



MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY

NEWSLETTER

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



The Chancellor, Dr. Vimal Shah, flanked by members of the University Council, Management, and invited guests during the 13th Graduation Ceremony of Maasai Mara University — a landmark event celebrating academic success and institutional progress.

TOP NEWS: CELEBRATING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE: 13TH GRADUATION CEREMONY

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CELEBRATING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE: 13TH GRADUATION CEREMONY

Maasai Mara University proudly held its 13th Graduation Ceremony on 19th December 2025, celebrating the academic achievement of 2,129 graduates across various disciplines.

Degrees were conferred by the Chancellor, Dr. Vimal Shah, in a ceremony attended by distinguished leaders including the Chair of Council Kennedy Ole Kerei, Vice-Chancellor Prof. Peninah Aloo-Obudho, Deputy Governor Tamalinye Koech, Hon. Gabriel Tongoyo (MP, Narok West), MCA Douglas ole Masikonde, and other senior leaders and guests.

The ceremony marked a significant milestone as graduands transitioned into the next chapter of their professional and academic journeys.



The Chancellor, Dr. Vimal Shah, flanked by members of the University Council, Management, and invited guests during the 13th Graduation Ceremony of Maasai Mara University — a landmark event celebrating academic success and institutional progress.



The Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor with members of the University Council and graduating postgraduate students at the graduation ceremony



The Chancellor, Dr. Vimal Shah, during the graduation



The Chair of the University Council Dr. Kennedy Ole Kerei



The Vice-Chancellor Prof. Peninah Aloo-Obudho delivering her speech.



The Mace Bearer Dr. Troon at the start of the Chancellors procession during the 13th graduation ceremony



A cross section of some of the masters graduands



A group photo of PhD graduands with the Chancellor and Council Members.



The Chancellor Confers a Doctorate Degree to a PHD graduand

INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT: COURTESY VISIT WITH THE AMBASSADOR OF AZERBAIJAN

The Vice-Chancellor extended her sincere appreciation to H.E. Sultan Hajiyeve, Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Kenya, for warmly hosting her and the University team. The visit provided an opportunity for cordial discussions and exchange of views on areas of mutual interest, reinforcing international cooperation and diplomacy.



The Vice-Chancellor Prof. P. Aloo-Obudho (Left) with H.E. Sultan Hajiyeve, Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Kenya (Right)



The Vice-Chancellor expresses heartfelt gratitude to H.E. Sultan Hajiyev, Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Kenya, for the warm reception accorded to her and the University team



MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY FORMALIZES TIES WITH THE NATIONAL MUSEUMS OF KENYA THROUGH MOU SIGNING

Maasai Mara University and the National Museums of Kenya (NMK) signed an MoU that formalizes their long-standing relationship and establishes a framework for enhanced collaboration. This was after a series of consultative meetings. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), aims to enhance collaboration and partnership between the two institutions.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peninah Aloo-Obudho, signed the MoU on behalf of Maasai Mara University, while the Director General, Prof. Mary Gikungu, signed on behalf of the National Museums of Kenya.

The signing was witnessed by Mr. Isaiah Nyaega, Legal Officer at the National Museums of Kenya, and Mr. Alfred Nyabonchwa, Deputy Chief Legal Officer at Maasai Mara University.



The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peninah Aloo-Obudho (left) and the Director General, National Museums of Kenya Prof. Mary Gikungu exchanging the signed MoU symbolising team work and togetherness in its implementation.

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The two parties agreed to:

1. Undertake Joint research and Innovation efforts in areas of mutual interest to both parties, including but not limited to heritage establishment of incubation hubs for advancing knowledge, technology, big data sharing, and solutions to real-world challenges.
2. Enhance educational programs and leadership development through training, mentorship, academic supervision, scholarships, internships, and student attachment opportunities.
3. Engage with communities through outreach programs, conferences, public lectures, and social events to extend the benefits of knowledge, promote community development, and increase societal impact.
4. Enhance Cultural Tourism and Heritage Conservation through promotion of cultural tourism and heritage conservation, cultural production through heritage conservation, promote ecotourism and develop a tourism circuit in the Maa region.
5. Jointly develop heritage infrastructure and education interpretation spaces such as exhibition galleries, cultural and natural collections, museums, cultural centers, intangible heritage knowledge transmission spaces, and Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) hubs.
6. Work on modalities for staff exchange between the two institutions to enhance skills and knowledge.
7. Mobilize financial and other resources to support collaborative initiatives and ensure sustainable operations for continued growth and partnership success.
8. Share expertise and experiences in collecting, documenting and disseminating indigenous knowledge for prosperity and posterity.
9. Ensure effective knowledge management practices, aligning with market demands and supporting information through curriculum development, joint consultancy, publications, curation, exhibition development and educational resources.



The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peninah Aloo-Obudho (seated left) and the Director General, National Museums of Kenya Prof. Mary Gikungu (seated right) signing the MoU at the V.C's boardroom being witnessed by University and NMK representatives.



The V.C hosted the NMK team in her office.

Other distinguished members of management who were present to witness the signing included the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration, Finance and Strategy), Prof. James Simiren Nampushi; the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic and Student Affairs), Prof. Bulitia Godrick Matthews; and the Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research, Innovation and Outreach), Prof. Francis Mburu. Also in attendance were the Director of Public Relations, Marketing and Linkages, Dr. Edward Kateiya; the Coordinator for Community and Outreach, Mr. Jackson Masago; and Mr. Marjan Khamis, Research Assistant. While representing the National Museums of Kenya was Dr. James J. Odanga, Senior Research Scientist.

