



KIBU NEWSLETTER

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KIBU MOURNS WITH KENYATTA UNIVERSITY



INSIDE:

- Know your Icon
- SOKU elections
- Careers & Cultural Week

**NOTE THE
CHANGE IN
DATE**

**Don't
miss it**

CENTRE FOR LANGUAGES & CULTURAL STUDIES

**KEN WALIBORA
INAUGURAL PUBLIC
LECTURE**



9th April, 2024



Auditorium C



9:30am - 1:00pm



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KIBU HOLDS PRAYER SERVICE IN COMMEMORATION OF THE DEPARTED STUDENTS OF KENYATTA UNIVERSITY

By Isaac Manje

A sombre mood engulfed Kibabii University as students, management and staff, led by the Vice Chancellor, Professor Isaac Ipara Odeo congregated on the 25th day of March, 2024 to commemorate the Kenyatta University students who lost their lives through a tragic road accident that happened on 18th March, 2024, at Maungu, Taita Taveta County while travelling to Mombasa.

In his remarks, Prof. Odeo noted that it was a sad moment for the Kenyan University fraternity since the sad news of the demise of Kenyatta University comrades. He emphasized the need to come together and remember our departed comrades, pray for their souls, families, and classmates.

The Vice Chancellor, who was quite touched by this tragic incident, said his granddaughter is a 4th year student at Kenyatta University who lost a very close friend in the accident. "Death is painful but inevitable, so it is important to use the little time we have on earth to mend our ways", said Prof. Odeo. He concluded by saying that the incident should be awake up call for all of us to realize that we only survive through the grace of God.

The Deputy Vice Chancellor (DVC), Administration, Finance and Development, Prof. Donald Siamba, Acting DVC, Academics and Students Affairs, Prof. Stanley Ngome Mutsotso, and Acting DVC, Planning, Partnerships, Research and Innovation, Prof. Munir Muganda also joined the congregation to express their heartfelt condolences to the families, friends and loved ones of the Kenyatta University students who lost their lives.

To the family and friends of the eleven (11) comrades Navile Omondi Opiyo, Beneas Otieno, Hellen Mbula Kisilu, Michael Muteti, Vallary Akinyi Ouma, Oslo Mwendwa, Felix Gori Nyata, Austine Omondi Owino, Rodger Kiprotich Rono, John Mbiriri Mureithi, and Patricia Murugi Mwangi, **Kibabii University mourns with you.**



KIBU Community during the prayer service

PRAYER SERVICE PICTORIAL



Dr. Rashid Fwamba (centre) and muslims students reciting the dua



Above: Dr. Robert Wafula in prayer



Above: University Chaplain, Fr Dr. Leonard Juma leading the sermon



Above: Vice Chancellor, Prof. Isaac Ipara Odeo making his address



Ag. DVC PPRI, Prof. Munir Muganda (left) & Ag. DVC ASA, Prof. Stanley Mutsotso (right) following the sermon



Student, Virginia Chege giving her tribute



THE VICE CHANCELLOR GRACES THE 9TH AFRICAN LIBRARY PROJECT SUMMIT

By Dorcas Kosgei

Kibabii University Vice Chancellor, Professor Isaac Ipara Odeo addressed a delegation of Teacher-Librarians and Head teachers of participating schools during the 9th African Library Project Summit that was held on 5th March, 2024 at Vannah Hotel in Migori County. He was joined by Rongo University Vice Chancellor, Prof. Samuel Gudu, the Migori County Director of Education, Prof. Rose Odhiambo, and the African Library Project's founder, Ms. Chris Bradshaw from the United States of America.

The Summit was a culmination of the implementation of a Memorandum of Understanding signed between Rongo University, African Library Project (ALP) and Kibabii University in May, 2019. To date, a lot has been achieved through ALP, Kibabii University chapter. Forty one (41) learning institutions have so far benefitted from the Project, and sixty one (61) teacher-librarians within Bungoma County have since been trained on setting up and managing school libraries.

The Vice Chancellor noted that the library is the cradle of civilization and that no single leader has become great without reading. He noted examples of the late former President of Kenya, His Excellency Mwai Kibaki, Julius Nyerere of Tanzania, Thabo Mbeki and Nelson Mandela of South Africa were avid readers, as well as Barrack Obama who is also a renowned author.

He lauded the Library Project, noting that the books have had a lot of positive and significant impact, including improved performance, especially in the English subject.

Prof. Odeo reiterated Kibabii University's commitment to growing the Library Project. He informed the delegation that the County Government of Bungoma has been requested to support the Project and the National Government petitioned to enhance the budget and provide logistics towards making Bungoma a reading County.

In his closing remarks, he said, "... you may or may not love to read, but you have the key of the kingdom of reading and literacy."

