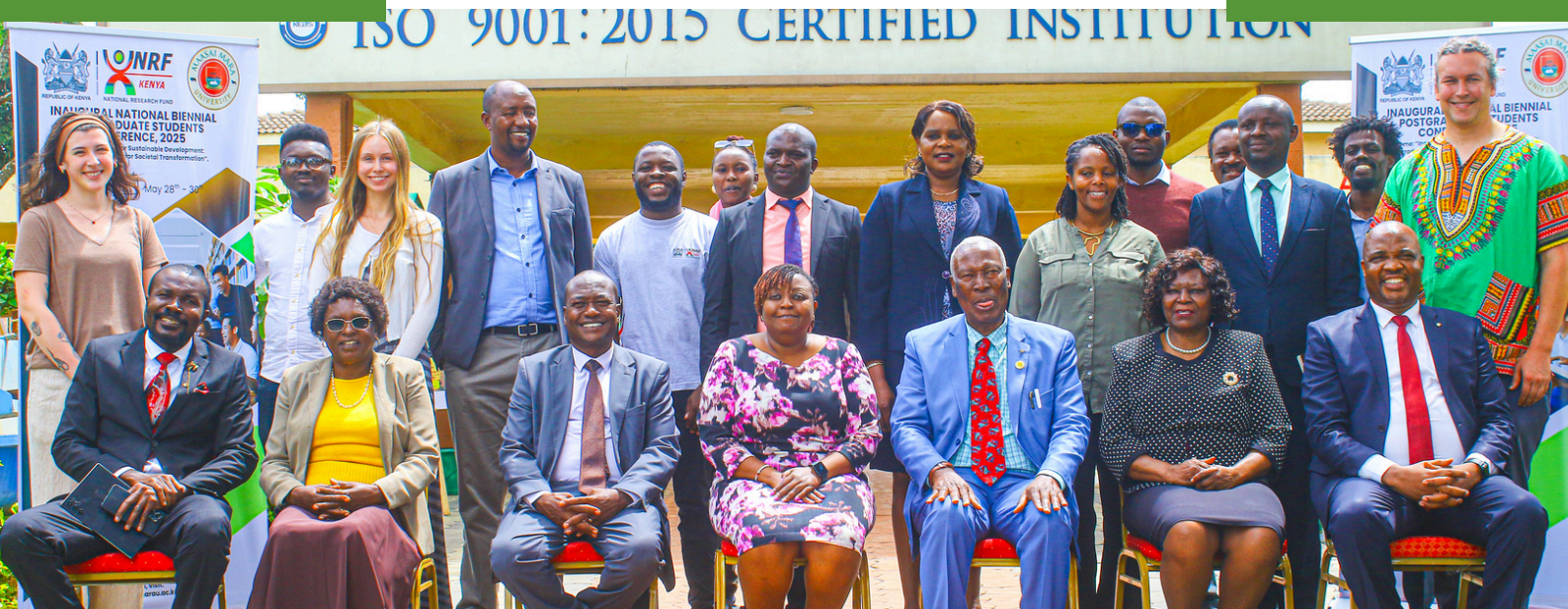




MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY

NEWSLETTER

"THE VOICE OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE"



A photo of a few selected participants, Chief guest, Vice-Chancellor and other guests during the first ever National Bi-annual Postgraduate Conference held at Maasai Mara University, Narok County between 28th and 30th May 2025.

