



Kenyatta University newsletter

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A Monthly Publication from the Office of the Vice-Chancellor

Transforming Higher Education... Enhancing Lives.

2024 Career Week: Connecting Industry and Academia



At a Glance

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High school students were encouraged to be all-rounded individuals by Dr. Julius Kipng'etich, a Corporate Executive and Group C.E.O at Jubilee Holdings Limited, during the Opening Ceremony of the 16th, Career Week Edition. As the Chief Guest, he commended the event organised by KU's Directorate of Career Development and Mentoring Programme (CDMP).

The week-long event brought together well over 11,000 high school students to Kenyatta University. The High school day had an attendance of over 200 schools from across the

47 counties to participate and build meaningful bridges with industry players from multi-faceted sectors. The theme for the event was **"Leveraging technology and Entrepreneurship for an Evolving Job Market"** where the young generation was trained to not only be familiar with technology but to harness its usability and create jobs in the ever-evolving employment sector. The career week included: The High school day; the Opening Ceremony; Corporate Exhibitions; and The Innovation Day.

The Director, CDMP, Dr. Margaret



Editorial

How quickly time flies! It seems as if this academic year started just the other day, and yet the second semester is now drawing to a close. So much has been happening that we can only capture the highlights of the most exciting events.

The Career Week saw a successful attendance and participation from over 200 schools, across the 47 counties in Kenya. KU Medical Students will enjoy access to the Kenyatta University Teaching Referral and Research Hospital for their medical education practice. This long-awaited opportunity marked the commencement of the bright future that lies ahead of their coursework.

In its 30th anniversary, the KU Culture Week extravaganza was a profusion of cultural activities for members of the KU fraternity, both young and old. It followed swiftly on the heels of the Nairobi Agricultural Trade Fair, where Kenyatta University stamped its pioneering role in climate smart agriculture and sustainable practices in economic growth.

There were just as many activities on the academic front, including workshops, seminars and international conferences dealing with a wide range of disciplines: air quality; climate change; education and lifelong learning; engineering; environmental awareness; nuclear energy. And then there are student activities, just as numerous and exciting... So just settle down in a dry, warm corner and catch details of all the action.

EKM

Dr. Julius Kipng'etich, Group C.E.O Jubilee Holdings Limited, inspecting a guard of honor, Kenyatta University Scouts Troop during the opening ceremony of the 2024 Career Week event.

Muturi, welcomed everyone to the event and commended the students' participation in the important occasion.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Prof. Waceke Wanjohi, encouraged students to participate saying that the event serves as a bridge between industry and academia. She stressed on taking advantage of this opportunity to create meaningful contacts that will help them in the near future.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration and Finance), Prof. Godfrey Mse, representing the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Paul Wainaina, urged the students to seize the opportunity as the captains of various industries were to show them the tips of wisely choosing desired pathways.

He added that the event is vital for networking and learning. Apart from the high school day and the opening ceremony, the Innovation Day was equally beneficial to the students.

Under the theme, **"Climate Entrepreneurship"**, the day was marked with innovative exhibitors showcasing their products and companies to the judges.

The Guest Speaker, Muthoni Mutonyi, who is the Founder of Jirani, noted that with Climate Change, there is an opportunity for the youth to create jobs for themselves and offer solutions to the global challenge simultaneously.

The corporate exhibitors who partnered with Kenyatta University during this event included: Vivo energy, Kasneb, Total energies, Naivas, Britam, Kenya Ports Authority, Shandong Normal University, Best House Consult, Confucius Institute, Engineers Board of Kenya, Boom play, Indomie, CocaCola, Lyma Integrated Ltd, Tropical Heat, Coffee Kenya, L'Oréal EA, Optica, National Council for Population Development and The Government of Kenya.

Dawn of a new era: KUSA 19th Congress



Prof. Paul Wainaina, Vice-Chancellor (centre) and University Management members during the induction workshop of the 19th Congress and the Students Governing Council.

A new era dawned as KU's 18th Congress of the Students Governing Council (SGC) relinquished power during the inauguration of the 19th Congress in an at the Main Campus, Amphitheatre.

The new regime, led by Mr. Robert Rhova Bonaya was duly elected in the student elections where more than 30,000 students voted in favour of the TAA party. The inauguration ceremony was graced by the Chief Guest, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Paul Wainaina, DVC (Academic), Prof. Waceke Wanjohi, Commissioner of Oaths, Mr. Moses Kurgat, and the Chairman KUSA Electoral Commission-2023, Dr. Eng. Daniel Oyoo.

The Director of Students Affairs, Dr. Faith Nkuru, applauded the students for conducting themselves in a calm and civilised manner throughout the electioneering period, a sentiment echoed by all the school management teams. She vowed to support the incoming Students' Governing Council for them to deliver the manifesto they pledged to the students. Dr. Eng. Daniel Oyoo explained

how the process was, from the campaign period all the way to the elections, and it was nothing short of commendable as explained by the DVC (Academic), Prof. Waceke Wanjohi, who congratulated the new SGC and thanked all the students for maintaining peace.

The Vice-Chancellor urged the new students' governing council to work for the students and consider them in every engagement that they undertake. The Vice-Chancellor explained that both the council and the administration have the same client who are the students and that the university recognises the students as the focal point of its mission and vision. The incoming KUSA President agreed with the Vice-Chancellor, and vowed to always keep the interests of the students at heart. Mr. Moses Kurgat took to the podium to administer the oath of office for the 19th Congress SGC and they did so as follows:

The Chairperson, Mr. Robert Rhova Bonaya; the Vice-Chairperson, Ms. Lucy Wamaitha Machugu; the Secretary General, Mr. Boniface Ochieng Ododa; the Treasurer, Mr. Calvin Juma

Obanya; the Academic Secretary, Ms. Nellie Cherotich; the Gender and Special needs Secretary, Ms. Faith Nzula Joel; the Organising secretary for social welfare and co-curricular activities, Mr. Abdikassim Haredh Mohammed.

Prof. Paul Wainaina added that the 19th Congress will be expected to uphold the brand that is Kenyatta University both within and without the institution, and should have a transparent and open leadership of accountability and integrity.

The newly sworn-in KUSA Chairperson, Mr. Robert Rhova Bonaya, urged his team to work not only hard but smart, to engage the University Administration hierarchy, and to prioritise the needs of the students. He also vowed to continue the good projects started by the 18th Congress and see them to completion as he was in the previous Students' Governing Council. Mr. Robert Bonaya thanked the students for their support and the administration for their trust.