9th AFRICAN LIBRARY SUMMIT PICTORIAL



Above: Some of the pupils who benefitted from the library books' donation



Above: Prof. Isaac Ipara Odeo addressing the summit



Above: Chris Bradshaw, Founder of ALP



Left to right: Prof. Isaac Ipara Odeo, Chris Bradshaw, and Prof. Samuel Gudu



Above: ALP Summit sponsors & participants



CULMINATION OF THE 9TH AFRICAN LIBRARY PROJECT SUMMIT LIBRARIANS' TRAINING

By Isaac Manje

The 9th African Library Project Summit was concluded on Monday, March 11th 2024 at Maliki Boys High School in Bungoma County. The five-day Summit was a result of partnership between Kibabii University, Rongo University and the African Library Project which concluded with the training of local teacher-librarians by librarians from Kibabii University and the founders of the African Library Project.

Prof. Munir Muganda, the Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor, Planning, Partnerships, Research, and Innovation at Kibabii University, represented the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Isaac Ipara Odeo at the event. Notable guests who attended the event included Kibabii University's Prof. Ernest Mohochi and Ms. Chris Bradshaw, the Founder of the African Library Project.

Attendees were awarded certificates of recognition and gift hampers to acknowledge their efforts in promoting a reading culture in Africa, and for attending the summit.

In his speech, the Vice Chancellor noted that the transformative power of literature and information has empowered students to envision a future beaming with possibilities. He noted that there was need to come together and build a legacy where every child has access to the boundless world of knowledge where libraries stand as beacons of enlightenment, and literacy becomes the cornerstone of a brighter future for Africa.

The initiative's core objective is to elevate the level of readership across Africa. Notably, over the past year, the program has contributed to an increase in readership, rising from 48% to 49%. As a direct outcome of the Summit, many schools are poised to benefit from the provision of books after the Teacher-Librarian training.



School & teacher-librarians receiving training



KIBU COUNCIL INDUCTION AND TRAINING

By Dorcas Kosgei

Kibabii University Council members as directors are under pressure to achieve a multitude of goals, among them to foster the Institution’s culture that supports long-term value creation, improve the diversity of the Board and the Management team, focus on sustainability issues affecting the institution’s long-term strategy, enhance oversight of risk, and strengthen engagement efforts with stakeholders.

Continuous skills and professional development of the University Council goes a long way in ensuring that Council is well equipped with skills and knowledge for effective and efficient governance, oversight and performance excellence.

It is against this background that a two days Council Induction and Training was held at Grand Royal Swiss Hotel in Kisumu on 14th and 15th March, 2024, on the theme: “Consolidating Experiences for Transformation of Higher Education through Good Corporate Governance”.

The Induction and Training covered the following topics:

- Good Corporate Governance facilitated by the State Corporations Advisory Committee (SCAC);
- Financial Management and Digitization of Services to ensure efficient and effective service delivery facilitated by officers from The National Treasury and Economic Planning; and,
- Functions and Core Mandate of the University facilitated by Kibabii University Management.



KIBU Council Chairman, Prof. Chris Macoloo (right) having a word with the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Ipara Odeo (left)



Picture courtesy of the Standard Newspaper, March 21st 2024

KIBABII UNIVERSITY AMONG EIGHT VARSITIES PICKED TO OFFER TECH SKILLS TO ENTREPRENEURS

By Isaac Manje

The Strengthening of Kenya’s Innovation and Entrepreneurship Ecosystem (SKIES) has commenced with eight universities selected to train Rapid Tech Skills youth and students.

The initiative is part of the Kenya Industry and Entrepreneurship Programme (KIEP) funded by the World Bank and implemented by the State Department of Investment, Trade and Industry with the support of the management firm-Spineberg- E4Impact JV.

The eight universities selected are Kibabii University, Moi University, Dedan Kimathi University of Technology, Mama Ngina College, Open University of Kenya, Technical University of Mombasa, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, and Kenyatta University.

These universities were selected from a pool of institutions in Kenya to collaborate on the SKIES Rapid Tech Skills programme.

“The objective of the SKIES Rapid Tech Skills programme is to implement a job readiness programme for 532 students with 267 selected students for phase one, and equip them with essential rapid tech skills by the eight universities in cyber security, software engineering, data science, entrepreneurship and soft skills,” said Industry Principal Secretary Dr. Juma Mukhwana at the signing ceremony in Nairobi, last week.

“These universities will provide hands-on training that complements theoretical knowledge, ensuring that our graduates are well-equipped to meet the challenges of the modern job market,” said the PS.



SOIL TESTING GROWS HUMAN HEALTH AND ECONOMY

By Joseck Alwala

The World Health Organization (WHO) defines human health as “a state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.” Also, it recognizes that inequities in the distribution of power, wealth, and resources of any country are directly proportional to soil.

According to Healthy People 2020, the five key social determinants of health (SDOH) are: economic stability; education; social and community context; health and health care, and neighborhood and built environment. Within each of these five SDOH are a number of key underlying factors, many of which arguably depend on soil health, which has been defined as “the continued capacity of soil to function as a vital living ecosystem that sustains plants, animals, and humans.”

The concepts of soil analysis began since time immemorial. In the hindmost years of 19th century, Justus von Liebig introduced the idea. Agricultural scientists worked on samples of soil in laboratories, greenhouses and small field. Traditionally, it was known as “balance-sheet” theory of plant nutrition and it was domiciled in the laboratory. Early geologists embraced the idea and described soil as disintegrated rock of sandstone.

