



KIBU NEWSLETTER

A Monthly Publication of the Office of the Vice Chancellor

ISSUE 21 | 30th April, 2024

ISO 9001:2015 Certified



KIBU Holds First Inaugural Public Lecture in Honor of Ken Walibora



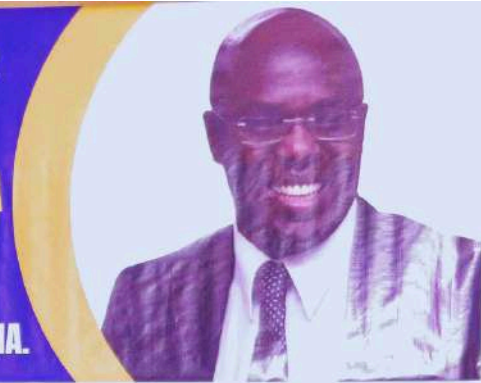
KITUO CHA TAALUMA ZA LUGHA NA UTAMADUNI (KITALU)

KINAKUALIKA KWA

MHADHARA WA KWANZA WA UMMA KUMUENZI KEN WALIBORA

MTOA MADA: PROF. F.E.M.K SENKORO

UKUMBI: AUDITORIUM C TAREHE: 9 APRILI 2024 SAA: 4:00 AS - 7:00 MCHANA.



IMPORTANT DATE

10th May, 2024: Kibabii University Staff Pension Scheme Member Pre-Retirement Training at 9:30am (Senate Room, KIBU)

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MHADHARA WA UMMA KUMUENZI KEN WALIBORA

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Mhadhara wa Kwanza wa Umma Kumuenzi Ken Walibora

Na Isaac Manje

Katika hafla ya kipekee, wanafunzi, wahadhiri, na wafanyakazi wa Chuo Kikuu cha Kibabii, pamoja na wageni waalikwa na umma kwa jumla, walijumuika Chuoni humo kumuenzi msomi, mwandishi na mwanahabari tajika, Ken Walibora, mnamo tarehe 9 Aprili, 2024.

Mgeni Rasmi, Prof. F.E.M.K. Senkoro alikaribishwa chuoni Kibabii na kupokelewa na Makamu Mkuu wa Chuo, Prof. Isaac Ipara Odeo, kwa ajili ya hafla hio. Kabla ya hafla kuanza rasmi pale ukumbini C, wageni walielekezwa ugani katika kona lililotengewa shughuli ya upanzi wa miti kumkumbuka hayati. Upanzi huo wa miti ulishuhudiwa na wageni wa heshima walioalikwa, wakiwemo Makamu Mkuu wa Chuo Kikuu cha Kisii, Prof. Nathan Ogechi, aliyekuwa Katibu Mtendaji wa Kamisheni ya Kiswahili ya Afrika Mashariki, Prof. Inyani Simala.

Viongozi wa ngazi ya juu chuoni wakiwemo Naibu Makamu Mkuu wa Chuo, Utawala, Fedha na Maendeleo, Prof. Donald Siamba, Kaimu Naibu Makamu wa Chuo, Taaluma na Maswala ya Wanafunzi, Prof. Stanley Mutsotso, na mwakilishi wa Kaimu Naibu Makamu Mkuu wa Chuo, Mipango, Ushirikiano,

Utafiti na Ubunifu, Prof. Samwel Mbugua walihudhuria. Wengine walioshuhudia shughuli hio ya upanzi wa miti ni Msajili wa Maswala ya Kitaaluma, Sr. Dr. Jacklyne Alari, Mkurugenzi wa Kituo cha Taaluma za Lugha na Utamaduni (KITALU), Prof. Ernest Mohochi, mratibu wa KITALU, Dkt. Eric Walela, mwanachama wa Bodi ya KITALU, Dkt. Felix Orina, mwenyekiti wa CHAKITA, Dkt. Fred Simiyu, na mwenyekiti wa kamati andalizi ya mhadhara huo wa kwanza wa umma, Dkt. Henry Nandelenga.

Nduguye mkubwa Ken Walibora, Bw. Patrick Lumumba, aliwakilisha Jamii ya Ken Walibora na kujiunga na udugu wa Chuo Kikuu cha Kibabii kumuenzi hayati. Alisema kwamba Ken Walibora aliguza maisha ya wengi kutokana na matendo yake mema, maandishi yake, na safari yake ya Kiswahili. Alishukuru Chuo Kikuu cha Kibabii kwa kuandaa hafla ya aina yake ya kumkumbuka Ken Walibora.

Makamu Mkuu wa Chuo cha Kisii, Prof. Nathan Ogechi alieleza furaha yake kuwa Chuoni Kibabii kwa shughuli hio muhimu na kumshukuru Prof. Ipara Odeo, ambaye alikuwa mwalimu wake, kwa kuandaa hafla hio ya kipekee ya kumuenzi Ken Walibora.



Prof. Ogechi alieleza waliohudhuria kuhusu safari yake ya Kiswahili ambayo ilikuwa na changamoto mingi na jinsi ambavyo safari ya Kiswahili ya Ken Walibora ilivyomtia moyo na kumuwezesha kufanikiwa katika safari yake hadi akawa Profesa wa Kiswahili.

Prof. Ipara Odeo alimtambulisha Mgeni Rasmi kama mtu mcheshi aliyeelewa vizuri falsafa na safari ya Kiswahili ya Ken Walibora. Prof. Ipara alieleza wahudhuriaji kwamba Prof. Senkoro alizaliwa Pare, Kilimanjaro, na safari yake ya Kitaaluma ilianza alipojiunga na Chuo Kikuu cha Dar es Salaam mnamo mwaka 1972. Prof. Senkoro aliendeleza masomo yake hadi alipotunukiwa shahada ya uzamifu katika Kiswahili. Bidii yake ilimfanya akakwea ngazi za kitaaluma kwa haraka hadi akawa Profesa tajika wa Kiswahili.

Prof. Senkoro amefunza katika vyuo vikuu vingi duniani vikiwemo Dar es Salaam, Harvard na Princeton alipojenga ukuruba na Ken Walibora. Prof. Ipara alitambua juhudi za Prof. Senkoro katika safari ya Kiswahili ya Ken Walibora. Alimalizia wasilisho lake kwa kusema kuwa Chuo Kikuu cha Kibabii kimetoa heshima kubwa kwa Ken Walibora kwa kuanzisha Kitengo cha Mikusanyo za kazi zake katika Maktaba Kuu ya Chuo Kikuu cha Kibabii.

Katika hotuba yake, Prof. Senkoro aliwakumbusha wahudhuriaji ya kwamba wamekusanyika kusherehekea maisha ya Ken Walibora na kazi zake, wala sio kulia na kusikitika. Alieleza safari ya Kiswahili ya Ken Walibora kuanzia masomo yake, kazi yake ya ualimu, uandishi, na kazi yake ya uanahabari. Alimtambua Ken Walibora kama mwalimu bomba ambaye hakuwa na mazoea ya kuingia darasani na vitabu kama walimu wengine, bali angefunza zaidi ya masaa mawili kutoka kichwani mwake tu. Mgeni Rasmi alisema hakuna Kiswahili kibovu, bali kuna viswahili vingi tu, kwa hivyo hatufai kuonea aibu Kiswahili tunachokizungumza.

Alimtaja Ken Walibora kama mwandishi aliyekuwa na mshawasha wa kutoa vitabu vingi vilivyotokana na maisha ya kawaida ya binadamu. "Niliwahi kumpigia simu na kumsifia ya kuwa akiendelea kuandika vitabu kama anavyoandika, atakuja kuwa mwandishi tajika siku moja", alisema Prof. Senkoro. Mgeni Rasmi alisema kuwa anazienzi kazi za Ken Walibora kwani maandishi yake mengi yalimkumbusha maisha aliyoishi akiwa kijana mdogo kule kijijini. Alisema kazi za Ken Walibora zinafaa kutazamwa na kuchambuliwa kifalsafa kwa sababu maandishi yake yana mafunzo mengi mno.

Ken Walibora alikuwa na malengo yake maalum ya kukiendeleza na kutukuza Kiswahili. Alimalizia hotuba yake kwa kusema, "huwi Muafrika kwa kuzaliwa ndani ya Afrika, bali unakuwa Muafrika kwa Afrika kuzaliwa ndani yako." Kazi za Ken Walibora zimeeleza vizuri maana ya maisha, na kifo chake kimenyakulia familia ya Kiswahili rasilimali kubwa mno.

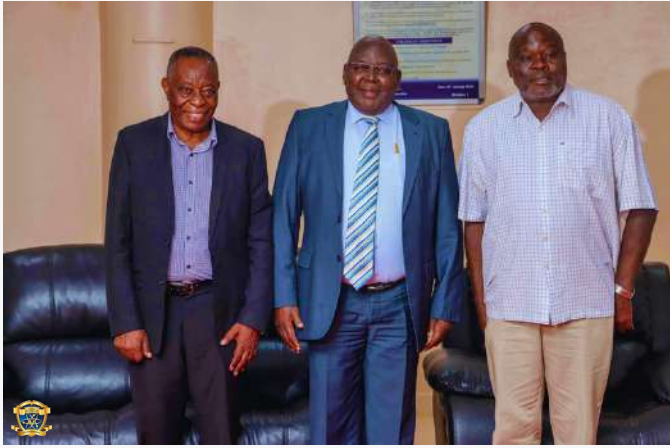
Prof. Inyani Simala alikisifu Chuo Kikuu cha Kibabii kwa kutenga muda na rasimali kumuenzi mtetezi wa lugha ya Kiswahili duniani. Aliwahizima wahudhuriaji kutilia maanani mada ya mhadhara wa kumuenzi Ken Walibora kwani sisi sote tuko safarini. Alimkumbuka Ken Walibora kama mtaalam aliyetumikia jamii kwa kutumia lugha kama falsafa na chombo cha kuhamasisha jamii.

