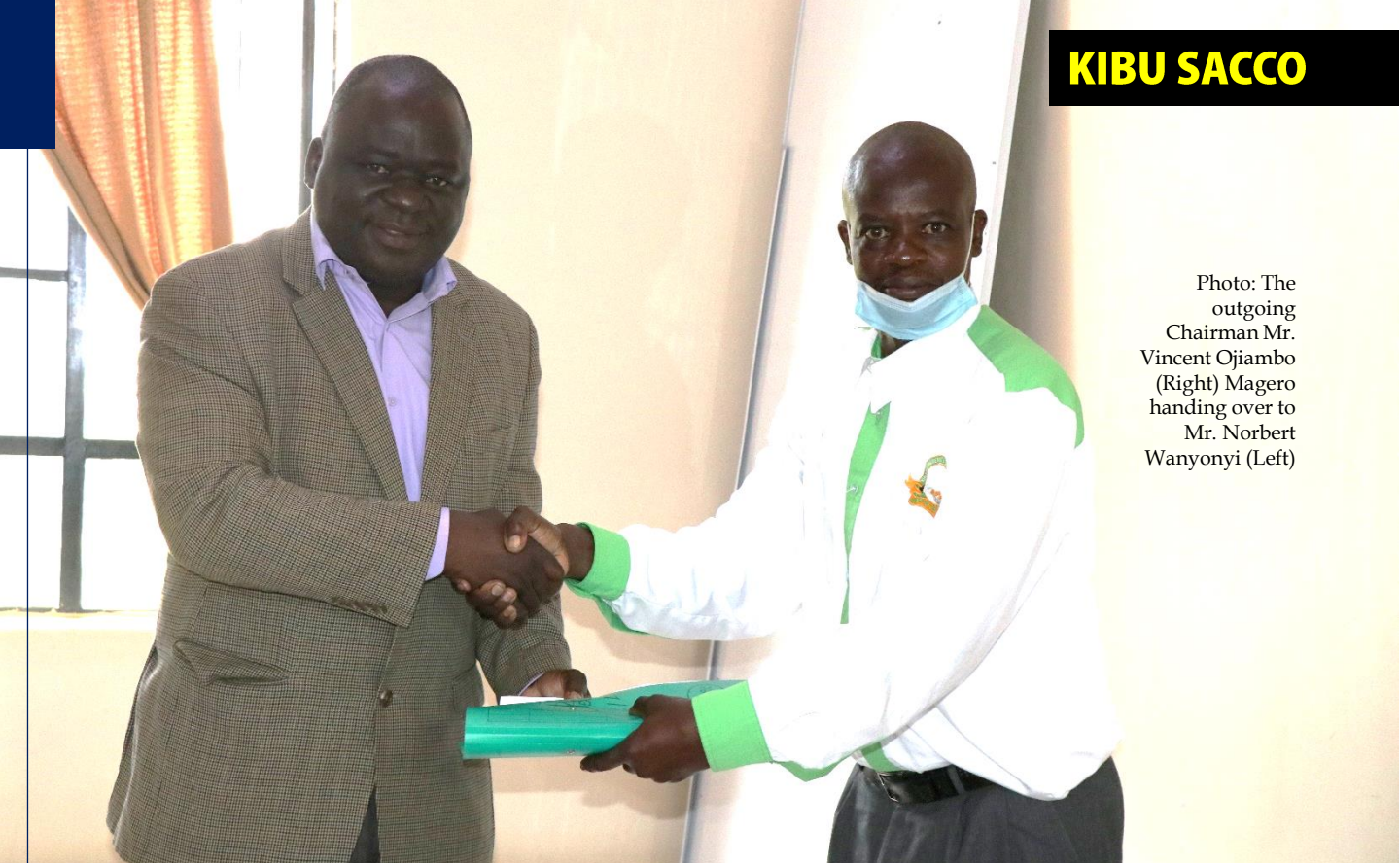
The tree planting exercise shall continue until the current long rains season subsides.

#### IMAGES FROM THE TREE PLANTING EXERCISE





Photo: The outgoing Chairman Mr. Vincent Ojiambo (Right) Magero handing over to Mr. Norbert Wanyonyi (Left)



# Fast-Growing KIBU Sacco Members Elect New Team

By Agnetta Shilasi

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The Kibabii University SACCO (KIBU SACCO) was founded in the year 2013 with a handful of members under the leadership of Ms. Angela Kiveu (Chairperson), Vincent Ojiambo Magero (Vice-chair), Moses Isutsa (Hon. Secretary), and Edwin Chesire (Treasurer).

## KIBU SACCO FOUNDING OFFICIALS (2013-2017)

S/No	NAME	POSITION
1	Ms. Angela Kiveu	Chairman
2	Mr. Vincent Magero	Vice Chairman
3	Mr. Moses Isutsa	Hon. Secretary
4	Mr. Edwin Chesire	Treasurer
5	Mr. David Chebon	Member
6	Mr. Patrick Lumbasi	Member

In the 2017 elections, the SACCO's leadership was taken over by Mr. Vincent Ojiambo Magero to be joined by Mr. Wilfred Nangabo (Vice-chair), Mr. David Chebon (Hon. Secretary) and Annetty Nangila Makokha

(Treasurer). Later, the Treasurer's position was taken over by Ms. Judith Shibu as a result of the exit of Ms. Annety Nangila Makokha who joined a new employer.

