



Kenyatta University

Transforming Higher Education...Enhancing Lives

Kenyatta University Launches a Sports Coaches' Academy

Thursday 11th September, 2014: Kenya University launched a Sports Coaches' Academy. This is the first Sports Coaches Academy in Kenya. The event was presided over by Ambassador Richard Titus Ekai, Permanent Secretary, Sports, on behalf of Dr. Hassan Wario, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Sports, Culture and the Arts. Besides launching the Pioneer Academy, various sports icons were honoured during the event. Notable among these include Dr. Kipchoge Keino, Tecla Sang, Mohamed Kheri, Catherine Ndereba, Juma Walukhu, Henry Wanyoike and Benjamin Ayimba

The event brought together dignitaries from the sports fraternity across the national divide as they marked a major milestone in efforts towards professional development of sports coaching in Kenya. The one of its kind academy by Kenya University is set to offer specialized training for beginner and practicing sports coaches who will subsequently be relied upon to identify, nurture and expose sports talent. This is anticipated to contribute to uplifting of standards of sports performance at the national, regional and international levels.

In a speech read on his behalf by the Permanent Secretary during the launch, the Chief Guest, Dr. Hassan Wario lauded the University's initiative in launching a sports coaches' academy. He intimated that the academy will enable the country to produce professional coaches who will be relied upon to play the much sought roles of sports talent identification, nurturing, fielding and retention. He pledge government support to the initiative and indicated that complementary efforts by the national government and other stakeholders would be undertaken to promote and enhance quality of sports in the country. He challenged sports federations and organizations to seize the opportunity provided by the new academy in promoting sports excellence.

In her speech during the event, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Olive Mugenda reiterated the University's commitment to offering high quality training in sports coaching. This would be done in collaboration with stakeholders in the sports industry. In her remarks, she intimated that the launch of KU Sports Coaches' Academy would minimize costs associated with sending sports coaches for training in foreign countries. This would be a major saving for sports federations, clubs and associations. From her remarks, she observed that the pioneer academy set up by Kenya University would go a long way in not only saving resources but also contributing to sports development in the country.

The launched academy aspires to train, mentor, and develop highly skilled and specialized professional sports coaches across all sports disciplines. Of notable

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contribution in sports development is the inclusion of disability sports coaching to the new academy. This is anticipated to provide inclusive sports coaching development. Among the objectives of the launched academy include provision of refresher courses for practicing sports coaches, entrenching philosophy of sports coaching through training, developing standards of coaching content, provision of coaching consultancy services, conducting scientific research on sports coaching as well as organizing forums for sharing knowledge, research findings and experiences on sports coaching.

In their acceptance addresses, the honoured sports icons lauded Kenyatta University for setting up the academy and pointed out that it would go a long way in nurturing sports excellence in Kenya and the wider continent. In his acceptance address, former rugby 7's Coach, Benjamin Ayimba intimated that it was a “dream come true” for him and for the lovers of sports in the country. He reiterated the need to nurture local talent to drive sports development. Besides acknowledging the potential contribution of the launched academy, Dr. Kipchoge Keino highlighted that being honoured in the event was his first award in Kenya. He further pointed out that the Academy is a welcome initiative in development of youthful talent and the society at large. He affirmed his commitment and that of other stakeholders in the sports industry to pull together and develop young people by tapping in to their sporting talent.

In meeting its objectives, KU Sports Coaches' Academy shall promote and establish networks, linkages and collaborations with sports clubs, federations and other stakeholders at the national as well as county levels. This would be in line with living up to its vision of being a centre of excellence in sports coaching.

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About Kenyatta University

Kenyatta University is the one of the largest universities in Eastern Africa whose vision is to be a dynamic, inclusive and a competitive centre for excellence in teaching, learning, research and service to humanity.

Founded in 1965, K.U has taken significant steps towards becoming a world-class university.

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