Prof. Simala alimsifu Ken kwa kuzienzi lugha zingine na kutotaka lugha tofauti tofauti kuwa na uhasama. Kazi za Ken za Kisanaa zilisisitiza swala la utambulisho la Waafrika na utamaduni wao, swala ambalo ni muhimu sana katika Taaluma ya Kiswahili.

Wengine waliohudhuria mhadhara huo ni walimu kutoka shule mbalimbali nchini, wanahabari, wanaoienzi lugha ya Kiswahili, na wanafunzi kutoka Vyuo Vikuu vya Moi, Egerton, Embu, Jaramogi Oginga Odinga na Masinde Muliro.



PICHA ZA MHADHARA WA UMMA WA KUMUENZI KEN WALIBORA



Kutoka kushoto: Prof. Senkoro, Prof. Odeo, na Prof. Simala



Maafisa wa ngazi za juu chuoni wakimpokea mtoa mada



Mgeni rasmi akipokelewa afisini mwa Makamu Mkuu wa Chuo Kikuu cha Kibabii, Prof. Isaac Ipara Odeo



Prof. Senkoro akipanda mti Chuoni Kibabii



Prof. Senkoro akipanda mti chuoni Kibabii



Prof. Simala akipanda mti Chuoni Kibabii



Prof. Ogechi, Makamu Mkuu wa Chuo cha Kisii apanda mti



Prof. Mohochi, Mkurugenzi wa CLACS Chuoni Kibabii apanda mti



PICHA ZA MHADHARA WA UMMA WA KUMUENZI KEN WALIBORA



Mtoa mada, Prof. Senkoro akiwahutubia wahudhuriaji



Bw. Patrick Lumumba, nduguye mkubwa wa Ken Walibora



Awamu ya maswali na majibu



Kwaya ya Chuo Kikuu cha Kibabii kikiwatumbuiza wahudhuriaji



Dkt. Walela, Mratibu wa CLACS Chuoni Kibabii akisikiliza hoja



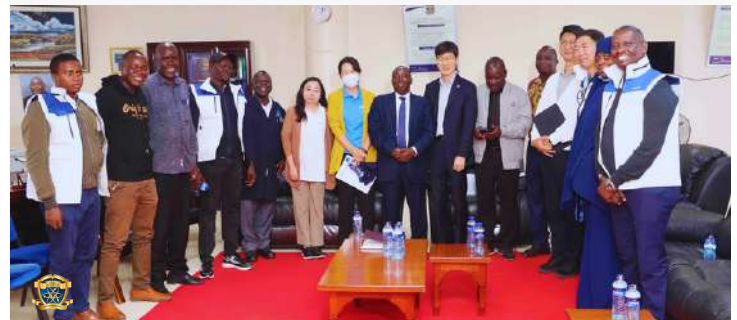
Kibabii University Set to Benefit from the KOICA Phase II Water Project

By Dorcas Kosgei

The Country Director of the KOICA Kenya Office, Dr. Jang Hee Im, paid a courtesy call to Kibabii University on 4th April, 2024. He was received by Prof. Siamba, the DVC, Administration, Finance and Development, who represented the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Isaac Ipara Odeo. The team comprising officers from KOICA Kenya, County Government of Bungoma, and NZOWASCO, visited the University to inspect the progress of the connectivity and flow of the second phase of the KOICA Chepyuk-Kibabii Complex Water Supply Project which was connected to the University in the pilot phase.

In his remarks, Prof. Siamba commended the KOICA team for ensuring Kibabii University is one of the biggest beneficiaries of the KOICA Phase II Water Project. He expressed his joy on the progress made so far and thanked the team on behalf of the Vice Chancellor, noting that the University was keenly following the progress of the Project since it would solve the long-term water shortage affecting the University, and would contribute to improving the overall state of sanitation and hygiene by increasing water supply and access by our main client, the students.

The KOICA Country Director noted that the Koreans were pleased to see the students stay connected to clean water. He was also particularly impressed with the University's infrastructural facilities, captivating landscape and beautiful scenery. He lauded the University for the partnership and investments for future generations. The Project is set to be commissioned in May, 2024.



The KOICA team being received by the DVC AFD, Prof. Siamba



The DVC AFD, Prof. Siamba addressing the KOICA team



Vice Chancellor's Farewell Address to the Outgoing Fourth Years

By Kelly Inyani

The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Isaac Ipara Odeo's annual farewell address to fourth year students was held on 4th April, 2024 to reflect upon and celebrate the students' four year academic journey.

The daylong Celebration kicked-off with a presentation on resume presentation and personal etiquettes during interviews by Dr. Irene Simiyu. On the other hand, Dr. Christine Nabwire enlightened the students about courtship and dating, whereas Rev. Michael Masambu focused on life after college. These presentations were intended to assist the students to be holistic after campus, both in their careers and personal lives. Outgoing students' leaders led by the outgoing Students' President, Dennis Baraka, also had an opportunity to address their colleagues and commended their resilience and hard work during their four year journey. The leaders drawn from various Schools and Faculties, wished their colleagues well as they exit the Institution and embark on life after campus.

The Ag. Deputy Vice Chancellor Academics and Students' Affairs, Prof. Stanley Mutsotso noted that Kibabii University has produced quality graduates over the years. This is due to the commitment of staff and excellent education and training offered by the University. Evidence of this was the recent absorption of our 2023 graduates in the Government Programme known as the Rapid Tech Skills (RTS).



The RTS is an initiative fully funded by World Bank Training Programme to equip students with technology skills. This year, Kibabii University was among 8 universities picked to offer these trainings nationwide where 33 of its graduates of 2023 were selected. Prof. Mutsotso implored the students to be good brand ambassadors of the University.

Speaking during the event, Prof. Siamba, on behalf of the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Odeo, thanked the students for turning up in large numbers to celebrate the milestone. He reminded the audience that learning is a continuous process and that the journey must never end.



VICE CHANCELLOR'S ADDRESS

Prof. Siamba reminded the outgoing students of how special a group they were as they had waded through a myriad of challenges that included the COVID-19 pandemic, introduction of virtual learning, among others. Despite these challenges, this group has been outstanding, dedicated and focused on their academic journey and exhibited a high level of flexibility.

Prof. Siamba challenged the students to package themselves properly by dressing appropriately because, according to him, one's dressing allows the public to assess the value of an individual and their ability to be trusted. He also advised to create good curriculum vitae. "A good CV will market an individual even without a single word being uttered. Partnerships and being open minded will open doors, create opportunities and networks that one has never imagined," said Prof. Siamba.

The climax of the ceremony was the the Ceremonial cake cutting where the representative of the Vice Chancellor had an opportunity to share a cake with the outgoing students, as well as the Faculty and Staff present.

VC'S ADDRESS PICTORIAL



Attendees listening to the VC's address



Prof. Siamba, representing the VC, giving cake to attendees



Prof. Siamba, representing the VC, sharing the cake with attendees



Attendees keenly following the VC's address



KIBU's Dr. Leonida Makila Presents at the Annual International SRA Conference in Chicago, USA

By Kelly Inyani

Dr. Leonida Makila Makutsa of Kibabii University was privileged to make her project presentation during the Annual International Society for Research on Adolescence Conference themed: **Today's Innovations Tomorrow's Insights** which was held from the 18th to 20th of April, 2024, in Chicago, Illinois in the USA. Dr. Makila, a Lecturer in the Department of Education Psychology carried out a project on Covid-Related Gender Based Violence and Its Impact on Mental Health and Academic Resilience of Adolescent Girls. The study, carried out between January and March of 2022, targeted a number of girls' secondary schools in the Western Regions of Kenya. Among the schools sampled included, Kolanya Girls and Chakol Girls in Busia County, Kibuk Girls and Kim Girls in Mt. Elgon Regions of Bungoma County, and Kipsigis Girls, Tengecha Girls, Kapkisiara Girls and Cheptuyet Girls in Kericho County.

The focus of the study was on mental health and academic resilience, looking at how gender based violence affected school going girls in secondary schools in Kenya during the Covid-19 pandemic with 450 students being sampled. The study established that mental health trajectories are always altered during pandemics and that it was imperative that intervention strategies should be developed, key being listening to the voices of this vulnerable age cohort to bolster resilience.

Dr. Leonida Makila thanked the University Management for supporting her study and giving her an opportunity to make a presentation to them before flying out to Chicago. She also thanked her team of research assistants from Kibabii University who included Dr. Robert Kati, Mr. Kelly Inyani, Mr. Onex Opati, Dr. Lilian Ayiro and Vivian Machanury. Her gratitude was also to the school heads who accorded her and her team maximum support and all the students whose contribution led to the success of the project. At the Presentation in Chicago, Kibabii University was awarded an Encyclopedia on Adolescents.