### 2017-2021 OFFICIALS

S/No	NAME	POSITION
1	Mr. Vincent Ojiambo Magero	Chairman
2	Mr. Wilfred Nangabo	Vice Chairman
3	Mr. David Chebon	Hon. Secretary
4	Ms. Judith Shibu	Treasurer
5	Mr. Collins Majengo	Member
6	Mr. Patrick Lumbasi	Member
7	Ms. Jackline Wasilwa	Member
8	Mr. Edmond Timbe	Member
9	Ms. Maximilla Mutenyo Makhanu	Member

The team steered the SACCO until April 2021 when the elective positions were declared vacant and a new team was elected on Friday 23rd April 2021.

Today, the SACCO boasts of up to a tune of Ksh. 52 million in deposits and 365 members.

On Monday 5th May 2021, the team of incoming and outgoing officials met in a special gathering for a handing over ceremony. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Vincent Magero, the outgoing Chairman of the SACCO.

In the handing over remarks, the outgoing team encouraged the incoming officials to work in unity and always stand firm and defend the rights of all members of the SACCO.

Mr. Wilfred Nangabo, the Outgoing Vice Chairman & Chair, Projects, Education Committees and System Administrator reported a number of enterprises including the sale of

blankets, SACCO land and sale of branded merchandise. He stated that part of the land has been sold off and members who have fully paid will soon get their title deeds. He however beseeched all land loan defaulters to enhance payment of their balances within a timeframe of not more than 6 months from the date of submission of the 2020 report. He further recommended that the unoccupied plots be amalgamated and a price tag attached to it for possibilities of selling to guarantee future returns for the SACCO.

The outgoing treasurer, Mrs. Judith Shibu who handed over to Mrs. Jackline Wasilwa, advised the new team to always make decisions that they can be remembered for and be proud of even when they shall no longer be in office.

In his handing over report, the outgoing Chairman Mr. Vincent

Ojiambo Magero handed over to Mr. Norbert Wanyonyi. Mr. Magero recommended to the new team to; amend the current bylaws to reflect what was adopted in the recent elections. He also recommended the review of loan policies to make them more attractive and competitive due to competition they face from other financing institutions. He further urged the University to allocate more office space for the SACCO to accommodate the speedy growth of operations.

The incoming SACCO chair, Mr. Norbert Wanyonyi started by thanking the entire team of outgoing and incoming leaders for the good work they had done ensuring a peaceful election and handing over ceremony. He urged the two teams to

work in harmony for the success of the SACCO. He also conveyed his gratitude to the Vice Chancellor and the entire management of Kibabii University for giving space for the SACCO's offices besides providing a conducive working environment as well as timely remittance of SACCO deductions.

The event was crowned by officials from Sub-county cooperate officers, Ms. Mary Muhango who urged members of the SACCO to be patient with their leaders to enable them offer effective services that can propel the SACCO to success. In her opinion, she discouraged the three-year voting period for it causes instability in leadership of the SACCO.

#### **NEW OFFICE BEARERS 2021**

S/No	NAME	POSITION
1	Mr. Nobert Wanyonyi	Chairman
2	Mr. Amos Nyongesa	Vice Chairman
3	Mr. Stephen Sungwacha	Hon. Secretary
4	Ms. Jackline Wasilwa	Treasurer
5	Mr. Samuel Sitati	Chairman, Supervisory
6	Mr. Collins Majengo	Secretary, Supervisory
7	Mr. Chris Okoth	Member
8	Mr. Chrispus Wanjala	Chairman, Credit
9	Ms. Nelly Masayi	Secretary, Credit
10	Mr. MacDonald Timbe	Member
11	Ms. Violet Akala	Secretary, Education
12	Mr. Benard Khaminwa	Member

# School of Computing & Informatics Staff Obtain HCIA-AI Associates Certification



World Bank has estimated that digital transformation will increase growth in Africa by nearly 2% per year and reduce poverty by nearly 1% in Sub-Saharan Africa. Also, UNESCO believes if young Africans are to compete for high-tech, higher-paying jobs and take advantage of increasing opportunities on the continent, then digital literacy, innovation and entrepreneurship must be at the core of continued education and training. In the quest to improving Africa's readiness to fully embrace digital transformation, UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa joined hands with Huawei Technologies (Kenya) Company Limited to organize an online training course on Artificial Intelligence (AI) for university faculty members from ten countries in Eastern Africa.

The week-long training (17-21 August 2020) which was part of the priority areas of collaboration defined in a letter of intent signed between UNESCO and Huawei at the TECH4ALL Summit held in 2019 at Huawei Connect in Shanghai, China attracted 39 university/college faculty members (including 12 women) nominated by the UNESCO National Commissions from the 10 Eastern African countries.

Out of the entries, Mr. Peter Wawire Barasa (top left) and Paul Oduor Oyile (top right), both of Kibabii University School of Computing and Informatics emerged among the only 6 successful trainees to obtain the coveted Huawei Certified ICT Associate in Artificial Intelligence (HCIA-AI). The staff shall play a central role in providing the most fundamental knowledge on Artificial Intelligence to their students.