Generally, soil surveys were made to help farmers ascertain soils susceptibility to diverse management practices. In addition, it assisted them resolve what crops and management practices were most fitting. Approaches in soil science were taught in many classrooms until the late 1920s and became an art of crop production. However, problems such as analysis, interpretation, and administrative challenges were encountered.

Sadly, the crème de la crème of society including scientists and politicians indifferently watch television narrations of the unfolding events of poor soil testing management. They ignore or forget to train the public on modern methods of soil testing like clod, ribbon, excavation, electrical conductivity, and soil respiration surface, heavy volumetric water content, crusting and surface cover.

Soil analysis needs to undergo the following tests: physical analysis, nutrient analysis, and microbial activity analysis. Each of the tests should be subjected to soil sample collection, laboratory analysis, interpretation of results, fertilizer or other management recommendation and its impact on human health, including exposures to toxins and pathogenic organisms.

The Ministry of Agriculture must construct soil laboratories across the forty seven counties. Prevalence of successful soil testing program is paramount. A good soil testing program is essential not only to sound fertilizer use but also on how chemicals react within the chemical and biological soil ecosystem, and what those reactions mean for human health. The soil test value manifests how serious the deficiency is and provides a platform for many subsequent judgments by citizens.

There is need to integrate soil ecology and agronomic crop production with human health. Dissemination of soil test methods to our broader society is essential. Multidisciplinary teams of researchers must move these issues forward because soil testing influences human health and grows the economy of a nation.

The writer, Joseck Olukusi Alwala, is the Head of Chemistry Laboratories, Kibabii University, and Organizing Secretary, Kenya Chemical Society, Western Chapter. joseckalwala@gmail.com





ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) IN UNIVERSITY EDUCATION: THREAT, PROSPECT OR MERE HYPE?

By Isaac Manje

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is truly an avant-garde Information and Communication Technology (ICT) accomplishment that is changing the world, and the way we live. University education is no exception. Artificial Intelligence is everywhere today, from educational tools, music, social media, machines and videos we watch online. The idea of creating intelligent machines is not entirely new. However, now more than ever, it is almost achieving full realization as intelligent machines using technology-based computer systems can complete tasks that previously required logical deduction and human intelligence.

Artificial Intelligence has the potential to make the world a better place, improve the quality of life, and enhance human interactions. For instance, AI has been successfully applied in machine learning, chatbots, deep learning, self-driving cars, robotics, pattern recognition, natural language processing, security, facial recognition, speech recognition, personalized learning, medical diagnosis, e-commerce, space exploration, cyber security, and automation among others.

However, AI has also created new challenges and threats in various sectors such as justice systems, global security, governance, health, employment, economy, education, automation, election management, and democracy among others.

Recent scholars have argued that AI has the potential to transform university education than any other technological advancement ever witnessed. Some argue that AI can improve educational outcomes, increase access to education, lead to better retention rates, lower the cost of education, and decrease the time taken to complete university education among other benefits. However, is this the reality on the ground? Serious gaps have been identified between these expectations and reality.

It is agreeable that AI is capable of transforming certain practices in university education and enhancing the educational experiences and quality of interactions with students. For instance, AI can help a university student develop an initial idea that they can use to write their own academic pieces.

Also, through AI, university students are able to detect plagiarism and reduce grammatical errors in their academic works, making AI not entirely bad. Students can use AI to confirm the correctness of their academic work and polish them up to meet quality standards. The question remains, are we capable of attaining a level of AI where the processing capabilities of machines match the cognitive abilities of humans, especially in teaching and learning?

Secondly, do university students understand the ethics of using AI tools in their academic work? Universities ought to take it upon themselves to sensitize and educate students and faculty about the ethics of using AI tools in their academic work.

Has AI achieved its full potential in university teaching and learning? Recent studies show that there is a general lack of willingness on the part of stakeholders to take risks and adopt new artificial intelligence innovations in university education. Most educators view it as a threat to quality teaching and learning.

For instance, new AI tools used in research and writing such as ChatGPT, QuillBot, and JenniAI among others have made it easier for university students to complement their academic work. However, not all students have been using these tools professionally. Cases of academic dishonesty, plagiarism and copy-paste have been on the rise as students fail to present their original thoughts in university assignments.

The author, Isaac Manje, is a Communication and Information professional, scholar and researcher. He is currently in-charge of Corporate Communications and Marketing at Kibabii University.

AI has spun a new debate on whether it is ethical for university students to use AI to supplement their academic work. A good number of university students have gotten into trouble for using AI tools such as ChatGPT to complete their assignments, CATs, term papers, projects and even theses. This has maimed creativity, innovativeness, originality and critical thinking as these AI tools do the entire work for students.

However, the truth is that such AI tools continue to be used by university students. This presents a perfect opportunity for university education stakeholders to reflect and debate on the current pedagogical practices and think of ways in which AI can be effectively utilized in the classroom because it is here with us to stay, whether we like it or not.