NEMA AND KFS Pay Courtesy Call to Kibabii University

By Isaac Manje

The National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA) and the Kenya Forestry Service (KFS) paid a courtesy call to Kibabii University on 19th April, 2024 to discuss possible areas of collaboration in tree planting and environmental conservation. NEMA was ably represented by Prof. Charles Ngome Kibanani, a Board Member at the Authority, while KFS was represented by Mr. Eric Abungu, an Ecosystem Conservator based at KFS in Bungoma.

The team was received by Senior University Management, comprising Prof. Donald Siamba, the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Administration, Finance and Development who represented the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Isaac Ipara Odeo, Prof. Munir Muganda, Ag. Vice Chancellor. Partnerships, Planning, Research and Development, and Dr. Paul Obino, the Director of Partnerships and Linkages.

In his remarks, Prof. Siamba reiterated Kibabii University's commitment to planting trees and conserving the environment in order to minimize the effects of climate change.

He said that the University had a tree nursery at its Sirisia farm which had already supplied more than 1,000 tree seedlings that will be planted at the Main Campus. Prof. Siamba noted that the University has already surpassed the government's target of having its staff plant at least 30 trees each.

"Having 400 staff plant 30 trees each translates to 12,000 trees yet the University had already planted more than 17,000 trees so far", said Prof. Siamba. He also noted that plans were underway to bring students on board to actively participate in tree planting.

Prof. Ngome lauded the efforts made by Kibabii University in tree planting and advised the management to consider nurturing as many seedlings as possible as an income generating venture. He further recommended that the seedlings could also be donated to the community as part of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives. He was particularly impressed with the manner in which Kibabii University had been performing well in financial management in the public sector and urged the management to ensure the same was replicated in environmental conservation.

Prof. Munir was thankful to NEMA, particularly to Prof. Ngome, for such a noble initiative noting that it was quite timely and in line with Kibabii University's agenda of environmental protection. He further added that the partnership would provide ideal opportunities for research in environmental issues.

Led by Prof. Siamba, the visiting team planted trees at Kibabii University in commemoration of the visit and imminent partnership. Prof. Siamba called on the delegation to visit the University more often to check on the progress of their planted trees and also to plant more trees in future.

The courtesy call culminated in a site visit to the Kaberwa Forest Station in Kapsokwony area of Mt. Elgon, as well as Kibisi Dam in Tongaren where Kibabii University, NEMA and KFS agreed to work on a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to have the University adopt several wetlands to plant trees. The anticipated MoU would touch on how the adopted wetlands would be demarcated, fenced, planted and secured to avoid conflict with neighbouring communities and ensure the safety of the planted trees.

At Kaberwa, the Team met the Community Forest Association (CFA), led by their Chairman Mr. George Ndege, who reiterated the Association's commitment to protecting the wetlands that Kibabii University intends to adopt. The Kaberwa CFA scouts expressed their enthusiasm in the idea of Kibabii University adopting wetlands to nurture seedlings and assured the delegation of their unwavering support in protecting any seedlings that would be planted by the University.

Dr. Obino, the Director of Partnerships and Linkages at Kibabii University, expressed his satisfaction in the work that the CFA scouts have been doing so far and assured them of the full support of Kibabii University in the noble initiative. He noted that planting and preserving the trees had a long term impact even to people living outside the community.



Teams from KIBU, NEMA & Kaberwa Forest Station in Mt. Elgon



Assessing the Kaberwa Forest Station at Mt. Elgon where KIBU intends to adopt a wetland and plant trees



Assessing Kibisi Dam in Tongaren where KIBU intends to adopt a wetland and plant trees



Officials from NEMA, KFS & KIBU in discussions about planting trees



ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION PICTORIAL



Mr. Eric Abungu (KFS), Prof. Ngome (NEMA) & Prof. Siamba



Mr. Eric Abungu (KFS), Prof. Ngome (NEMA) & Prof. Siamba



From left: Mr. Eric Abungu (KFS), Prof. Ngome (NEMA)



Prof. Munir, Ag. DVC PPRI inspecting Kaberwa Forest Station



Dr. Obino & team assessing Kaberwa Forest Station



Kibisi Dam where KIBU intends to adopt a wetland to plant trees



The communications team taking notes of the site visit



Prof. Munir (KIBU) & Prof. Ngome (NEMA) during the site visit



KIBU in Partnership Transforming Kenyan Communities by Turning Waste into Wonder

Courtesy of Prof. Joshua Abuya & James Devitt

It all commenced in Barcelona, during the spring of 2022, where the WAITRO network brought together innovators, scholars and thought leaders from around the globe. It was there that Prof. Joshua Abuya from Kibabii University in Kenya met James Devitt of the University of Huddersfield in the UK. Their initial conversation about the needs of rural African communities ignited a shared vision: to find sustainable solutions for agricultural waste. Little did they know, this encounter would spark a journey of innovation and change.

Their partnership gained momentum at the WAITRO Summit 2022 in South Africa, where the seeds of collaboration truly took root. Joined by Prof. John Allport and others, the team exchanged ideas that would shape the course of their collaboration. A simple poster on sugarcane waste at the SDG Impact Session caught their attention, leading them to embark on an ambitious quest to transform this environmental challenge into an opportunity.

Their focus was on sugarcane waste. Sugar cane is one of the most widely grown crops in the world.

To satisfy demand for the myriad of products made using sugar, from cakes and sweets to fuel for vehicles, Kenya's sugarcane industry inadvertently generates vast quantities of sugar cane waste, encompassing leaves, bagasse, and other plant matter. This waste, if left unmanaged, poses significant environmental risks, contributing to greenhouse gas emissions and polluting waterways.

The waste volume is immense, with 1 hectare producing around 93 tonnes of cane, yielding 12 tonnes of raw sugar and over 80 tonnes of waste. While leaves are used as mulch for the next crop, a significant portion ends up as "bagasse" after sugar extraction. Bagasse can be used for a variety of purposes such as paper making, poultry litter and animal feed, however the greatest use is as fuel for the sugar mills themselves. Once dried, the bagasse can be burned to fuel the boilers used in the sugar making process. In sugarcane producing areas, bagasse is used as boiler fuel in many industries, for example brewing.



As previously stated, there are other uses for bagasse, but there needs to be a demand for any product, as well as the initial investment to set up processing plants. One potential solution is converting bagasse into cooking fuel briquettes, replacing charcoal in traditional stoves that emit harmful carbon monoxide and particulate matter. Forster Andanje of Carbon Footprint Ltd developed a process to transform bagasse into solid briquettes without added binders or chemicals, ideal for cleaner, longer-burning cooking fuel. However, the process requires drying the initially wet bagasse, which is challenging in Kenya's tropical climate with frequent rainfall.

The newly acquainted team saw the potential to turn this problem into a solution. The challenge was to take this environmental hazard and transform it into something useful that benefits the local Kenyan community, namely cooking fuel. This led to a significant 2-year adventure linking the Global North and South in a venture to solve a problem which, although local in nature, is a step towards addressing an issue that affects us all, namely global warming.

The solution was clean cooking fuel. With the support of Innovate UK, the project gained momentum, securing funding to kick start the team's endeavors. Together with Carbon Footprint Ltd., they set out to revolutionize sugarcane waste management by optimizing bagasse conversion into clean cooking fuel, aiming to improve health outcomes and reduce reliance on harmful practices like illegal logging for charcoal production.

Following a visit by Prof. John Allport to Kibabii University, the partners found a suitable funding opportunity through a pilot program modelled after the UK's successful Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTPs). This program aimed to establish KTP-like initiatives in Kenya, Nigeria, Ghana, and South Africa, with Innovate UK funding initial collaborations between African universities, companies, and experienced UK university mentors.

