



# MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY

## NEWSLETTER

"A PUBLICATION FROM THE OFFICE OF THE VICE - CHANCELLOR"



The Vice-chancellor Prof. P. Aloo-Obudho (3<sup>rd</sup> left) with Dean School of Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences and Creative Industries Prof. Bernard Kodak (left) in a group photo with the Alabama State University, the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and the American Association of Colleges and Universities in the VC's boardroom. Extreme right is Dr. Susan Chebet (Council member)

## TOP NEWS

### IN THIS EDITION

- COLLABORATIVE ENGAGEMENT WITH ALABAMA STATE UNIVERSITY, THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN, AND THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
- TRANSFORMING MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY INTO GLOBAL LEADER IN HIGHER EDUCATION
- UNIVERSITY SIGNS LANDMARK MOU WITH LESHUTA COMMUNITY FOR DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP
- MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY AND UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD STRENGTHEN CULTURAL COLLABORATION ON MAASAI HERITAGE
- A COLLABORATION MEETING WITH GOSPO FM
- THE CARNEGIE AFRICA DIASPORA FELLOWSHIP (CADFP) PROGRAM EXIT WORKSHOP
- MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY HELD A WEEK-LONG MUSEOLOGY TRAINING
- GREEN CONCEPT BENCHMARKING
- WORLD SOCIAL MEDIA DAY FOR SOCIAL CHANGE
- KIDEKET AND NKASIOKI JUNIOR SCHOOLS MENTORSHIP AND EXPOSURE
- UNIVERSITY RECEIVES DONATION OF COMPUTERS
- BENCH-MARKING FOR KAIMOSI FRIENDS UNIVERSITY (KAFU) DELEGATION
- COURTESY CALL TO THE VICE-CHANCELLOR BY ILEPA
- 2025 FRESHERS REPORTING AND ORIENTATION
- VICE-CHANCELLOR'S ADDRESS TO FIRST YEARS, 2025
- EARTS4 CLIMATE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, 2025
- PARTNERSHIP WITH NORTHEAST INSTITUTE OF GEOGRAPHY AND AGROECOLOGY(IGA)
- ST. MARY COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL KIBUYE, KISUMU AND ANCILIA CATHOLIC ACADEMY, ELDORET ACADEMIC TOUR
- CHAMANER COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL, BOMET VISIT
- ORBITUARY

### COLLABORATIVE ENGAGEMENT WITH ALABAMA STATE UNIVERSITY, THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN, AND THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Masai Mara University hosted a high-level collaborative engagement with international representatives from Alabama State University, the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and the American Association of Colleges and Universities. The event was held at the Vice-Chancellor's boardroom and focused on possible areas of collaboration which included: Social work, education leadership, and Open and Distance e-Learning (ODEL). The high level meeting was chaired by the Vice-Chancellor Prof. P. Aloo-Obudho who reaffirmed the University's commitment to fostering global academic partnerships. Accompanying the Vice-Chancellor was Dr. Susan Chebet, the Chair of the Academic Committee of the Council.



*Prof. Denise Davis-Maye from Alabama State University watering a seedling planted during the meeting.*

Dr. Chebet was the contact person for the team from the US which included Prof. Denise Davis-Maye from Alabama State University, Dr. Tamara Jones from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and Dr. Dawn Whitehead from the American Association of Colleges and Universities.

Masai Mara University was represented by various senior university staff and management. The session discussed ways to strengthen academic collaboration, promote student and faculty exchanges, and enhance the development of inclusive, future-focused educational models.

Tree planting, as a tradition in Maasai Mara University was done reflecting a joint commitment to sustainability and shared growth. This partnership marks another step toward Masai Mara University's vision of expanding its global academic reach and nurturing impactful, cross-border academic programs.



# TRANSFORMING MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY INTO GLOBAL LEADER IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Maasai Mara University is poised for education transformation and improvement in global ranking. This was the rallying call during the address of Mr. Sreenivasan. R, Chief Customer Officer (CCO) of CL Educate, India to the University senate.

CL Educate focuses on multi- segment enterprises growth, innovation, and expansion. The meeting focused on making careers true in education: careers, assessments, partnership, internationalisation, AI technology, recruitment, multilingual aptitude tests, online programme management among other areas. The meeting resolved to Fastrack formal engagement to spearhead the University into operation efficiency, global relevance, enrolment growth and quality student outcomes.

The Vice-Chancellor Prof. P. Aloo-Obudho welcomed Mr. Sreenivasan to the university adding that the collaboration will be a game changer in content delivery towards internationalization of the university. Commenting on the role of alumni in the development of the university, she asked who are our alumni? Where are they? Emphasising the need to actively involve them in University improvement and growth. “ It is possible to improve our ranking to 1000 globally through attracting international students. Let’s embrace this collaboration to be the first one in Africa with CL Educate to market our program and transform our training”. The Vice-Chancellor added.