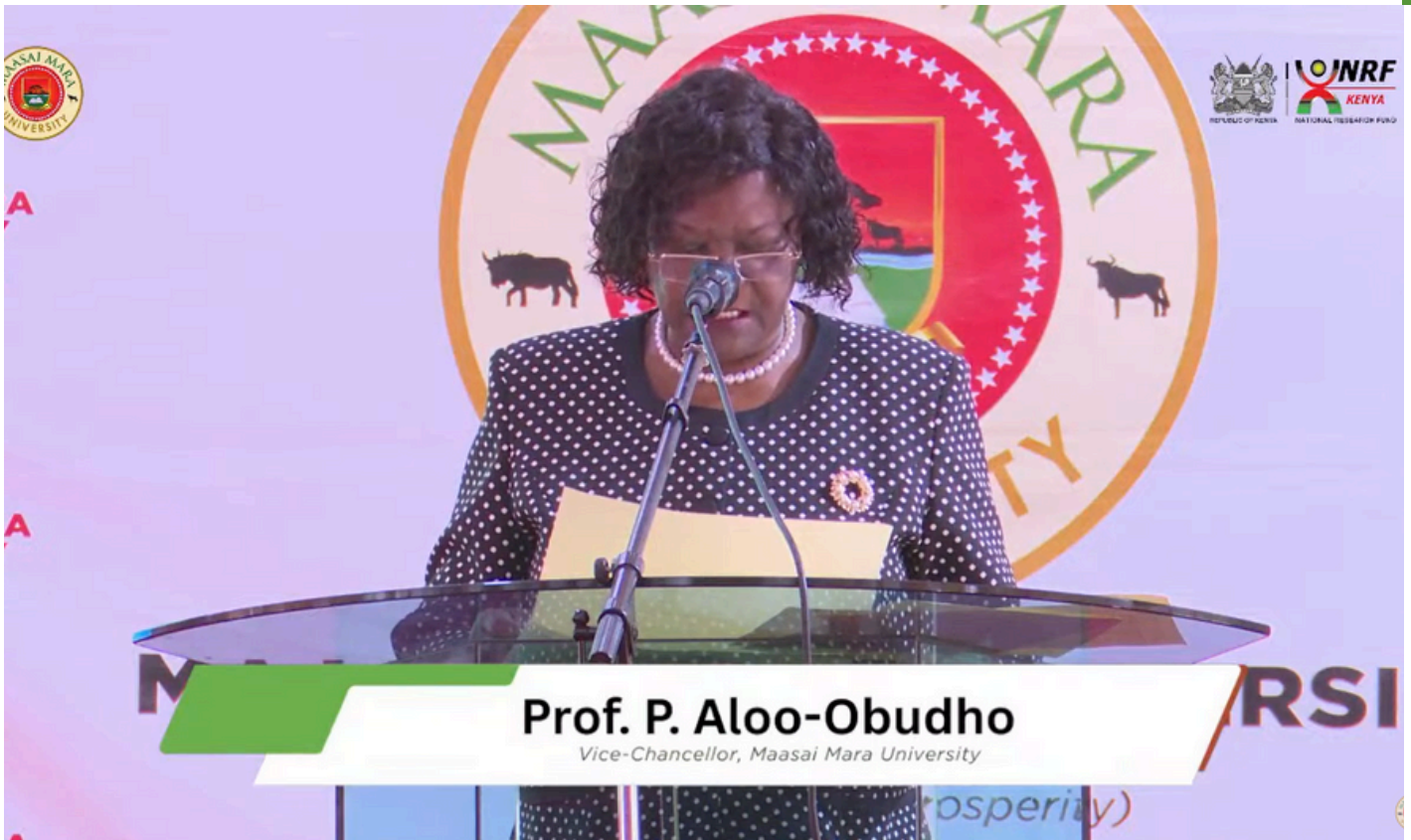
TOP NEWS

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- A COLLABORATION MEETING WITH CAPE MEDIA, TV AND RADIO 47
- CONSULTATIVE MEETING WITH A VISITING PROFESSOR FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
- MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY HOSTS INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON USE OF GENOMICS FOR ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE SURVEILLANCE

THE FIRST BI-ANNUAL NATIONAL POSGRADUATE CONFERENCE HELD AT MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY

The first ever national bi-annual postgraduate conference was held at Maasai Mara University, Narok County between 28th and 30th May 2025. The conference was a joint activity between Maasai Mara University and the National Research Fund (NRF) with the later supporting most of the activities. The two institutions recognized the importance of postgraduate research and the need to provide a platform for the students to present their research findings. To achieve the objective of the conference, the Vice-Chancellor of MMARAU, Prof. P. Aloo-Obudho and the CEO of National Research Fund, Kenya (NRF-K), Prof. Dickson Andala appointed a joint conference organizing committee consisting of members from Maasai Mara University and NRF-K.



Prof. P. Aloo-Obudho, Vice-Chancellor Maasai Mara University giving welcome remarks

The conference brought together masters and PhD students supported by NRF-K from across Kenyan universities to share their research findings and experiences. Two international postgraduate students from the University of Toronto in Canada also attended the conference. The theme was: "Innovation for Sustainable Development: Postgraduate Research for Societal Transformation" The conference was opened by the Cabinet Secretary, Mr. Julius Ogamba represented by Dr. Carol Hunja. The CS elaborated on the future of higher education and research in Kenya. He reiterated the importance of postgraduate research in national development. The Conference attracted 128 participants as follows: Ninety (93) participants presented physically, twenty-seven (27) presented virtually, 1 Poster presentation, 3 keynote speakers, 3 trainers and 1 guest speaker. There were also other conference attendees and socialwork practitioners.



The Council Chairman, Dr. Kennedy Ole Kerei giving opening remarks



Prof. Emeritus Ratemo Michieka, Chairman National Research Fund Board challenging the participants during the opening session.



Dr. Carol Hunja representing the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education giving official opening remarks

After the opening session, the participants planted One hundred and ten (110) trees of three different species. The trees were planted behind the university senate boardroom. This is in line with Maasai Mara University niche towards the presidential directive on planting 15 billion trees by 2032 to enhance climate change mitigation



Dr. Carol Hunja planting a commemorative tree after the official opening of the conference. She is assisted by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. P. Aloo- Obudho, Prof. Emeritus Ratemo Michieka and Mr. Kemboi