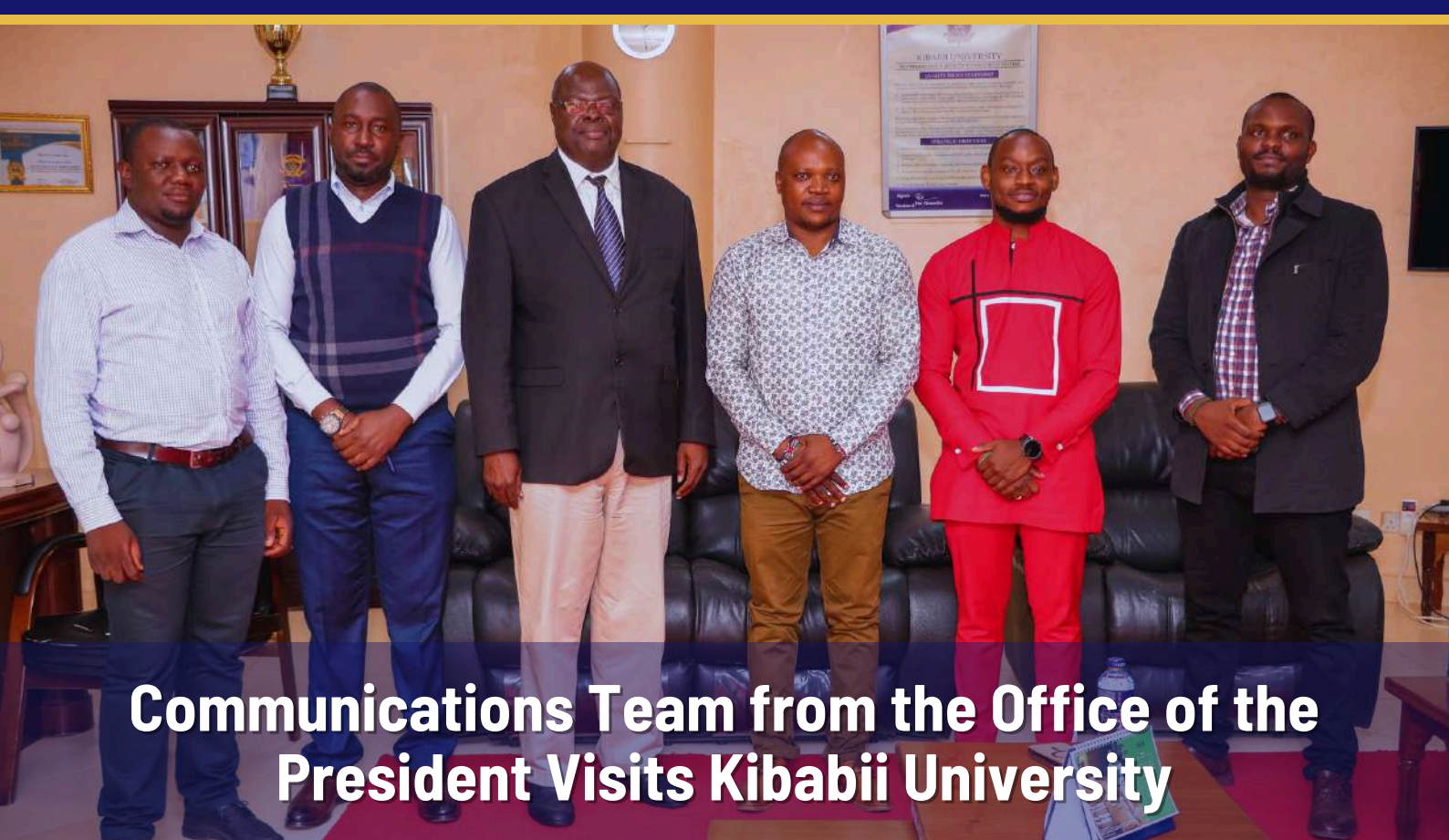
The team's application, involving the two universities and Carbon Footprint Limited, secured £250,000 from Innovate UK in September 2023. The resulting project embraced sustainability, environmental aspects, waste management, and improving people's health, catalyzing further collaboration potential between the partners and an official Memorandum of Understanding between the two universities in 2023. The project's impact extends far beyond waste management. By providing a clean and sustainable alternative to traditional charcoal, the briquettes have the potential to improve air quality and reduce respiratory health issues in rural households.

Prof. Abuya said that "In the halls of Kibabii University, the excitement is palpable. The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Isaac Ipara Odeo, my colleagues, and myself are eager to see our vision come to life, knowing that our efforts will have a ripple effect far beyond our borders. With every step forward, we are reminded of the power of collaboration and the potential for change. And as we work tirelessly to bring this project to fruition, we know that we are not alone. Together, we will pave the way for a brighter, more sustainable future for all."

For Prof. Abuya Joshua and his team, this project represents more than technological innovation – "it's a beacon of hope, showcasing what can be achieved through collaboration and shared vision". As they look ahead, they see a world where waste is no longer a burden but a source of opportunity. With each briquette produced, they inch closer to a future where sustainability reigns supreme.

This information was accessed at: <https://waitro.org/activities/the-power-of-the-waitro-network-brought-to-life-a-partnership-transforming-kenyan-communities-by-turning-waste-into-wonder/>

For more information on the project contact:
James Devitt (University of Huddersfield): J.Devitt@hud.ac.uk or Prof. Joshua Abuya (Kibabii University): jabuya@kibu.ac.ke



Communications Team from the Office of the President Visits Kibabii University

By Isaac Manje

A Team of communication personnel from the Office of the President paid a courtesy call to Kibabii University on 25th April, 2024. The Team has been on a tour of Bungoma County, taking stock of the achievements and developments in the region ahead of the anticipated Madaraka Day celebrations that are planned to be hosted in Bungoma County on 1st June, 2024.

The Team was received by the Ag. Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academic and Students' Affairs, Prof. Stanley Mutsotso who represented the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Isaac Ipara Odeo. They visited various laboratories including the Agriculture Lab, Microbiology Lab, Chemistry Lab, Physics Lab, and the School of Nursing Practical Skills Lab. They expressed their satisfaction with the facilities available at Kibabii University and noted that the University is a gem in the region. The team was particularly impressed with the the Digital Forensics Lab and urged the University to take advantage of such unique features to offer specialized trainings in the area of digital forensics.

Other areas visited included the University Library, the Data Center, and ICT laboratories.



Nursing students pose for a photo with the Team Leader, Brian Martins



From left: Joseph Shilasi, Brian Martins & Isaac Manje



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT VISIT PICTORIAL



From left: Dr. Yonah Etene, Joseph Shilasi & Brian Martins



Mr. Brian Martins (left) helping out a student at the lab



Mr Cyprian Ontyayoh (right) making a presentation



The Team exploring the digital forensics lab



The team viewing equipment at the biotechnology lab



The team interacting with staff at the University Library



Nursing students interacting with the communication team



The team at one of the computer laboratories interacting with learners



Swearing-in of the 7th SOKU Leaders

By Isaac Manje

The 7th Students' Organization of Kibabii University (SOKU) leaders took oaths of office on April 3rd, 2024, administered by the University Legal Officer, Ms. Jacqueline Wanjala. Senior members of the University Management and Kibabii University Electoral Commission (KEC) Board Members were also present to witness the occasion. The Senior University Management comprised the Deputy Vice Chancellor (DVC), Administration, Finance, and Development, Prof. Donald Siamba (representing the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Isaac Ipara Odeo), Ag. DVC, Planning, Partnerships, Research, and Innovation, Prof. Munir Muganda, and Ag. DVC, Academic and Students' Affairs, Prof. Stanley Mutsoso. Also present was the In-charge, Students Affairs, Dr. Nasongo.

Each of the newly elected SOKU officials swore to uphold, protect, and defend the rights of the students and to perform the functions of their respective offices faithfully and conscientiously with due diligence and competence, without fear, favor, hatred, hindrance, or prejudice. The new leaders thanked the outgoing leadership for their excellent and dedicated service to KIBU students and for ensuring a smooth transition of leadership.

The outgoing SOKU President, Dennis Baraka, lauded Kibabii University for being an Institution that respects the rights and freedoms of students and thanked the University Management for ensuring that the electoral process was free and fair. He urged students to always maintain peace during elections in order to strengthen their unity.

The incoming SOKU President, Philippe Silali, urged the student body to put aside their political differences and work together for the good of the students. He noted that politics was over and it was high time to embark on serving students. Silali highlighted some of the key areas that his government intended to focus on, such as addressing issues of water, security, and sports.

The In-charge, Students' Affairs, Dr. Benson Nasongo, thanked the university management for ensuring that the elections were well-funded and conducted. Dr. Nasongo noted that it is always a very satisfying moment for any Dean of Students to see the student election process successfully completed and new leaders finally taking office.



The KEC Chairperson, Dr. Ben Nyongesa, congratulated the new SOKU leadership and wished them all the best in their journey to serve the KIBU students' fraternity. Also gracing the occasion were student leaders from Rongo University who traveled all the way from Rongo as a sign of solidarity with their KIBU counterparts on this momentous occasion.

The Ag. DVC, PPRI, Prof. Munir Muganda congratulated and reminded the new student leaders that the task ahead of them was not about positions but service to students. He assured them that the PPRI Division would offer the leadership its full support to fulfill their mandate. The Ag. DVC, ASA, Prof. Stanley Mutsotso, expressed his joy that the election process was concluded successfully and that new leaders were now in office. He thanked the Student Affairs Department, KEC, and SEC for ensuring a successful electoral process. Prof. Mutsotso congratulated the new office bearers and urged them to emulate the outgoing SOKU leadership that worked very well with the University Management for the good of comrades.

Speaking on behalf of the Vice Chancellor, the DVC, AFD, congratulated the incoming team for taking office. He assured the new leadership of the full support of the University Management and reminded the incoming SOKU President that he would now be part of the decisions that would be made by Management affecting students since he will sit in the University Senate, hence the need for him to be strategic in his leadership.



The Legal Officer, Jacqueline Wanjala administering oaths



Postgraduate rep, Godwin Kachi (left) signing his oath



Members of the Students' Council during the swearing-in



From left: Philipe Silali, Prof. Siamba & Elizabeth Kemunto



SOKU President with members of University Management



SOKU SWEARING-IN PICTORIAL





The Inspiring Story of Purity Wechuli

By Isaac Manje

This is the touching story of a young girl, Purity Wechuli, one vivacious nineteen year old go-getter from Bukembe in Bungoma County, Kenya.