# **Mathematically Correct! Dr. Mulambula Andanje**

**Interview by Meshack Nyambane**

*Dr. Mulambula Andanje is the newly appointed University Timetabling Coordinator. He is a lecturer in the Faculty of Science and a spiritual mentor. Read more about him.*

## **Q: Tell us about yourself**

I am happily Married to Rose. We wedded in August 2010 and we are blessed with two sons Abishai and Abishua. I am a saved Christian in-charge of youth and development in my church. I am also the Chairman of Kenya Student Christian Fellowship (KSCF) Kakamega North.

## **Q: Academic journey?**

I started schooling at Kalenda Primary in 1983. I did KCPE exam in 1992 and managed to score 442 marks out of 700 and I was second best pupil in the school. This was a great achievement for me and I was excited that it could land me in a good boarding High school. Unfortunately, things did not work to my expectation. In the first place I did not get any invitation to High school. As if that was not enough, my father then a retired primary teacher, battling with diabetes became very sick. The very little money that was available was used for his treatment. My elder brother who was working as a BOG teacher forced me to join as a day scholar at Samitsi Secondary School which is about 5 Km from home. I could not imagine having done well at primary to walk to school daily for 4 years after doing the same for 8 years. I was among the last students to be admitted and I was placed in the third stream F1 West. Surprisingly, I emerged the best in term one exam. This energized me to change my attitude that I could even do better as a day scholar. I did my KCSE exam in 1996 and attained a grade B plain. Guess what, I was number one in the school. I joined University of Nairobi in 1998. I did a Bachelor of Education (Arts) with Mathematics and Accounting combination. I graduated in December, 2002 with Second Class Honors (Upper Division).



### **Q: How was your career came to light?**

In January 2003, I was employed at Malava Boys High School as a BOG teacher of Mathematics and Accounting. Fortunately, in September, 2004 I was employed by TSC at PAG Magale Secondary School. Apart from teaching I was the Director of Studies, Christian Union Patron and at one point acted as the Deputy Principal. In 2008 I enrolled for my Masters in Applied Mathematics in Kenyatta University and graduated in 2010. I started teaching at Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology (Nambale Study Centre) in 2011 on part-time basis. In 2015, I was very lucky to be employed as a Tutorial Fellow of Applied Mathematics by Kibabii University by then it was Kibabii University College (Constituent College of MMUST). I enrolled for my Doctor of Philosophy in Applied Mathematics degree in Kibabii in 2015. Thanks be to God, I graduated on 26th March, 2021. In November, 2020 I was appointed as a coordinator, Kibabii University Timetabling.

### **Q: Congratulations for your appointment. What is the job like and what does the future of timetabling at Kibabii University look like?**

Thanks for the complements. Just like any other job it is quite challenging given that I came in during the Covid-19 pandemic. The University calendar was adversely affected with lock-downs. To bring normalcy amidst anomaly, there is an element of crash programme in terms of preparing teaching and exam timetables. But all the same it requires a lot of keenness, patience and endurance. Once the ERP system will be tailored to take into consideration all the necessary aspects of timetabling then it will be very easy to prepare timetables in future.

### **Q: Mathematics is associated with innovation. As a scholar of vast experience in teaching, what have been your contributions or proposals to ensure that the graduates you produce are well endowed with the practical aspects of mathematics?**

One important aspect is that students must understand well the existing concepts in Mathematics for them to cultivate innovation and creativity. I ensure I plan my lessons well in advance so that my mode of presentation is simple enough to help them not only get the knowledge but also feel encouraged to do more on their own. I have also been helping the students during projects in the area of modeling whereby they are able to apply the mathematical concepts to real life situations.

### **Q: In the teaching of mathematics, how regular is the curriculum review done and what your view on this?**

The curriculum review is done after 3 years. The review passes several stages and therefore during the process, more time should be dedicated for it. This should include taking into consideration the current societal and industry needs. It should also help the graduates to be create their own job opportunities through self-employment.

### **Q: The recently released KCSE and KCPE results indicate a significant improvement in the performance of girls. Is it an indicator that girls today are excelling in the compulsory science subjects than before?**

In the recent years, it is true girls have done quite well in national exams. In addition, they are excelling in the compulsory science subjects than before.

The journey to bring up the girl child started long ago. We are now in the era of reaping the fruits. This has been possible because there is great support of girl child especially from the government and other well-wishers. We have seen girls being provided with sanitary towels and other basic needs which used to be an issue in the past making them to underperform. The girls too have role models the likes of Martha Karua, Charity Ngilu and Amina Mohamed among others who have inspired the girls to excel. In addition, the policy that pregnant students should be



## Know your Scholar

encouraged to continue with learning has helped many to do national exams and perform well unlike in the past when they were stigmatized. Last and arguably the most important, the girls rarely indulge themselves in diversionary issues e.g., gambling like their male counterparts. This has helped more girls to concentrate on academics hence excelling.