This strategic partnership is set to boost various programmes run by the University, strengthen research and innovation, and enhance community engagement. It will also play a key role in supporting the University’s vision of preserving Maasai culture, including the establishment of a cultural centre and other related initiatives.



MmaraU and NMK consultative meeting

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP: PARTICIPATION AT UNEA 7

Demonstrating its commitment to environmental sustainability and global engagement, Maasai Mara University was represented at the 7th United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA 7) held at the UNEP Headquarters, Gigiri.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peninah Aloo-Obudho, together with senior members of staff, participated in high-level discussions addressing climate change, biodiversity conservation, pollution, and sustainable development. The engagement highlighted the University's growing role in environmental research and policy dialogue.



The Vice Chancellor, Prof. P. Aloo-Obudho (Centre) with Prof. Kodak (Left) and Bursuna Ejere at the UNEA 7 Conference



The VC, Prof. P. Aloo-Obudho visiting the booth's during the UNEA 7 conference

UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP AT NAROK COUNTY JAMHURI DAY CELEBRATIONS

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peninah Aloo-Obudho, joined the County Commissioner Reuben Lotiatia, Deputy Governor Hon. Tamalinye Koech, the First Lady Agnes Ntutu, and residents of Narok County during the Jamhuri Day celebrations held at Nkorkorri Primary School, Narok West Constituency. The event reflected the University's strong collaboration with county leadership and the local community.



The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peninah Aloo-Obudho and other government officials at the Jamhuri day celebrations at Nkorkorri Primary School, Narok West



TECHNICAL SITE HANDOVER: PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF HOSTELS AND RELATED SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE AT MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY



Handing over the hostel construction site to the contractor and unveiling the construction plan at the site

The State Department for Housing and Urban Development, led by Arch. Sheila Chepnge'no, the Technical Lead for the South Rift Region, conducted a technical site handover for the Maasai Mara University Hostels project. The 15-storey building valued at KSh 522 million—will accommodate 1,260 students. Although the project is scheduled for completion within 18 months, the contractor has committed to finishing it in just 14 months, marking a major milestone for the university. The initiative will also include the construction of a borehole and a 700,000-litre underground water tank.

The event was graced by Hon. Agnes Mantaine Pareiyo, Member of Parliament for Narok North, who has been a key champion of the project. While thanking His Excellency President Dr. William Samoei Arap Ruto, the MP reiterated that the Maasai Mara University Hostels initiative is a significant step forward for students and the institution. She emphasized that the project is exactly what the university needed and is something both the community and the institution can be proud of. She further noted that the initiative demonstrates a strong commitment to improving education and expanding opportunities for youth in the constituency.



The Vice-Chancellor Prof. Peninah Aloo-Obudho (right) with Hon. Agnes Mantaine Pareiyo, Member of Parliament for Narok North during the hostel construction site handover ceremony.

Vice-Chancellor Prof. Peninah Aloo Obudho, while thanking His Excellency the President, expressed that the university is deeply honored to be among the few institutions selected to benefit from this remarkable program. She said, “For many years, student accommodation has remained one of our greatest challenges. Despite our steadily growing population, our facilities can accommodate only 2,200 students, leaving over 10,000 students living off campus.” She emphasized that “This initiative, therefore, could not have come at a more perfect time. It brings new hope and energy and opens a new chapter for our university. Research continues to confirm that when learners are placed in a safe, supportive, and conducive environment, their academic performance, morale, and overall well-being improve significantly.”

She was accompanied by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration, Finance and Strategy), Prof. James Nampushi; Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research, Innovation and Outreach), Prof. Francis Mburu; Registrar (Administration and Strategy), Mr. Samuel Partoip; Dean of Students, Mr. Mohamed A. Adan; and Estates Manager, Mr. Paul Sankale, among others.

Also present were the project managers, the implementation team, Dama Services Ltd, the project consultant, and Lavasa Construction Ltd, the contractor, along with other key partners of the project.



The proposed hostel side view



Stakeholders meeting during the site handover

THE MAA CULTURAL AND TOURISM FESTIVAL: A CELEBRATION OF HERITAGE AND EMPOWERMENT

The University participated in the annual the Maa Cultural and Tourism Festival in Kajiado. His Excellency President Dr William Samoei Ruto presided over the official handover of Amboseli National Park to the County Government of Kajiado.

Held at the Amboseli Game Reserve, the festival showcased the splendour of the Maasai culture, one of the world's most authentic and enduring traditions, through music, dance, art, cuisine, and fashion.

This was a perfect implementation of the 4th "M" pillar - Maa culture that is ingrained in the 2024-2029 Strategic Plan.

Maasai Mara University was represented by the council members, staff and students reaffirming its dedication to cultural preservation and promotion.

The 3rd Edition of the festival was a celebration of heritage and a bold step toward community-driven conservation and sustainable development.



The vice-chancellor prof. Peninah Aloo-Obudho with director of Museum studies, ethics and material culture, University of Oxford Prof. Dr. Laura Van Broekhoven at the University booth. The two institutions held discussions on areas of cultural collaboration.