THE INAUGURAL NATIONAL BIENNIAL

Prof. Emeritus Ratemo Michieka planting a tree to mark the event



Maasai Mara University Chair of Council, Dr. Kennedy Ole Kerei planting a tree



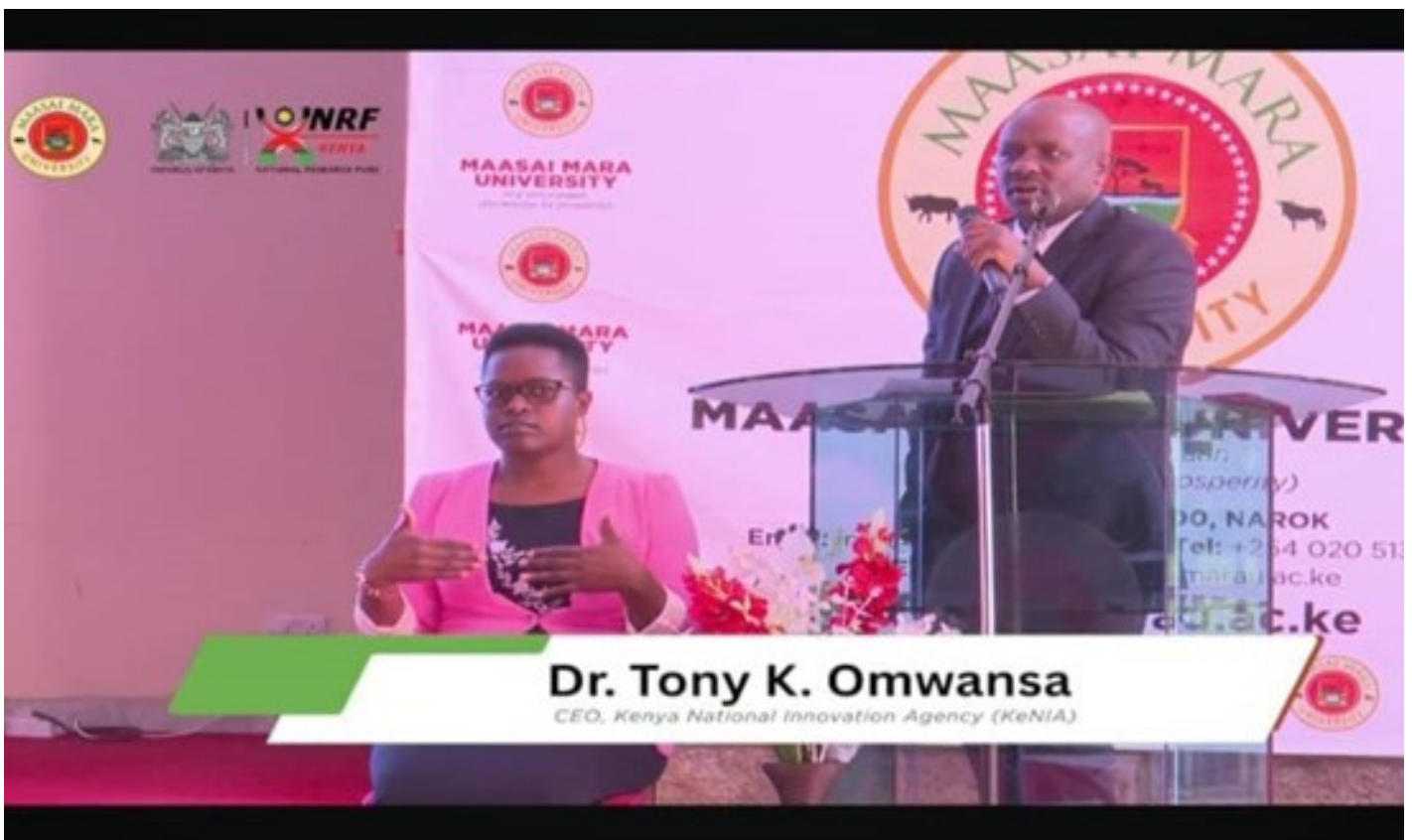
The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. P. Aloo-Obudho planting a tree during the conference



Council member, Dr. Susan Chebet (Chair of the Academic Committee of Council) planting a tree



A group photo of all participants during the conference



Dr. Tony Omwansa, CEO KENIA presenting on the pathway towards innovation



Mr. Wilfred Mworia during the training session on Innovation Commercialization and Entrepreneurship



Interactive session with Mr. Joseph Maina Njogu during a training on Grant Proposal writing



The CEO of National Research Fund, Prof. Dickson Andala giving closing remarks.

In his closing remarks, the CEO of NRF, Prof. Dickson Andala thanked the participants for attending the conference and presenting their research findings. He stressed that NRF is keen to ensure quality research that transforms the society. Encouraged participants to be checking the NRF website for calls for research to apply the skills they had acquired in the conference by writing fundable proposals. The best research papers would be uploaded on the NRF website. He also informed participants that the next conference would still be hosted by Maasai Mara University in 2027 before the conference can be rotated to other universities. That whether it will be held in other universities, the conference remains an activity organized by NRF and Maasai Mara University.

After three days of academic discourse, the conference Chair, Prof. B. Manyasi highlighted on some of the key lessons learnt during the conference and the way forward. She reiterated on creation of more links and collaborations among participants to strengthen each other's research pursuits. The chair indicated that all the participants would get a presentation certificate later since they were not ready.

THE CHAIRMAN OF MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY COUNCIL ATTENDED ANNUAL RETREAT OF COUNCIL CHAIRS



The Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education, Hon. Julius M. Ogamba (middle) being received by Chair of the Chairs of Councils and Maasai Mara University Chair of Council, Dr. Kennedy Ole Kerei (extreme right)

The Chairman of Council, Dr. Kennedy Ole Kerei attended the inaugural National Annual Retreat for Chairpersons of Councils of Public Universities. The retreat was held from 16th June, 2025 to 20th June, 2025, at Sarova Whitesands Hotel in Mombasa. The Chairman was a member of the committee that organized the retreat.

The retreat was convened under the theme "Strengthening Governance and Succession Planning for Sustainable Leadership in Higher Education" underscored the urgent need for effective governance structures within Kenyan Public Universities. Participants recognized that the sector faces numerous challenges, including leadership gaps, systemic inefficiencies and the necessity for accountability. The retreat served as a platform for dialogue, collaboration and the formulation of actionable strategies to address these issues.



A group photo of the Chairs of Councils of public universities. Seated 3rd from right is the Principal Secretary, Ministry of Education, Dr. B. Inyangala. Standing 3rd from right is the Chair of MmaraU Council, Dr. K. Ole Kerei

The retreat brought together Chairpersons of Councils of Public Universities, Senior Officials from the Ministry of Education and other key stakeholders to address significant issues affecting higher education in Kenya. The retreat came up with recommendations that will be used by policy makers to improve the quality of higher education in Kenya.