There needs to be tactical multi-stakeholder deliberations on the implications, prospects, challenges and hype that AI has brought to university education. The ever-unfolding developments witnessed almost every other day in AI may force university education players to rethink the use of AI in university teaching and learning and stop viewing it entirely as a threat.

Instead of criticizing university students and faculty for using AI, the discussion ought to shift to helping them understand how to ethically utilize educational AI tools to supplement their scholarly work, not to use AI to create their work for them from scratch.



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN EDUCATION



KIBABII UNIVERSITY AND PARTNERS HOST SUCCESSFUL FREE COMMUNITY MEDICAL CAMP

By Agnetta Shilasi

In a remarkable display of community collaboration and healthcare provision, Kibabii University joined forces with Crescent Hopkins Hospital, MoH Bungoma, Kenya Red Cross, Kahusietow, and Kibabii Community Forum to host a free Community Medical Camp.

The event, held on March 8th, 2024, at Tuuti Market, witnessed a significant turnout, demonstrating the Community’s appreciation for the initiative.

Gracing the occasion was the Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor, Planning, Partnerships, Research and Innovation, Prof. Munir Muganda, representing the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Isaac Ipara Odeo. Accompanying him were Prof. Donald Siamba, the Deputy Vice Chancellor for Administration, Finance and Development, Dr. Charles Wasike, In-charge Administration, Dr. Ombongi, Director of Hopkins Hospital, and Mr. Solomon Satiah from MoH Bungoma.

Essential services were offered, addressing various aspects of healthcare. These included mental health, substance abuse counseling, family planning guidance, general public health awareness, psycho-social first aid, and an anti-jigger campaign. Attendees benefited from malaria management, de-worming treatments, and consultations on security and health matters.

The overwhelming response from the community underscored the significance of such initiatives in addressing the healthcare needs of underserved populations. The area Chief conveyed heartfelt gratitude on behalf of the Community, emphasizing the long-awaited recognition and assistance provided through the Camp.

“We are happy as a Community that we have been remembered after a long period of time,” expressed the area Chief. “We say thank you to Kibabii University and other stakeholders who saw it fit and organized for this camp. We urge you to plan for more so that all members of this Community can benefit.”

COMMUNITY SERVICE

The success of the Free Community Medical Camp not only reflects the dedication of the organizing entities but also highlights the transformative impact of collaborative efforts in advancing Public Health initiatives. As the event concluded, participants departed with renewed hope and a strengthened sense of community well-being, paving way for future endeavors aimed at enhancing healthcare accessibility for all.



Above: Tree-planting by KIBU and partners during the free medical camp



Healthcare professionals providing free medical services to attendees



NAVIGATING DIRTY CAMPAIGNS & TRIBAL TENSIONS - LESSONS & BEST PRACTICES FOR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

By Meshack Nyambane

Student movements and associations in higher education exert a significant influence, affecting not just students but also academic institutions and the broader society. Students' unions play a crucial role in higher education by serving as essential mechanisms for student impact and representation within. They are pivotal in fostering student success and enhancing the overall university experience. They provide a platform for students to acquire leadership skills, develop a sense of belonging, gain industry connections, access campus provisions, share learning experiences, and also to feel the campus life at its best.

However, the process of choosing university student leaders all over the world is a democratic one that opens a door into student union politics, a realm often met with intense campaigns, with high stakes and emotions being dedicated to these campaigns that can sometimes escalate into tribal attacks. Drawing from global cases, it is evident that student politics can turn divisive, violent and destructive.

Recent incidents have highlighted the dark side of these elections, with clashes, stabbings, and even deaths occurring amidst fierce campaigns. Some have led to disruption of activities within institutions. Very recently, one Public University Senate was forced to close the University over similar escalating incidences. The big question is, is it really worth it?

In light of these challenges, it is crucial to emphasize the importance of promoting peaceful and inclusive student politics. Students must prioritize dialogue, respect diverse perspectives, and uphold democratic values in their engagement with their counterparts in these activities. Further, besides the individual legal responsibility for perpetrators, it is crucial to realize that student elections should work as a uniting factor for students rather than an ingredient for division, injuries and even death of fellow comrades.

The author is a Corporate Communications and Marketing Officer on Secondment at the Open University of Kenya. He is also a former Student Leader.



KIBABII UNIVERSITY GIVES A STERLING PERFORMANCE AT THE 2024 KUPAA MUSIC FESTIVALS IN MOMBASA

By Dr. Irene Simiyu & Isaac Manje

Kibabii University gave a sterling performance in the just concluded Kenya Universities' Performing Arts and Film Association (KUPAA) music festivals held from the 17th to 22nd of March, 2024 at the Technical University of Mombasa (TUM).

KIBU presented fifteen (15) items and was awarded certificates of participation alongside six (6) trophies in various categories.

KIBU emerged position one (1) in the following five (5) categories: Researched African Folk Dance; Researched African Folk Song; Taarab; Unpublished poem; and Cover song, and position two (2) in the set choral verse speaking.

During the gala, KIBU presented the researched African folk dance from the Gishu community of Eastern Uganda to an audience comprising Vice Chancellors, Deans of Students, and other invited guests.



