Plans to establish Mama Ngina University College, which will be a constituent college of Kenyatta University are underway. This follows the groundbreaking ceremony which was held on Saturday 13th April 2019 at Mutomo in Gatundu South.

Speaking during the ceremony, Kenyatta University Chancellor Dr. Benson Wairegi, who was the chief guest, expressed his joy to see the start of the important project which will see the provision of higher education in the area.

The groundbreaking ceremony, he revealed, was the culmination of concerted efforts by the relevant stakeholders to bring the strong KU brand to another strategic location. The Chancellor urged the Kenyatta University Council, Management and Senate to ensure that the College is developed into a reputable world class institution that will make a distinct mark in the higher education landmark not only in the country, but regionally as well.

Looking into the future, Dr. Wairegi said the benefits of the project will be local, national and global. He particularly singled out some of the benefits that will include growth of infrastructure, improved opportunities for jobs, business and partnerships.

The Chairman of Kenyatta University Council, Prof. Shem E.
Migot-Adholla was represented by Council member, Dr. Margaret Njoroge who read his speech. Prof. Migot-Adholla observed that the association between KU and Mama Ngina University College started back in 2016, when the Ministry of Education appointed Kenyatta University to mentor its establishment and growth.

Since then, Prof. Migot-Adholla stated that the University has worked closely with other stakeholders to ensure that the College fulfils the necessary legal and statutory requirements to eventually become operational. “Today’s ceremony is thus part of a continuing process meant to give the College a firm foundation on which it can grow and develop into a fully-fledged University”, the Chairman of Council said.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Paul K. Wainaina highlighted the importance of the ceremony for Kenyatta University in its journey to bring the realization of the college dream to the community, the entire country and local stakeholders. The ceremony, Prof. Wainaina said, marked an important step in the establishment of one more national institution of higher learning.

Prof. Wainaina revealed that the current phase under construction will comprise of the administration block and lecture theatres. He appreciated the local community and their leadership for welcoming the idea of putting up an institution of higher learning in the area and for the cooperation given towards the project.

He added that the community will continue to play a major role in the establishment of the college. The Vice-Chancellor concluded by reassuring everyone that Kenyatta University will make all the necessary plans to meet the conditions to have the college accredited to start operations.

Also present during the ceremony was Gatundu South Member of Parliament, Hon. Moses Kuria who reiterated the community’s commitment to see the success of the project. The member of parliament encouraged the local community to embrace the commencement of the project and support it given that it will bring great benefits to the community and the country including business opportunities and creation of jobs in the area.

In particularly, the MP noted that in the expansion plan of the university college it will require more land in the future. He therefore requested the community adjacent to the proposed institution to be willing to sell part off their land to the university college when called upon to do so.
The Department of Music and Dance held a four-week intensive training for the Mandera County Government Enforcement Brass Band. The 45-member team arrived in Kenyatta University on 8th April 2019. The main objective for the training was to equip the enforcement band with skills and knowledge on handling, maintenance and playing of the brass instruments in order to serve their County Government well especially during national days and other commemoration days.

A team of experts comprising of students and staff from the Department of Music and Dance, led by the Chairman, Dr. Isaiah Oyugi, combined efforts to actualize training. Both theory and practical classes were conducted every day of the week including weekends from 7am to 8pm. The training was aimed at ensuring the band played the national anthem and East African anthem well. They were to use the basic knowledge acquired to compose and also play other melodies on their own after the training.

At the end of the training, a colourful graduation ceremony was held for the team at the Kenyatta University Conference Centre on Friday 3rd May 2019. The ceremony was attended by the Governor of Mandera County H.E. Capt. Ali Roba, the Deputy Governor, Senator, members of parliament and other executives from the County. The ceremony was presided over by the Vice-Chancellor, who was represented by Prof. Paul Okemo. On this day, the trainees displayed what they had learnt over the training period.