VICE-CHANCELLOR AND A COUNCIL MEMBER PARTICIPATED IN THE BLUE ECONOMY SUMMIT

The Vice Chancellor, Prof. P. Aloo-Obudho and a council member, Ms. Elizabeth Ayoo represented the university at the Blue Economy Summit at Tom Mboya University in Homa Bay County from 28th to 30th May, 2025. The summit which was themed “Our Waters, Our Wealth” was a precursor of the 62nd Madaraka Day celebrations held in Homa Bay County. The Chief Guest was the Head of State, His Excellency Dr. William Ruto, the President of the Republic of Kenya. The president gave a summary of the progress made in the Blue Economy since he took over leadership. These include infrastructure development around the lake, improvement of the landing beaches and capacity building of beach management leaders. He mentioned that he has learnt that Homa Bay County has the largest share of the Kenyan portion of Lake Victoria.



Vice-Chancellors at Tom Mboya University during the Blue Economy Summit. L to R are: Prof. G. Cheminginwa, Principal of Turkana University College, Prof. C. Ochola, VC of Tom Mboya University, Prof. P. Aloo-Obudho, VC of Maasai Mara University and Prof. S. Gudu, VC of Rongo University

He appealed to Kenyans to utilize the wealth of Lake Victoria and the Indian Ocean sustainably.

Most of the speakers during the summit confirmed that great strides have been made in the Blue Economy Sector. The event attracted several organizations including universities, Fisheries research and management institutions, NGOs, local fisheries managers and local and international researchers. Maasai Mara University had an opportunity to exhibit during the three-day event. The University stand was a beehive of activities as the staff explained the programmes offered in the university. The event later culminated in to the Madaraka Day celebrations at the Raila Odinga Stadium in Homa Bay Town.



The Council Member, Ms. Elizabeth Ayoo and the Vice-Chancellor, Prof.P. Aloo-Obudho after Madaraka Day celebrations in Homa Bay

The summit was a perfect opportunity for marketing the University academic programmes, showcasing our innovations and research, forging partnerships, enhancing publicity and visibility. The Vice-Chancellor accompanied by the host Vice-Chancellor of Tom Mboya University Prof. Charles O. Ochola, Rongo University Vice-Chancellor Prof. Samuel Gudu and Turkana University college Principal Prof. George Chemining'wa visited the University booth and held fruitful engagements for development.



Four Vice-Chancellors at the Maasai Mara University booth: Prof.P. Aloo-Obudho (2nd right), Maasai Mara University, Prof. Charles O. Ochola, (right), Tom Mboya University, Prof. Samuel Gudu, (left), Rongo University and Principal Prof. George Chemining'wa, (2nd left) Turkana University College



The Vice-Chancellor Prof. Peninah Aloo-Obudho (5th left), joins other leaders and participants in a plenary session at the summit



The Vice-Chancellor Prof. Peninah Aloo-Obudho (5th left), joins other leaders and participants in a plenary session at the summit



Isaak Adweya, student innovator, from Maasai Mara University explaining his innovation at the booth to the Rongo University Vice-Chancellor Prof. Samuel Gudu



A cross section of the University representatives: From left: Mr. Raphael Kamamia, Kelly Konchellah, Nickson Magak, Abby Christine Murage and Dr. Isaac Motochi

MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY HOSTED A MEETING OF VICE-CHANCELLORS FROM PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES

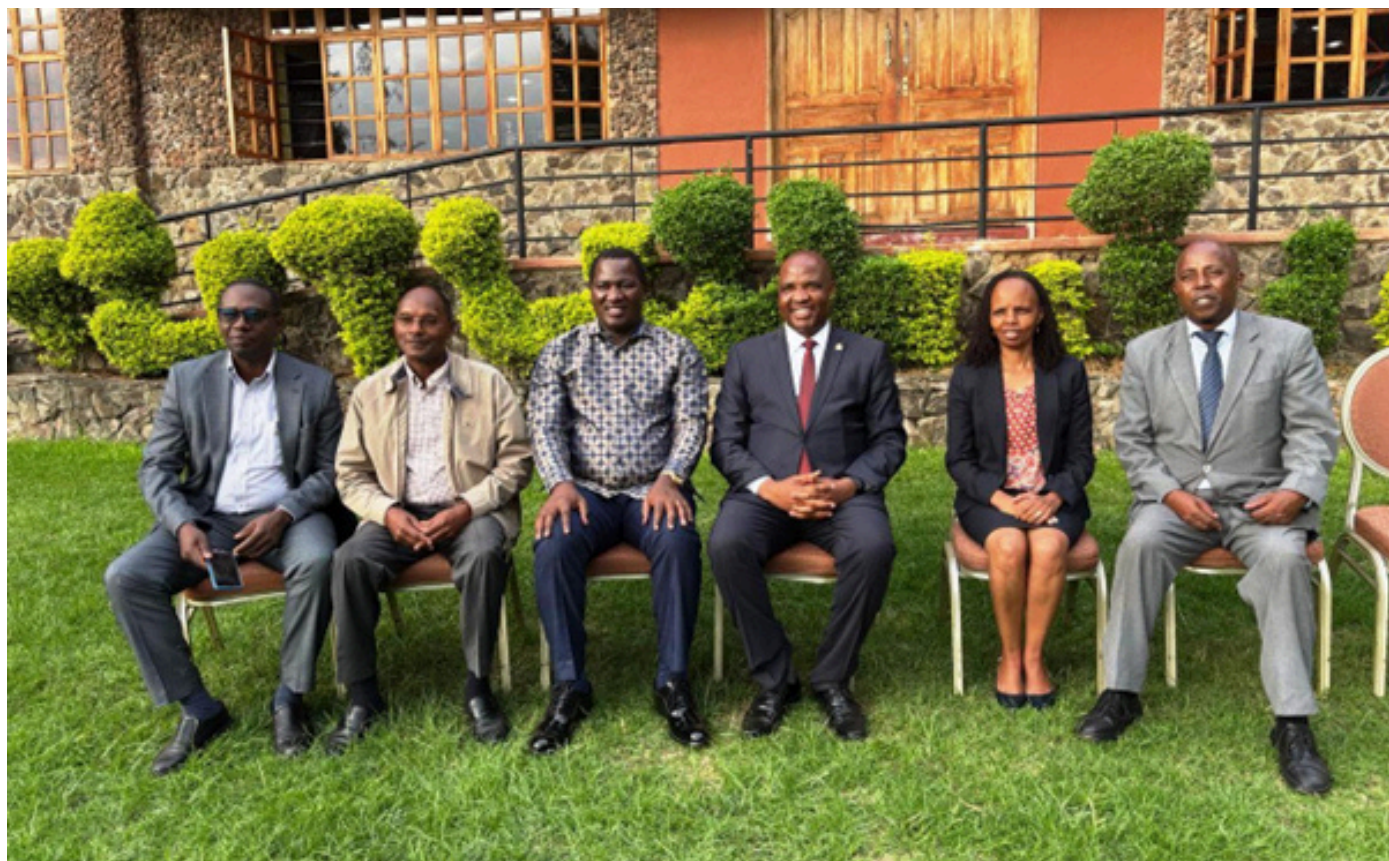
Maasai Mara University hosted members of the Joint Negotiation Committee and the Human Resource Sub-Committee of the VCs Committee on 20th May 2025. The meeting was a follow up of other meetings held at the Machakos University. The agenda of the meeting was to discuss matters pertaining to the welfare of university staff. The meeting was co-chaired by Prof. Fred Baraza who is the Chair of the Joint Negotiation Committee and Prof. Isaac Kibwage who is the Chair of the Human Resource Sub-Committee of the VCs Committee. The Vice-Chancellor of Maasai Mara University, Prof. P. Aloo-Obudho is the Vice-Chair of the HR sub-Committee.



The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. P. Aloo-Obudho (Seated right) with Vice-Chancellors from other universities. Seated L to R are: Prof. M. Ndungu, VC of Kirinyaga University, Prof. F. Baraza, VC of Taita Taveta University, Prof. I. Kibwage, VC of Egerton University. Standing L to R are: Prof. G. Cheminginwa, Principal of Turkana University College, Prof. Z. Nganga, Principal of Mama Ngina University College, Prof. L. Gitonga, VC of Karatina University, Prof. J. Agalo, VC of Machakos University and Prof. N. Ogechi, VC of Kisii University.

The Vice-Chancellors marked this visit by planting trees at the designated VCs corner behind the Administration Block. The meeting culminated with a branding ceremony where each guest was dressed in the traditional Maasai shukas to remind them of their visit to the university. The Vice-Chancellor explained to the guests that the ceremony is part of the efforts being made by the university to promote the Maasai (Maa) culture.

KUCCPS MEETS DVCS IN CHARGE OF ACADEMICS AHEAD OF 2025/2026 PLACEMENT CYCLE'S RESULTS RELEASE



A cross section of the participants Prof. Bulitia Godrick Mathews seated 3rd from right

Deputy Vice Chancellors in charge of academics in Kenyan Universities have had a productive engagement with the Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Service (KUCCPS), regarding the anticipated release of the 2025/2026 Placement Cycle results. Leading the consultative meeting was the Chief Executive Officer KUCCPS, Dr. Agnes Mercy Wahome and Prof. John Oluoch who is the Director Placement Co-ordination and Career Development, KUCCPS. Maasai Mara University was represented by the Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic and Students Affairs, Prof. Bulitia Godrick Mathews who communicated the University's capacity to admit, teach, mentor and graduate students within the expected timelines and as per the quality University education standards and guidelines.

The convention discussed significant matters on placement of new students in Universities and Colleges. The issues included: programmes and capacities submitted for placement in the cycle under review, upcoming review of the degree cluster document, relevance of academic programmes to dynamic market needs as well as phased applications. Moreover, the meeting convener yearned to use the platform as tool to strengthen coordination in the management of inter-institutional and inter-faculty transfers, enhancing how Universities address challenges in student enrolment tracking and graduate data reporting as well as exploring opportunities for collaboration on graduate tracer studies and labour market alignment.



A group photo of the attendees

The DVCs were assured by KUCCPS that their students' and institutional data is safe as it has stable and reliable Information Security infrastructure, adherence to ISO 27001-2022: Information Security Management System as well as compliance with the Data Protection Act, 2019. The engagement will trickle down to other officials from Universities including University Registrars, Admission Officers, Finance Officers and officials from Kenya Medical Training College (KMTTC), done in separate subsequent meetings. Maasai Mara University has always declared reasonable student placement capacities spiced with academic programmes that are labour market aligned, thus attracting an increasing number of first year students allocated in each new student placement cycle. This is also attributed to the amiable working relationship that the University has established with KUCCPS.



United for the Environment! Chief guest, the first lady of Narok County, Dr. Agnes Ntutu (left) greeting the Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research, Innovation and Outreach Prof. Francis Mburu at the Celebration.