Congratulations to the 19th Congress and Governing Council!

A New Frontier in KU Medical Training



Kenyatta University medical students during a visit to the Kenyatta University Teaching, Referral and Research Hospital.

Following the directive issued to the Cabinet Secretaries of the Ministries of Education and Health, Kenyatta University students and staff from the School of Health Sciences were granted unfettered access to Kenyatta University Teaching Referral and Research Hospital (KUTRRH) facilities for medical education practice.

The distinguished gathering

included Kenyatta University's Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Paul Wainaina, along with Heads of Departments led by Prof. Okello Agina from the School of Health Sciences, who converged at the hospital. Medical Students were led by the two principal petitioners to the Senate Mr. Jaafar Kasaya and Mr. Thiongo Muiruri along with the KUSA Chairman Mr. Teddy Odhiambo and medical students drawn from across the

School of Health sciences.

Their primary aim was to discuss the implementation modalities of this directive between the University and the Hospital. The meeting, presided over by the Principal Secretary of the State Department for Higher Education and Research, Dr. Beatrice Inyangala, saw the participation of various stakeholders, including a representative of the Principal Secretary of Medical Services, KUTRRH Board led by Chairperson Prof. Olive Mugenda and KUTRRH Management.

The medical students expressed excitement as the long anticipated opportunity to engage in clinical trials at the hospital was beginning to take shape, marking a significant milestone in their educational journey and clamour to return the hospital back into the KU fold.

The significance of the on-boarding was not lost on the medical students, who, in a display of enthusiasm, welcomed the long-awaited prospect of undertaking clinical trials at the hospital but requested unfettered access for all 800 medic students. This development marked the commencement of the bright future that lies ahead of their coursework.



8th International Council for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance Africa Regional Congress.

Venue: Kenyatta University, Main campus

Date: 11th – 13th September, 2024

Theme: Enhancing Professional Practice and Sustainable Development In Physical Education And Sport-Related Fields Through Education and Research



Empowering Young Minds Through Motivational Address



Kenyatta University Primary School pupils gifting Prof. Paul Wainaina a hand drawn portrait of himself during a motivational talk.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Paul K. Wainaina, addressed Grade 6 and Standard 8 candidates from Kenyatta University Primary School at the Amphitheatre. The event was a sign of support for future endeavors and highlighted the transformative impact of motivational talks, credited for the school's academic success.

The forum commenced with a performance by the candidates. Their musical prelude set the stage for their school captain, Samuel Musembi, a Class Eight candidate, to express their collective sentiments.

Samuel Musembi extended heartfelt gratitude to the Vice-Chancellor for his continued support and encouragement. He reassured Prof. Wainaina of their unwavering commitment to excel in their forthcoming examinations.

The candidates had the opportunity to explore various University facilities during their visit, which broadened their horizons and ignited their career aspirations.

As a result, they developed a deep appreciation for Kenyatta University and its invaluable contributions to their educational journey.

Mr. Charles Kamande Ndung'u, the Headteacher, underscored the significant impact of the Vice-

Chancellor's address. He proudly announced that, following the inspirational speech, the candidates achieved the second-highest mean score in 22 years. This accomplishment was a testament to the transformative power of such motivational talks, and this address by the Vice-Chancellor was greatly anticipated.

During his speech, Mr. Ndung'u introduced the five dedicated members of the Board of Management (B.O.M.) who were present at the event. Their presence emphasised the commitment and support the school receives from its stakeholders.

Prof. Samson Ondigi, the Executive Dean of the School of Education and Lifelong Learning, encouraged the candidates to prepare diligently for their upcoming exams and not to be intimidated by them. He stressed the importance of self-belief and preparation, noting that the University was fully supportive of their academic journey.

Prof. Ondigi expressed his desire to witness Kenyatta University Primary School continue to achieve even more remarkable results in the future.

He affirmed that KU Primary is an integral part of the University, and its success is a source of pride for the institution. He warmly

welcomed the Vice-Chancellor to address the candidates.

Prof. Paul K. Wainaina, the Vice-Chancellor, began his address by expressing his delight at having the opportunity to speak to the candidates before their important exams.

He took a moment to highlight the extraordinary achievements of last year's candidates, who recorded the highest mean score for the school since 2004.

He also celebrated their outstanding performance in Drama and Music festivals, marking the school's inaugural entry into the national competition.

He emphasised that the candidates were part of the Kenyatta University family and underscored the non-negotiable nature of two key objectives: passing their exams and progressing to secondary school.

The Vice-Chancellor lauded the University's tradition of excellence in various competitions, such as the Drama and Music festivals and the Moot Court competition, and urged the candidates to draw inspiration from these achievements.

He pledged to facilitate collaboration between the School and the Performing Arts Department, as well as the Director of Sports and Games to enhance the School's sporting prowess.

In conclusion, the Headteacher extended heartfelt gratitude to Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Paul K. Wainaina, Executive Dean Prof. Samson Ondigi, and Chairperson of the Department of Music and Dance, Dr. Wambugu, for their invaluable contributions to the School's growth and success.

The event served as a powerful testament to the commitment of Kenyatta University to inspire and empower the next generation of leaders, and the candidates left the Amphitheatre with renewed enthusiasm for their academic journey.

Breaking New Ground in Radiation Safety Education

Mr. James Keter Chumba, Director General, Kenya Nuclear Regulatory Authority during the launch of Post-graduate Education in Radiation Protection and Safety