Brought up in a family of two siblings, Purity's father abandoned her and her little brother when she was just 4 years old, marking the beginning of her difficult, yet intriguing educational journey. Left to fend for her young family on her own, it became increasingly difficult for Purity's mother to make ends meet. This forced her to take Purity and her younger brother to their grandfather in a village in Kabula area, Bungoma, as she sought alternative means to put food on their table. Life there was nothing near easy. Purity had to juggle between school, chores and caring for her aging and sickly grandmother who was diabetic and hypertensive.

Purity's mother left Bukembe and travelled all the way to the Capital City to work as a housemaid. With her meagre wages, she struggled to cater for the basic needs and school fees of her two children who were hosted by their grandfather back in the village.

Purity narrated how she would sometimes be forced to stay away from school for two full terms, a case in point when in class 4 when her mother was totally unable to raise her school fees.

Her mother continued with her housemaid jobs under different employers, struggling to take Purity through her primary education. Purity said that it was through God's grace that she overcame these challenges and completed her primary education, passing with 371 marks out of the possible 500, and securing admission at Kolanya Girls' High School.

Joining secondary school was another nightmare for Purity considering the amount of fees that was required. Even her closest relatives were nowhere to assist her at that time of dire need. Circumstances forced her to go for the only affordable option at that time, Naburereya Secondary School, a local day secondary school near her grandfather's home.

Purity only studied at Naburereya for one month before securing a scholarship from the County Government of Bungoma to study at Kolanya Girls' High School where she had been first placed.



Her journey at Kolanya was not all rosy. Right from the onset, getting all the admission and accommodation requirements proved futile. Her mother got into massive debts to get her the basics that allowed her to settle in school. The situation was so dire that Purity would sometimes be forced to remain in school when her schoolmates went home for the holidays to be with their families. Her mother could barely afford fare for her to go home and return to school after the holidays, hence preferring that she stays in school. Such hardships endured by Purity were her sole motivation to work hard and succeed in her studies.

From a young age, Purity had always aspired to work in the medical field. Her passion in this helped her lay a firm foundation towards realizing her aspiration. Her sole ambition was to ensure that despite her hardships, she becomes the first person from her extended family to become a medical professional. Purity's passion for the medical field was mostly driven by her desire to save lives.

After four hectic years of sheer perseverance, persistence and hard work, Purity performed quite well in her KCSE, scoring an impressive grade of A-. Her joy was only short-lived as she immediately started worrying about the possibility of proceeding to the next stage of her education, higher education. Things did not get any easier. Her mother lost her housemaid job just after Purity had completed her secondary education. Imagining that her education journey would be cut short threw Purity into depression.

Her mother's desire to see her two children succeed pushed her to her limits. She took Purity and her younger brother from their grandfather's home and returned to their village in Bukembe. Here, she began preparing and selling mandazis along the roadside to ensure that Purity's younger brother completed his basic education. Purity could not sit back and watch her education dream die. She stepped up and looked for a low-paying job at a local hotel to supplement her mother's little income.

Her exemplary performance meant that the conversation of joining university could not be swept under the carpet. Considering her family situation, she had very little hope of joining. Her desire to pursue a course in the medical profession began to look farfetched, considering the high fees associated with such courses. However, her passion did not die. She remembered her days as a young girl, nursing her sick grandmother and watching medics take care of her in hospital, and decided to take the bold step of applying for a Bachelor's degree in Nursing.

Purity walked to several government offices and approached a good number of local politicians for help. None of them was forthcoming. When the time came for her to join university, there were no finances available to facilitate her. The little that her mother made ended up feeding them and taking her small brother to school. Her local church was touched when she shared her plight and some members contributed some money to assist her, though it was nowhere near enough.

Deferment of her studies became the only available option. She had not managed to get any of the admission requirements, which were quite many and expensive. She deferred her studies for one academic year in order to buy some time, with the hopes that things would get better someday.

Waking up in the cold wee hours of the night to go to her hotel job had to stop because her chest became severely affected by these adverse conditions. She joined her mother in selling mandazis by the roadside, though this was still not enough considering that her younger brother was still in school. Never giving up, her mother turned to roasting and selling maize, while Purity handled the mandazis next to her.

By this time, Purity was a prime youth in her teenage years. The unique challenges that come with this stage are well known, but she was able to overcome them due to the disciplined and Godly way that she had been raised by her mother and grandparents.



One day, during her routine of preparing mandazis by the roadside, a gentleman named Charles who was buying her mandazis inquired why Purity was not in school despite her good grades. Purity's explanation touched Charles, whose son was being sponsored by Strathmore University to pursue his studies. This prompted him to link Purity with another gentleman named Evans who travelled all the way to her home and witnessed firsthand the dire situation there.

Determined to see Purity in school, Evans introduced her to Professor Izael Pereira Da Silva, the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Research and Innovation at Strathmore University. Prof. Da Silva was touched by her story and stepped in to assist Purity enroll in the course she had been initially placed at Dedan Kimathi University. Being many miles away from home, accommodation and transport were a major challenge. The idea of applying to be transferred to a university near home crossed her mind. It is here that Professor Donald Namasaka Siamba, the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Administration, Finance and Development at Kibabii University came in handy. Purity successfully transferred to Kibabii University, which was only a few kilometers from her home to pursue the course of her dreams, a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing.

Purity reported to Kibabii University on 18th September, 2023. She is forever indebted to all those who came to her rescue. She hopes to complete her studies and give back to her community in great measure. Strathmore University and Kibabii University continue to walk her journey with her to date and she continues to receive enormous support from Strathmore University through Prof. Da Silva amidst the challenges she continues to face. Any support accorded to her by other well-wishers will go a long way in helping cater for her fees, accommodation, and upkeep, as she struggles to realize her dreams and full potential.



Purity (standing) and her mother at their roadside maize-roasting hustle



Purity receiving her brand new laptop donation at Kibabii University's DVC AFD's office, Prof. Donald Siamba



Purity in the company of Evans, Dr. Ben Nyongesa, and Prof. Siamba (extreme right) during the handing over of the laptop donated to her to facilitate her studies



KIBU Staff Orientation & Training

By Isaac Manje

The Office of the Registrar (Administration & Human Resource) organized for a staff orientation exercise on 4th April, 2024 in the Senate Boardroom. The exercise targeted staff whose terms of service had changed from contract to permanent and pensionable terms, staff who had been recently promoted, newly appointed staff, and staff who had been reassigned to different roles within the University.

Senior members of the University Management were present to sensitize the invited staff on various issues including the functions and core mandate of the University, structures and functions of the three main divisions of the University, and other pertinent human resource matters. Other key issues that were addressed included procedures for health services, functions of ICT, mental health issues, customer service, publicity and marketing, national cohesion, trade union matters, quality assurance, corruption eradication, and personal financial management among others.

Representing the Vice Chancellor was Prof. Donald Siamba, who gave the Vice Chancellor's opening remarks and took staff through the functions and core mandate of the University. In his substantial capacity as the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Administration, Finance & Development, Prof. Siamba sensitized staff on the structure and functions of the Administration, Finance and Development Division, as well as University Policies.

The Ag. Deputy Vice Chancellor, Planning, Partnerships, Research and Innovation (PPRI), Prof. Munir Muganda outlined the functions of the PPRI Division, as well as an overview of the University's strategic planning process.

The Registrar, Administration and Human Resource, Dr. Ruth Mitalo, sensitized staff on the terms and conditions of employment, the code of conduct expected of staff, and issues of conflict of interest. She advised staff on personal financial management matters and urged them to live within their means. Dr. Mitalo requested the staff present not to fear the HR Office and make a point to visit the office in case they faced any issues as employees.

CPA Tubman Walaba, who spoke on behalf of the Finance Officer, Dr. Benjamin Oduori, spoke to staff about personal financial management. He explained how gratuity payments are calculated and made, and also urged staff to be prudent managers of their personal financial resources, as well as the University's financial resources.

Dr. Robert Wafula, the Director, Office of Career Services, discussed mental health issues with staff, urging them to embrace positivity and to be grateful to God that they are part of the Kibabii University family. He encouraged staff to be their brother's keeper, care for each other, and check on each other from time to time as this contributes to a positive work environment.

On national cohesion, Dr. Brian Singoro, noted that societies and individuals could only achieve their potential when living and working together in harmony. He reminded staff about the national cohesion values for Kenya as enshrined in Article 10 of the Constitution of Kenya which include: patriotism, national unity, sharing and devolution of power, the rule of law, democracy and participation of the people; human dignity, equity, social justice, inclusiveness, equality, human rights, nondiscrimination & protection of the marginalized, good governance, integrity, transparency and accountability, and sustainable development.

Irene Wakhungu spoke on trade union matters and explained the key functions of KUSU within the University which included collective bargaining and advocating for the overall welfare of staff. She reported on the progress of the internal CBA and urged the staff to execute their duties diligently as guided by the HR Manual and Procedures.

The targeted staff were then led in taking their Oaths of Secrecy by the University Legal Officer, Ms. Jacqueline Wanjala who administered the oaths. The Oath of Secrecy binds employees to carry out their duties faithfully, diligently and honestly, and only to reveal information only when authorized.