The Governor expressed his pleasure and satisfaction at the cooperation founded between KU and his County Government and promised more cooperation in other spheres in future. He hailed the training held for the enforcement band and noted that even though the period was short, it was evident that a lot of learning took place. He promised to put together a team to work with staff from the Department of Music and Dance to come up with a proper curriculum for future training of such bands, the Governor also promised to influence other county governments to take such initiatives and bring their enforcement teams to KU for training.

The trainees were awarded certificates, while medals were given to five top performing trainees. Among those who attended the ceremony were Members of Management, Dean and Heads of departments from the School of Creative and Performing Arts, Film and Media Studies, staff of Department of Music and Dance, among others.
Infusing Efficiency in Press Operations

Kenyatta University commissioned newly acquired book binding and print finishing equipment on 15th April 2019. This is part of the University’s continued investment in the state-of-the-art printing equipment to meet not only the growing internal publications capacity but also service provision for partner institutions and organizations.

The commissioned equipment included a stahl folding machine for large print fold up to B2 size, a polar programmable guillotine with pneumatic table for paper cutting to appropriate size, a stago heavy duty paper drilling machine for drilling holes through a large pile of paper such as University’s examination booklets, and a welbound-stitchwel gatherer-stitcher popularly known as ‘gang stitcher’ with up to six feeding stations for collating various book sections and stitching them as well as trimming them to final stitch.

Consequently, as observed during the ceremony, manual print finishing processes will be a thing of the past while faster productivity is anticipated to significantly lower cost of production.

The mechanization is anticipated to yield faster throughput for large and high-volume orders.

The equipment is expected to play a critical role in infusing efficiency in press operations besides modernizing operations at Kenyatta University Press.

Speaking during the commissioning ceremony, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Paul K. Wainaina said that the University has over the years grappled with challenges of book binding and print finishing equipment to handle high quality and high-volume books as well as journal publications. This he noted had spill-over effects to overall cost of production making it costly and uncompetitive to print bulk publications in-house. In addition, he noted that the additional capacity and modernization efforts at the University Press shall not only save essential resources but also contribute to revenue generation and anchor Kenyatta University on an expansion plan in line with the University’s Strategic and Vision Plan.
The Centre for Gender Equity and Empowerment in collaboration with the Department of Sociology, Gender and Development Studies organized an event to celebrate the International Women’s Day (IWD) on 7th March 2019. IWD also known as the United Nations (UN) Day for Women’s Rights and International Peace is annually held in March to celebrate women’s achievements throughout history and across nations. In 1917, against the backdrop of the war, women in Russia chose to protest and strike for “Bread and Peace” on the last Sunday in February. In 1975, during International Women’s Year, the United Nations began celebrating the day.

In responding to 2019 theme: “Think Equal, Build Smart, Innovate for Change”, the celebrations at Kenyatta University culminated in the dissemination of two innovative models that uniquely address Gender Based Violence (GBV). The Guest Speaker, Prof. Esther Mombo, Director-International Partnerships and Alumni Relations, St. Paul’s University, talked to the enthusiastic audience about observation of “Thursdays in Black: Towards a World without Rape and Gender Based Violence”.

This powerful campaign, which saw all participants adorned in black, calls for responsibility to individuals and groups to speak silently but very loudly against gender injustice and violence. The main focus is to ensure that women and men, boys and girls, are safe from rape and violence not only in their homes, schools, work, streets – but also all places. Prof. Mombo led the audience in an emotional candle lighting and declared; “Wear Black on Thursdays to declare that you are part of the global movement resisting attitudes and practices that permit rape and violence. Show your respect for women who are resilient in the face of injustice and violence. Encourage others to join you”.