Above: Trophies scooped by KIBU



Faith Juma

Valary Kasandi

KUPAA 2024 MUSIC FESTIVALS PICTORIAL



Above: Members of KIBU Choir



Mary Inyanji



Henry Gikenye



Above: Trophies won by KIBU Choir



Above: Members of KIBU Choir performing on stage



KIBABII UNIVERSITY EMERGES POSITION THREE (3) OUT OF TWENTY UNIVERSITIES IN KENYA

By Tom Amwanzo & Isaac Manje

Kibabii University took part in the Kenya University Sports Federation (KUSF) National Athletics Competition held at Kenyatta University on 23rd and 24th March, 2024, posting very impressive results.

Overall, KIBU scooped a remarkable position three (3) out of the twenty universities in Kenya that participated in the competition, with the mens' team being position eight overall.

The KIBU ladies' athletics team made KIBU proud by emerging position one out of the twenty participating universities countrywide, leading two of our lady athletes, Yvon Otunga and Melab Njuli to be invited by the International Olympics Committee (IOC) and the National Olympic Committee of Kenya (NOCK) to participate in the Olympic trials to be held in June at the Nyayo National Stadium.

Yvon Otunga and Melab Njuli have been placed under scientific training programme with the aim of improving their personal best times.



Yvon Otunga who qualified for the Olympic trials

KUSF NATIONAL ATHLETICS PICTORIAL



Above: KIBU mens' relay team



Above: KIBU womens' relay team



KIBU lady athletes in a tight race



Melab Njuli who qualified for the Olympic trials



KIBU ladies always winning



THE "SECRETARIAT" IN MEETINGS

By Lilian Wanjala

"Sorry you cannot talk to him. He is in a meeting."
 "I will be in a meeting all day". Meetings, meetings, it is like a singsong in our offices. Meetings seem to be the solution to every big or small problem encountered in the office. Daily meetings, departmental meetings, school board meetings, faculty board meetings, management meetings, progress meetings, appraisal meetings, disciplinary meetings...name them.

Why are meetings so popular in offices? It must be because it is a fast and efficient way of sharing information, brainstorming ideas and agreeing on actions. It is a conducive problem-solving and decision-making tool. But do we always achieve this in these meetings? How much of the time spent in meetings is effectively used? For us to answer these important questions, we need to discuss one important ingredient of a meeting called the Secretariat.

The secretariat can be key to the success of the meeting. They assist the chairperson plan meetings.

They ensure that they are held according to the Almanac, and notices of meetings or agendas are drawn up and sent in advance, and members receive all necessary information in time.

The secretariat ensures minutes are taken accurately. To achieve this, one needs to be well organized, with an orderly mind. When corrected during the meeting even for an error as mundane as a missing full stop in a sentence, don't be offended. Correct the error and move on. Corrections make you wiser each day. Don't shy away from following up with a member to get clarity on his/her point of view during the meeting. Ensure all records of the minutes, agenda and correspondences are well kept.

The secretariat should be very punctual for the meeting. Lateness tends to bring in more anxiety, nervousness and panic. Arriving early will enable you redeem time by setting up your gadgets early enough and mitigate against anything that may affect the meeting.

The secretariat Always endeavor to arrive at least 30 minutes early. There's an old expression that if you're on time, you're late.

Be methodical, with a good eye and ear for detail. The boardroom always has diverse characters; there are those who like to fight and push their ideas, then there the hare-like who like sneaking in witty and at times, not-so-pleasant comments, there are those who will always take sides with the stronger side but as soon as that side starts losing ground, they will alter to the next.

There are also those who like to interrupt and criticize everyone just to repeat what has already been said and then there are those who never say anything. There are those who may talk all the time because they want to talk to their fill. However, we have the owl-like who are always so wise, so profound in their ways.

Whatever characters are in the boardroom that day doesn't matter, the Chairperson in his wisdom will always find a moderation channel. A keen eye and keen ear for detail is what is expected from you as Secretary to the meeting.

Did I say a keen ear? Yes, a keen ear. Listening resembles a muscle. It requires training, persistence, effort, and most importantly, the intention to become a good listener. It requires clearing your mind from internal and external noise. Give 100% of your attention, do not judge or evaluate. Listen without jumping to conclusions and interpreting what you hear.

If you notice that you lost track of the conversation, apologize and request for repetition. Seek to understand what you hear because you are supposed to record the outcome and not the debate, though at times you may be carried away by the debate.

Finally, respect the confidentiality of the proceedings in the meeting and the records of the proceedings. The rise of paperless offices and online filing systems has made information more accessible than ever and therefore, more vulnerable. Where possible, always backup your information.

Physical documents should be scanned and saved on secure servers. When the temptation to blubber out all that you heard in the meeting rises, always remember that in the multitude of words, sin does not lack but he who restrains his lips is wise. Enjoy your meetings.

The author, Lilian Wanjala, is a Senior Administrative Assistant working in the Student's Affairs Office under the Deans and Senate Secretariat Office at Kibabii University.