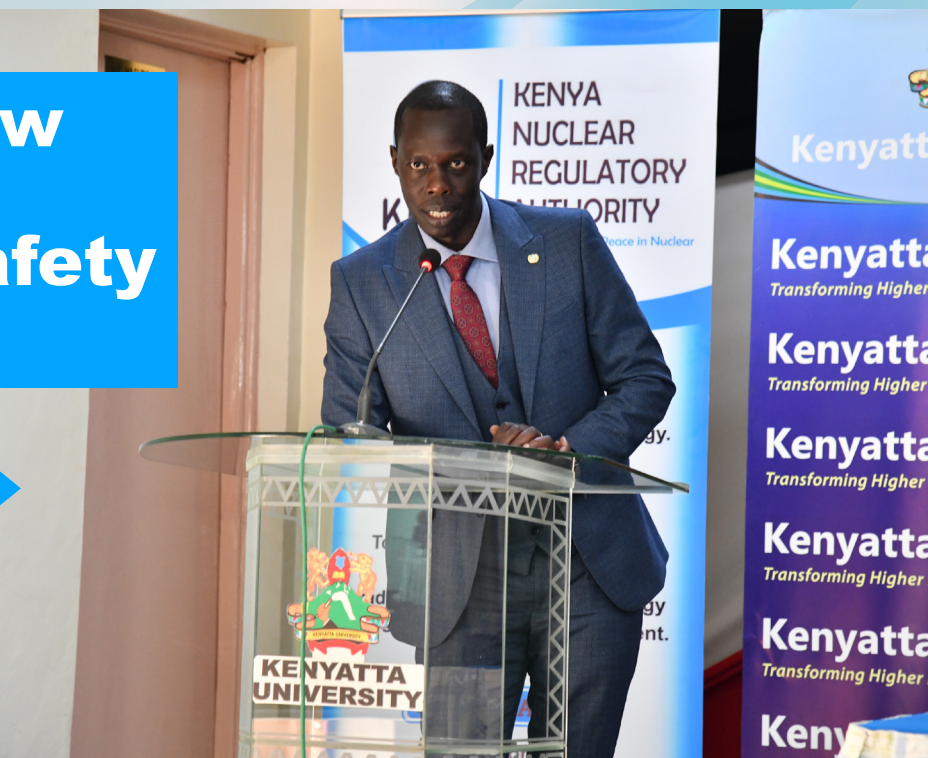
In a significant milestone for both Kenya and the African continent, Kenyatta University Conference Centre (KUCC) hosted the inaugural Postgraduate Educational Course in Radiation Protection and Safety of Radiation Sources (PGECS). This comprehensive six-month programme sets a new standard in the region, with Kenya becoming the second nation after Ghana to offer such specialised training. Kenyatta University was selected as the **central coordinating institution**, further cementing its reputation as a pioneer in advanced education.

The Principal Secretary for the State Department for Public Health and Professional Standards, Hon. Mary Muthoni Muriuki, graced the opening ceremony as the Chief Guest.

She commended Kenyatta University for its pivotal role as the host institution and praised all stakeholders for their dedication to representing the country at this international platform.

The opening ceremony, graced by guests and dignitaries, saw Prof. Michael Gicheru, the Executive Dean of the School of Pure and Applied Science, extend a warm welcome to the 17 participating students hailing from various corners of Africa. The School is poised to play a pivotal role in shaping the education of these aspiring radiation protection professionals.

This milestone achievement was realised through the collaborative efforts of key stakeholders in



the nuclear sector. Partnerships with renowned bodies including the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Kenyan Nuclear Regulatory Authority (KNRA), and the Nuclear Power and Energy Agency (NuPEA) were instrumental in the successful implementation of this groundbreaking programme.

Mr. James Keter Chumba, the Director General of KNRA, expressed his elation at hosting this vital initiative, reiterating that Kenya's role as the second African nation to host this programme is a significant accomplishment.

Mr. Justus Wabuyabo, the C.E.O of NuPEA, echoed these sentiments, lauding the KNRA for its successful advocacy in bringing this programme to Kenya. He further underscored Kenya's remarkable progress in the nuclear sector, citing the ongoing Nuclear Search Reactor Project under the auspices of his agency.

Kenya now stands as the 10th global host for this programme and the second in Africa, an achievement not to be underestimated. Hon. Muriuki urged Kenyatta University to seize the opportunity to integrate the IAEA programme into its curriculum and advocated for increased female participation in similar initiatives.

Representing the Vice-Chancellor,

Prof. Paul K. Wainaina, Prof. Waceke Wanjohi, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), expressed the institution's immense pride in being chosen as the training hub for this transformative six-month course.

Prof. Wanjohi acknowledged the commitment required to dedicate six months to further education, emphasising that radiation physics is a subject addressed at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels within the University. She also affirmed the University's active coordination of the Nuclear Search Reactor Project in collaboration with NuPEA.

Prof. Shaukat Abdulrazak, the Director of the Division for Africa at the IAEA, participating remotely from Vienna, Austria, extended heartfelt gratitude to Kenya for hosting this vital programme. Prof. Abdulrazak, the IAEA liaison for the event, highlighted that since 2005, IAEA has successfully organised 25 similar programmes in both English and French-speaking regions.

Over the next six months, the School of Pure and Applied Science will serve as the proud host of this transformative educational endeavour. This initiative marks a significant stride toward a more sustainable and secure future for radiation protection across the African continent.

Innovations for Sustainable Agriculture



Prof. Caroline Thoruwa, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research, Innovation and Outreach together with University faculty during the Nairobi International Trade Fair 2023 Edition

Kenyatta University, joined over 400 exhibitors at the Nairobi International Trade Fair.

This annual event, organised by the Agricultural Society of Kenya, marked its 121st edition with the theme, **'Promoting Climate Smart Agriculture in Trade Initiatives for Sustainable Economic Growth.'**

The Trade Fair brought together universities, industries, and innovators to explore climate-conscious agricultural solutions.

In alignment with the theme, Kenyatta University presented an array of 13 projects spanning multiple departments within the institution.

These projects not only showcased the University's commitment to addressing pressing agricultural and environmental challenges but also demonstrated its dedication to research, innovation and product development, for a

sustainable future.

Some of the noteworthy projects included the Department of Physical Education's programme, focusing on peak physical fitness.

The Global Tourism Resilience and Crisis Management Centre introduced **'Agro-Tourism,'** a fusion of agriculture and tourism. The National Phytotherapeutic Research Centre displayed a range of plant-based products aimed at improving various aspects of health.

The Department of Hospitality and Tourism Management explored chemical-free food preservation techniques, while the Department of Food, Nutrition, and Dietetics delved into the utilisation of soya beans for food value addition and diet diversity.

The Chandaria Innovation Centre presented **'Shamba Solutions,'** emphasising the benefits of soil testing.

Interdisciplinary collaborations between the Department of Chemistry and the Department of Agriculture partnering for 'Climate Smart Sustainable Agriculture,' focused on customised foliar feed fertiliser and hydrogel super absorbers.

Meanwhile, the Physics Department introduced the 'Design and Implementation of AD9833 DDS-based function generator,' offering innovative solutions for various applications.