The University joined Narok County and the rest of the world in commemorating World Environment Day 2025 at Talek Boys Secondary School, under the global theme "Ending Plastic Pollution." The event brought together key stakeholders from the National Government, academia, and environmental organizations, all united in their commitment to environmental protection and sustainable practices. Prior to the celebration, University representatives joined other partners and participated in Cleaning Talek Market exercise.

The Chief guest was the first lady of Narok County, Dr. Agnes Ntutu. In attendance were representatives from the County Government of Narok, Provincial administration, partners such as National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), Kenya Forest Service (KFS), Wildlife Works Carbon (WWANC), Ewaso Ng'iro South Development Authority (ENSDA), and local community members, among others.

The Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research, Innovation and Outreach, Prof. Francis Mburu representing the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. P. Aloo-Obudho led University staff in celebrating this memorable day. The guests planted tree seedlings symbolizing a commitment to environmental restoration. The event also featured performances from school children, who entertained guests with poems and songs that promoted environmental awareness.

In her speech, the First Lady Agnes Ntutu emphasized the importance of planting trees and instilling values of environment conservation to younger generations and called on communities to adopt sustainable waste practices, particularly in minimizing single-use plastics. She lauded the joint efforts of stakeholders in organizing the event and encouraged continued collaboration to ensure a cleaner, healthier environment for future generations. "Plastic pollution is a global problem and we must end it. We must protect our water springs. Visitors come to enjoy the nature, not the garbage," she noted.



The Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research, Innovation and Outreach Prof. Francis Mburu who represented the Vice-Chancellor, planting a tree at Talek Boys.

Prof. Mburu reiterated the University's unmatched commitment to environment conservation as demonstrated in the 5 M pillars. The University played a crucial role during the event through the coordination of the Acting Deputy Registrar, Research, innovation and outreach Mr. Galfen Omuse. Apart from supplying the tree seedlings for planting, the University also provided requisite logistics and refreshments. As a partner in sustainable development, Masai Mara University continues to play a crucial role in promoting environmental conservation through research, community outreach, and services.

The University works closely with the County Government, local authorities and organizations to champion eco-friendly practices such as tree planting, waste management, recycling education, and environmental awareness campaigns. Its involvement in World Environment Day reflects its commitment to shaping environmentally responsible citizens and fostering solutions that benefit both the community and the planet.



Acting Deputy Registrar , Research, Innovation and Outreach Mr. Galfen Omuse (Centre) joined by Talek Girls Students in cleaning Talek Market



Prof. Stella Kirui , (left), Director TVET going through the programme in the brochure for distribution.

The Director of TVET Institute Prof. Stella Kirui led a team from Maasai Mara University to market the TVET courses and other academic programmes at Sekenani. The team through the Directorate of Public Relations, Marketing and Linkages in conjunction with the TVET Institute had the distinct honour of showcasing diverse academic programmes during the presidential function at Sekenani. As a centre of excellence in education, research, community service and innovation, Maasai Mara University remains committed to nurturing the next generation of leaders, thinkers, and change-makers. The role of higher education in driving national development is unequivocal. The University and TVET Institute invites all to be part of a transformative journey — where ideas meet opportunity!



Gladys Sonkoi from TVET marketing the programme to a group of women at Sekenani.

LIGHTING THE VULNERABLE: UNIVERSITY DONATES SOLAR LIGHTS TO SIX COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOLS IN NAROK COUNTY

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University representatives with the pupils of Olmakau Comprehensive School . Standing in the middle is Mr. J. Ole Masago

Maasai Mara University through the Centre for Community Outreach donated family solar lights and boxes of sanitary towels to six Comprehensive Schools in Narok County. The schools were: Saaten, Esupetai , Oletukat and Naisuya, Sankale and Olmakau. This event, marked an important milestone in the University's commitment to community and outreach services. The donations are part of the University's efforts to actively support the local communities, inspire, mentor young students and ensure equitable education for children, thereby strengthening the capacities of the local community.

The ceremony received significant praise and admiration not only from the needy beneficiaries but also from parents, school leaders and teachers who attended all the meetings. This activity cemented the University's role in reaching the local community with positive impacts in diverse social-economic ways in line with one of the components of the university mandate on community outreach.



An Oletukat Compressive School pupil receiving the solar light from the Coordinator, Centre for community outreach Mr. Jackson Ole Masago.



Mr. Samson Shakai handing over a family solar light kit to a pupil and her parent at Sankale Comprehensive School.

THE UNIVERSITY PARTICIPATES IN THE MAMA COUNTY BACK TO SCHOOL PROGRAM- HOMA BAYCOUNTY

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The Coordinator, Centre for Career Services and Students Placements (CS&PS) Dr. Patrick Gudda (right) welcomes Embakasi East Member of Parliament Babu Owino and Homa Bay County Women Representative Hon. Dr. Joyce Atieno Bensuda (left) at the booth.

Maasai Mara University participated and exhibited during the 6th Edition of Mama County Back to School Program in Homa Bay County hosted at Mbita High School, Suba North. The initiative seeks for an inclusive education environment by supporting teenage mothers, learners with disabilities (PWDS) , and students from disadvantaged backgrounds. During the event, Hon.Dr. Joyce Osogo Bensouda, Women Representative Homabay County who was the Chief Guest, distributed bursary cheques worth over KES 10,000,000, water tanks , hand washing facilities, computers and other education related support services and assistance under her ten point agenda aimed at lifting the lives of the local people.