DRUGS RELATED OFFENCES AND THEIR PENALTIES

By Kelly Inyani

It has been claimed that university students are fueling the growth of illicit drugs business both as producers, traders and consumers. A 2017 article in The Standard newspaper titled 'The painful reality about drug abuse in Kenyan Universities' painted a grim picture of a situation that is a sore reminder of how illicit drugs and substances have spread their tentacles and strangled every inch of life out of our population, more-so the youthful and most productive constituency.

The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Control) Act has detailed some of the offences that are related to drugs and other illegal substances. These offences includes; possession, trafficking, cultivation of banned plants, obstruction and failure to inform authorities of information related to drugs related offences.

There are hundreds of listed narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and prohibited plants in The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Control) Act that attract sanctions, the most common are; cannabis, cocaine, heroin, morphine among others.

Various penalties for drugs related offences

1. Penalty for possession of narcotic drugs.

(a) Cannabis

I. Imprisonment for ten years

In every other case, imprisonment for twenty years

(b) Narcotic drug or psychotropic substance other than cannabis.

I. Imprisonment for twenty years

II. In every other case, a fine of not less than one million shillings or three times the market value of the narcotic drug or psychotropic substance, whichever is greater, or;

III. To imprisonment for life or to both such fine and imprisonment.

2. Penalty for trafficking in narcotic drugs

I. In respect of any narcotic drug or psychotropic substance to a fine of one million shillings or three times the market value of the narcotic drug or psychotropic substance, whichever is the greater, and, in addition, to imprisonment for life; or,

II. In respect of any substance, other than a narcotic drug or psychotropic substance, a fine of five hundred thousand shillings, and, in addition, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding twenty years.

3. Penalty for other acts connected to narcotic drugs

- I. Smoking, inhaling, sniffing or other uses any narcotic drug or psychotropic substance;
- II. Found in any house, room or place to which persons are engaging in the above; and
- III. Owner, occupier or concerned in the management of any premises, permits the premises to be used for the above.

Possession of any pipe or utensil for use in the above

A fine of two hundred and fifty thousand shillings or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding ten years or to both.

4. Penalty for cultivation of prohibited plants

- (a) Cultivating; or
 - (b) Owner, occupier or concerned in the management of any premises, permits the premises to be used for the purpose of the cultivation, gathering or production of any prohibited plant;
- A fine of two hundred and fifty thousand shillings or three times the market value of the prohibited plant, whichever is the greater, or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding twenty years or to both.

Various studies have attributed poverty, stress, curiosity, ignorance, peer pressure, psychological conditions, socio-economic factors, family related challenges among others as the most common causes of engagement in illegal drugs and substances.

It is important that this message gets to the youthful population more specifically university students so that they can appreciate the dangers they are dallying with. While others might claim that they have mastered the art of 'beating' the system (mostly through corrupting law enforcement).

it is imperative that these dangers are impressed upon them since those who haven't been lucky (and one day their luck might also run out) are languishing in our prisons with tones of regrets.

The writer is a Criminologist and a Lecturer of Criminology at the Department of Criminology & Social Work at Kibabii University



KIBU BEAUTY PAGEANT 2024/2025 (MR & MISS KIBU)

By Agnetta Shilasi

Amidst the vibrant atmosphere of Kibabii University Cultural Week, students hailing from diverse cultural backgrounds come together in a celebration of Kenya's rich tapestry of traditions. This eagerly anticipated occasion serves as a platform for students to proudly display their talents across a spectrum of activities. However, the pinnacle of excitement arrives with the crowning of the esteemed titles of Mr. and Miss Kibabii University, marking the culmination of this spirited showcase of cultural pride and student excellence.

Lewis Moracha and Lucy Kinoku Joseph have emerged victorious in the highly contested Mr. and Miss Kibabii Beauty Pageant 2024. The duo secured the coveted crowns after a rigorous Competition that lasted from dusk till dawn, witnessed by fervent supporters of over ten contestants.

Lucy, a third-year student pursuing a Bachelors Degree in Cooperative Management and Entrepreneurship, hails from a family of three.

Expressing her excitement at winning, Lucy revealed that this victory came after her second attempt, having faced a setback due to lack of confidence in her initial try. Reflecting on her journey, Lucy acknowledged the financial challenges associated with modeling but affirmed her passion for the craft. Despite her love for modeling, Lucy emphasized that academics remain her top priority.

However, Lucy also discussed the challenges that come with being a public figure, particularly the pressure to maintain a certain image post-pageant. She noted the misconception that people often have about models and emphasized the importance of not judging individuals based solely on their profession.

In her role as Miss Kibabii University, Lucy expressed her commitment to promoting an entrepreneurial mindset among the youth, encouraging them to explore opportunities beyond traditional employment.

2024 KIBU CAREERS & CULTURAL WEEK

Additionally, she aims to foster increased participation of Kibabii University in Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives, emphasizing the importance of giving back to the community. Lucy's victory serves as both a personal triumph and a platform for advocating positive change within her university and beyond.

On the other hand, Lewis, a dedicated third-year student pursuing a Bachelor of Commerce degree, accounting option, harbors a deep passion for modeling. His journey in the industry began during primary school, although he never achieved victory in competitions until his university years. Determined to pursue his passion seriously, Lewis sought guidance from the Dencel Parlette Agency, known for providing invaluable assistance in the realms of fashion and modeling.