The Prof. Peninah Aloo-Obudho (3rd right) with students innovaos and exhibitoes at the Univesry booth.



The chair of the Univesrity Council Dr. Kennedy ole Kerei (right) with the V.C Prof. Peninah Aloo-Obudho (2nd right) at the main dais.



The Vice- Chancellor and Council members at the university booth during the Maa cultural week at Amboseli.



Council members signing the visitor's book at the university booth



A section of University representatives; Council members and staff in the 3rd Edition of the Maa Culture and Tourism festival, Kimana, Amboseli



The university booth showcased not only academic programmes and innovations but also marketed and enhanced the university image and visibility as depicted in this photo. Three governors ; .E Joseph Ole Lenku , Kajiado , , H.E Patrick Ole Ntutu, Narok and H.E Lati Leleit of Samburu (From left) . The later reciving a book from Dr. Nchorira, Mmara-U.

TOP-TIER TALENT! MMARAU DOMINATES THE WORLD TALENT FEDERATION CREATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL

Maasai Mara University is celebrating an incredible victory after an outstanding performance at the just-concluded World Talent Federation Drama, Film, Pageantry, and Fine Arts Festival held in Kisumu! Our talented students shone brilliantly on stage, proudly bringing home eleven trophies and a certificate—a true testament to their creativity, passion, and hard work.

The University dazzled in multiple categories, taking first place in the Historical Play, Praise Poetry (Spoken Word), and Indigenous Cultural Dance. We are also thrilled to celebrate our very own Mr. Universities Kenya and Miss Environmental Kenya, both crowned from Maasai Mara University! Adding to the excitement, the University was honored as the Most Prolific University and celebrated for having the Best Male Artist/Actor in the Historical Play and the Best Costume Design Across All Genres.

Our excellence continued with second-place wins in Miss Universities Kenya, the Legislation Play, and the Kiswahili Play. The joy didn't stop there—third positions were proudly earned in Cultural Creative Dance, Mime, Solo Verse, Group Narrative, and Phone Film. What a spectacular showcase of talent across the board!

Hearty congratulations to all our amazing students! Your enthusiasm, dedication, and artistic brilliance have made the entire Maasai Mara University community proud. A warm and heartfelt thank you to Prof. Peninah Aloo-Obudho, the visionary Chief Producer behind these successes, to the Dean of Students, Mr. Adan Mohammed, and to all the directors and scriptwriters whose support and creativity brought these performances to life.

We celebrate you all—what a fantastic achievement for Maasai Mara University!



Winners of various categories at the event



David Ayiecha Mr. Universities Kenya 2025/26 from Maasai Mara University



Maasai Mara University troop at the World Talent Federation Drama

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA EXPLORES STRATEGIC COLLABORATION WITH MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY

The University of California, one of the world's leading institutions, paid a visit to Maasai Mara University. The 14-member delegation was received by Vice-Chancellor Prof. Peninah Aloo-Obudho, who highlighted the University's niche areas—Tourism, Environmental Resource Management and Conservation, and Sports—and outlined ongoing initiatives such as climate-change programmes, the Greening Narok County project, partnerships with schools and environmental clubs, forest-conservation efforts supported by youth and women, and the use of waste to produce clean energy through briquette-making. She also noted that the Kenya Forest Service has granted the University 250 acres for conservation and research.

Prof. Aloo-Obudho reaffirmed the institution's commitment to its five pillars: the Mau Forest Ecosystem, Mara River, Maasai Mara Game Reserve, Maa Culture, and Maombi kwa Wote.

The delegation was led by Prof. Aradhna Tripali of UCLA, the Founder and Executive Director of the Centre for Developing Leadership in Science (CDLS). Prof. Tripali, known for her work in scientific leadership and global research collaboration, expressed interest in partnering with Maasai Mara University through student and faculty fellowships and niche-based joint projects.

The University of California was also keen on exploring the Four Ms together with Maasai Mara University to advance diverse collaborative initiatives.

The visit marked a significant milestone for Maasai Mara University and was attended by the University's top management: Prof. James Ole Nampushi, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Strategy and Finance); Prof. Francis Mburu, Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research, Innovation and Community Outreach); and Mr. Lankeu Reson, Deputy Registrar (Strategy and Resource Mobilization), who is the key contact person for the collaboration.



Maasai Mara University and University of California representatives in a group photo



Prof. Aradhna Tripali (left) of UCLA, the Founder and Executive Director of the Centre for Developing Leadership in Science (CDLS) during the meeting.



Deputy Registrar Strategy and Resource Mobilization Mr. Lankeu Reson coordinated the collaboration



The visitors at the Physics lab

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A cross-section of University management and the facilitator in group photo during the AI training.

Maasai Mara University held a two-week, university-wide AI training program for all staff to enhance institutional capacity and align operations with the University's Strategic Plan. The training was officially inaugurated by the University Council members CPA Dickson Malanga Shikanga, Dr. Susan Chebet and the Vice-Chancellor Prof. Penina Aloo-Obudho. In her remarks, Prof. Aloo-Obudho highlighted AI as a crucial driver of institutional excellence and urged staff to embrace a lifelong learning mindset. She emphasized AI's importance to the University's main areas—tourism, environmental resource management, and conservation—and noted its growing role in the hospitality industry. The Council members praised the initiative as timely and vital for preparing staff for emerging digital challenges.