### **Q: Have you participated in writing successful grant winning proposals?**

Yes, I wrote a research proposal which earned me a grant from National Research Fund in 2017 to pursue PhD in Applied Mathematics at Kibabii University.

### **Q: What effort is needed in such proposals?**

One needs to know when grant is advertised. You must be aware that you are in a competition because several people are applying for it. For that matter you must follow instructions or specifications given. Also, you need to read other people's proposals which won them grants like mine to be acquainted with the right direction about proposal writing. For more information you may be required to attend seminars and workshops which are always organized by the university to train scholars on proposal writing to get grants. I want to challenge younger scholars writing proposals to be aware of the availability of the grants. They should also keep on applying even if they missed in the past.

### **Q: You have demonstrated your leading role a spiritual leader for learners in your previous teaching role especially at Basic Education level. What do you feel is the role of spiritual affiliations in higher education?**

The spiritual affiliations in higher education are of great importance to learners. It helps a lot in offering guiding and counseling to students, spiritual nourishment, upholds good morals, deters drug abuse among many other benefits. University students should seek mentorship from spiritual leaders within the University.



**ABOVE: DR. ANDANJE COULDN'T HIDE THE JOY OF SHARING A MOMENT WITH HIS FAMILY DURING HIS GRADUATION FROM KIBU IN MARCH 2021**  
(Photo/ Courtesy)

## Improving performance in science subjects in Secondary Schools Inevitable

*By Joseck Olukusi Alwala*

The word science came from Latin “*Scientia*” meaning knowledge. It refers to a system of acquiring knowledge. This system uses observation and experimentation to describe and explain natural phenomenon. It is science and technology that will have an impact on the world by solving problems. The 2020 KCSE results have revealed that there is no harmonious balance between arts subjects and science subjects. Science subjects were performed poorly. This should be a wakeup call to protagonists in the Education sector including the University and Technical colleges which produce teachers that teach in secondary schools. Universities should have a balance in both art subjects and science subjects while training teachers because it is evident that most science teachers lack the required content to pass across to the young learners.

Educationists will argue that the factors that influence poor performance in sciences are ; Inadequate number of teachers, Lack of teaching and learning materials, poor teaching methods and students' attitudes towards science subjects.

However, the few teachers present should help the pupils to build on the ideas that they bring to lessons, direct their own learning, support pupils to retain and retrieve knowledge, use practical work as part of a learning sequence, develop scientific vocabulary and use structured feedback.

Teachers who have qualified with a least B.Ed. certificate should be employed to teach the basic science at secondary school level because they know the key concepts in science. In addition, laboratory facilities in secondary schools must be available. Government should put in place strong principles and policies that would help to enhance science education.

Emphasis should be laid on practical aspects of science and teachers should endeavor to make use of local materials required for effective teaching of science at the same time Board of Management should ensure regular allowances for science teachers, pay them well so that they can be motivated to impacts the best knowledge at their disposal.

A good trained teacher should understand that learning through self-discovery is the best way to science thus he/she must assist students in developing their science vocabularies and also teach them how to apply what has been learnt to new situation which will serve as evaluation tools. Furthermore, students must be assisted by their teachers to improve their interest of studying science through raising questions that can be solved in the class.

*Joseck Olukusi Alwala, Head of Chemistry Laboratories, Kibabii University, and Organizing Secretary, Kenya Chemical Society, Western Chapter*





# Correlation of Crime and Media

*By Sebastian Okello Wang'ombe*

Crime and criminal justice presentations in print and electronic media; media and crime prevention and control; how media constructions of crime influence and shape historical and contemporary perceptions of crime and justice issues cannot be ignored in the current world. Pick up today's newspaper and look at the local television schedule. Note the number of shows that deal with committing or fighting crime. Next turn to the movie listings and do the same. Check out an internet news site and count the number of crime-and-justice stories. Do the same with the evening's televised local and international news programs. If you are reading a novel, is crime or a criminal an important element of the story? Count how many of your e-mails,

mobile communications, social media or blog postings refer to crime or criminal trials. Finally, note what people talked about at work or school yesterday and today. How often are crimes and justice issues discussed? It's no doubt much of your television and movies, your written and television news, your pleasure reading, your internet content, your electronic communications, and your personal conversations involve crime-and-justice issues. In fiction and fact, crimes, criminals, investigations, and trials run our media. Crime and justice have always provided a substantial portion of the media's raw material. Criminal trials and heinous crimes, along with their victims, investigators, judges, attorneys, and citizens provide the popular crime-and-justice stories, which are packaged and marketed.

The images, ideas, and narratives that dominate the media influence how people think about crime and justice. The behaviors we think should be criminalized; who we feel should be punished; what the punishments should be; and how we think the police, judges, attorneys, correctional officers, criminals, and victims should act are all influenced by the media.

However, the fact that a contentious relationship exists between media and criminal justice is not the most important reason to examine the correlation of crime and the media. The most important effect of this marriage is on criminal justice policy. The media have had important effects on criminal justice policy all over the world for a long time. For example, the book *Uncle Tom's Cabin* had an effect on slave laws in the mid-1800s, the film *I Am a Fugitive* from a Chain Gang affected U.S. correctional practices in the 1930s. That ability has risen to new heights. Today we live in a criminal justice policy era where media renditions frequently drive crime-and-justice practices at blinding speed.