KIBU staff during the orientation & Induction exercise



Prof. Siamba making his presentation



KIBU staff during the orientation & Induction exercise



Dr. Ruth Mitalo, Registrar, Administration & HR



KIBU SACCO Holds its 10th Annual General Meeting

By Isaac Manje

Kibabii University Sacco Society Limited held its 10th Annual General Meeting (AGM) on the 6th of April, 2024. Among the matters on the agenda were the Chairman's Report presented by the KIBU Sacco Chairman, Mr. Nobert Wanyonyi, the Supervisory Report presented by Mr. Samwel Sitati, the Treasurer's report presented by Jackline Wasilwa, and the Auditor's Report presented by the external auditor, CPA Phillip Oundo.

Mr. Nobert Wanyonyi thanked the University Management for their continued support of making timely remittances every month. He appreciated the Vice Chancellor whom he noted had taken keen interest in the affairs of KIBU SACCO. The Chairman also appreciated KIBU SACCO partners who from time to time had provided crucial services such as oversight (Cooperative department), training (KUSSCO), insurance (CIC), and co-banking services (Pesa-Tech Solutions). Among the challenges he pinpointed facing KIBU SACCO were the third rule, the housing levy, the inflation of the shilling, non-performing loans, and a significant drop in membership.

The Chairman reported that during the last financial year, the Management Committee accomplished several milestones including developing of eight crucial SACCO policies, developing a business work plan, participating in the County Cooperative Ushirika day and being awarded various trophies, and completing the registration of the amended by-laws. Following the SACCO elections held in March 2024, the Chairman thanked all the out-going committee members for serving diligently and dedicatedly with dignity and openness. He requested the incoming committee members to bring in new energy, skills and innovation to bring KIBU SACCO to greater heights.

The KIBU SACCO treasurer, Jackline Wasilwa, reported that the Sacco managed to pay out loans amounting Kshs 65.15 Million and Christmas savings amounting to Kshs 5.12 Million without external borrowings. "Within the same period, member's deposits grew by 3.16% from Kshs 67.5 Million in the year 2022 to Kshs 69.6 Million. However, we call upon Sacco members to save more to enable the society to meet FOSA minimum threshold of Kshs 100 Million", said the treasurer.



She further reported that the members' share capital had grown from Kshs 3.47 Million to Kshs 4.05 Million representing a 16.55% rise. The Sacco revenue increased slightly from Kshs 13.3 Million to Kshs 14.1 Million translating to 6.2%.

It was unanimously agreed by the members that a new auditor be contracted by the SACCO since the old one had stayed on for too long. The AGM culminated in rewarding the best savers as per the three electoral colleges in Kibabii University, namely UASU, KUSU and KUDHEIHA. Dr. Duncan Wasike from UASU, Ms. Mukanda from KUSU, and Ms. Gladys Etukon from KUDHEIHA were awarded for being the best savers in their respective electoral colleges.



KIBU SACCO members listening to the AGM proceedings



KIBU SACCO officials during the 10th AGM



Outgoing KIBU SACCO Vice Chair, Amos Nyongosa



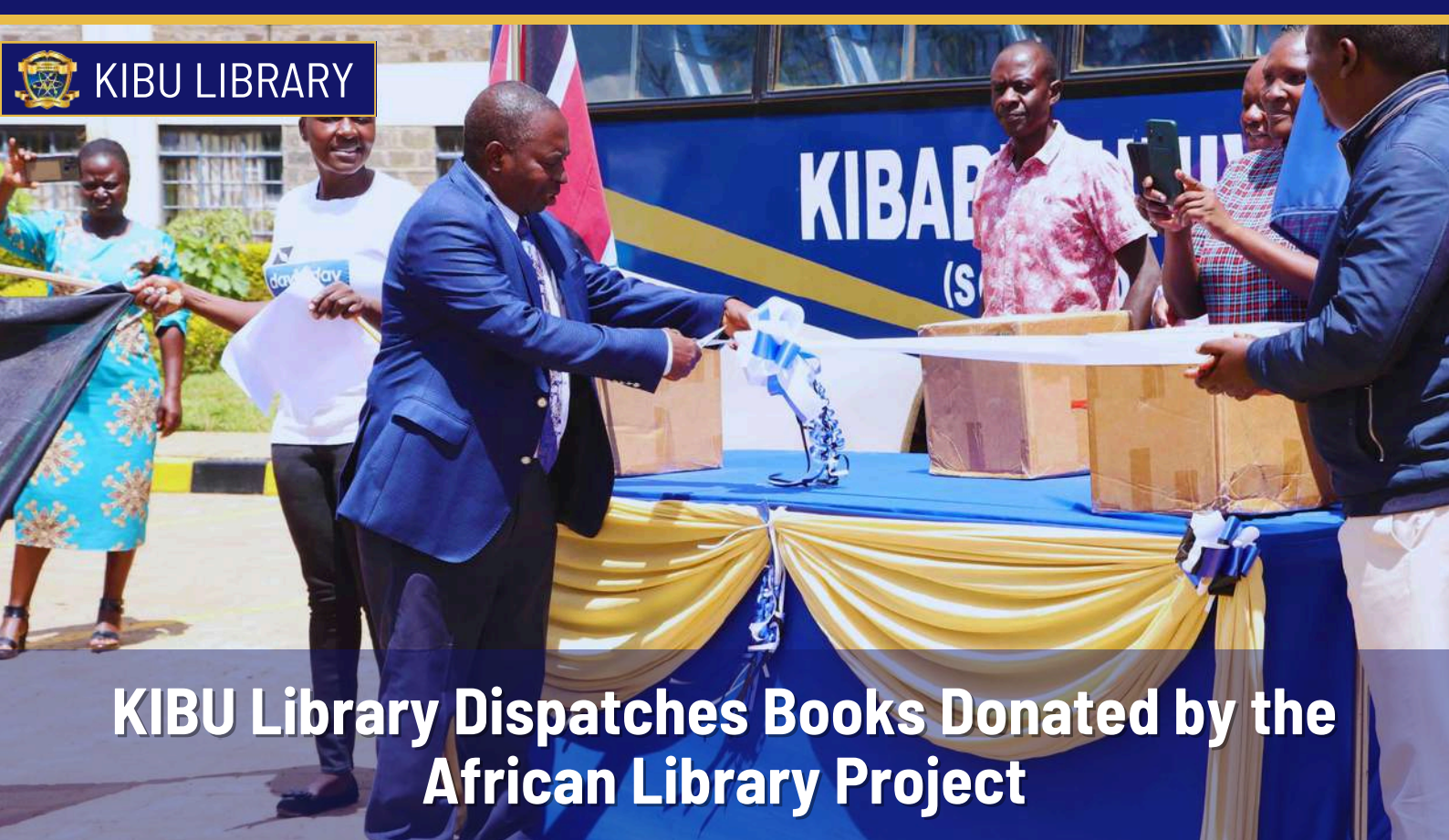
KIBU SACCO Treasurer, Jackline Wasilwa giving her report



Collins Majengo, outgoing Supervisory Committee Secretary



Mary Mwango from Bungoma County Cooperatives Office



KIBU Library Dispatches Books Donated by the African Library Project

By Isaac Manje

The culmination of the 9th African Library Project Summit and Librarians training was marked with a dispatch ceremony that saw the flagging off of 23,408 volumes of books to twenty one (21) school and community libraries on the 28th March, 2024.

Gracing the occasion and officiating the flagging off Ceremony was the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration, Finance and Development), Professor Donald Siamba, representing the Vice Chancellor, Professor. Isaac Ipara Odeo. Accompanying him was the acting Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic and Students' Affairs), Professor Stanley Mutsotso.

Library staff, led by the In-charge, Library Services and Documentation Center, Mr. Samuel Wakahia, were also present to oversee the smooth dispatch of the donated books to the benefitting schools and community libraries.

Among the benefitting school and community libraries were Brenda Friends Girls Secondary School, Lutacho Secondary School, Mini Library Mayanja, Word of Life Church Community Library, and Kibabii University Children's Library among 16 other libraries.



Prof. Siamba flagging off the book donations to schools on behalf of the Vice Chancellor, Prof Odeo



The beneficiaries of the donations picking the books



Keep Close Laws on Chemical Safety & Security

By Joseck Alwala

The ILO, which is a specialized agency of UN has pronounced that approximately one thousand new chemicals come into the market every year, and about 100,000 chemical substances are used on a global scale. They are found as mixtures in commercial products.

The abundance not only puts the worker handling them at risk but also lays bare households through misuse or by accidents, and contaminate consumer products including food. Lack of chemical safety pollutes the environment and transposes the ecosystem.

Severance of chemical safety is unfeasible. There is affluence of magnificence. Chemical operational safety dawned in remote ages. In around 1700 BC, there was the Code of Hammurabi, a legal text written in cuneiform. It contained 282 laws. The two most important were: Companies are responsible for the safety of their employees and liable for dangerous working conditions (Law 6), and Workers who cause an accident can be held accountable (Law 117).

In the 19th century, chemical safety got its roots when the Occupational Health and Safety Act became a reality. Lamentably, the aristocracy, including politicians, exclusively observe chronicles of the evolving occurrences of poor chemical handling and use. They overlook or neglect training the public on ten basic rules of chemical safety as outlined by UN such as: Perceive and recognize the chemicals you use, label clearly and correctly every chemical in the work place, put on the correct protective equipment dominated by your valuation taken for distinct work areas, genuine control and ventilation must be set up at a point volatiles subsist, stock chemicals in safety cupboards in their nominated localities and take out only the amount needed for the contemporary work procedure, mastery of emergency procedures must be taught to employees, and building evacuation plans should always be on display in a reachable area, hazard control systems must be routinely cleaned and perpetuated, consistently clean yourself down on leaving the workplace and do not eat, drink, smoke, or perform any other such sidetracking venture when working with hazardous chemicals.