The University marketed academic programmes, enhanced visibility and image, mentored students and guided them in career paths. Additionally, the University participation opened collaborations and partnerships. Other key guests present were: Hon. Babu Owino, Member of National Assembly Embakasi East constituency, Prof.Hazel Miseda, Vice Chancellor The Great Lakes University, Prof. Elyjoy Micheni, Deputy Vice Chancellor Tom Mboya University, Prof. Awour, Deputy Vice Chancellor Kisii University, Hon.Florence Jematiah, Baringo Women Representative and Prof Phyllis Bartoo, Member of parliament Moiben Constituency.



Director Public Relations and Linkages, (PRM&L), Dr. Edward Kateiya (2nd left) joins distinguished guest in cutting the event cake.

The Vice-Chancellor of Maasai Mara University was represented by the Director Public Relations and Linkages, (PRM&L), Dr. Edward Kateiya and the Coordinator, Centre for Career Services and Students Placements (CS&PS) Dr. Patrick Gudda. Other members of staff present were Rose Cherop, Admission, Nickson Magak, PRM&L, Mr. Shadrack Mwita and Sharon Sointa, a student attachee at PRM&L.



University representatives at the event, from left: Nickson Magak, Rose Cherop, Dr. Patrick Gudda, Mr. Mwita and a prospective student (right).



University staff taking an applicant through a range of programme options

MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY STAFF PARTICIPATED IN THE 4TH MULTI-SECTORAL CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITIONS ON RESEARCH, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION (MS-CORSTI)

The 4th multi-sectoral conference and exhibitions on research, science, technology and innovation (ms-corsti) was held from 9th to 12th June, 2025, at Lake Naivasha Resort, Naivasha with Maasai Mara University being represented by the Coordinator for the Incubation and entrepreneurial Incubation center Dr. Ing Jared Ombiro Gwaro and Mr Marjan Abdalah from the office of DVC (Research and Innovations). The conference attracted several institutions cutting across all the sector of Kenyan Economy bringing experts from different government and private organizations including Universities, TVET, Government bodies like Ministry of education, Ministry of Agriculture and research institutions, among others. The conference was officially opened the Principal Secretary Science, Research, Innovation, Ministry of Education Prof. Shaukat Abdulrazak, PhD, EBS who gave remarks on behalf of the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry Education. In his speech, the CS highlighted the critical role of STI in Kenya's journey towards inclusive, knowledge-driven development, aligning with Vision 2030 and the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA). Dr Ombiro representing Maasai Mara University and participated in the Inter-Ministerial High-Level Dialogue on "Research, Science, Technology and Innovation: impacts, Intellectual Property Protection and Monetization: The Case of Climate-Smart Agricultural Transformation, and MSME Economy". In the discussion he was among the panelists composed of Prof. Emeritus Ratemo Michieka, Chair, NRF Board and Chancellor, Tharaka University, Eng. Benson Kariuki, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Dr. Martin Oduor, Chancellor KCA University. The discussion focused on how IP from climate-smart agriculture can be supported to transform Kenyan economy. Dr. Ombiro Provided key highlights on how innovators and entrepreneurs in climate-smart agriculture can access funds through different calls and government bodies to support their enterprise



Dr Ombiro participation during the Panel dialogue on IP climate smart-Agriculture Innovations



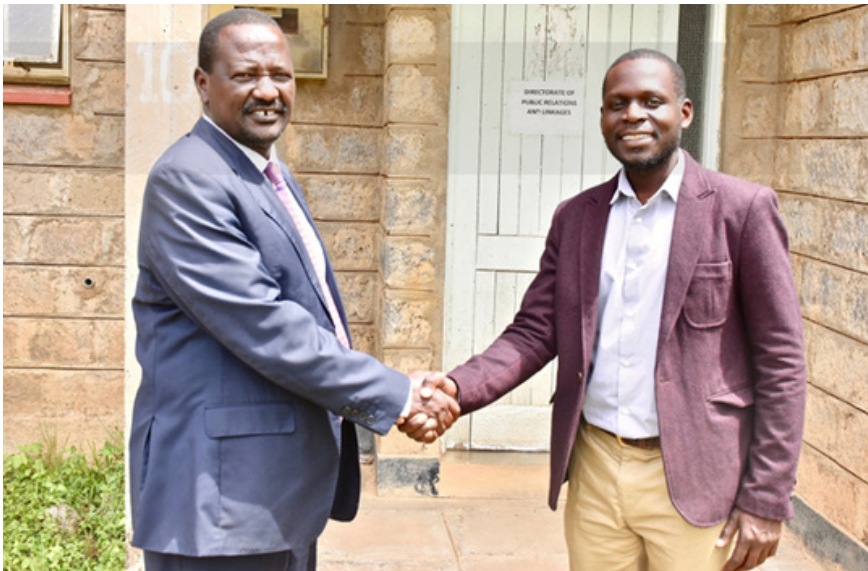
Mr. Marjan asking question during the climate smart-Agriculture innovations panel dialogue.

A COLLABORATION MEETING WITH CAPE MEDIA, TV AND RADIO 47

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Directorate of Public Relations, Marketing and Linkages (PRM&L) hosted Mr. Ali Mwalewa from CAPE MEDIA, TV and Radio 47 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. Mr. Mwalewa presented TV 47 University report synopsis and the show mechanics. Dr. Edward Kateiya, Director PRM&L presented a brief history, academic programme, University Niche and the 5M pillars.

CAPE MEDIA 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 especially in terms of resource sharing, marketing, enhancing visibility, improving our image, outreach and community services, and capacity building. Subsequent meetings will be organized to formalize the arrangement and come up with an MOU outlining the scope and structure of the potential partnership.