Print media was the first medium to generate a mass market. The early papers portrayed crime as the result of class inequities and often discussed justice as a process manipulated by the rich and prominent. They frequently contained due process arguments and advocated due process reforms while presenting individual crimes as examples of larger social and political failings. By the twentieth century, magazines focusing on crime, sex scandals, corruption, sports, glamour, and show business all flourished. In sound media category, first delivered and mass-marketed via radio networks, pure audio media have evolved from vinyl records to 8-track tapes, to compact discs, to MPI files, and other digital forms. Sound media are obviously neither print nor visual, but they bridge the two by delivering information in a linear fashion akin to print while evoking mental images and emotions analogous to visuals. In the 1920s, radio networks dominated as the home entertainment and information medium. Despite coexisting with film, radio portrayals of criminality were different. The primary difference being, of course, that violence could only be heard, not seen. Their impact should not be underestimated however.

As Orson Wells discovered after his 1938 War of the Worlds radio broadcast caused social panic, for some, "hearing is believing." On the entertainment side, radio drama, particularly at its height during the 1930s and 1940s, included a substantial and popular—though never a dominant—proportion of crime-fighting, detective, and suspense programming. This still influenced the way people thought about criminality.



ABOVE: Man raising his fist during a protest for Black Lives Matter in Paris. Photo/Thomas de LUZE

However, on positive side, media plays a major part in crime control. Firstly, through anticrime advertising, programs of various types all have the ability to elicit socially valued behaviors from children and adolescent viewers. In contrast to the bulk of negative assessments of commercial television programming, it was concluded that properly designed television programs can have beneficial effect especially through anticrime advertisements. Currently available research indicates that the media appear best able to deter offenders involved in victimless crimes such as drug abuse by increasing their fear of health and social consequences rather than through increasing their fear of punishment by running offender deterrent adverts. Furthermore, media programs aimed at reducing victimization, usually by teaching and encouraging crime prevention techniques are popular on print and visual media.



## Scholarly Opinion

Citizen-cooperation ads aim to increase the level of crime-related information made available to law enforcement by the public. These use reenactments of crimes to obtain information (tips) through anonymous phone calls and reward money. The logic is the same as the “Most Wanted” reward posters of the nineteenth century. The “Ten Most Wanted” posters traditionally displayed in post offices, now also digitally distributed via the Internet. Getting images and descriptions of wanted suspects and unsolved crimes out to as many people as possible and enticing reluctant citizens with monetary rewards increases the prospects for solving crimes and apprehending suspects.

In the judicial system, visual records of arraignments, first appearances, bond hearings, and pleas have proven inexpensive and useful. A single memory device can hold thousands of cases and provide a permanent record that can be consulted should the state of mind of a defendant, his or her comprehension of rights or instructions, or the voluntary nature of a plea later be questioned. A videotape record is felt to provide more objective, fuller accounts of interactions

between police, witnesses, and suspects, as well as evidence regarding the voluntariness of statements, suspects’ understanding of their rights, police coercion and interrogation practices, and the physical and mental condition of suspects.

“You watched TV. Now it watches you” neatly summarizes the expected future and concerns regarding modern surveillance especially the CCTV application. The police surveillance stakeout has a long history and has traditionally been an accepted part of police investigations. Surveillance applications based on media technology have been in use for a number of years. Contemporary media technology has also changed the nature of surveillance from on scene, limited human observers and whatever notes they might produce to the automated technological interception, recording, and transmittal of immense amounts of information. At the most basic level, crime, justice, and the media have to be correlated together because in twenty-first-century they are inseparable, wedded to each other in a forced marriage. They cohabit in an unavoidable strident and riotous relationship.

*Sebastian Okello Wang’ombe is a Security and Risk Assessment Expert and Tutorial Fellow in the Department of Criminology and Social Work at Kibabii University.*



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## Public Advice on Covid-19 Vaccines

By Amos Nyongesa | [anyongesa@kibu.ac.ke](mailto:anyongesa@kibu.ac.ke)

The world is in the midst of a COVID-19 pandemic. As WHO and other partners work together on the response and tracking of the pandemic, advising on critical interventions, distributing vital medical supplies to those in need, they are also racing to develop and deploy safe and effective vaccines.

Vaccines save millions of lives each year. Vaccines work by training and preparing the body's natural defenses i.e. the immune system that is able to recognize and fight off the viruses and bacteria they target. After vaccination, if the body is later exposed to those disease-causing germs, the body is immediately ready to destroy them, preventing illness/disease.

There are several safe and effective vaccines that prevent people from getting seriously ill or dying from COVID-19. This is one part of managing COVID-19, in addition to the main preventive measures of staying at least 1 metre away from others, covering a cough or sneeze in your elbow, frequently cleaning your hands, wearing a mask and avoiding poorly ventilated rooms or opening a window.