Other remarkable projects included biofertilisers for sustainable crop production, balanced nutrition for climate-smart agriculture, drought-tolerant Brachia Grass for increased livestock productivity, the use of the Black Soldier Fly for feed, and the role of laboratory animals in climate-smart agriculture.

The Kenyatta University exhibition stand garnered significant attention, attracting Prof. Richard O. Oduor, Registrar (Research, Innovation, and Outreach), Prof. Grace Bunyi, Registrar (Corporate Affairs), Prof. Caroline Thoruwa, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research, Innovation, and Outreach) and Prof. Paul K. Wainaina, Vice-Chancellor.

Their visits underscored the University's commitment to addressing real-world challenges through research and innovation.

The Trade Fair 2023 was officially opened by President H.E. Dr. William Samoei Ruto. The event also welcomed other guests, including the Nairobi Governor, Hon. Johnson Sakaja, Minister for Defence, C.S Hon. Aden Duale, the Chief of the Defence Forces, General Francis Ogolla, and the Inspector General of Police, Japeth Koome.

The week-long event successfully drew to a close, reaffirming Kenyatta University's role as an active institution in sustainable agricultural practices, research and innovation.



Recognising EXCELLENCE In Performing Arts

The Department of Communication, Media, Film & Theatre Studies at Kenyatta University demonstrated its prominence on the national stage by securing an impressive array of awards at both the Kenya Film Summit (KEFiS) and the Kenya Universities Performing Arts and Film Association (KUPAA) Festival.

In the annual Kenya Film Summit, organised by the Film Lecturers and Trainers Association of Kenya (FLeTA-K), film enthusiasts, students, trainers, and lecturers gathered at Multimedia University.

The summit, themed '**Digital Filmmaking as a Driver for**

the Creative Economy,' saw Kenyatta University's Department of Communication, Media, Film & Theatre Studies dominate with 17 awards, including Best Institution Overall, Best Short Film (Marry Edge), Best Animation (The Butterfly Effect), and more.

Moving to the Kenya Universities Performing Arts and Film Association (KUPAA) Festival, hosted at Dedan Kimathi University of Science and Technology, Nyeri, the event showcased outstanding talents under the theme '**Supporting Economic Transformation Through Performing Arts #Wajibika.**'

In the Feature Film category, Kenyatta University achieved Second Runners Up for '**King of the East,**' and individuals such as Nelves Nalisi, Leon Karanja (Kareem), and Ramona Njeri (Ladona) received accolades for their performances.

The Short Film category recognised '**Marty is Not Sorry**' as Runners Up with awards for Best Production Design and Best Scripted Short Film.

The Documentary category highlighted the film '**Crown,**' securing awards for Winning Documentary, Best Narration in Documentary Film, Best Editing, Best Scripted Documentary, and Best Archival Documentary for '**Steps of the Kindred.**'

In the Animation category, Kenyatta University excelled with the winning entry 'The Butterfly Effect' and the Runners Up '**Manjano Mirrors.**'

The Music Video category saw the university's influence with awards for Best Art Direction in Music Video, Runners Up, and Best Concept Music Video for **'Nimechoka.'**

Specialised categories recognised the university for Best Film on Drug and Substance Abuse ('King of the East'), Best Film on Youth and Responsible Behaviour ('Tagged'), and Most Prolific University in Film.

Furthermore, Kenyatta University's performers excelled in various live

categories such as One Person Play, Legislative Play, Mash Up, Dramatised Solo Poetry Show, and Comedy.

These awards underscore Kenyatta University's dedication to nurturing talent and fostering excellence in the fields of film and performing arts.

As the University continues to shine on both national and international stages, its impact on the creative industry remains significant.



Kenyatta University Students Ms. Wahito Mwai (left) and Ms. Marline Atieno performing during the Kenya Universities Performing Arts Association (KUPAA) Drama Festivals in Nyeri.

Pictorial



Prof. Samson Odingi, Executive Dean, School of Education and Lifelong Learning speaks during World Teachers' Day.



Dr. Hongo Evelyne (right) receives a trophy during the Kenya Universities Performing Arts Association Drama Festival. Also in the photo is Prof. Paul Mbatia (left), DVC Academic Affairs at Multi Media University and Kenyatta University student Mr. Zachary Odhiambo (centre).



Kenyatta University Hardnuts Midfielder and Captain, Ian Owiti in action against University of Split in Jinjiang, China.



Dr. Nadir Hashim, School of Pure and Applied Sciences, during the opening ceremony of the Post graduate Educational Course in Radiation Protection and Safety of Radiation Sources.



Kenyatta University Primary School pupils during the prayer day of Grade 6 and Standard 8 candidates at the Amphitheatre.



Dr. Beatrice Inyangala, Principal Secretary, State Department for Higher Education and Research, Ministry of Education and Prof. Paul Wainaina, Kenyatta University Vice-Chancellor during the Medical Students' On-Boarding at KUTRRH.

Pictorial



Outgoing KUSA Secretary General, Mr. Thiong'o Muiruri (right), handing over Instruments of Power, to newly elected Mr. Boniface Ododa during the inauguration of the 19th Congress at the Amphitheatre, KU Main Campus.



Kenyatta University Students performing WANGU WA MAKERI during Kenya Universities Performing Arts Association (KUPAA) Drama Festival held at Dedan Kimathi University of Technology in Nyeri.



Highschool students at an exhibition during the 2024 career week .



Students from St. Monicah Girls High School, Kitale, noting insights attentively during a Career Guidance Session at the Amphitheatre.



Mr. George Kisia awards Jackline Saleyian, a Yali Cohort 53 participant during the commencement ceremony of the 53rd Cohort.



Students during a vigorous physical education class as Kenyatta University prepares to host the 8th International Council for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, Sports and Dance Conference from 11th to 13th September, 2024.



Pioneering Climate Action, Research and Education

Dr. Jackline Nyerere, Co-Investigator of Climate-U, Kenya, expounding on climate change.

In a display of commitment to climate action and education, Kenyatta University hosted the Climate-U conference, marking the beginning of a transformative research project aimed at addressing climate change on a global scale. Spearheaded by Dr. Jackline Nyerere, Co-Investigator of Climate-U, Kenya, this multi-country initiative brings together five continents and has received generous funding from the United Kingdom.

The journey of Climate-U began in 2020, with students of Environmental Science at Kenyatta University taking the lead in participatory research.

Tristan McCowen, Principal Investigator from University College London (UCL), expressed his delight in leading the project's discussions on climate change practices and adaptations.