The rejoinder, at inception, is to assess chemical hazards and set priorities concerning the safety in any organization and create emergency plans for the assessed hazards. Besides, technical measures must be used to prevent chemical hazards at source, and to prevent the transfer of dangerous chemicals.

The national government should create awareness regarding sound chemical management among stakeholders, particularly among the small and medium-scale enterprises, and a serious dearth of technical personnel in chemical safety management in both regulatory bodies and industries. There must be comprehension and coherence on what represents a chemical and its compounds, categories and historical conditions of use.

Tremulous consciousness of the complications of chemical safety, lack of framework to deal with it, and truancy of well-defined codification to battle it is to blame for the growing calamity. Let the state initiate and contrivance chemical safety and security management laws.

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

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Sexual Harrassment: A Scourge that Doesn't Go Away

By Kelly Inyani

"A new Unit will be formed to hunt sex pests in the Judiciary." Yes, you read that right. This was the headline in the Standard Newspaper on 30th March, 2024. "Sex for grades: How lecturers across Africa prey on female students", another headline on the Daily Nation Newspaper on 27th April, 2024. This is a clear indicator that this conversation needs immediate attention. A very emotive and sensitive topic, sexual harassment is one area very few would like to venture, one that evokes painful memories for both victims and would have been victims. It is a recurring topic within the country both in scholarly circles, investigative agencies, international organizations, news, and other researches.

The Sexual Offences Act No.3 of 2006 of Kenya in Section 24 (1) defines sexual harassment as (1) Any person, who being in a position of authority, or holding a public office, who persistently makes any sexual advances or requests which he or she knows, or has reasonable grounds to know, are unwelcome, is guilty of the offence of sexual harassment and shall be liable to imprisonment for a term of not less than three years or to a fine of not less than one hundred thousand shillings or to both.

The United Nations defines sexual harassment as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment, or submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as a basis for employment decisions affecting such individual, or such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive working environment.

According to Kenya Demographic and Health Survey (KDHS) over 40% of women have experienced both physical and sexual violence. According to the Voice of America (VoA), Kenya has the highest sexual harassment rates among female journalists at 56% and sadly in 83% of the cases, the victims do not report the cases. Another study showed that 1 in every 10 college female students have experienced a form of sexual harassment from their lecturers. While another showed that the prevalence of sexual harassment experienced by these students is usually in their first or second semester of study.



According to a survey done by ActionAid in 2020, half of all female students and a quarter of male students in higher learning institutions in Kenya had been sexually harassed. The KNBS shows that approximately 40% of university students in Kenya have been exposed to sexual harassment in their course of studies. Sexual harassment may occur either in the physical space and/or in cyberspace.

Forms of sexual harassment

They can be categorized as verbal, non-verbal and physical. They include actual or attempted rape or sexual assault, unwanted pressure for sexual favors, unwanted or deliberate touching, leaning over, cornering, or pinching, unwanted sexual looks or gestures, unwanted letters, telephone calls, or materials of a sexual nature, unwanted pressure for dates, unwanted sexual teasing, jokes, remarks, or questions, referring to an adult as a girl, hunk, a doll, babe or honey; whistling at someone; cat calls, sexual comments, turning work discussions to sexual topics, sexual innuendos or stories, asking about sexual fantasies, preferences or history, personal questions about social or sexual life, sexual comments about a person's clothing, anatomy or looks; kissing sounds, howling and smacking of lips, telling lies or spreading rumors about a person's personal sex life; neck massage; touching an employee's clothing, hair, or body; giving personal gifts; hugging, kissing, patting or stroking; touching or rubbing oneself sexually around another person; standing close or brushing up against another person; looking a person up and down; staring at someone; sexually suggestive signals; facial expressions, winking, throwing kisses, or licking lips and making sexual gestures with hands or through body movements.

Who are the perpetrators?

Unfortunately, they are usually people closer to us. Either a family member, neighbor, a dating partner, former lover, a friend, friend of a friend, colleagues at the workplace, spouse, teachers, university staff, religious leaders, health providers, politicians, law enforcement personnel, and strangers among others.

Where does sexual harassment occur?

Sexual harassment can occur anywhere at any time. These places may include at home, school, campus, churches, workplace, public spaces, entertainment joints, religious events, parties, public offices, police stations, hospitals, public transport, county offices.

Impacts of sexual harassment

Health complications, post-traumatic stress disorders, suicide, anxiety, poor self-esteem, depression, missed opportunities, job losses, anger, family wrangles, marriage issues, absenteeism, poor working relationships, drugs and substance abuse, self-harming, and financial burden among others.

Measures to curb sexual harassment

Arresting and prosecuting perpetrators, proper reporting procedures, developing and implementing sound sexual harassment policies, providing sexual harassment trainings, taking appropriate disciplinary actions against perpetrators, encourage the use of open office policy, strengthen bodies fighting sexual harassment, protecting victims, compensating victims, whistleblowing, raising awareness, naming and shaming, monitoring and tracking sexual offenders, and blacklisting sexual offenders.

How is Kibabii University addressing sexual harassment?

- Zero tolerance to sexual harassment;
- Development of a Sexual Harassment Policy;
- Creating awareness among students during inductions;
- Creating awareness among staff during trainings;
- Creation and strengthening of offices to address sexual harassment. These include; Human Resource (HR), The Office of the Dean of Students Affairs, Public Complaints & Compliments, Institute of Gender, Corruption Prevention Office among others;
- An online platform to report anonymously any form of corruption

Students are encouraged to report any form of sexual harassment to the different offices in the University or law enforcement as soon as it occurs.



IGDS Hosts Trust for Indigenous Culture and Health (TICAH)

By Onex Opati

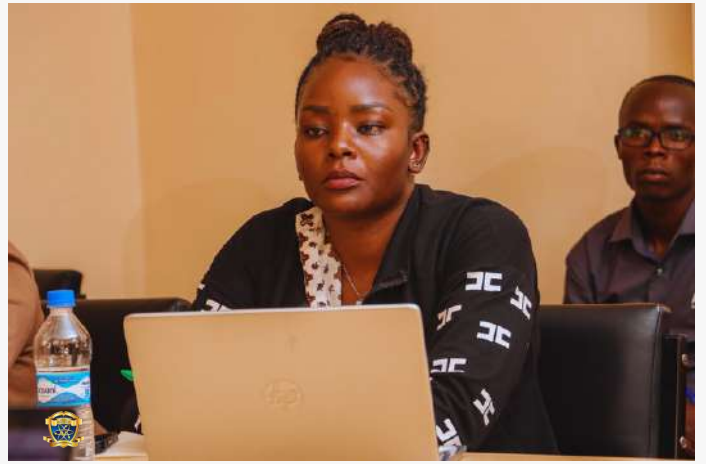
Trust for Indigenous Culture and Health (TICAH) visited Kibabii University to share insights from their latest research project that commenced in October, 2023. Organized by the Institute of Gender and Development Studies, the workshop aimed to shed light on TICAH's mission and work.

TICAH's overarching goal is to speak up for the health rights of communities that are often overlooked. They partner with various organizations to raise awareness about health programs, with a special focus on helping women and girls access vital sexual reproductive health services in Kenya. Tackling tough issues like HIV/AIDS, teenage pregnancies, and gender-based violence is also part of their mission. Additionally, they strive to lower the number of mothers who die during childbirth.

During the workshop, it was revealed that more than half of the students surveyed at Kibabii University were aware of TICAH's efforts. This shows that their work is making an impact, especially within our university community. However, concerns were raised about the reluctance of victims to report cases of abuse due to fear of repercussions.

TICAH also acknowledged the presence of a Guiding and Counseling office on campus, providing support to students facing various challenges. Suggestions were made to introduce short courses or training sessions on HIV/AIDS, mental health, and gender-based violence to further support students.

In essence, the meeting highlighted the importance of collaboration and awareness in addressing health issues within our community. "As we move forward, let's continue working together to ensure that everyone has access to the care and support they need for their well-being," said Dr. Rispah Wepukhulu, the director Institute of Gender and Development Studies. Dr. Wepukhulu expressed gratitude to the respondents in the research, who included students from various study programs, for their participation in the project. She also thanked the members of staff and students from the Kibabii University Gender Club for their presence at the workshop. Special appreciation was extended to the TICAH team for selecting Kibabii University as its study site, and to the Dean of Students for hosting the workshop.





Good Corporate Governance for Successful Organizations

By Dorcas Kosgei

Boards have, since time immemorial, been regarded as an honored set of individuals who provide leadership, vision, strategic direction and indeed crystalize the collective aspirations of organizations. Top organizations have common characteristics which include strong leadership and efficient governance processes. Guided by vision, philosophy, mission, values; leadership and governance is reflected through the ability of leaders to understand risks and adapt to opportunities and changes.

Corporate governance refers to all laws, regulations, codes, and practices that define how a company is administered. It determines the rights and responsibilities of all active agents within an organization, attracting talent and financial capital, boosting internal efficiency, and providing economic value to stakeholders' long-term returns.