As of 8th April 2021, WHO had evaluated and approved the following vaccines against COVID-19 had met the necessary criteria for safety and efficacy:

- AstraZeneca/Oxford vaccine
- Johnson and Johnson
- Moderna
- Pfizer/BionTech

Take whatever vaccine is made available to you first, even if you have already had COVID-19. It is important to be vaccinated as soon as possible once it's your turn and not to wait. Approved COVID-19 vaccines provide a high degree of protection against severe manifestation of the disease and death from the disease, although no vaccine is 100% protective.



### **Who Should Get Vaccinated?**

The COVID-19 vaccines are safe for most people 18 years and older, including those with pre-existing conditions of any kind, including auto-immune disorders. These conditions include: hypertension, diabetes, asthma, pulmonary, liver and kidney disease, as well as chronic infections that are stable and controlled.

### **Who Should Not Be Vaccinated?**

It is advised that the following groups of people should NOT be vaccinated:

- People with a compromised immune system
- Expectant mothers
- Those with a history of severe allergies, particularly to a vaccine (or any of the ingredients in the vaccine)
- Those that are severely ill
- Children (below 18yrs) at the moment.

### **Common Side Effects**

In most cases, minor side effects are normal. Common side effects after vaccination, which indicate that a person's body is building protection to COVID-19 infection include:

- Arm soreness
- Mild fever
- Tiredness
- Headaches
- Muscle or joint aches

### **What You Should Do and Expect After Getting Vaccinated**

- Stay at the place where you get vaccinated for at least 15 minutes afterwards, just in case you have an unusual reaction, so health workers can help you.
- Check when you should come in for a second dose. Most of the vaccines available are two-dose vaccines. Check with your care provider whether you need to get a second dose and when you should get it. Second doses help boost the immune response and strengthen immunity.

Contact your healthcare provider if there is redness or tenderness (pain) where you got the shot that increases after 24 hours, or if side effects do not go away after a few days.

If you experience an immediate severe allergic reaction to a first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, you should not receive additional doses of the vaccine.

Taking painkillers such as paracetamol before receiving the COVID-19 vaccine to prevent side effects is not recommended. This is because it is not known how painkillers may affect how well the vaccine works. However, you may take paracetamol or other painkillers if you do develop side effects such as pain, fever, headache or muscle aches after vaccination.

Even after you are vaccinated, keep taking precautions because the COVID-19 vaccine will prevent serious illness and death, but we still don't know the extent to which it keeps you from being infected and passing the virus on to others. The more we allow the virus to spread, the more opportunity the virus has to change.

The public is advised to continue to taking actions to slow and eventually stop the spread of the virus:

- Keep at least 1 metre from others
- Wear a mask, especially in crowded, closed and poorly ventilated settings.
- Clean your hands frequently
- Cover any cough or sneeze in your bent elbow
- When indoors with others, ensure good ventilation, such as by opening a window.



A section of new office bearers pose for a photo with the Chair of the KIBUAA Electoral Commission and Returning Officer Prof. Samuel Mbugua

## Six Positions Unopposed, as Billy Wekola Is Elected KIBU Alumni Association Chairman

By Emmanuel Wamalwa | [emmanuelwamalwa942@gmail.com](mailto:emmanuelwamalwa942@gmail.com)

Kibabii University Alumni Association on Friday, May 14, 2021 held her long awaited election that was meant to cement the leadership realm in a bid to make the Association back in action again after being in limbo for years when it was still under the motherhood of Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology (MMUST).

The Event was graced by Kibabii University's icons, Chair of the KIBUAA Electoral Commission and Returning Officer Prof. Samuel Mbugua, Dean of Students and Deputy Returning Officer Dr. Alice Mutai, Deputy Returning Officer Dr. Robert Wafula, Mr. Noah Wafula, the Chairman of the Commissioners from the Alumni Association's corridor, and other observers.

Mr. Wafula, the Chairman of the Commissioners from the Alumni Association, confirmed to the KIBUA

Electoral Commission that some aspirants appeared unopposed, paving way for the contest of only one position, the Chairmanship of the Association, which featured three aspirants, Mr. Wekola Billy, Mr. Mosioma Elijah and Mr. Tonny Barasa with the latter stepping down the last minute.

Prof. Mbugua declared the voting time to commence at 0900 hours after voters turned up despite the low entry under strict adherence to the Ministry of Health protocols that were reinforced with help of the security personnel.

While addressing the audience after the voting and counting had come to an end, Prof. Mbugua noted that the new Chairman of KIBU Alumni Association as well as other officials will be sworn in to office later in the presence of the legal team, an event that will be graced by the Vice Chancellor Prof. Isaac Ipara Odeo on a later date that



will be made public.

Mr. Billy Wekola won the Chairman position with 19 votes against his opponent Mr. Mosioma Elijah who got 2 votes. There were no spoilt votes.

On his end, the In-Charge Office of Career Services Dr. Wafula educated the incoming leadership, informing them that KIBU Alumni Association is not a political organization but a platform that brings the administration, the Alumni and current students together.

“From 2019 we have been looking forward to this event. Alumni Association is not a political organization but a platform that brings us together to help our brothers and sisters who are feeding from the dustbins. We want to ensure by July this year, that, the endowment fund is running so that we can be able to support Kibabii University needy students in terms of paying their fees, buying them food etc. We need everyone from certificate, diploma, degree and PhD to help us contribute and help

our own students,” Dr. Wafula said.