The panel for this discourse featured Prof. Waceke Wanjohi, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) of Kenyatta University, and Mr. Darius Ogutu, Director of Higher Education and Research, Kenya.

Additionally, representatives from other universities, such as the University of Dar es Salaam, Kisii University, and Kenya Methodist University, contributed their

valuable insights. Prof. Waceke, speaking on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, highlighted Kenyatta University's dedication to addressing the climate crisis.

The establishment of the Green Education Hub, an Environmental Club, has played a crucial role in raising awareness about climate change among Kenyatta University students. Furthermore, the University took pioneering steps by founding the School of Environmental Sciences.

To bolster its commitment, Kenyatta University hosts the Centre for Environmental Sustainability and Development Awareness (CESDA), reinforcing its position as a hub for environmental stewardship and research.

Climate-U's overarching goal is to transform higher education institutions from traditional knowledge centres to active participants in real-world problem-solving.

By harnessing the strengths of these institutions in knowledge creation, the project seeks to institute collaborative and effective climate action.

Climate-U's research project gained international recognition when it was presented at a side

event during COP-26 in Glasgow, Scotland, in late 2021. Following this recognition, the project received funding from the UK Economic and Social Research Council.

The Climate-U research project, at the onset of its implementation earlier this year, included 17 institutions across six continents, with three distinguished Kenyan universities - Kenyatta University, Kisii University, and Kenya Methodist University - actively participating.

Climate-U's contributions are far-reaching, spanning policy making, curriculum development, university action partnerships, and collaborations, all with a central focus on climate action.

The East Africa Climate-U Dissemination event, brought together East African universities involved in the project. This gathering provided an opportunity for these universities to share progress and insights, reaffirming their commitment to advancing climate education and sustainable practices.

As Kenyatta University continues to lead in the fight against climate change through initiatives like Climate-U, it underscores its dedication to creating a sustainable future for all.

Through research, education, and global collaboration, these efforts stand as a testament to the university's commitment to addressing one of the most pressing challenges of our time.

Nurturing Sustainable Futures In a Globalised Society



Dr. Nelly Otube, Deputy Executive Dean, School of Education and Lifelong Learning encouraging fellow teachers during the World Teachers' Day Celebrations at the School of Education building, Kenyatta University.

In a remarkable milestone, Kenyatta University hosted the 9th International Annual School of Education and Lifelong Learning Conference, a testament to the University's commitment to advancing education and fostering global collaboration.

The theme was, **"Refocusing Education in a Globalised Society for Sustainable Futures,"** resonates deeply with the evolving landscape of education worldwide.

Distinguished guests, including Mr. Mamadou Lamine Sow, Chief of Education at UNESCO's Multi-sectoral Regional Office for Eastern Africa in Nairobi, graced the opening ceremony.

His presence underscores the significance of this conference in addressing the critical challenges facing education on a global scale.

Over the past decade, Kenyatta University has continuously organised this conference,

emphasising the pivotal role of research in achieving its vision.

The institution has been a beacon for fostering creative activities and research across diverse disciplines, ultimately contributing to inclusive development and addressing critical issues in the education sector.

The conference promised to provide innovative solutions to the pressing challenges facing education.

Kenyatta University's Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Paul Wainaina, reiterated the institution's unwavering commitment to research and conferences as a means of sharing academic insights and generating innovative solutions for the education sector.

The University's profound impact is evident in its annual production of thousands of professional teachers, solidifying its position as a leader in education.

The two-day conference also took place in conjunction with **World Teachers' Day**, reinforcing the importance of educators in shaping future generations.

Participants from Kenya, Uganda, Botswana, South Africa, Tanzania, New Jersey, Mexico, Libya, and India converged to explore the conference's theme and delve into scientific research that can provide viable solutions.

Mr. Mamadou Lamine, representing UNESCO, stressed the global relevance of the conference theme, particularly in light of the learning crisis exposed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

He highlighted UNESCO's commitment to universal education principles, working to bridge inequalities and disparities in education systems. UNESCO's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are aligned with the goal of equitable education for all, especially in less fortunate countries.

The 9th International Annual School of Education and Lifelong Learning Conference was a catalyst for innovative ideas and collaborative efforts to reshape education for sustainable futures.

Prof. Samson Ondigi, Executive Dean of the School; Dr. Nelly Otube, Deputy Executive Dean of the School; and Prof. Paul Wainaina, the Vice-Chancellor, extended tokens of appreciation to the Chief Guest and participants alike, setting the stage for enlightening discussions and impactful outcomes.

As the conference unfolded, it signaled a brighter future for education, worldwide, with Kenyatta University leading the charge in nurturing sustainable, inclusive, and innovative learning environments.

BWEng and KU Promote Women in Engineering



Dr. Mary Mwangi, Department of Biochemistry, Microbiology & Biotech addressing attendants at the Black Women in Engineering forum.

The School of Engineering and Architecture, guided by the Engineering Outreach Programme (EOP) and sponsored by Black Women in Engineering (BWEng), hosted a forum centred round the theme: **'Ending Hunger, Achieving Food Security and Improved Nutrition.'**

The EOP is committed to fostering four fundamental connections with its public: learning; collaboration; innovation; and networking.

Prof. Richard Oduor, Registrar for Research, Innovation, and Product Development (RIPD), standing in for the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Paul Wainaina, expressed appreciation to the organising team.

Moreover, he noted that underrepresentation of women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) courses and professions has been recorded with alarming statistics; such as only 9% of Mechanical Engineers being female, with a mere 8.4% of females being registered and certified.

The Professor expressed hope that initiatives like the EOP would play a pivotal role in empowering this marginalised group.

Black Women in Engineering (BWEng) is an organisation dedicated to rectifying the historic underrepresentation of Black women in the engineering sphere.

BWEng champions this cause by advocating for, supporting, and mentoring black women; establishing professional associations; and providing scholarships and grants to break down barriers and encourage diversity.

Prof. Micheal Gicheru, Executive Dean of the School of Pure and Applied Sciences (SPAS), conveyed his gratitude to Dr. Winfred Mutuku, Patron of KU STEM Club, for spearheading this engaging forum. He underscored the profound influence of engineering solutions in shaping the innovations we enjoy today.

According to Prof. Gicheru, the engineering field is actively embracing diversity and inclusion

initiatives to empower women. Educational institutions are fervently encouraging young girls and women to pursue STEM fields, offering outreach programmes, scholarships, and mentorship opportunities.