The program was led by Eng. A. Alex Dhanjal, an international advisor from Canada under the Catalyste+ Program, who brought extensive expertise in technology and governance. The training covered several key areas, including an introduction to general AI applications, AI for leadership and management, AI in teaching and research, AI for administrative efficiency, AI fundamentals for all staff, and strategies for AI adoption at the university.

Led by Prof. Paul Maithya, the program focused on building fundamental AI literacy, encouraging ethical and responsible AI use, and promoting innovation-driven decision-making throughout the institution. Staff were motivated to apply the knowledge and skills they gained to improve service delivery and increase the University's overall impact.



A cross-section of University management and the facilitator in group photo during the AI training.

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The Council member, CPA Malanga giving comments during AI training



A cross- section of University management and staff listening to the facilitator during the AI training.

BIOAFRI SOLUTIONS WINS THE IGNITE KENYA INNOVATION STARTUP CHALLENGE BY E4IMPACT

BioAfri Solutions, Innovators from Maasai Mara University emerged winners in E4Impact Incubation held in Karen, Nairobi and bagged a cash prize of Ksh 300,000. They were position one out of the 31 contestants. The other University innovation, on portable emerged position four out of 31.

The first Ignite Kenya Bootcamp was organized by E4Impact Foundation under the Agenzia Italiana per la Gioventu and partners with Universita Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Italy.

Three Innovation groups were shortlisted for the Ignite Kenya Innovation Startup Challenge by E4Impact. The challenge took place in two phases at the E4Impact Entrepreneurship Center, Karen, Nairobi. The first phase took place from 2nd to 4th October, 2025 while the second phase took place between Tuesday 11th to Thursday 13th November, 2025.



Team members of BioAfri Solutions with the dummy cheque won during the event

The Boot camp had 31 finalist innovators from an initial 100+ applicants drawn from various Universities and startups in Kenya. There were three startups from Maasai Mara University i.e. BioAfri Solutions (Stacy Wangui), Portable traditional oven (Ruth Ngotho) and smart crop AI (Onesmus Mwanje).

The training focused on strengthening the capacity of youth-led enterprises to become investment-ready. The sessions covered Design Thinking, Business Model Canvas (BMC), Financials, and Go-to-Market Strategy as well as Innovation Pitching to Investors. The boot camp provided mentorship, networking, and peer learning opportunities that empowered the team to better position their innovation for commercialization and growth.

The innovators were subjected to a Bootcamp targeting to reward the first three startups based on their business-viabilities and pitching to the judges present.

INTERNAL AUDITORS' TRAINING ON INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (IMS)

The Vice-Chancellor Prof. Peninah Aloo Obudho, opened a five-day Internal Auditors' Training on Integrated Management System (IMS) at Osim Lodge. In a remarkable speech, she said . "It's a pleasure to meet you once again, just weeks after our historic launch of the Integrated Management System on 30th September 2025.

That launch was a proud milestone for Maasai Mara University but it was not the end of the process. It marked the beginning of a new chapter: A chapter of discipline, accountability, and excellence in everything we do.

She reminded the internal auditors that "This training marks the next phase of our IMS journey. It is where we build the internal capacity that will sustain our systems. You, the participants here, are the future internal auditors who will ensure that Maasai Mara University operates according to the highest international standards."



The Vice-Chancellor Prof. Peninah Aloo-Obudho with the facilitators and a section of Auditors during the day Internal Auditors' Training on Integrated Management System (IMS) at Osim Lodge

The purpose of this training is to equip you with the knowledge, skills, and mindset required to conduct effective internal audits under our three integrated systems:

- ISO 9001:2015 – Quality Management System,
- ISO 21001:2018 – Educational Organizations Management System, and
- ISO/IEC 27001:2022 – Information Security Management System.

This is not just about understanding standards. It's about mastering how to evaluate our processes, protect our data, and enhance the quality of education and services we provide.

Through this initiative, Maasai Mara University continues to promote a culture of quality, transparency, and ongoing improvement, ensuring excellence in education, service delivery, and data protection. Together, we are shaping a future driven by innovation, accountability, and international competitiveness.



Some of the auditors undergoing the training.



The Vice-Chancellor with trainers and auditors

ENHANCING FRENCH COOPERATION AT MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY

A delegation from the French Embassy in Kenya, led by Anne-Elisabeth Girault Gonzalez, Chargée de mission de coopération éducative et linguistique, and accompanied by Myriam El Abbouni, visited the French Resource Centre (CRKF) at Maasai Mara University.

The CRKF is part of a national network dedicated to promoting and supporting the learning of French across Kenya, making the language more accessible to students and the wider community.

The visit aimed to assess the Centre's growth and performance, identify challenges, and explore practical solutions. It was also part of a broader engagement initiative to strengthen collaboration among CRKFs countrywide.

The Centre plays a key role at Maasai Mara University by offering students, teachers, researchers and job seekers access to printed and digital resources, modern equipment, and diverse cultural activities focused on the French language and Francophone culture.

Representing the Vice-Chancellor, Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research, Innovation and Community Outreach Prof. Francis Mburu, emphasized the importance of developing French exchange programmes for students and staff, enhancing learner support, and expanding the Centre's reach and impact.