Dr. Mutai could not hold her joy over the same, sending a direct challenge to the new leadership, which according to her is changing the image of Kibabii University from those who have been ruining it on different social media outlets.

“I have learnt that many students who come from Bungoma County are poor, we need our different inputs to support these students. We also need a change of narrative in leadership, we have seen our students and the community comment negatively about Kibabii University on social media walls, it is now time for you to help us to stop that narrative,” Dr. Mutai said.

She further appreciated the efforts of the interim leadership, confirming that they have drafted a constitution, and switching the focus back to the new chair to lead with wisdom and consultation from the positive inputs and energies around him.

## KIBU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ELECTED OFFICIALS

S/No	NAME	POSITION
1	Billy Wekola	Chairman
2	Yvonne Kariuki	Vice Chairperson
3	Allan Masiza	Treasurer
4	Dr. Daniel Otanga	Secretary General
5	Blasio Omulama	Deputy Secretary General
6	Dennis Barasa	Special Interest
7	Enock Imani	Resource Mobilization



# KIBU Pioneer Journalism Class Thrive in the Industry

Various Kenyan universities and other institutions of higher education are often known for the level of excellence their students achieve in different fields and industries. While the giant universities boast of their many years of existence, the younger ones come to the limelight due to the outstanding productivity and success of their students. Kibabii University continues to celebrate awards accomplished by many of its alumni in various fields. The university's Journalism and Mass Communication alumnus recently bagged a global award in Sports Journalism, a clear indication that indeed Kibabii University is a hotbed of talent.

Stephen Keter (Right), a graduate from the same department, class of 2018 emerged the third in Africa under the Young Reporters Broadcast category during the International Sports Press Association (AIPS) awards for the year 2020. According to the results released by AIPS on their website (<https://www.aipsawards.com>) on Thursday 1st April 2021, Keter's story, 'From Olympian to 'Mama Mboga', a tale of how a veteran athlete who had been



neglected by stakeholders, managed to beat tens of entries in the category to emerge among the top 3 in Africa and top 10 in the world. It was a captivating and encouraging story especially to the youth who should emulate the level of dedication exhibited by the athlete in question.

Mr. Keter currently works with NTV as a Studio Technical Operator in Eldoret but has a keen interest in Sports Journalism. He is just but one of the many alumni of the premier class of Journalism and Mass Communication who are thriving in various media and media-related fields.



Irene Sinoya (Right), a member of the 2018 class works with World Vision as a Communications Officer. She previously worked with Nation Media Group as an intern in Kisumu albeit for a short stint before moving to the International NGO.

Like Sinoya, Queenter Mugweru works with an International NGO dealing with women living with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). Queenter is the Communications and Advocacy Officer at the International Community of Women Living with HIV (Kenya Chapter). Her interest in working with people living with HIV was nurtured well in Kibabii University where she was a peer educator and the female students' representative in the AIDS Control Unit Committee



Another success story of the pioneer class is John Macharia (Right), a former Class Representative who currently works with NTV Eldoret as a Producer. Due to his expertise, he was recruited in 2017 even before his graduation. Derick Ingara who currently trades with the popular betting firm, ODI Bet as a Customer Relations Officer, previously worked as a Producer and Content Creator in several media houses in Bungoma before making a career stake at ODI bet.

Kibabii alumni also dominate many regional media houses, such as West Media (West FM and West TV), Samwel Oyondi rules the airwaves hosting several prime-time radio and TV programs. He doubles as a news anchor and reporter for the station. In the border county of Busia, Japhet Keter is a Producer and Content Creator at the HLC TV with him at the station is Rose Achieng.

In the political arena, the power of Kibabii comrades is greatly felt. Tom Muema is the Digital Communications Officer in Wiper Party. He is also working at the communications desk of the Public Service Commission.



Having acquired the necessary skills, some of the 2018 alumni class ventured into entrepreneurship opening production houses and are now running popular businesses in major towns in the country. A good example is Arthur Kariuki who runs Zion Productions, a go-to events and wedding coverage production house in Nakuru. Jack Waweru worked shortly with TV Magharibi and NTV but currently, he runs Jack Spenser Grafix solutions in Nairobi.

At GBS TV, Kevin Murang'a (Right) dominates the airwaves with his Morning show called Morning Extra that is inclusive of the news segment, newspaper reviews, state of the national political and sports updates. The program is quickly gaining popularity.

Although it's barely 3 years since they graduated and with myriads of challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, the zeal, sprightliness, coupled with the strength of mind showed by most members of the pioneer class is a huge inspiration to the rest of the Journalism fraternity in Kibabii University. The future is indeed brighter!



## Comrades in Business

### Meet Elphas Were, a Student of Education with a Robust Business Acumen

*By Meshack Nyambane*

**"I knew that if I failed I wouldn't regret that, but I knew the one thing I might regret is not trying."**

**-Jeff Bezos,  
founder and CEO  
Amazon**

As you walk through the environs of Tutii market along Chwele-Bungoma highway slightly after Cardinal Otunga Girls High School, a makeshift boutique bursting with multi-colored clothing majorly ladies and kids wear will catch your attention. Behind the displays is a building with two open doors both labelled "M-Pesa" but one is conspicuously a mini bookshop and another, a cereals store that also sells a few poultry products. All these investments evidently pronounce a resilience story of entrepreneurial Elphas Were, a second-year student at Kibabii University pursuing Bachelor of Early Childhood Education.