The Vice-Chancellor Prof. P. Aloo-Obudho (seated Centre) and Chief Customer Officer (CCO) of CL Educate, India Mr. Sreenivasan with a section of the University senate in group photo.



This University is having the best location on earth and has the unstoppable potential to lead in terms of education just as Maasai Mara Game reserve leads in the world in terms of visits,” said Mr. Sreenivasan. He added that with internationalization of the curriculum, Maasai Mara University will probably be the leader in higher education in Kenya and beyond.



*The Vice-Chancellor Prof. P. Aloo-Obudho (2<sup>nd</sup> right), Chief Customer Officer (CCO) of CL Educate, India Mr. Sreenivasan (Centre), DVC AF&S Prof. James Nampushi (right), ICT Director Dr. Cyprian Ratemo (left) and Coordinator ,Centre for Community Outreach Mr. Morompi Masago*



*Mr. Sreenivasan facilitates the session attended by the University Senate members.*

## UNIVERSITY SIGNS LANDMARK MOU WITH LESHUTA COMMUNITY FOR DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP



*The Vice Chancellor , Prof. P. Aloo-Obudho (left) signing the MoU on behalf of the University with the Leshuta Community representatives*

In a significant step towards fostering community-university partnerships, the Maasai Mara University signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Leshuta Community. This formalised the donation of a parcel of land the community had donated to the University for future institutional development. The donated land, measuring 210 Acres will be utilized for various developments aimed at enhancing access to higher education, community outreach and promoting socio-economic growth within the region.

Speaking during the signing ceremony held at Vice-Chancellor's Boardroom, the University Vice-Chancellor, Prof. P. Aloo-Obudho expressed heartfelt appreciation to the community for their generous gesture and reaffirmed the institution's commitment to using the land for impactful projects that will benefit both the University and the local residents. "This donation is a remarkable demonstration of trust and collaboration between the University and the community. It paves the way for joint initiatives in education, research, and community development," Prof. P. Aloo-Obudho remarked.

The Vice- Chancellor was accompanied by a cross section of University management including: Deputy Vice-Chancellor , Academic and Student Affairs Prof. Bulitia Godrick Mathews, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Administration , Finance and Strategy , Prof. James Nampushi, Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research Innovation and Outreach Prof. Francis Mburu, Director Public Relations, Marketing and Linkages Dr. Edward Kateiya, Coordinator Centre for Community Outreach Mr. Jackson Masago, and the Deputy Chief Legal Officer Mr. Alfred Nyabochwa, among others.





*University management and representatives of the Leshuta Community with copies of the signed MoU.*

On their part, the community, represented by the area Assistant Chief Paul Karani, Leshuta Land Adjudication chairperson Shapora Mariso and Committee representative David Kediye welcomed the partnership, as symbolizing the community's belief in the transformative power of education and development. "This partnership will not only expand educational opportunities but also open doors for employment, innovation, and infrastructure development in our area," Chief Karani stated.

The MoU outlines frameworks for continued engagement, community participation in decision-making processes, joint research, innovation and technology, capacity building and joint planning for upcoming projects on the donated land. This historic agreement marks a new chapter in the university's mission of promoting inclusive growth and building sustainable relationships with its host communities.



*University management and representatives of the Leshuta Community with copies of the signed MoU.*



# MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY AND UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD STRENGTHEN CULTURAL COLLABORATION ON MAASAI HERITAGE

6

A high-level collaboration meeting between Maasai Mara University and the University of Oxford was held today at the University's main hall, focusing on the preservation, promotion, and academic integration of Maasai culture. The session brought together representatives from both institutions and key stakeholders committed to cultural heritage and academic advancement. This is part of the strategies to implement one of the 5Ms of the University on the "Maa" Culture.

The University of Oxford delegation was led by Prof. Laura Van Broekhoven, alongside Jessica Frankopan and Marina de Alacorn. They were accompanied by representatives from PALCA led by Director Samuel Nankiria, Finance Director Mr Amos Leuka, Eunice Mpaira, and Tuyesi Ntutu. Orkima was represented by: Eve Mein Orkima, Beatrice Kerei Orkima and the Chair J.M. Ole Pasha.

The Maasai Mara University team was led by the Acting DVC, Research Innovation and Outreach Prof. Francis Mburu alongside: Acting Dean of the School of Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences and Creative Industries Dr. Dennis Ikachoi, Director, Public Relations Marketing and Linkages Dr. Edward Kateyia, Coordinator Centre for Community Outreach Mr. Jackson Masago, Chair, Department of Languages, Linguistics and Culture Dr. Lily Koskei, Chair Department of Humanities and Public Administration Dr. Ndung'u Kungu.

The meeting served as a platform to discuss possible areas of collaboration in Maasai cultural heritage and exploring other avenues for joint initiatives. Dr. Edward Kateyia presented a brief about Maasai Mara University and emphasized that Maasai culture remains central to the University's identity and mission.