Maasai Mara University and French Embassy representatives in a group photo



The Dean School of Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences and Creative Industries Prof. Bernard Kodak (2nd right), Dean, School of Tourism and Hospitality, Dr. Justus Muchiri (right) and Chair, Department of Languages, Linguistics and Culture, Dr. Lilly Koske (2nd left) and Marjan Hamisi, office of Research and Innovation joined by Anne-Elisabeth Girault Gonzalez, Chargée de mission de coopération éducative et linguistique (3rd left) and Myriam El Abbouni (3rd right) during the visit.

Also present were; Dr. Justus Muchiri, Dean, School of Tourism and Hospitality, and Dr. Lilly Koske, Chair, Department of Languages, Linguistics and Culture. The delegation conducted an insightful interview with Dr. Koske on the Centre's achievements, ongoing initiatives, and future opportunities for cooperation.



The Vice Chancellor, Prof. P. Aloo-Obudho Tastes The Swahili Cuisine Prepared By The Mijikenda Students During The 2025 Maasai Mara University Culture Week.

The spirit of Cultural Week came alive during the Annula Univevrtly culture week. the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peninah Aloo-Obudho, visited students showcasing the rich and diverse flavours of African cuisine. From the vibrant aromas filling the air to the stunning displays of traditional attire and rhythmic dances, every corner of the event reflected pride, creativity, and unity in diversity.

Prof. Aloo-Obudho was full of praise for the students, commending their dedication and artistry over the three days of celebration. She reminded them that culture is not just what we eat — it's how we dress, dance, and live. It is our identity.

She also shared her joy upon receiving a congratulatory message from the University Council, recognizing the students' remarkable efforts. With a smile, she suggested that future Council meetings be held on the final day so that members can experience firsthand the magic of our Cultural Week.

In her inspiring message, the Vice-Chancellor emphasized: "Be proud of who you are. Cherish your heritage, for mkosa mila ni mtumwa — one who abandons their culture is enslaved." Her words reminded everyone that no culture is superior or inferior — each is a reflection of the beauty and strength of its people. We are deeply proud of our students for celebrating African heritage with passion, flavour, and grace. You make our university shine!

The cultural week came to a close with a variety of activities: games, talent shows, songs and dances. David Ayiecha and Priana Wangaru were elected Mr and Mrs University, respectively.



Traditional performers lead a vibrant cultural parade at Maasai Mara University, celebrating diversity, identity, and unity within the University community



Council Members (R To L): Ms. Elizabeth Ayoo, CPA Malanga And The Vice-Chancellor Join The Samburu Students' Dance Troupe On Stage To Share In A Traditional Dance Performance.



Chairman Of Council, Dr. K. Ole Kerei flanked by other members of council Addressing The Students during cultural week

MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY CHAMPIONS INNOVATION AT AI HACKATHON

Maasai Mara University once again showcased its dedication to innovation and technological excellence at the AI Hackathon hosted by JKUAT. Out of more than 300 participating teams online, only 53 advanced to the in-person pitching stage, representing 28 universities, with three of these pioneering teams from MMU.

Team Ecosphere Researchers and Innovators, competing in the Health category, emerged as winners. The team; Abele Nicholas Otieno, Otieno Edwin Otiende, Joyce Nyakerario Otundo, and Alice Njunge Wanjiru demonstrated the creative problem-solving and teamwork that define MMU's innovation culture.

Team Apex, in the Education category, consisting of Alloys Kennedy Oduor, Dennis Manyaka Mwanza, Moloko Jenniffer Mereino, and Euphrasia Owenga Omollo, as well as Team Civic Finance Lab in the Governance category, with Karaga Pauline Njeri, Esther Aluoch Othili, Maureen Wanjala, and Philip Nyadinda, also showcased the university's dedication to solving societal challenges through technology.



The Coordinator Innovation Entrepreneurial Centre Dr. Eng. Jared Ombiro (right) with Team Ecosphere Researchers and Innovators, winners of the Health category at the AI Hackathon.

In recognition of their outstanding achievement, the Team Ecosphere Researchers and Innovators were invited to showcase their innovation at an exhibition hosted by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics on November 18th, 2025, where potential investors, including UN agencies, were present.

This outstanding achievement showcases the spirit of creativity, perseverance, and teamwork that MMU instills in its students. The university sincerely thanks Dr. Eng. Jared Ombiro and the MMU Innovation Team for their guidance and mentorship, which continue to develop the next generation of innovators and changemakers.



The innovation teams that represented the University at the AI Hackathon held at JKUAT.



University representatives

Maasai Mara University joined national leaders, county governments, elders, youth, and the community in Suswa, Narok County, for the national launch of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence and the My Dear Daughter campaign, led by the First Lady Mama Rachael Ruto. The event brought together Ann Wangombe, Principal Secretary for Gender; H.E. Alamitu Jatani, First Lady of Marsabit; H.E. Edna Lenku, First Lady of Kajiado; Hon. Ken Aramat, MP Narok East; Ipato Surum, Chairperson of the Anti-FGM Board; and Madam Loloju, CEO of the Anti-FGM Board.

Maasai Mara University was represented by Dr. Kennedy Karani Onyiko, Director of Gender Equity and Culture, alongside Ms. Nadupoi Kishoyian from the Gender Office, Ruth Wanjiru from the Psychosocial Department, and Benson Kaleke from Sports and Culture. The launch emphasized the critical role of youth, mothers, elders, and communities in ending FGM and GBV, with a strong call to invest in campaigns and sustained sensitization for long-term change.