Elphas 23, hails from Kisa East in Kakamega County. He is a second born in a family of eleven. In 2010, Elphas' father Mr. Joab Kendira, the then sole breadwinner was involved in an almost fatal bodaboda accident involving him and a hit and run lorry that left him for dead. He (the father) would remain in bed for over three years paralyzed, automatically knocking him out of his daily routine. Although senior Kendira is today well and up, he is unable to vend for his family



through his bodaboda business the way he used to do back then. Having sought for justice in vain, he today stays at home counting on his young sons and daughters to guarantee him a restful and comfortable future. In this edition, we meet his son, a student who is striving to beat the odds in the murky waters of business challenged by COVID 19 closures and uncertainty. Read the story of Elphas Were.

### **Q: Tell us about your early school life**

I attended Mushichibulu Primary School until 2014 and later joined Ekatsombero Secondary School in Khwisero Constituency. Here, I used to be a lover of books and my most favorite subjects were History and CRE. I also participated in athletics where I represented my school to the County level. After my father's accident, life became very difficult for us. My mother, who is a subsistence farmer had to provide for all of us clothing, food and medication. It became almost impossible for me to proceed with my secondary school studies because of the school fees. Luckily, Khwisero Constituency through the then MP Hon. Benjamin Andola identified my needy situation and paid my school fees until Form 3. However, the sponsorship lapsed when the MP lost his seat during the 2017 general elections.

As luck may have been, at the same time my elder sister secured a job at a small supermarket in Port Victoria, Busia County. She was able to support me to complete my secondary education and in 2018 and I scored a C+ of 47 points.

### **Q: Congratulations for the good grades despite your struggles. So, what did you do after KCSE?**

After completion, my sister sought an opportunity for me at the supermarket that she was employed. I worked there for two

months but because the company's policy did not allow relatives to work together, I quit with my two months' salary savings. I opened a stationery shop at Port Victoria and that's where my investment journey started.

### **Q: How did you gain interest to join Kibabii University?**

While in my stationery business, I met a friend who got interested in my grades. When I asked him about the best university to join, he did not hesitate to refer me to Kibabii University. He explained to me that young universities do not experience disruptive unrests and that facilities are not overstretched. I have always had thirst to complete my studies in record time and get into formal employment. That is how I made up my mind to choose KIBU.

### **Q: You decided to pursue Early Childhood Education. What was your motivation?**

I have always had a passion for children. I give a lot of attention to babies as low as 1-5 years. When they are happy, I derive a lot satisfaction. I enjoy attending lectures in ECDE especially topics on child development. My mentor is my lecturer Dr. Robert Wafula and I wish to be like him some day.

### **Q: Take us back to your business enterprises.**

When I joined Kibabii University, it became difficult to operate my shop at Busia County. I tried employing someone to carry on the business but the reported profits kept on dwindling. I had to make a bold step to salvage my investment. I transferred the business to Bungoma. Around Kibabii University where we are currently located.

In this business, I sell CBC material, set books and story books, dictionaries and *Kamusi*, printing papers and other kinds of assorted stationery. My main clients are university students and school going children from the nearby primary schools. This forces me to wake

up as early as 4.30 am to cash in on pupils who may want to buy pencils, rubber and such items. Apart from the bookshop, I also run a boutique and also run poultry business. Today, I have an incubator with a 64-egg hatching capacity. I sell chicks and fully grown improved *kienyeji* chicken.

**Q: How do you raise extra money to rapidly expand your business?**

I am a beneficiary of HELB loan and this has been my biggest financier. They pay part of the loan to my school fees and the rest is deposited to my bank account as subsistence. It is this money that I use to invest in my business. Despite the interruptions from COVID 19 closure that almost collapsed my business, I was able to complement earnings from the wide portfolio of products that I deal with. The lesson here is, business is dynamic. Do not rely on one line of investment.

**Q: What is your monthly turnover?**

My business runs all my expenses in campus. After paying all business related and personal expenses, I report a net profit of approximately Ksh. 10,000 which I again plough back to expand the business. My elder sister pays school fees for my sister at Bishop Njenga Girls High School and my brother at Karatina University. I occasionally support them with fare, pocket money and books.

**Q: Any challenge to students in campus?**

Do not eat all your earnings. Try to multiply it even if it means by a small percentage. You can strain at times yes, but those are the challenges of entrepreneurship.



*Above and Below: Elphas poses at his business premises at Tuuti Market*





# **“Let this be the Year of Exercising Academic Freedom”**

**-Prof. Isaac Ipara Odeo  
Vice Chancellor**

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Kibabii University  
P.O. Box 1699-50200 Bungoma, Kenya  
Email: [pr@kibu.ac.ke](mailto:pr@kibu.ac.ke)  
Website: [www.kibu.ac.ke](http://www.kibu.ac.ke)**