Prof. Laura Van Broekhoven reflected on the University of Oxford's ongoing relationship with the Maasai community, which spans over seven years. She acknowledged the mutual learning, cultural exchange, and trust built over time and expressed Oxford's commitment to further deepening these ties.



*Acting DVC- Research Innovation and Outreach Prof. Francis Mburu, (seated 2<sup>nd</sup> right) in a group photo with the visitors and a section of University management present in the meeting.*



Prof. Mburu read the Vice-Chancellors' speech and highlighted the need for exploration of the rich Maa herbal cultural practices , joint research and cultural center establishment. The meeting came up with a raft of proposals: The establishment of an Anthropology School, Cultural Museum, Cultural and institute to offer Maasai language studies, cultural exchange programs between the institutions and joint cultural conference. These areas and others would be discussed in online forum.

Both universities shared how they have worked to preserve cultural ornaments, stories, and traditions—Oxford through academic archives and exhibitions, and Maasai Mara University through community engagement and cultural education.

This collaboration signals a forward-looking partnership rooted in mutual respect and a shared goal of safeguarding indigenous knowledge. It aims to strengthen cultural identity while creating academic opportunities that are relevant, respectful, and community-driven.



*A cross section of the visitors in tree planting session*



*Representatives of the institutions in a meeting session.*



## A COLLABORATION MEETING WITH GOSPO FM



*Director, Public Relations, Marketing and Linkages (PRM&L), Dr. Edward Kateiya, (left) and Mr. Harrison Wafula, Gospo FM*

Directorate of Public Relations, Marketing and Linkages (PRM&L) hosted Mr. Harrison Wafula and Mr. Jairus Muhindi from Gospo Radio Station for a collaborative meeting on areas of mutual interest. The parties explored possible areas of partnerships for content sharing, training opportunities and collaborative media projects.

Gospo and the Directorate expressed interest and willingness to establish and build a strategic partnership for development. Both parties acknowledged the mutual benefits such a partnership could bring, especially in terms of resource sharing, marketing, enhancing visibility, improving our image, outreach and community services, and capacity building.

Subsequent meetings would be organized to formalize the arrangement and come up with an MOU outlining the scope and structure of the potential partnership.



*University and Gospo representatives: Director, Public Relations, Marketing and Linkages (PRM&L), Dr. Edward Kateiya, (left) and Mr. Harrison Wafula, (2<sup>nd</sup> left) Gospo FM, Mr. Jairus Muhindi (2<sup>nd</sup> right), Gospo FM and Nickson Magak, (right), PRM&L.*

# THE CARNEGIE AFRICA DIASPORA FELLOWSHIP (CADFP) PROGRAM EXIT WORKSHOP

The Carnegie Africa Diaspora Fellowship program is a collaboration between Maasai Mara University and the University of Arkansas (UA) aimed at joint research, faculty exchanges, and capacity building initiative, mentorships among other activities. Two months of intense sessions came to a close on 10th July, 2025 in an elaborate workshop held at Maasai Mara University that brought partners and participants from: University of Arkansas (UA), Masinde Muliro University, technical University of Kenya and Maasai Mara University .

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academics and Student Affairs Prof. Bulitia Godrick Mathews officially opened the workshop on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor describing it as a significant milestone in collaboration journey. “This is a transformative platform bringing together African Scholars to exchange, learn and exchange”.

Dr. Bernard Omogo, CADFP Scholar, University of Arkansas explored opportunities for faculties and post-graduate students. The collaboration spanned two continents, with primary activities occurring at both Maasai Mara University in Narok County, Kenya, and the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, Arkansas, USA.



*The Workshop participants group photo.*





*Dr. Bernard Omogo, (left) CADFP Scholar, University of Arkansas and CADFP host Dr. Wesley Omwoyo*

The workshop was organized by the School of Pure and Applied Sciences represented by the Dean Dr. Dominic Menge, CADFP host Dr. Wesley Omwoyo, Director Research and Innovation Dr. Alloys Osano, Heads of Departments and other staff. Several post-graduate students from Maasai Mara and Masinde Muliro University were given opportunity to present their work.

The collaboration has not only advanced scientific knowledge but also empowered participants to address critical challenges within the community more effectively. The program's success serves as a model for future collaborations between African institutions and their diaspora partners, demonstrating the transformative potential of strategic partnerships in advancing healthcare and research capacity.

# MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY HELD A WEEK-LONG MUSEOLOGY TRAINING

Maasai Mara University held a week-long museology training, facilitated by Dr. Tamas Regi from Museum of Ethnography Budapest, Hungary at the University. The session brought together key stakeholders in the world of museums and cultural preservation. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration, Finance, and Strategy), Prof. James Nampushi, officially opened the training on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, welcomed all participants and encouraged them to be open, engaged, and interactive throughout the sessions. He also extended a warm welcome to the visiting organizations and partners supporting the training.