The rise of female engineers as prominent role models is igniting inspiration among the next generation. Supportive networks like BWEng and recognition programmes are driving inclusivity in product and system development.

Eng. Judy Cherono, representing Eng. Margaret Ogai, Engineering Board of Kenya, urged female engineering students to seek mentorship from accomplished women in the industry, emphasising that they are the future.

Eng. Abisola Ajani, a Process Engineer and Co-founder of BWEng, expressed her excitement about participating in the four day forum, aiming to enhance global networking and learning for the young female engineers in training.

Dr. Mary Mwangi, representing the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (RIPD), Prof. Caroline Thoruwa, explained that initiatives like this one, designed to empower women, have been ongoing for over two decades.

The primary objective has been to address gender disparities in job opportunities, stemming from factors such as gender-blind pedagogies, limited role models, challenges in the school-to-work transition, sexism, and sociocultural aspects influenced by post-colonialism.

The opening ceremony concluded with a vote of thanks from Dr. Mary Mwangi, Department of Biochemistry, Microbiology & Biotech, expressing gratitude for the collective efforts in organising this impactful event for the young female student engineers.



Clearing the Air for Cleaner East African Skies

Dr. Leah-Nani Alconcel presenting on satellite data analysis during the East Africa Quality Training Workshop.

In a concerted effort to address pressing environmental concerns, Kenyatta University hosted the East Africa Air Quality Management Workshop, funded by the US Department of State.

It was graced by the Chief Guest, Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Paul K. Wainaina represented by Dr. James Koske, Executive Dean, School of Agriculture & Environmental Sciences; Dr. Eng. Fidelis Kilonzo, Executive Dean, School of Engineering and Architecture; Dr. Murugi Ndirangu, Director Columbia Global Centres; Dr. Dan Westervelt, Professor at The Columbia University; and Dr. Godwin Opinde, Ag. Chairman, Department of Spatial and Environmental Planning.

The event was organised by the Department of Spatial and Environmental Planning within the School of Engineering and Architecture. The workshop, served as a platform for experts, scholars, and enthusiasts to delve into the complexities of air quality management.

The schedule included discussions, talks, and panel sessions led by a roster of speakers, each a trailblazer in their respective domains. Industry experts such as Prof. Christina Isaxon, Prof. Dan Westervelt, and Dr. Leah-Nani

Alconcel shared their knowledge and skills in various facets of air quality management.

Dr. Leah-Nani Alconcel shed light on satellite data analysis, elucidating the connections between technology and environmental awareness.

Dr. Francis Pope, Professor of Atmospheric Science, delved into the critical realm of community engagement and grassroots efforts, emphasising the power of collective action in effecting positive change.

The workshop incorporated an array of interactive breakout sessions, allowing participants to delve into practical applications of air quality management. Diverse topics were covered, ranging from NO_x and O₃ monitoring in urban campuses to the assembly of sensors, underscoring the importance of hands-on experience in addressing real-world challenges.

The workshop not only provided a forum for intellectual exchange but also fostered togetherness and collaboration among participants.

As they explored topics like emissions inventory development and source apportionment,

attendees collectively worked towards refining strategies to mitigate air pollution's adverse impacts on both health and the environment.

Demonstrating its commitment to education and knowledge dissemination, the workshop featured a series of student presentations.

These presentations provided a platform for young minds to showcase their ideas, thereby bridging the gap between theory and practical implementation.

As the East Africa Air Quality Management Workshop came to a close, the University's dedication to driving meaningful change was evident. The event concluded with a certificate ceremony and a wrap-up session led by Dr. Godwin Opinde and Prof. Dan Westervelt, reinforcing the commitment to continued progress in air quality management across the region.

Kenyatta University's tireless efforts to promote environmental awareness align with the pursuit of a cleaner and healthier planet.

The East Africa Air Quality Management Workshop undoubtedly leaves an indelible mark, inspiring attendees to carry forth their newfound knowledge and insights to create a greener and more sustainable future for all.

Conservation and Sustainable Landscape Management



Dr. John Elungata (centre), Principal Secretary for Administration, Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry together with Prof. Paul Wainaina (2nd left), Vice-Chancellor Kenyatta University, alongside (from left to right) Prof. Joy Obando, Prof. Robert M. Scheller, President of IALE and Prof. Moses Azong Cho, President IALE Africa Chapter during IALE's 2023 World Conference.

The 11th International Association for Landscape Ecology (IALE) Forum commenced at the Safari Park Hotel, located off Thika Road. Dr. John Elungata, Secretary for Administration in the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, and Forestry, who represented Hon. Soipan Tuyu, Cabinet Secretary, highlighted the significance of the event, which featured engaging presentations, panel discussions, thought-provoking sessions, and group activities, all geared towards achieving the forum's objectives.

The forum, with the theme **'Transboundary Resource Management, Climate Change, and Environmental Resilience'**, attracted a diverse gathering of over 400 participants. The chosen theme reflects the pressing contemporary challenges that our world faces today.

During the opening remarks, Prof. Moses Azong Cho, President of IALE Africa Chapter, expressed gratitude to the event's sponsors and underscored the historic nature of this forum, marking the first-ever gathering of its kind in Kenya and Africa at large.

He encouraged participants

to actively engage in dialogue, networking, and knowledge sharing throughout the event.

Prof. Robert M. Scheller, President of IALE, provided a brief background on the organisation, emphasising its global mission of promoting landscape ecology and interdisciplinary collaboration.

Since its establishment in 1982, IALE has been a champion for integrating ecological principles and spatial thinking into landscape research and planning.

The organisation organises conferences, workshops, and symposiums that attract participants from diverse backgrounds. Through its publications, IALE disseminates research findings, case studies, and policy recommendations while promoting standards and guidelines for landscape assessment, planning, and management.

IALE's advocacy efforts extend to conservation and sustainable landscape management, addressing critical global environmental challenges such as biodiversity loss, climate change, and habitat fragmentation.

Prof. Paul Wainaina, Vice-Chancellor of Kenyatta University, commended the exceptional entertainment provided by the University's Entertainment crew, which has consistently impressed audiences for the past 13 years, as indicated by him and the Master of Ceremony, Dr. Mildred Nawiri, Director, Centre for International Programmes and Collaboration.