However, Lewis's journey has been fraught with challenges, particularly from his own family and friends who harbor reservations about his chosen path. In his culture, male modeling is often frowned upon and associated with negative connotations. Despite facing criticism and societal taboos, Lewis remains resolute in his love for modeling, envisioning it as his future career path post-graduation.

In his role as Mr. Kibabii, Lewis aims to advocate for the interests of his fellow students, particularly those engaged in business endeavors. He plans to facilitate opportunities for them to showcase and sell their products within the campus, fostering a spirit of entrepreneurship and collaboration.

Looking ahead, Lewis envisions himself not only as a successful model but also as a mentor and benefactor to aspiring talents in the industry. He aspires to establish his own agency dedicated to nurturing and sponsoring upcoming models, realizing his vision of becoming a beacon of inspiration for the youth.

In his parting shot, Lewis encourages his peers to recognize and harness their talents, emphasizing the importance of supplementing formal education with the pursuit of one's passions and abilities.



Above: Mr. & Miss KIBU 2024/2025



Mr. KIBU 2024/2025, Lewis Moracha

2024 KIBU CAREERS & CULTURAL WEEK PICTORIAL





ONE-ON-ONE WITH THE CROCHETING QUEEN, ASHA SISAH RASHID

Interview by Agnetta Shilasi

In an era where professional recognition is a coveted aspiration for many, the journey to earning such acclaim is often marked by relentless dedication and exceptional talent.

Today, we present a narrative of unwavering determination and pioneering spirit embodied by Ms. Asha Sisah Rashid, a 21-year-old third-year student pursuing in Social Work and Community Development at Kibabii University.

Her trajectory epitomizes a blend of ambition and providence, culminating in her remarkable ascent to the helm of Aisha Crochets as its CEO.

Join us for an exclusive interview with Asha as she shares insights into her extraordinary journey in the latest installment of our KIBU NEWSLETTER series, "KNOW YOUR ICONS."

Q: Could you share with our audience a bit about yourself?

I'm Asha Sisah Rashid, a 21-year-old third-year student pursuing Social Work and Community Development at Kibabii University. I come from Kakamega County, raised in a humble family background of five by a single mother. After attending Mbururu Secondary School, I earned admission to Kibabii University with a C+.

Q: Your entrepreneurial journey with Aisha Crochet is quite impressive. Can you tell us more about its inception?

Absolutely. While my given name is Asha, I've been affectionately called Aisha by many, hence the branding choice. Though I've been involved in crochet for some time, it wasn't until 2022 that I began taking it seriously for commercial purposes. Most of my clientele are fellow students, although I do have some customers beyond Bungoma.

Q: What inspired you to delve into crocheting?

My mother served as my inspiration. Witnessing her crochet at home ignited my passion for the craft. Given our modest background and my mom's struggles as a single parent, I saw crocheting as a potential income source. I wanted to contribute to our household while also standing out from the crowd.

Q: Balancing academia and entrepreneurship is no small feat. How do you manage it?

Education holds immense value for me, especially as a female trailblazer in my community. I prioritize my studies but dedicate my evenings to crocheting, often working late into the night to fulfill orders. My friend lends a hand when things get overwhelming. It's a demanding schedule, but I manage.

Q. How do you get clients?

The majority of my clientele comprises fellow students from within the campus. However, I also utilize the TikTok platform for marketing purposes, which has proven to be fruitful in generating positive outcomes. My Tiktok account is Aishacrochets, you can like and follow to view my work and make orders as well.

Q: Looking ahead, where do you see yourself professionally in five years?

My goal is to establish a successful company, providing clothing support to the less fortunate, particularly those on the streets and children in need.

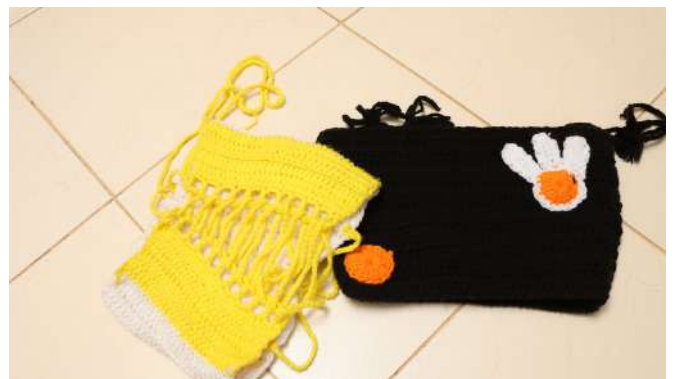
Q: It's clear you've had guidance along the way. Who has been your mentor?

Dr. Robert Kati has been a tremendous mentor to me. Despite his academic stature, his humility and approachability make him an invaluable guide.

Q: Lastly, what advice do you have for today's youth?

I urge young people to embrace innovation and explore avenues beyond academics. Engaging in activities that not only generate income but also serve society is crucial for personal growth and community impact.