A keynote address was delivered by Mr. Kimaren Ole Riamit, the Executive Director of Indigenous Livelihoods Enhancement Partners (ILEPA), who emphasized the significance of cultural heritage preservation and the role of indigenous knowledge in shaping sustainable futures.



*The Deputy Vice-Chancellor Administration, Finance, and Strategy, Prof. James Nampushi (left) attending the training*

The opening session was also graced by the presence of Edward Swanya from the Narok County Department of Culture, representatives from ILEPA, IMPACT Kenya, Sidai FM, Community Resource Centre (MCRC), members of the Last Maasai initiative and Maasai Mara University faculty and students. The training aimed to equip participants with knowledge and practical skills in museum management, artifact classification, exhibition design, and cultural documentation. This initiative reflects the University's ongoing commitment to safeguarding cultural heritage and creating awareness about the importance of preserving traditional knowledge and artifacts for future generations.





*Dr. Tamas Regi from Museum of Ethnography Budapest, Hungary at the University during the training*



*Training session*



## GREEN CONCEPT BENCHMARKING

The University Model Tree Nursery hosted Oleserian CBO from Maji Moto for benchmarking on effective tree Nursery management. The objective of the visit was to see a model tree nursery and learn how to establish the same. Maasai Mara University established a model tree nursery in 2023 and many institutions visit the university to benchmark.

The CBO from Maji Moto was facilitated by ILEPA for the field learning after having undergone a training at ILEPA resource centre. Acting Deputy Registrar, innovation and Outreach Mr. Galfen Omuse led the session at the tree nursery. Ruth Wanjiru form Health Unit who is currently an attachee at ILEPA coordinated the Visit.

The session provided an enriching platform for sharing best practices on tree propagation, sustainable nursery management, and environment conservation. Such engagement reaffirms the university commitment towards climate change mitigation, ecological sustainability and community empowerment.



*Acting Deputy Registrar Research, Innovation and Outreach Mr. Galfen Omuse (Right) taking the visitors through nursery management sessions*