Likewise, Dr. Elungata conveyed Hon. Tuyu's regards and highlighted Kenya's commitment to the 15 billion trees initiative, spearheaded and endorsed by Charlene Ruto, the President's daughter, during a recent ceremony at Kenyatta University.

He urged attendees to embrace conservation efforts and explore Nairobi's rich cultural and natural heritage, including museums, parks, and forest reserves.

Dr. Elungata expressed gratitude to Kenyatta University for hosting the forum, a platform dedicated to championing a greater cause. With that, he officially declared the forum open, inviting participants to engage in fruitful discussions and forge new connections.

Celebrating KU's Vibrant Cultural Tapestry



Ms. Joyce Langat, Kenya Music Festival Executive Secretary hands over a trophy to Prof. Paul Wainaina, Vice-Chancellor Kenyatta University during the official handing over of Kenya Music Festival Trophies won by the Kenyatta University Mighty Students Choir, which emerged the best overall University Choir in the Country during the 2023 National Music Festivals by winning a total of 32 items. Also present were (left-right) Prof. Waceke Wanjohi, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Dr. Duncan Wambugu, Chairperson Department of Music and Dance, Dr. Donald Otoy, Director, Permanent Presidential Music Commission and students (back row).

Nyeri County's Dedan Kimathi University of Technology hosted the 95th Kenya Music Festival national celebration. This annual extravaganza radiated on the nation's diverse cultural heritage and the exceptional talents of students from educational institutions across Kenya from pre-primary to the tertiary level.

The Kenyatta University Students' Choir shone at the festival with competitive performances of traditional dances, soulful melodies, intricate instrumental performances, and captivating choral renditions.

Going through the various stages, a rich array of performances showcased the intricate threads that compose Kenya's cultural fabric.

Stealing the limelight, the Kenyatta University Students' Choir emerged as towering stars, clinching an impressive 32 awards that echo their unwavering commitment to musical excellence.

In a moment of prestige, the Vice-Chancellor, alongside the Music and Dance faculty, proudly accepted the 'Best University' award. This honour was presented by none other than the President

of Kenya, H.E William Ruto, who lauded their outstanding achievements. He emphasised that their performances captured the very essence of culture and tradition, leaving an indelible mark.

Beyond the mesmerising performances, the festival embraced an innovative dual-event format. A captivating concert and a dazzling gala, held at distinct locations, enriched the experience.

Notably, this extraordinary showcase received generous support of 143 million from the Sports Social Development Fund, reflecting the government's dedication to nurturing talents and fostering cultural expression.

Engaging a staggering 130,000 participants from all corners of Kenya, the festival's reach was broad and inclusive. Students from pre-primary to tertiary levels participated, with 1,920 students with special needs joining in the celebration.

Dignitaries, including the Nakuru Governor; the President; the First Lady; the Deputy President; and other government officials, graced the gala, celebrating alongside the participants.

The choir's performances were a harmonious symphony of male and female voices, woven together with Kikuyu Folk Songs, soulful solo African string renditions, and lively dances like Kenya Roads, Kenya Railway, Kisii Dance, and Kikuyu Dance. A mosaic of performances conveyed unity, vocal finesse, and meaningful messages.

The accolades resonated across an expansive spectrum of performances, including African Wind Solo, Zinazovuma Arrangement, Male Voice Set Piece, Non-Classical Guitar, Classical Guitar, Advanced Own Choice, Operatic, Duet, and Gospel Pop Arrangement, among others.

This resounding success echoes Kenyatta University's dedication to nurturing well-rounded individuals who shine in diverse spheres. It illuminates the holistic development the institution fosters.

As the festival came to a close, the echoes of the Kenyatta University Students' Choir's performances linger as a testament to the enchanting beauty of Kenya's cultural heritage and the extraordinary talent flourishing within its educational institutions.

Enhancing University Leadership Roles and Responsibilities



Prof. Paul Wainaina (seated centre) Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Caroline Thoruwa (seated right) Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research, Innovation and Outreach), Prof. Richard Oduor (seated left) Registrar (Research, Innovation and Outreach) together with Deans of Schools and Chairpersons of Departments during an induction workshop.

Kenyatta University continues to champion leadership through the roles of Executive Deans of Schools and Chairpersons of Departments.

Prof. Benard Kivunge, the Registrar (Academic), provided insights into the multifaceted responsibilities of these positions, emphasising their crucial contributions to the University's growth and development.

Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Paul K. Wainaina, laid emphasis on research and innovation, along with the need to move beyond teaching.

He urged faculty to build, maintain and improve classroom quality, boost student enrolment, and prepare for financial constraints under the new universities funding model.

He also reported that nationally, the University is the second highest in student placements, resulting in high enrolment.

Underpinning the student

experience is the role of Chairpersons of Departments. Prof. Kivunge expounded on their pivotal responsibilities in guiding students' academic journeys.

From student admission processes to unit registration, these leaders set the tone for efficient and organised academic progress.

Chairpersons are the architects of student admissions, identifying approved programmes and recommending candidates based on University criteria.

They play a critical role in determining admission criteria and programme capacity, thereby ensuring a balanced and quality academic environment.

The role of Chairpersons extends beyond academic matters. They actively contribute to the establishment of partnerships and linkages, fostering collaborations that enhance the University's reach and impact.

Initiating partnerships, reviewing viability, and overseeing the

implementation of Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) and Memoranda of Agreement (MOAs) are part of their expansive responsibilities.

Moreover, the Chairpersons play a crucial role in driving technological advancement and digital integration. They promote the use of corporate emails for official communication and engage with the Directorate of ICT to ensure smooth information flow and effective data management.

In the pursuit of academic excellence, Kenyatta University recognises that visionary leadership is pivotal.

The Executive Deans of Schools and Chairpersons of Departments, under the guidance of Prof. Benard Kivunge, exemplify the dedication of nurturing a thriving academic environment.

Their contributions shape the future of Kenyatta University and reflect its commitment to holistic education, innovation, and partnership building.



Dr. George Kosimbei, YALI RLC EA, Chief of Party welcoming participants during the 53rd Cohort Commencement ceremony.

Nurturing African Leadership for a Transformed Future

Dr. Oduor also acknowledged the presence of Aguto Achop Peter, the president of the YALI RLC EA Alumni Chapter of South Sudan.

The Vice-Chancellor expressed his appreciation to the Chief Guest for attending the ceremony and expressed a keen interest in exploring partnerships with the Tony Elumelu Foundation.