Good governance entails creating an environment that is inclusive, sensitive and responsive to the needs of the people and effective to the many challenges it encounters. Governance can be used in several contexts such as corporate governance, global governance, national governance, local governance and governance of the various sectors.

Good governance involves participation, transparency, accountability and rule of law. It involves effectiveness and equity in governance activity. It ensures that political, social and economic priorities are based on broad consensus in society and that the voices of the poorest and the most vulnerable are heard in decision-making.

Good corporate governance practices have an impact on the effectiveness and efficiency of business operations in organizations. Some benefits include efficient processes, reduced costs, compliance and visibility of errors.

PRINCIPLES OF GOOD GOVERNANCE

i. Integrity: Comprises both straightforward dealing and completeness. It is based upon honesty and objectivity, and high standards of propriety and probity in the stewardship of public funds and resources, and management of an entity's affairs. It is dependent on the effectiveness of the control framework and on the personal standards and professionalism of the individuals within the entity.

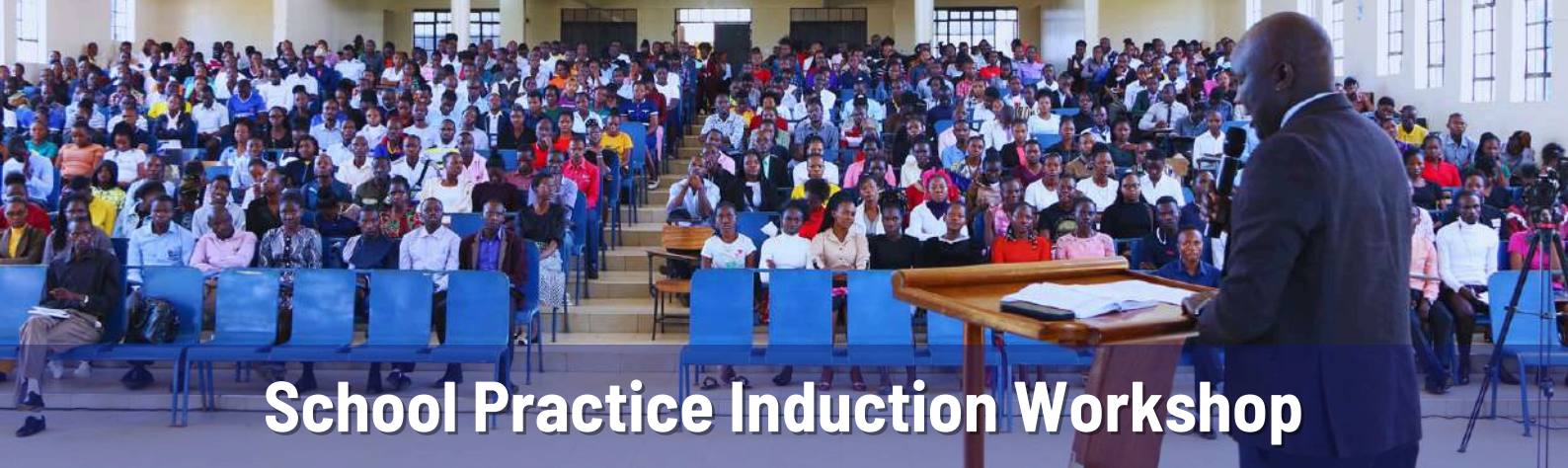
ii. Accountability: The organization, and the individuals within them, are responsible for their decisions and actions, including their stewardship of public funds and all aspects of performance, and submit themselves to appropriate external scrutiny. This is achieved by all parties having a clear understanding of those responsibilities, and having clearly defined roles through a robust structure.

iii. Communication with Stakeholders: There should be clear channels of communication with stakeholders on the organization's mission, roles, objectives and performance and appropriate procedures to ensure that such channels operate effectively in practice. An organization needs to account to its stakeholders its intentions, objectives and strategies and the actual results achieved.

iv. Transparency: The board should provide timely, accurate, and clear information about such things as financial performance, conflicts of interest, and risks to shareholders and other stakeholders.

v. Risk Management: The Board and Management must determine risks of all kinds and how best to control them. They must act on those recommendations to manage them. They must inform all relevant parties about the existence and status of risks.

vi. Responsibility: The Board is responsible for the oversight of corporate matters and management activities. It must be aware of and support the successful, ongoing performance of the company. It must act in the best interests of a company.



School Practice Induction Workshop

By Onex Opati

In a bid to equip aspiring educators with the tools necessary for their forthcoming school practice, Kibabii University's Department of Curriculum and Pedagogy hosted a pivotal Induction Workshop on April 5th, 2024. This event served as a crucial milestone for third-year students, heralding their imminent journey into the realm of teaching.

With school practice scheduled to commence on April 29th and end on August 2nd, the workshop was a beacon of guidance and preparation for the budding educators. Emphasizing adherence to the teachers' code of conduct, the session underscored the paramount importance of professionalism and ethical conduct in the teaching profession. Ms. Rachel Okaro, the principal of Kilimo Girls Secondary School, graced the event as the guest speaker, imparting her invaluable wisdom garnered from years of experience in the educational landscape.

Central to the discourse was the imperative of dressing appropriately during school practice, reflecting the ethos of respect and professionalism. Students were urged to embody the essence of their noble vocation through sartorial choices that resonate with the dignity of the teaching profession. Teacher trainees were urged to remain at their respective schools for the entirety of the term to foster continuity in the learning process and cultivate responsibility among teacher trainees.

Beyond the pedagogical intricacies, the workshop delved into the holistic facets of education, emphasizing the importance of fostering a conducive learning environment that nurtures the intellectual, emotional, and social growth of students. Encouraging an inclusive approach, students were urged to embrace diversity and cater for the individual needs of each learner.

As the educational landscape evolves in tandem with technological advancements, students were encouraged to embrace innovation and leverage digital tools to enhance the learning experience. From interactive presentations to digital resources, the workshop empowered students to embark on their teaching journey equipped with the tools of the digital age.

As the curtains drew to a close on the School Practice Induction Workshop, a palpable sense of anticipation permeated the air, mingled with the resolute determination of aspiring educators poised to embark on their teaching odyssey. Armed with insights gleaned from the workshop and fortified by the guidance of seasoned educators, Kibabii University students stand ready to leave an indelible mark on the canvas of education, igniting minds and shaping futures with unwavering dedication and passion.



KIBABII UNIVERSITY

Knowledge for Development



FACULTY OF ARTS & SOCIAL SCIENCES

- PhD in Religion
- PhD in Kiswahili Studies
- Master of Arts in Religion
- Master of Arts in History
- Masters of Arts Kiswahili
- Master of Arts in Comparative Literature
- Bachelor of Social Work
- Bachelor of Criminology
- Bachelor of Journalism & Mass Communication
- Diploma in Social Work and Community Development
- Diploma in Journalism and Mass Communication
- Diploma in Criminology and Criminal Justice
- Certificate in Social Work and Community Development
- Certificate in Criminology and Criminal Justice

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

- PhD in Curriculum and Instruction
- PhD in Educational Planning and Management
- PhD in Education Management and Policy Studies
- Master of Education in Curriculum & Instruction Technology
- Master of Education in Educational Planning and Management
- Master of Education in Educational Management and Policy Studies
- Master of Education in Educational Planning and Economics
- Master of Education in Kiswahili
- Bachelor of Education (Arts)
- Bachelor of Education (Science)
- Post Graduate Diploma in Education

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS & ECONOMICS

- Master of Business Administration
- MSc. in Human Resource Management
- MBA with Information Technology (IT)
- Bachelor of Commerce (B.Com.)
- Bachelor of Business Management
- Bsc (Cooperative and Entrepreneurship Management)
- Diploma in Business Management
- Certificate in Business Management

SCHOOL OF COMPUTING & INFORMATICS

- PhD in Information Technology
- Master of Science in Information Technology
- Master of Science in Computer Science
- Master of Science in Digital Forensics
- Bachelor of Science Computer Science
- Bachelor of Science in Information Technology
- Diploma in Information Technology
- Certificate in Information Technology

FACULTY OF SCIENCE

- Doctor of Philosophy in Applied Mathematics
- Doctor of Philosophy in Pure Mathematics
- Doctor of Philosophy in Physics
- Master of Science in Physics
- Master of Science in Applied Mathematics
- Master of Science in Pure Mathematics
- Master of Science in Statistics
- Master of Science in Organic Chemistry
- Master of Science in Microbiology
- Bachelor of Science (Mathematics)
- Bachelor of Science (Chemistry)
- Bachelor of Science (Physics)
- Bachelor of Science (Agricultural Education and Extension)
- Bachelor of Science (Biology)
- Bachelor of Science in Bio resources Conservation & Management
- Bachelor of Science (Agricultural Economics & Resource Management)
- Bachelor of Science (Agriculture & Biotechnology)
- Bachelor of Science (Renewable Energy & Bio-fuels Technology)

SCHOOL OF NURSING

- Bachelor of Science in Nursing (Direct Entry)

TVET DIPLOMA PROGRAMMES

- Computer Programming
- Computer Science
- Cyber Security
- Electronics engineering
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- Library & Information Science
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~Prof. Isaac Ipara Odeo~

Vice Chancellor

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