*Practical sessions during the bench marking visit*



*Group Photo of the visitors and the host University staff*

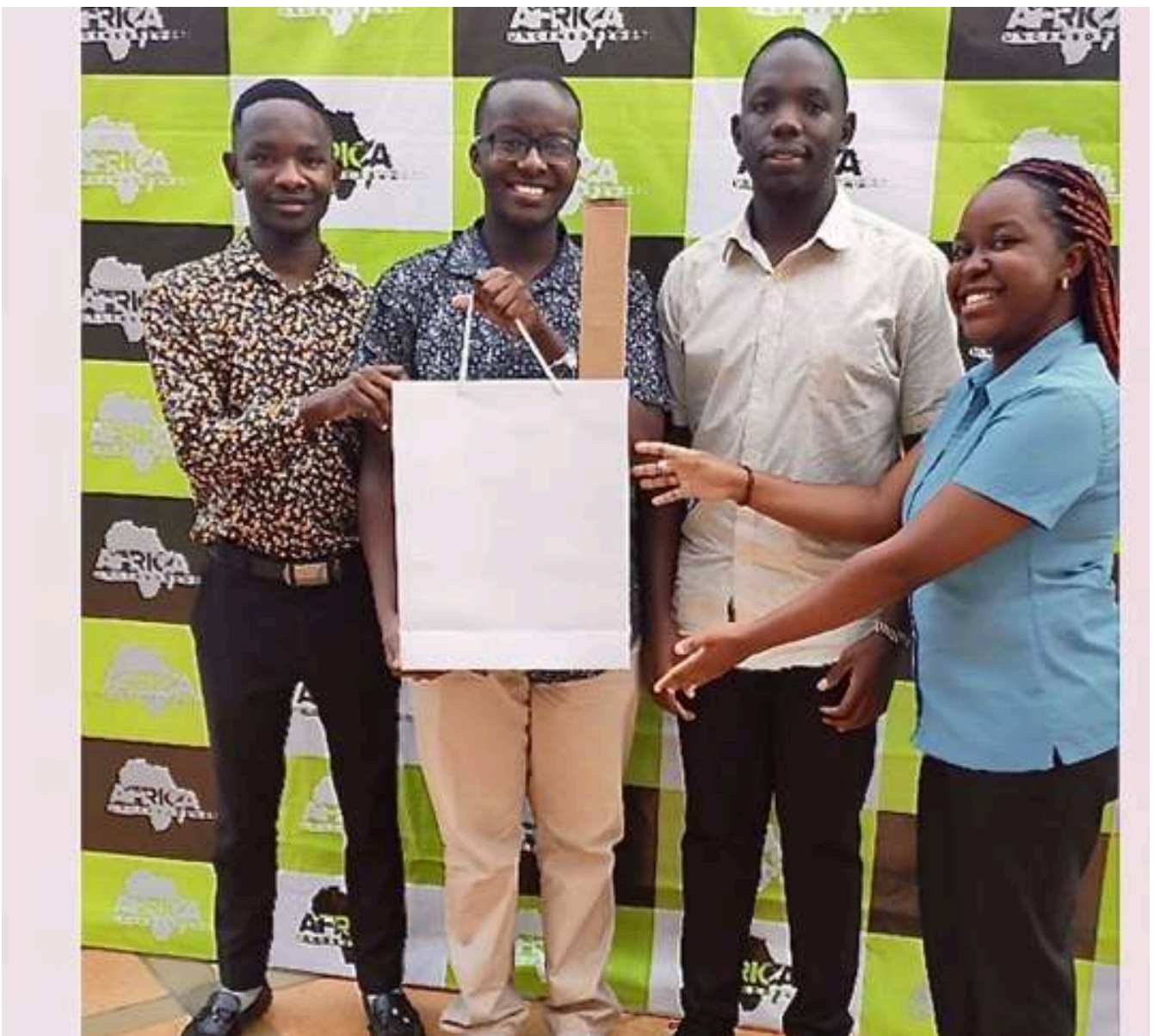


## WORLD SOCIAL MEDIA DAY FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

A team of seven students from Maasai Mara University joined Africa Uncensored and other students from various Universities in commemorating the World Social Media Day. The seminar was held at The Heron Portico Hotel on 30th June, 2025.

There was a panel discussion that was led by Michael Mwigwi from Africa Uncensored. The panellists were Polly Wachira from Thelesi foundation, Kennedy Kamakia a bold social media and content creator, and Timothy Mwaura, a designer and play advocate.

The discussion topic was social cause that saw participants enlightened on how to champion for social change from different perspective as they remain true to the laws of the country. There were games , and Questions and Answers sessions that saw team Maasai Mara University walk away with the majority of the awards.



*Students of Maasai Mara with an award during the event*



Pupils from Kideket Junior School, Narusura and Nkasioki, Narok West had an opportunity to tour the University for mentorship, motivation and exposure. They were exposed to various sections of the University for learning and experience



*Group photo of the pupils from Kideket and Nkasioki Junior Schools with their teachers and host University staff*



*The pupils in the ICT section*



*A section of the pupils in the Library*





*The Vice-Chancellor Prof. P. Aloo-Obudho (4<sup>th</sup> left) receiving the donated computers from WPP Scan Group*

The University has received a donation of 35 computers from WPP Scan Group and Kilimanjaro Blind Trust Advice to support the learning of students in Special Needs Education. The computers comprised of 26 HP desktops and 9 units of 21.5" iMac monitors. The donations to School of Education, are through courtesy of COD, the Department of Special Needs Education and Early Childhood Education (SNE&ECE) Dr. Naftali Rop.

The computers were officially received by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. P. Aloo-Obudho and witnessed by Prof. Edward Tanui, Dean, School of Education; Dr. Ratemo Makiya, Director ICT, Dr. Keteiya, Director Public Relations, Marketing, Linkages and a cross section of staff and the COD, the Department of Special Needs Education and Early Childhood Education (SNE&ECE) Dr. Naftali Rop. This vital support is set to enhance inclusive education by integrating technology into the teaching and learning process for students with special needs.





*Early Childhood Education (SNE&ECE) Dr. Naftali Rop (right), Prof. Edward Tanui (3<sup>rd</sup> right) Dean, School of Education; Dr. Ratemo, (3<sup>d</sup> left) Director ICT, Dr. Keteiya, Director Public Relations, Marketing and Linkages (left) accompanied by other University during the handing over ceremony*



*Kaimosi Friends University Deputy Vice-chancellor Academic Student Affairs and Research (ASA&R) Prof. Fred Amino signing the Visitors book at DVC, A&SA office during the visit*

The Office of the Dean of Students hosted Kaimosi Friends University team led by Deputy Vice-chancellor Academic Student Affairs and Research (ASA&R) Prof. Fred Amino, Dean of Students Dr. Dina Were, Clerk of Works Dr. Patrick and Student Leader Elumbe Xavier for a benchmarking visit.

Dean of students Mmara-U Mohamed A. Adan accompanied by Mr. Mr. Paul Sankale Development and Estates Manager and Mr. Joshua Makanga, Chief Security officer received, hosted and led the visitors for a tour of the University facilities and infrastructures.

The objective of the visit was to bench-mark the new student centre at Mmara-U. The visitors were privileged to visit the Botanical Garden, Hostels, Olekarei Complex, Mini Mara and other facilities. The visit provided a perfect avenues to exchange ideas, share best practices, and strengthen institutional collaboration in student welfare, engagement, innovative approaches to enhancing student experience on campus, and support services.

The visit will go a long way to provide valuable insights that will inform the improvement of service delivery at the KAFU Student Centre, fostering a vibrant and supportive learning environment. Insights gained from the visit will inform the enhancement of KAFU's Student Centre, ensuring a vibrant and supportive environment for all students.