Such collaborations would have a significant impact on YALI Africa, increasing the programme's return on investment.

The Vice-Chancellor also recognised a few outstanding graduates. Amina Diba Boru, a dedicated Health Records and Information Officer, serves as the welfare officer, ensuring the well-being and support of her colleagues.

Nasro Abas Mohamed serves as the president of a women's solidarity group, actively working on enhancing professional and entrepreneurial skills, particularly among rural women.

Enock Kilek Kitembe, with six years of experience in deaf youth activism, sign language, and facilitation within the Deaf Empowerment and Advocacy Congo (DEAC), represents an exceptional example of leadership among the cohort.

In conclusion, the YALI 53rd Commencement Ceremony highlights the crucial role of leadership in shaping the future of Africa.

These young leaders, equipped with knowledge, skills, and inspiration, are poised to make a profound impact in their respective nations and contribute to the advancement of the African continent.

Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) at KU hosted the 53rd cohort commencement at the Kenyatta University Conference Centre. The event saw attendance of the Deputy Executive Dean of the School of Health Sciences, Dr. Gladys Mwangi, representing the Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Prof. Waceke Wanjohi.

Yali comprises of three major components: the Mandela Washington Fellowship, the YALI Network, which provides access to virtual resources and networking opportunities for young African leaders, and the Regional Leadership Centres.

Kenya, one of the Regional Leadership Centres in East Africa, hosted the commencement ceremony for cohort 53 of young leaders at Kenyatta University.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Paul Wainana, was represented by Dr. Richard Oduor, Registrar for Research, Innovation, and Product Development. Also present were YALI Regional Coordinators, George Khisa, USAID East Africa, and the Chief Guest, Executive Director of United Bank for Africa, Mary Mulili.

YALI Alumni member, Ms. Mwhaki Njogu, from cohorts 37 and 38, and the founder of Smile Child Organisations, advised the young leaders to think of transformation and inspired them to make a difference in the world as they pursue their leadership roles in their respective countries.

Dr. Gladys Mwangi, representing Prof. Waceke Wanjohi, congratulated the young leaders of cohort 53 for completing their training and urged them to participate in the alumni chapters while using the knowledge they have gained to create future leaders.

Dr. Richard Oduor, representing Prof. Paul Wainana, mentioned that the cohort 53 graduates would be joining the 14 alumni chapters in East and Central Africa, covering countries such as Burundi, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda.

This regional presence ensures continued connections during the implementation of various initiatives.

Sports News

The Eliud Owalo's Foundation Donation



Hon. Eliud Owalo, CEO, The Eliud Owalo Foundation (2nd left), DVC RIO, Prof. Caroline Thoruwa (right) and Dr. Florence Gitau, Director Sports and Games during the gifting of jerseys to the basketball fraternity.

The basketball sporting fraternity at Kenyatta University were visited by The Eliud Owalo Foundation at the Kenyatta University Bishop Square. The Cabinet Secretary, Information, Communication and Digital Economy, Hon. Eliud Owalo, also an alumnus of Kenyatta University, recognised that it is only right to give back to the community that shaped his early years as a young adult. The beneficiaries are the Kenyatta University Men and Women Basketball teams (Pirates and Oryx), presented with basketball jerseys.

The Director, Sports and Games, Dr. Florence Gitau, was delighted at the gesture. She emphasised on the advantages of participating in sports and other co-curricular activities, advocating for its importance to the overall wellbeing of the students.

An exhibition game was in order with the current KU Basketball team showcasing their prowess in the sport; they were joined by the alumni players including the Cabinet Secretary Hon. Eliud Owalo.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research, Innovation and Outreach), Prof. Caroline Thoruwa, representing the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Paul Wainaina, supported the Director's sentiments, adding that participation in team sports greatly improves general output.

She further outlined the importance of maintaining ties with the alumni as they are equally important to the growth of our University. She then extended the Vice-Chancellor's gratitude to the CS for seeing the need to give back to the institution.

Dr. Gladys Mwangi, Deputy Executive Dean, School of Health Sciences, representing the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Prof. Waceke Wanjohi, appreciated the improvement of participation in sports and games. The Chairman, Kenya Basketball Federation, Paul Agali Otula, also lauded the CS for his kind gesture.

The CS advised the young players on the importance of maintaining the love for sports saying that it is a facilitator to many other things in life as he pledged to support the team in the upcoming games later this year.

The Management Board, represented by Prof. Caroline Thoruwa, was grateful to the Cabinet Secretary for supporting the Kenyatta University Basketball teams.

Dominance in the Field of Sports



Our University athletes have been making their mark in the Kenyatta University Sports Association (KUSA) leagues, participating in a wide array of disciplines. Following the conclusion of the league fixtures' fourth round, we are proud to announce that most of our KU teams have secured top positions in the league standings.

These disciplines include football, netball, handball, basketball, hockey, volleyball, roll ball, board games, racket games, and martial arts.

Kenyatta University also competes in federation leagues, where our teams in hockey, basketball, handball, rugby, and board games have consistently achieved commendable results.

These leagues are an excellent platform for our athletes to display their talents and sportsmanship.

The third edition of the Rugby and Tennis Africa University Sports Federation (FASU) championships, held at Makerere University,

Uganda, witnessed some remarkable achievements. KU's Rugby men displayed exceptional prowess, securing the second position overall.

Meanwhile, our tennis team performed admirably, clinching silver in men's doubles, bronze in women's singles, and another bronze in the women's team ranking.

The **"hardnuts,"** our formidable men's football team, are currently competing in the Federation of International University Sports (FISU) Football World Cup.

Notably, our team marked a fantastic start by winning the opening match against Split University from Croatia with a score of 4-2.

We are eagerly anticipating their second and final group stage match against Paulina University from Brazil.

The stage is set for our KU teams as they gear up to participate in the highly anticipated edition of

Boniface Kilonzo in action during an out-field tournament at Kenyatta University.

the KUSA National Games. The University of Nairobi will host this prestigious event.

Kenyatta University has a storied history of success in these games, having emerged victorious in all previous editions since their re-inception in 2009.

We are committed to defending our title and showcasing our unwavering sportsmanship once again.

The Directorate of Sports and Games at Kenyatta University is not only fostering a culture of sporting excellence but also ensuring that our athletes continue to shine on the national and international stage.

Stay tuned for more thrilling sports updates and join us in cheering for our outstanding teams. We're proud to be part of a university community that excels in both academics and athletics.



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