A historic declaration was made by Maasai elders, represented by Mr. Daniel Ole-Kipilosh, committing to bring an end to FGM and child marriage, affirming “No more FGM and child marriage not in our time, not to our daughters.” Mothers, represented by Tracey, echoed this commitment, stating that FGM ends with them, while leaders encouraged young people to rise as advocates for change.



The University team at the celebration of 16 Days of Activism

County First Ladies reinforced the message: H.E. Agnes Ntutu urged the full implementation of the elders' agreement and highlighted the triple threat of FGM, teenage pregnancy, and early marriage; H.E. Alamitu Jatani spoke as an FGM survivor and encouraged others to speak out; and H.E. Edna Lenku celebrated declining FGM rates and affirmed that total eradication is possible. Narok County Commissioner Mr Kipkech Lotiatia and Hon. Ken Aramat emphasized collaboration as the key to ending these harmful practices.

In her keynote address, Mama Rachael Ruto urged communities to let culture be a crown rather than a chain, calling for the movement against FGM to spread across the country like the ever-moving winds of Suswa. She affirmed that the eradication of FGM is not optional or negotiable and called for relentless commitment until FGM and child marriage become stories for the history books, not lived realities. She also stressed the importance of continued awareness, unity, and community-driven action to eliminate GBV and FGM entirely. The event highlighted a powerful collective commitment to protect girls and women, honouring elders for choosing a new path for their communities and uniting all stakeholders behind the shared vision of a future where no generation faces FGM or GBV

MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY ATTENDS HORIZON EUROPE GRANT WRITING WORKSHOP

Maasai Mara University participated in the Horizon Europe Grant Writing and Sensitization Workshop held at the University of Nairobi, organized by the European Union Delegation to Kenya in partnership with the University of Nairobi.

The workshop aimed to equip Kenyan researchers and innovators with essential skills in grant writing and featured presentations on EU–Africa and EU–Kenya Research and Innovation Cooperation, as well as experience-sharing sessions by successful Kenyan researchers.

The event was graced by the Principal Secretary for Science, Research and Innovation, the EU Ambassador to Kenya, and the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Nairobi.

Representing Maasai Mara University were Anne Lanoi Keton, Acting Senior Public Relations Officer and EU contact person; Dr. Benard Kodak; Dr. Aloys Osano; Dr. Charity Konana; Dr. Lilly Koske; Dr. Patrick Kamundia; and Mr. Simon.

The training supports Maasai Mara University's commitment to strengthening research and innovation for sustainable development.



Maasai Mara University representatives in the Horizon Europe Grant Writing Workshop held at the University of Nairobi.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

Maasai Mara University Office of Centre for Students Career and Placement Services (CSC&PS) successfully organised Project Management Workshop. The Coordinator CSC&PS Dr. Patrick Gudda organized the event. The guest speakers were; Antony Chege, Nyagaka Ondieki, Nicholas Mbai and Nyevu Karisa all from Project Management Institute Kenya.

The event, held under the theme, "Contemporary Project Leadership: From Traditional Practice to Digital Innovation," was designed to equip attendees with vital, future-ready skills, bridging the gap between academic theory and industry requirements. The full-day session provided deep insights into foundational project management principles, the strategic role of digital transformation and technology integration in modern practice, emerging future-facing trends, and essential guidance on professional development and career pathways.

The enthusiastic participation throughout the day underscored the commitment of our students to proactively enhance their career readiness, reinforcing the office's core mission of fostering competitive leaders in the digital era.



Participants during the project management workshop



The Coordinator CSC&PS Dr. Patrick Gudda at the workshop



A student presenting during the workshop

THE CAREER DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP: FROM STUDENTS TO FUTURE READY BRANDS



Group photo of the participants

A Career Development Workshop, was held on Friday, November 28. It was organized by the Centre for Students Career and Placement Services (CSC&PS) under the coordination of Dr. Patrick Gudda.

The training aimed to equip students with practical tools and frameworks that they can apply immediately in their academic, career, and entrepreneurial pursuits. The workshop focused on helping students build strong personal brands, master work-ready skills, explore entrepreneurship, and understand the role of AI in business operations, all aligned with the Billion Lives Globally mission.

The event featured distinguished guest speakers including Winston Eboyi from The Brand Coach Network, who emphasized the power of storytelling as a pathway to opportunity. He explained that while employability is a common topic today, young people must combine skills, story, and strategy to achieve significance and live sustainably

Other speakers included Beryl Akinyi and Humphrey Omukaya, who encouraged students to think beyond traditional career expectations and embrace innovation, creativity, and purposeful growth. They reminded students that they have the potential not only to seek employment but also to create opportunities and develop impactful personal brands in a rapidly evolving global workforce.

The CSC and PS continue to champion such initiatives, urging students to actively participate in career development programs that prepare them for a confident, future-ready journey.



Students attending the workshop



The Coordinator CSC&PS Dr. Patrick Gudda during the event



The Vice-Chancellor Prof. Peninah Aloo-Obudho receiving a gift from SRC staff at her office

The Salaries and Remuneration commissioners recently visited Maasai Mara University and engaged the management on a range of issue related to the remuneration and benefits of University staff. The team had a courtesy call to Vice-Chancellor Prof. Peninah Aloo-Obudho.