*A group photo of Kaimosi Friends University team with Maasai Mara Representatives*



*The Dean Students Mr. Mohamed A. Adan, (left) with the visitors, University staff and Student leaders in his office*



## COURTESY CALL TO THE VICE-CHANCELLOR BY ILEPA

21

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. P. Aloo-Obudho hosted representatives from Indigenous Livelihoods Enhancement Partners Africa (ILEPA) for a courtesy call. ILEPA team was led by Chief Executive Officer Mr. Kimaren ole Riamit.

Mr. Riamit briefed the Vice-Chancellor about ILEPA's objectives and activities: securing rights and voices through capacity building and community empowerment, nature-based solutions and climate resilience, research and knowledge management, sustainable livelihoods, networks and collaborations.

The Vice-Chancellor welcomed the visit as a hallmark of a positive network towards harnessing and promoting the 5 Ms more specifically the "Maa" Culture. The discussions focused on fostering partnerships in community empowerment, environmental conservation, and indigenous knowledge integration for sustainable development. ILEPA officially welcomed the VC to the upcoming PACT international conference on indigenous led research and education.

Other ILEPA staff present were Ms. Easter Kinywa and Ms. Elizabeth Parkire . The ILEPA visit was coordinated by Ruth. W. Sipitiek Department Health Services."We look forward to building strong collaborations that align with our commitment to research, innovation, and community transformation", the VC added.



*The Vice-Chancellor Prof. P.Aloo-Obudho (Centre) with Ruth Wanjiru, Health Unit and ILEPA representatives: Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Kimaren ole Riamit (2<sup>nd</sup> left), Ms. Easter Kinywa and Ms. Elizabeth Parkire.*





*A group photo with the Vice-Chancellor ( 2<sup>nd</sup> from left) after the meeting*

COPYRIGHT MAMARA



*Registrar Academic Affairs Dr. Otieno Fredrick Onyango (2<sup>nd</sup> right) with Director Endowment Fund Dr. Wiseley Oswayo engaging the new students*

The university welcomed the 2025 first -year students admitted through KUCCPS as they reported for the beginning of their academic journey. From different counties and diverse backgrounds, the students joined one family – a place of knowledge, discovery, growth and lifelong friendships, network and realization dreams.

The new students were then taken through orientation exercise where they were guided and informed about various operations, procedures, schedules, mentored and inspired, equipped and informed of all that they need to know for smooth university life. The University new family members, the 2025 first years have begun their orientation exercise on the 25<sup>th</sup> August, 2025 for smooth transition into the University life.

The Dean of Students Mr. Mohamed A. Adan touched on the security, available opportunities such as for the needy students, work for study, scholarships, counselling and communication channels. “ Freedom in the University comes with responsibilities, do whatever you desire but remember what brought you here. You must maintain 80% class attendance, and observe the 10-10 hostel rule,” Mr. Adan said.

The new students were also introduced to the importance of research and innovation in shaping their academic and career journeys. The guest speaker, Francis Okwara, Senior Innovation Officer at KENIA, inspired the students to embrace creativity and problem-solving. This is against the background that Maasai Mara University through the mentorship of KENIA started the journey towards becoming an entrepreneurial university that commercializes research findings since 2023.





*Francis Okwara, Senior Innovation Officer at KENIA, addressing the first year students on innovation*



*Director, Public Relations, Marketing and Linkages Dr. Edward Kateiye, (4<sup>th</sup> left) and the Coordinator Center for Community outreach. Jackson Ole Masago(3<sup>rd</sup> left) mingling with a cross section of freshers and parents*

*A crowded scene during the reporting day for 2025 new students.*



## VICE-CHANCELLOR'S ADDRESS TO FIRST YEARS, 2025

As part of the First-Year Orientation Programme, University management officially welcomed the 2025 cohort, offering words of wisdom on academics, responsibility, and student life. The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. P. Aloo-Obudho, officially welcomed the freshers on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> August, 2025. In her keynote address, the Vice Chancellor, warmly welcomed all first-year students, congratulating them on their outstanding KCSE performance. She reminded them that joining Maasai Mara University marks the beginning of a transformative journey to becoming leaders and contributors to society.

She quoted the book of Jeremiah, chapter one: "I knew you before you were born" relating it to the students by affirming that God had destined them to be part of Maasai Mara University even before they applied. Prof. P. Aloo-Obudho highlighted key areas that will shape their success.

While the University offers freedom, it requires discipline and accountability. Students were urged to use their freedom wisely to avoid regrets. She urged students to remain mindful of their safety both within and outside campus, with a special caution against venturing near River Narok, which has historically claimed the lives of students.

"Time is a precious commodity, you should never wait,. Plan effectively, balance academics with leisure, and always prioritize studies, said the VC. She advised students to choose friends wisely, noting that "iron sharpens iron" and that the quality of one's friends often shapes their future and not the quantity.

