



Kenyatta University

Transforming Higher Education...Enhancing Lives

Kenyatta University holds a Stakeholders' workshop for the upcoming School of Architecture and Spatial Planning

Wednesday 29th July, 2015: Kenyatta University held a stakeholders' workshop for its upcoming School of Architecture and Spatial Planning at the Kenya School of Monetary Studies to get input from the professionals to ensure the curriculum will meet market demands.

The Chief Guest during the event was the Principal Secretary, Ministry of Lands, Housing & Urban Development, Ms. Mariamu El Maawy who gave a keynote address. Using her personal experiences Ms El Maawy advised the University to enhance the proposed School's programmes through benchmarking activities to internationalize; considering having gender sensitive spaces; recognizing talent in the field through offering bridging courses; having soft skill courses in the curriculum to cater for the connection between creative arts and culture giving the trainees a dual background. She urged the workshop participants to think about additional courses which could address pertinent land issues in the country. She concluded her address by thanking the Vice-Chancellor Prof. Olive Mugenda for setting up the Mombasa Satellite campus and for her leadership.

Prof. Olive Mugenda, the Vice-Chancellor in her welcoming remarks appreciated the professionals for taking part in the workshop. She went on to explain the existing challenges that necessitated the establishment of the school. Some of the challenges she highlighted were; emergence of sprawling urban formations in most cities that pose challenges not only in terms of quality of dwelling spaces but the interaction and linkages of functional areas within and without such urban entities. Due to the requirements for working and living spaces that are of good standards, there is need for high quality training in these disciplines.

The Vice-Chancellor added that currently, there is a notable lack of professionals in the design, planning and management of the built environment leading to a marked decline in standards within the planning, land management and building sectors. These challenges point to the need for enhancement of training capacities to match the market demand for trained professionals in the land planning, building construction and real estate management sectors.

Prof. Mugenda noted that the KU School Architecture and Spatial Planning will comprise of four programmes: Architecture programme; Construction Management Programme; Valuation, Real Estate Development programme; and the Spatial Planning and Urban Management programme.

RELEASES

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One of the participants Mr. Chris Osore, an architect with DLR Group, USA urged fellow participants during discussions to ensure that the Curriculum is multidisciplinary to cater for resiliency.

The workshop had representatives from: Board of Registration of Architects and Quantity Surveyors, Physical Planners Registration Board, Institution of Surveyors of Kenya, Valuers Registration Board, Estates Registration Board, Kenya Institute of Planners, Architectural Association of Kenya, National Construction Authority, Knight Frank Limited, Oaker Services , Metrisys Africa Limited, UN-Habitat, University of Nairobi School of Built Environment, Jomo Kenyatta University School of Architecture and Building Sciences, Technical University's School of Built Environment, Maseno University's School of Planning and Architecture, Kenya Building Research Centre, Town and County Planners Association, National Land Commission, Nairobi County, Kiambu County, Landmark Realtors and DLR Group, USA.

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