The visit was not only to collect information regarding the remunerations but also to clarify issues regarding wages and allowances, network and build relationships and understand the contexts of various public Universities.

The engagement was part of the continuous process towards harmonization of the salaries and allowances of public University staff.



The Vice-Chancellor Prof. Peninah Aloo-Obudho (Centre) and the Registrar Administration and Strategy Mr. Samuel Partoip (left) with the visitors from Salaries and Remuneration commissioners(SRC).



A group photo of representatives from Salaries and Remuneration commissioners(SRC) and Maasai Mara University

EMPOWERING SOCIETY THROUGH THE 6TH MARA GIRLS SUMMIT

The Mara Girls Summit is an annual event, initiated and organized by the Matasaru Ntoye Foundation. It primarily targets girls aged 10-17 years, predominantly from primary and secondary schools in Narok County.

This year summit targeted girls from Narok West sub-county specifically Sekenani, Olkoroi and Losho. The University was represented by Head section Counselling and HIV Testing and Services, Ruth Wanjiru Sipitiek who was also one of the facilitators.

The 2025 Mara Girls summit took place in Sekenani Primary on 26th November to 30th November 2025 and targeted 100 girls. The summit aimed to empower young girls to share their experiences and insights on ending female genital mutilation (FGM), child marriage, combating gender-based violence, addressing teenage pregnancy, and improving menstrual hygiene.

The key topics included Ending harmful cultural practices such as FGM, Teen Pregnancy and Child marriage, Children right, Adolescent's body change, Careers and Aspirations, Creative Art and storytelling, Advocacy skills, Building Self-esteem and life skills, Good Health, Menstrual Hygiene Management and Disease Prevention, Good morals and ethics.

The Summit has been successfully held for five consecutive years in different locations, specifically in Kileleoni in 2020, Orboma Sekenani in 2021, Lamek Catholic Church in 2022, Kileleoni in 2023 and St Johns Aitong in 2024.



The 6th Mara Girls Summit underway. Ms. Ruth Wanjiru (left) Head of Counselling and HIV Testing Services represented the University in the event.





Photo of those who attended the 6th Mara Girls Summit



Head section Counselling and HIV Testing and Services, Ruth Wanjiru Sipitiek (left) facilitating one of the sessions

UNIVERSITY AND KFS COLLABORATION: FIELD VISIT TO MAU BLOCK

A joint team from Maasai Mara University and the Kenya Forest Service (KFS) conducted a successful field visit to the 250 acres Mau Block, allocated to the University for rehabilitation and restoration activities.

This collaborative initiative aims to support sustainable forest management, enhance ecological recovery, and promote hands-on learning and research opportunities for our students and staff. It is also a clear manifestation and commitment towards realization of the University niche and the 5M pillars.

During the visit, the team assessed the site's current conditions, identified priority areas for rehabilitation, and outlined practical steps for implementing long-term restoration plans.

The University was represented by; the Director Public Relations, Marketing and Linkages, (PRM&L) Dr. Edward Kateiya, Chair, Department of Environmental Management, Dr. Daniel Oyier, Coordinator Centre for Community Outreach Mr. Jackson. Masago, Marjan Abdala, RI&O and Nickson Magak (PRM&L).

KFS team composed of County Forest Conservator (CFC) Patrick Wasike, Assistant CFC Sammy Langat, Chief Inspector Emmanuel Lewa, Corporal Sammy Kioo and Zakaria Mwichi.

Together, we are committed to restoring the Mau ecosystem and contributing to national conservation efforts.



Maasai Mara University and Kenya Forest Services representatives in a group photo at the Mau Forest.



Involving the local community members in confirming the allocated block boundaries



Members of the team inspecting the deforested blocks



Director Gender, Equity and Culture Dr. Kennedy Onyiko (Centre) with Ms. Ruth Wanjiru (right) Sipitiek, Head of Counselling and HIV Testing Service with the award

Maasai Mara University was awarded a Certificate of Recognition for its contribution to the Anti-FGM Campaign in Narok County during the Anti-FGM Awards, held as part of the Narok Gender Technical Working Group End-Year Party at Olive Hotel, Narok.

The award was received on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor by Dr. Kennedy Karani Onyiko, Director of Gender, Equity and Culture, and Ms. Ruth Wanjiru Sipitiek, Head of Counselling and HIV Testing Services. This recognition highlights the University's commitment to gender equity, cultural advocacy, and community protection initiatives.

DRIVING INNOVATION AND INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT: LATITUDE 59 EVENT

Maasai Mara University participated in the Latitude 59 Innovation Event, hosted by the Kenya National Innovation Agency (KeNIA) at the ASK Dome, Jamhuri Showground, Nairobi.

The two-day event brought together industry innovators, funders, policymakers, and government agencies for insightful discussions on innovation, entrepreneurship, and commercialization. The University's participation strengthened linkages between academia and industry, reinforcing its role in promoting innovation-driven development



Innovation Officer Abby Christine Murage (right second picture) with other participants from Maasai Mara university at the Latitude 59 Innovation Event

CHAMPIONING INCLUSION: PARTICIPATION IN THE GEDSI ROUNDTABLE

Maasai Mara University participated in the Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) Roundtable held at Park Inn by Radisson, Westlands, represented by Dr. Kennedy Karani Onyiko, Director of Gender, Equity and Culture.