Students were encouraged to manage their HELB upkeep funds responsibly by budgeting within their means and avoiding unnecessary expenses. The Vice-Chancellor urged students to seek medical care at the university clinic when un-well, to access counseling services without fear, and to prioritize both physical and mental health. She advised students to approach relationships carefully, the girls to avoid unwanted pregnancies, and protect themselves from emerging health risks such as STIs.



*The Vice-Chancellor Prof. P. Aloo-Obudho addressing the first years on 29<sup>th</sup> August, 2025*



She reminded students that they are not at the university by chance but by divine calling, urging them to acknowledge God in all their endeavors, as “the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.” The Vice Chancellor also highlighted the unique opportunities available at Maasai Mara University, including its strategic location near the world-renowned Maasai Mara Game Reserve and its distinctive “5Ms”: the Maasai Mara Reserve, Mau Forest, Maa Culture, Mara river ecosystem and Maombi kwa Wote (prayer for all). She noted that the university is one of the few piloted as an Entrepreneurial University, preparing graduates to become job creators rather than job seekers.

The VC further encouraged students to embrace new opportunities, such as foreign language courses (French, German, Chinese, and Korean) that will enhance their global competitiveness, and to participate in clubs and co-curricular activities to nurture their talents and not only focus on academics.

In her closing, Prof. Aloo-Obudho encouraged students to remain confident, courageous, and compassionate, reminding them that attitude will determine their altitude. She concluded with a heartfelt appeal: “Make your stay at Maasai Mara University memorable by doing the right things at the right time, with the right people, and in the right places. If you use your time wisely, balance academics with other opportunities, and embrace discipline, the sky will not be the limit for you.”



*New students scrambling for a memorable moment with the Vice-Chancellor*



*The Vice-Chancellor Prof. P. Aloo-Obudho delivering her opening address during the conference*

Maasai Mara University hosted the HEARTS4 Climate International Conference, 2025 from 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> of August 2025. The conference was a hybrid of academia and culture nexus. Participants engaged in powerful conversations on climate resilience, innovation, and inclusivity, led by a distinguished panel of speakers and sector experts.

The Vice-Chancellor Prof. P. Aloo-Obudho, in her opening remarks praised the conference as a positive indicator of increased engagement and global commitment to climate action. Underscoring the conference theme, "Uniting for a Healthy Climate," the Vice Chancellor tied the discussion to the University's strategic focus areas, the niche and the 5Ms. She challenged participants to go beyond academic dialogue and generate tangible, solution-oriented outcomes. She emphasised the importance of integrating University research with community engagement, especially through collaborative educational programs. Prof. Aloo-Obudho also advocated for impactful research that directly addresses societal needs, not just for publication, but for real transformation.

In line with this, the VC encouraged networking and knowledge-sharing among participants to catalyse solution-driven partnerships. She invited international delegates to explore the rich biodiversity of the Maasai Mara ecosystem, while stressing the urgency of preserving habitats, medicinal plants, and cultural heritage. A passionate conservationist herself, she shared her commitment to environmental restoration through tree nurseries in local schools, setting a bold example of grassroots impact.

In addition to plenary sessions, there were breakout sessions, poster presentations, and a focused group discussion on Climate Health. Interlinkages offered space for deeper dialogue and innovation sharing. Health camp served the community and participants with vital health services and information. Participants were treated to irresistible Maasai cultural food cuisine and experience. They sampled distinct local dishes that celebrated indigenous knowledge, sustainability, and the power of food as a cultural connector.





*A cross section of the conference participants in a group photo*

Impactful Street Clean-Up Walk, brought together passionate partners, students, and community members for a cleaner, greener environment. Participants walked for 7 km , rode bicycles and cleaned up Narok town from Motonyi Hill to Maasai Mara University.

The HEARTS4 Climate 2025 Conference climaxed with field activities at Naisoya Primary and Mpiro Primary School in Naikara, Narok West. In keeping with the conference's main theme, delegates, and community members participated in a tree planting exercises for land rehabilitation at Mau forest and respective schools, reinforcing the commitment to environmental restoration.

At Mpiro Primary which was the final day, indigenous peoples declaration was done. conference resolutions and output that captured the collective commitments, insights, and action points agreed upon during the seven days was read.



*Guest speaker Prof. Patrick Worms (Centre) joined by other conference guest and university management for a tree planting session.*





Deputy vice-Chancellor Administration, Finance and Strategy Prof. James Nempushi (Centre) with the Director Research , innovation and Outreach Dr. Alloys Osano (left) and Catherine Masikonte during the conference.



A section of participants at Mpiro Primary School for the indigenous people's declaration



## PARTNERSHIP WITH NORTHEAST INSTITUTE OF GEOGRAPHY AND AGROECOLOGY(IGA)

The University hosted a high-level collaboration meeting with a team from the Northeast Institute of Geography and Agroecology, Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS). The engagement aimed at exploring joint collaboration opportunities in geography, ecological restoration, climate resilience, and sustainable land use, agriculture, Wetland science, Remote Sensing and Geographic information science and Monitoring, student and Staff Exchange and infrastructural development among others.