The Centre’s Director, Prof. Grace Ngare took the over 120 participants through the research findings of the Tamar Campaign Model, a tool that used in Post-Conflict Eastern Congo (DRC). Modeled from a Biblical context, that is 2nd Samuel 13: 1-22, the Campaign supports communities to break the silence surrounding GBV. Its structure focuses on the formation of Reflect Circles of 20 members who come together to critically read, discuss, analyze and hence make a commitment at individual, family and community levels to speak and take action against GBV.

Tamar model aims to empower women whose voices and experiences are often silenced or marginalized within the family, the religious institutions, and the community. The Model provides an important example of how religious texts can be used as a significant resource for peace, justice and healing when theology, cultural reflections and social actions are integrated.

The event was attended by Prof. John Okumu, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic); Dr. Richard Wafula, Dean School of Humanities and Social Sciences; Dr. Pacificah Okemwa, Chairperson Department of Sociology, Gender and Development Studies and faculty as well as students from Kenyatta University and St. Paul’s University.

A group of students lead a procession to mark the International Women’s Day held on 7th March 2019 as Thursdays in Black is Launched.
Delegates from Mandera County led by the Governor, H.E. Capt. Ibrahim Ali Roba with members of KU Management before the graduation ceremony for the Mandera County Enforcement Band.

Mandera County Governor, H.E. Capt. Ibrahim Ali Roba receives a gift pack from Prof. John Okumu, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic).

Kenyatta University Chairman of Council, Prof. Shem Migot-Adholla hands over keys to Kenyatta University Hospital Board Chairperson, Prof. Olive Mugenda during KU Hospital handover to the Board.

Northcoast Beach Hotel kitchen staff Deche and Wambua, display a buffet service of wholesome pastries. The hotel has invested in new kitchen equipment in a new expansion drive to improve the hotel’s capacity to match global international hotel standards.

Kenyatta University nurses and University nursing students during celebration to mark the International Nurses Week. The group visited and offered donations to Missionaries of Charity Home of Peace-Mother Teresa at Ngumba Estate, Nairobi.

Hon. Joe Mucheru, Cabinet Secretary for ICT speaks during Ajira Digital Launch at Kenyatta University.
Mrs. Lucy Ngatia, a Kenyatta University Nurse guides one of the workers from Charity Home of Peace-Mother Teresa on proper cleaning of hands during the celebration of International Nurses Week.

Chinese Ambassador to Kenya, H.E. Wung Peng with students at Kenyatta University International Language and Culture Centre Building after a visit to KU Hospital.

Prof. Fatuma Chege, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), officially launches Inservice training programme for Teachers on French at Kenyatta University Conference Centre.

Participants of the International Food Safety Conference at Kenyatta University following the opening of the conference at BSSC.

Kenyatta University School of Medicine team led by Acting Dean Dr. Harun M. Kimani (third right), Prof. Ruth Nduati (fourth right) from University of Nairobi and the Health Professional Education Partnership Initiative(HEPI) representative during the launch of the Programme at Kenyatta University.

Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education, Prof. George Magoha talks to participants during the Annual Equity Wings to Fly Conference at Kenyatta University.
Easing the Burden of Medical Tourism

Kenyatta University Hospital was handed over to the appointed Board on 24th May 2019. The event paves way for the facility’s soft opening scheduled to take place mid-August this year after the equipment has been tested and commissioned as well as staff employed. In a speech read on his behalf, Head of Public Service Mr. Joseph Kinyua described the hospital as a cutting-edge facility based on its construction standards and facilities in place. “I note that this facility has in place world class facilities matching those found anywhere in the developed world. Indeed one of the biggest claims of foreign currency has been medical tourism by Kenyans seeking treatment abroad. It has been a very big drain on our economy as Kenyans have to pay for treatment using their own hard earned cash but this is expected to change all that”.

It is estimated that Kenyans spend lots of money in seeking specialized treatment especially for communicable diseases like cancer abroad. The facility that sits on a 100-acre piece of land shall soon host a new breast cancer centre, a first in the country. By end of July 2019, the hospital’s board plans to have all required staff employed and tests on the equipment performance conducted before the first patient can be attended to.