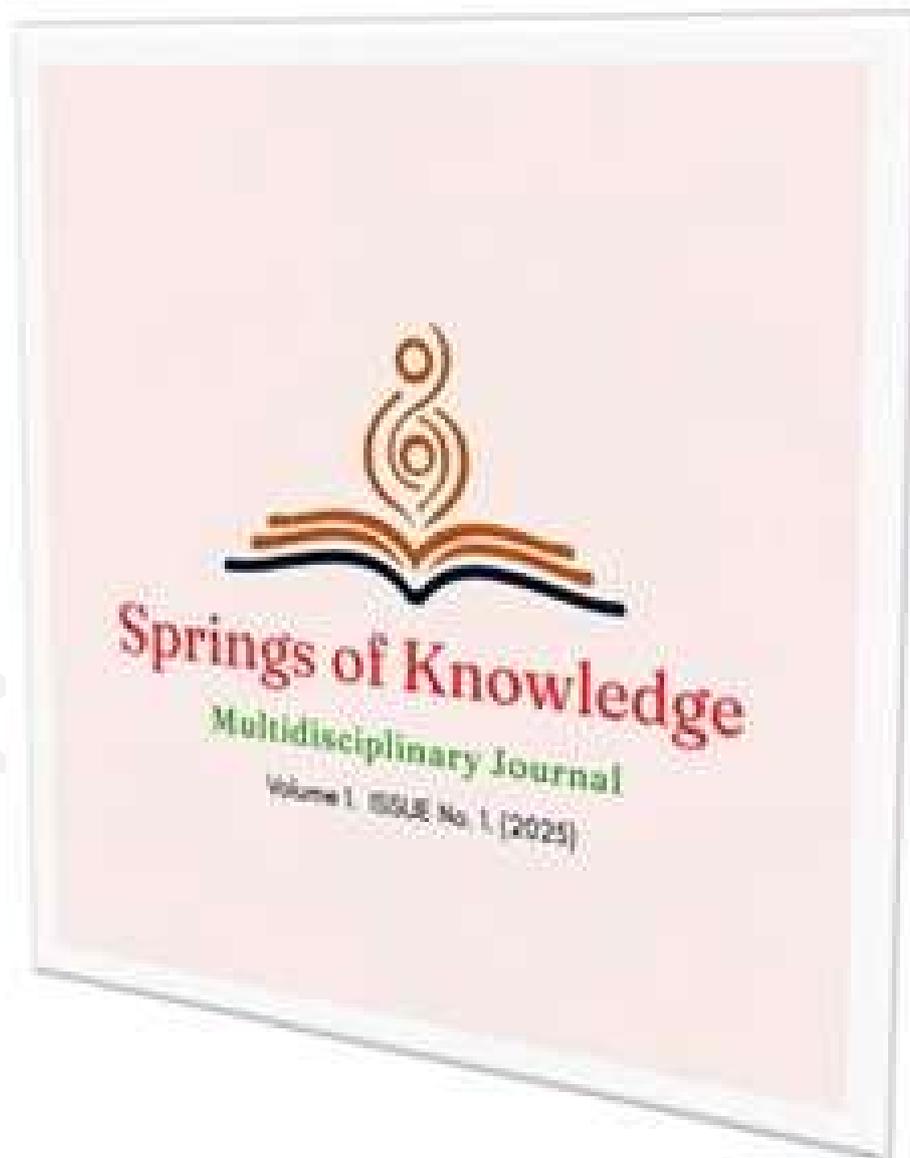
Organized by Viktoria Ventures in collaboration with KeNIA, the forum brought together universities, regulators, and innovation partners to discuss inclusive practices within research and innovation ecosystems. Key discussions focused on inclusive funding mechanisms, accessibility, policy enforcement, capacity building, and strengthening research-to-commercialization pathways for women, youth, persons with disabilities, and other marginalized groups, including integration into frameworks such as the Entrepreneurial Institution Maturity Framework (EIMF).

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ADVANCING SCHOLARSHIP: LAUNCH OF THE “SPRINGS OF KNOWLEDGE” MULTIDISCIPLINARY JOURNAL

Maasai Mara University celebrated a significant academic milestone with the launch of its first scholarly publication, The Springs of Knowledge: Multidisciplinary Journal.

The journal provides a peer-reviewed platform for multidisciplinary research, supporting knowledge creation, academic collaboration, and dissemination of scholarly work. This achievement marks an important step in strengthening the University’s research culture and global academic presence.



SHOWCASING INNOVATION AHEAD OF JAMHURI DAY CELEBRATIONS

Maasai Mara University staff and students participated in exhibitions showcasing innovations and academic programmes ahead of the Jamhuri Day 2025 celebrations at the Kenyatta International Conference Centre (KICC).

The event celebrated Kenya's landscapes, wildlife, cultural identity and milestones in tourism development under the theme "This Jamhuri Day We Celebrate Our Landscapes, Wildlife and Cultural Pride."

The exhibition provided a platform to engage the public, government institutions, and stakeholders, while demonstrating the University's contribution to innovation, research, and national development



Maasai Mara University staff and students during the exhibitions at the KICC



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