The meeting marked a significant step toward international academic cooperation, knowledge exchange, and joint efforts, particularly in the context of the areas of mutual interest. The two Institutions are poised to shape a future of shared science, innovation, and sustainable development. Maasai Mara University was represented by Prof. Stella Kirui , Director TVET, representing the Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Edward Kateiya, Public Relations, Marketing and Linkages (PRM&L), Marjan Khamis, Research and Innovation, Nickson Magak , PRM&L and Lydia Kiptum, Health Unit.

Northeast Institute of Geography and Agroecology team was composed of Prof. Ming Juang, Director General , IGA/CAS, Prof. Chunjie Tiang, Senior Scientist Agriculture, Prof. Wang Guodong, Head of Research Division, Prof. Yanjie Liu, Senior Scientist and Dr. Korir Richard, Principle Research Scientist, KEMRI.



*Representatives from Maasai Mara University and the Northeast Institute of Geography and Agroecology, Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) during the meeting*



*Discussion during the meeting at the conference hall*



*Prof. Stella Kirui , (right) Director TVET and Prof. Ming Juang, Director General , IGA/CAS during the meeting.*





*Director TVET Prof. Stella Kirui (left) leading the visitors for a tour of botanical garden .*

COPYRIGHT MMARA-U

## ST. MARY COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL KIBUYE, KISUMU AND ANCILIA CATHOLIC ACADEMY, ELDORET ACADEMIC TOUR

Students from St. Mary Comprehensive School Kibuye, Kisumu and Ancilia Catholic Academy, Eldoret had an opportunity to visit Maasai Mara university. The students got an opportunity to be taken through impactful mentorship and career guidance sessions where they interacted with the staff and students who encouraged them to pursue academic excellence. During the session the students were mentored and motivated on how to embrace self confidence by exposing them to the various academic and professional possibilities.

The students got an opportunity to visit the Botanical Garden where they were able to learn the different species of medicinal plants and there uses. The students were taught the importance of environmental conservation and their role as students to the society in regards to environmental conservation. They were able to learn the different indigenous plant species available in the university's botanical garden. They were able to witness the practical application of renewable energy technology: Briquettes, Biogas and soap production at the renewable energy center. They expressed a lot of enthusiasm towards renewable sources of energy.

The team was privileged to visit the University hostels, Student Centre and other facilities where they got a glimpse of "campus life". This experience played a major role in shaping their career path. The students exhibited great dedication and determination towards academic excellence. Maasai Mara University prides in guiding students to learn more about higher learning and how to use their skills, career and talents to serve a broader community. As they exited the University premises the confidence of knowledge transferred to our young ones keeps shining beyond the Maasai Mara University gates.



*St. Mary Comprehensive School Kibuye, Kisumu pupils in front of Mara Hostel*





*The Visiting St. Mary Comprehensive School , Kibuye, Kisumu being highlighted about the renewable energy centre.*



*Ancilia Catholic Academy, Eldoret pupils enjoying the Botanical Garden*



## CHAMANER COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL, BOMET VISIT

Maasai Mara University hosted pupils and teachers from Chamaner Comprehensive School, Bomet for mentorship, motivation and exposure.

The pupils were exposed to various sections of the University. They gained valuable insights of the University life and experience. They toured the Botanical Garden, and witnessed the flora and learnt about the importance of environmental conservation. They also witnessed the practical application of renewable energy technology: briquettes, biogas and soap production at the Renewable Energy Centre .

The pupils were privileged to have a feel of the University Lecture theatres, Library and the ICT Centre for lifelong learning and experiencing the technological tools and skills. The visit served as a powerful motivator for the pupils inspiring them to pursue their academic goal with dedication and determination.



*Pupils from Chamaner Comprehensive School, Bomet in a group photo at the Botanical Garden.*



*The pupils having explanations from Mr. Saningo of Botanical Garden sections*



Maasai Mara University sadly lost one of the staff, Ms. Jane Kool. She was eulogized by colleagues as a committed staff who dedicated her time to the university. Until her death, Jane worked in the Procurement Department. In her speech read by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Administration, Finance and Strategy, Prof. J. Nampushi, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. P. Aloo-Obudho said that death has robbed the university of a dedicated worker whose services will be missed.



*Requiem Mass for Jane Kool: MAY GOD REST HER SOUL IN PEACE*



## EDITORIAL BOARD

**Prof. Benard Kodak**  
**Dr. Cyprian Ratemo**  
**Mr. Nickson Magak**

## DESIGNED AND DEVELOPED BY:

**Dr. Cyprian Ratemo (PhD)**  
**Mr. Mark Otieno**

## OUR CONTACTS

**MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY**  
**P. O. BOX 861-20500**  
**NAROK, KENYA**  
**TEL: (254) 20 5131400**  
**EMAIL: [NEWSLETTER@MMARAU.AC.KE](mailto:NEWSLETTER@MMARAU.AC.KE)**