KU Chairman of Council, Prof. Shem Migot-Adholla handed over the facility to the board and noted that there are legal and administrative issues that still need to be clarified with regard to the operation of the hospital which he said would require further engagement between the University Council and the board. Mr. Guo Ce, a representative from the Chinese Embassy noted that the hospital which was built through a loan financed by the China Exim Bank is part of the over 100 projects that the Chinese Government has undertaken in the country since the 1960s.

In his remarks during the ceremony, Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Paul K. Wainaina noted that Kenyatta University is looking forward to working with the board as well as having a seamless working relationship in respect to fundamental activities such as clinical services and training of high quality medical personnel.
A jira KU Digital Club, the online jobs platform that will unlock thousands of jobs for the youth was launched by Joe Mucheru, the Cabinet Secretary, Information Communication and Technology. The launch took place in Kenyatta University, Main Campus, Friday, 5th April, 2019. Speaking during the event, the Chief Guest, was delighted to see the fruits of the Ajira Digital Training which he launched in September 2018 at the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development. He observed that Kenyatta University was represented by three lecturers who are now Ajira Digital Certified Trainers and Mentors. The Cabinet Secretary commended the trainers for training a total of 308 students on Ajira.

Cabinet Secretary Mucheru lauded the institution for efforts, which are geared towards ensuring that the youths get meaningful employment. The Ajira Digital Programme seeks to position Kenya as a choice labour destination for multi-national companies and encourage local companies and public sector to create digital work. He observed that millions of Kenyan youth are bound to benefit from the technological innovation that will help the youth to transition from learning to earning. “At the Ministry, we are leveraging on ICT as an enabler to the new frontier for the global digital job opportunities. Our efforts are aimed at promoting new and more flexible forms of employment, such as micro-work and online contracting - now called the gig economy.,” he said.

The Cabinet Secretary revealed that the signed Memorandum of Understanding with Kenyatta University at the Launch of the Ajira KU Digital Club, touches on areas such as academic training and partnerships, research and innovations, community outreach partnerships and utility partnerships.

“Through this MoU, the University will integrate the Ajira Curriculum into the University calendar under general studies where each student shall undertake the course. There will be engagement and participation in online training to students and members of the University community and the Public,” C.S. Mucheru added.

According to the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Paul K. Wainaina, the MoU will also focus on research on the Ajira Digital Programme to enhance the curriculum to provide youths with technology-competent skills for employment and also in areas of digital and digitally enabled job creation, skills and training among others.

He noted that with the introduction of online jobs, graduates have the opportunity to continue learning and earning. The event was attended by Principal Secretary, Ministry of ICT, Mr. Jerome Ochieng, Deputy Vice-Chancellors, University teaching and non-teaching staff and students.

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**Appointments**

**Dr. Michael Mwangi Gachara**
Director, Teacher Professional Development and Excellence.

**Dr. Daniel Gathuru Manguriu**
Director, Mombasa Campus.
Over three hundred delegates converged at Kenyatta University from 20th to 24th May 2019 during the International Food Safety Conference to discuss matters food safety. The conference was one of its own kind in the region. The conference brought together multidisciplinary international and local scholars, scientists and experts from all industries to share evidence-based research and disseminate findings on pertinent issues of food safety concern involving all the key players. The conference theme was “Food and Nutrition Safety from Farm to Fork: A Missing Link in Consumer Health and Food Security”.

The conference was officially opened by the Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Health, Republic of Kenya, represented by the Chief Administrative Secretary, Ministry of Health who echoed the efforts of the conference organizing committee for planning and organizing such an important forum. He also noted that globally 600 million people are affected by food-borne illnesses, out of whom 400 million die. He was also concerned that children constitute a third of the affected people. He also added that the outcomes of the conference would go a long way into contributing to the three of the Kenya’s Big Four Agendas and Vision 2030.