Samples of Sisah's Crochets





OUTSTANDING KIBU SPORTSMEN & WOMEN FETED

By Kelly Inyani & Isaac Manje

The climax of the KIBU Careers and Cultural Week is usually preserved for the Vice Chancellor to award outstanding sports men and women of Kibabii University during the KIBU SOYA. This year's event was more than colorful with an expanded list of various sports and entertainment from students.

The 2024/2025 KIBU SOYA Awards which was graced by the Vice-Chancellor Prof. Isaac Ipara Odeo, the DVC Administration, Finance and Development, Prof. Donald Siamba, the Dean of Students Dr. Benson Murumba, staff and students witnessed outstanding sports men and women being awarded with trophies, certificates and cash awards.

The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Ipara Odeo, while officially closing this year's week long cultural event noted that he had never witnessed a level of vibrancy and enthusiasm from students like what has been exhibited this year.

Winners of the Various 2024/2025 Awards:

- a. King of the Road (Men 10km) – Kennedy Roiyot
- b. Queen of the Road (Women 10km) – Caren Chepngetich
- c. King of Speed (Men) – Stephen Otoro
- d. Queen of Speed (Women) – Naomi Nafula
- e. Best Captain of the Year (Women) – Patience Neema (Taekwondo)
- f. Best Captain of the Year (Men) – Kennedy Roiyot (Athletics)
- g. KIBU Relays Team – Calistus Kwemoi, Stephen Watoro, Phabian Omondi & Elias Namaswa
- h. Number One Team (Taekwondo Women) – Patience Neema, Hellen Akinyi, Hope Emai, Gloria Lusilai & Cynthia Wekesa
- i. Team Manager of the Year – Levi Kibet (Club Brudge – Men Football)
- j. Top Scorer (2024 KIBU Cultural Week football tournament) – Cleophas Sifuna
- k. Best Cheering Squad – BUCOSA Team
- l. 2024/2025 Cultural Week Football Tournament Winners – Rangers FC

Below: Winners in various categories being presented with awards





KIBU ELECTS NEW STUDENT LEADERS

By Kelly Inyani & Isaac Manje

The journey to the just concluded SOKU Elections began with the Kibabii University Students Electoral Commission (KEC) verifying applications from students who had applied to fill the various students' leadership positions that had been declared vacant. The exercise which was supervised by the KEC Chairman, Dr. Ben Nyongesa, attracted interest to fill a total of 7 Students' Council and 21 Congress positions.

The next phase saw the briefing of aspirants and launching of the vibrant campaigns that have been witnessed throughout campus.

The long awaited day finally came to pass and votes were casted on the 28th day of March, 2024. The voting exercise for Students Congress which kicked off at 6 a.m. and closed at 2 p.m. after which the winners of the respective seats went ahead and elected the members of the Students Council. The KIBU 2024 Elections was conducted under the guidance of the KEC, Students Electoral Commission (SEC), and the Bungoma County IEBC.

Announcing the winners of the various elective positions Dr. Ben Nyongesa the KEC Chair congratulated the winners and thanked students for maintaining decorum. He thanked all the parties who participated in the exercise and contributed to the success of the elections.

The following were announced as the winners:

STUDENTS' COUNCIL

Chairperson

Philipe Silali Kibika

Vice-Chairperson

Elizabeth Kemunto Onderi

Secretary General

Edwin Sang Chepyegon

Treasurer

Lameck Oigo Nyamoko

Academic Secretary

David Wafula Wanjala

Accommodation and Security Secretary

Evans Poriot Loreng

Special Interest Secretary

Caren Chepkoech

STUDENTS CONGRESS

FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES (FASS)

Academic Nominee

Dennis Kipchirchir

Female Nominee

Damackline Ogake

Male Nominee

Nicholas Momanyi Nyaata

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION (SOE)

Academic Nominee

Zakayo Watima

Female Nominee

Mercy Jepchumba

Male Nominee

Methusela Wangila

FACULTY OF SCIENCE

Academic Nominee

Bramwel Simiyu

Female Nominee

Maureen Jerotich

Male Nominee

Moses Kandakor

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS (SOBE)

Academic Nominee

John Kinanja

Female Nominee

Heri Anitah Khaoma

Male Nominee

Evans Nyamari Bonuke

SCHOOL OF COMPUTING AND INFORMATICS (SCAI)

Academic Nominee

Kenneth Cheruiyot

Female Nominee

Trina Shakhutsa Rachel

Male Nominee

Meshack Saruni

PART-TIME ACADEMIC NOMINEE

Kevin Juma Wekesa

EVENING AND WEEKEND ACADEMIC NOMINEE

Emmaculate Nang'unda Naliakho

POST-GRADUATE NOMINEE

Godwin Kachi Wetaba

SCHOOL OF NURSING

Academic Nominee

Collins Mararia Nyandika

Female Nominee

Vendah Chemosi Lawendi

Male Nominee

Allan Kogei

Below: A snippet of the election day





“... you may or may not love to read, but you have the key of the kingdom of reading and literacy.”

~Prof. Isaac Ipara Odeo~

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