The Director, Public Relations, Marketing and Linkages (PRM&L) Dr. Edward Kateiya, (left) in a hearty handshake with Mr. Ali Mwalewa

Mr. Ali Mwalewa (right) from Cape Media in a discussion with Dr. Edward Kateiya (left) and Nickson Magak Centre) at the Director PRM&L office



CONSULTATIVE MEETING WITH A VISITING PROFESSOR FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

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The Vice Chancellor Prof. P. Aloo-Obudho (2nd right), Prof. Kariuki Kirigia from University of Toronto (2nd left), Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor, Research Innovation and Outreach Prof. Francis Mburu (right) and Dr. Daniel Naikuni (left) in a group photo

The Vice Chancellor Prof. P. Aloo-Obudho hosted Prof. Kariuki Kirigia from University of Toronto for a consultative meeting on possible areas of collaboration between Maasai Mara University and University of Toronto. Prof. Kariuki is an associate Professor with a joint appointment in the School of Environment and the African Studies Centre.

The meeting explored and identified research on environmental issues across the Mau –Mara Ecosystem and exchange programs among others for further discussions that would escalate into signing of an MOU. Prof. Kariuki hinted on possible areas of collaboration after listening to a brief on the university by the Vice-Chancellor. He shared that he is part of a team that has been carrying out research in the Mara Ecosystem and he would be delighted to work with Maasai Mara University. The Vice-Chancellor was accompanied by Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research Innovation and Outreach Prof. Francis Mburu and Dr. Daniel Naikuni.

The ambience at the centre of Botanical Garden. Prof. Kariuki Kirigia from University of Toronto (2nd left) and Dr. Daniel Naikuni enjoying the allure of the Botanical Garden.



MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY HOSTS INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON USE OF GENOMICS FOR ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE SURVEILLANCE

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Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academics and Student Affairs (A&SA), Prof. Bulitia Godrick Mathews (left) opening the workshop on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor

The Department of Animal Health and Production at Masai Mara University's School of Natural Resources, Environmental Studies and Agriculture, in collaboration with the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) Nairobi and Germany's Helmholtz Institute of One Health, concluded a two-day workshop on genomic approaches for using genomics in the antimicrobial resistance (AMR) surveillance on June 10, 2025.

The workshop, titled "The Use of Genomics in Studying Antimicrobial Resistance Across One Health Interfaces," brought together experts to explore cutting-edge methods for tracking AMR in humans, livestock, and wildlife, emphasizing the One Health concept that recognizes the interconnected nature of human, animal, and environmental health. During the workshop opening, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Academics and Student Affairs Prof G. Bulitia on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor reminded participants of the critical interconnectedness of human, animal, and plant health with their environment. He emphasized that addressing health challenges requires coordinated efforts across sectors. The Department of Animal Health and Production at Masai Mara University's School of Natural Resources, Environmental Studies and Agriculture, in collaboration with the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) Nairobi and Germany's Helmholtz Institute of One Health, concluded a two-day workshop on genomic approaches for using genomics in the antimicrobial resistance (AMR) surveillance on June 10, 2025.



Acting Dean School of Natural Resources , Environmental Studies and Agriculture Dr. Samson Mabwoga (left) and Chairperson Animal Health and Production Dr. Patrick Kamundia at the workshop

The workshop, titled "The Use of Genomics in Studying Antimicrobial Resistance Across One Health Interfaces," brought together experts to explore cutting-edge methods for tracking AMR in humans, livestock, and wildlife, emphasizing the One Health concept that recognizes the interconnected nature of human, animal, and environmental health.

During the workshop opening, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Academics and Student Affairs Prof G. Bulitia on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor reminded participants of the critical interconnectedness of human, animal, and plant health with their environment.



Prof. Romulus Abila (left) and Prof. Stella Kirui, keenly following proceedings during the workshop.

He emphasized that addressing health challenges requires coordinated efforts across sectors. "The One Health concept acknowledges that human health, animal health and the environment are inextricably linked," the DVC ASA stated, highlighting key principles including transdisciplinary collaboration between human medicine, veterinary medicine, environmental science, and public health, as well as surveillance systems to monitor health across all sectors.

The workshop featured several key presentations addressing various aspects of AMR surveillance and use of bioinformatics to enhance surveillance. Dr. Kamundia from Maasai Mara University, Dr. Muloi (ILRI) and Prof. Katharina Schaufler are setting a stage for collaborative platform for future discussions on AMR in the Narok region.

The Day One presentations were from Prof. Katharina Schaufler, who delivered an institutional overview of HZI, HIOH, and the GEAR Network and Dr. Prof. Alexandar Bahr presented on "Innovative Surveillance Strategies for AMR: A One Health Perspective". In day two, presentations were focused on "Functional Genomics in AMR: Investigating Virulence and Fitness Determinants" Lena Swiatek and from Michael Schwabe and Stefan Heiden who concluded with "Genomic Epidemiology in Practice: Case-Based Insights".

A highlight of the workshop was the demonstration of cutting-edge bioinformatics technology focusing on functional genomics. Participants learned how these advanced tools that can be applied for: Early detection of disease outbreaks, Enhanced diagnostic capabilities, Evidence-based treatment recommendations, Modeling disease transmission scenarios.

The demonstrations show-cased how genomic surveillance can provide real-time insights into AMR patterns, enabling more effective public health responses. This international collaboration represents a significant step forward in building robust surveillance systems capable of monitoring AMR across human, animal, and environmental sectors. The workshop's emphasis on transdisciplinary approaches aligns with global efforts to combat the growing threat of antimicrobial resistance through coordinated One Health strategies.



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