The Vice-Chancellor, Kenyatta University Prof. Paul K. Wainaina represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) Prof. John Okumu noted that, there is no doubt that without safe food, food and nutrition security at all levels cannot be achieved. He added that the increasing trends in cancer, foodborne illnesses and intoxications have been attributed to unsafe food which not only loads the already over burdened healthcare systems but also lowers human productivity leading to economic and trade loss at national and international levels. He added that prevention is better than cure hence, the food safety component of food security cannot be ignored. It is on this basis that Kenyatta University took the initiative to hold this conference where participants from about 10 countries attended. He added that the University was in support of the Kenyan Government’s Big Four Agenda.

The Chairperson of the conference organizing committee Dr. Dorcus Mbithe Kigaru emphasized the need for the conference noting that the population is widely exposed to unsafe food, the poor and the rich, the young and the old, from breast milk, to ready to use therapeutic foods and even nutrition supplements.

The epitome of the conference was the launching of the Kenya Association of Food Safety And Protection (KAFSAP) whose founder members are drawn from the departments of Food, Nutrition and Dietetics, Community Resource Management, Agricultural Science and Technology and Hospitality and Tourism.

Different keynotes speakers shared cutting-edge research findings and experiences on food safety.

Sponsors
We acknowledge the support from our sponsors who made the event successful;
KU rugby team (Blak Blad) is currently involved in the KUSA Rugby Sevens circuit played in 5 legs. The first leg was held in Meru University on the 18th and 19th May 2019. A total of eight teams participated and KU won the overall trophy after beating University of Eldoret and Dedan Kimathi University of Technology 19-0 and 26-10, respectively. In Semi-finals, Blak Blad beat Kenya Methodist University 19-0 and eventually won the tournament after beating University of Eldoret for the second time 14-7 in the finals. The team is currently training for the remaining 4 legs after which the overall winner shall be determined from the points in the different legs.

Contextualizing Innovation and Entrepreneurship

Chandaria Business Innovation and Incubation Centre (CBIIC) received two 3D printers through the KU-HNU-DAAD project. The Centre has been working closely with partners from Neu Ulm University of Applied Sciences in a four-year project aimed at contextualizing innovation and entrepreneurship in KU’s academic programmes. The 3D printers will be pivotal in supporting innovation through assisting prototype development.

Bereavement

Prof. Henry Okello Ayot, a Professor in the Department of Educational Communication and Technology passed away on Wednesday 24th April, 2019. The late Prof. Ayot was laid to rest on Friday 10th May, 2019 in Migori County.

The Editorial Team joins the Vice-Chancellor in sending a message of condolence to the family of the late Prof. Henry O. Ayot.
KENYATTA UNIVERSITY
BIENNIAL RESEARCH AND INNOVATION CONFERENCE

THEME: RESEARCH AND INNOVATION FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND KENYA’S BIG FOUR AGENDA

DATE: 22ND – 25TH OCTOBER, 2019 VENUE: KENYATTA UNIVERSITY (MAIN CAMPUS)

CALL FOR SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS, SYMPOSIA AND PAPERS

CONFFERENCE SUB-THEMES

1) Food security and sustainable agriculture
2) Health and wellbeing
3) Transformative, inclusive and equitable quality education
4) Gender and development
5) Infrastructure development, energy and industrialization
6) Environment, natural resources, climate change and sustainability
7) National values, social cohesion, peace and development
8) Visual and performing arts, music, sports, hospitality, tourism and development

CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

1) Partnership for impactful research and development
2) Innovation management, technology transfer and entrepreneurship

IMPORTANT DATES

28th June, 2019 Submission deadline for abstracts and symposia proposal
31st July, 2019 Notification of acceptance to successful authors
30th September, 2019 Deadline for early bird registration

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEES

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Author guidelines for abstracts, papers and posters available at: www.ku.ac.ke/kubric

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