Edition #16

July -August 2026

MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY

NEWSLETTER

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

H.E. Kosiom Frank Kibelekenya signing the visitors' book at the Vice-Chancellor's office.

TOP NEWS: COURTESY CALL AT MMARA-U BY H.E KOSIOM FRANK KIBELEKENYA, KENYA'S AMBASSADOR TO THE KINGDOM OF DENMARK

IN THIS EDITION

- COURTESY CALL AT MMARA-U BY H.E KOSIOM FRANK KIBELEKENYA, KENYA'S AMBASSADOR TO THE KINGDOM OF DENMARK
- FROM PLANTING SEEDS TO GROWING A LEGACY
- CELEBRATING THE PLACEMENT OF THE 2026 STUDENTS COHORT
- INSPIRING YOUNG MINDS
- NANINGOI GIRLS BOARDING JUNIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL VISIT
- PROUD MOMENT FOR MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY
- STRENGTHENING MMARA-U INTERNATIONALIZATION: THE VICE-CHANCELLOR BIDS BYE TO MAEL PERROUD, AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF NEUCHÂTEL, SWITZERLAND
- MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY PARTICIPATES IN THE NAROK COUNTY AGRICULTURAL, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE EXHIBITION
- A NEW CHAPTER IN GLOBAL RESEARCH COLLABORATION BEGINS AT MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY
- HISTORIC SITE HANDOVER FOR NEW CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS AT JOHANNA NG'ENO UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
- CLARIFI LEARNING EXCHANGE AND ANGLOPHONE AFRICA STRATEGY MEETING
- INTER-UNIVERSITY COUNCIL FOR EAST AFRICA (IUCEA) EXHIBITION AT THE ARGYLE GRAND HOTEL
- MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY HOSTS INTERNATIONAL WHO AFRICAN TRADITIONAL MEDICINE DAY
- MEDICAL SERVICES TO COMMUNITIES: MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY TRANSFORMS LIVES IN LESHUTA
- STRENGTHENING GLOBAL ACADEMIC TIES: MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY PARTNERS WITH SHENZHEN INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY
- BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN RESEARCH AND POLICY: MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY CHAMPIONS FOUNDATIONAL LEARNING
- CHAMPIONS OF EXCELLENCE: ELITE BRAND AWARDS PRESENTED TO VICE-CHANCELLOR
- EMPOWERING WOMEN, TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES
- ADVANCING TRANSPARENCY AND EFFICIENCY: MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY UNDERTAKES ELECTRONIC GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT SYSTEM (EGP) TRAINING
- ENHANCING STUDENT FINANCIAL SUPPORT: MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY STAFF UNDERGO SPECIALIZED HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCING (HEF) TRAINING
- STRENGTHENING ACADEMIC COLLABORATIONS: MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY VISITS TOM MBOYA UNIVERSITY FOR LAW SCHOOL BENCHMARKING
- TRANSFORMING HOSPITALITY EDUCATION: HOSPITALITY LAB GETS A MASSIVE DIGITAL BOOST
- HERE WE COME: MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY WELCOMES THE CLASS OF 2026
- VICE-CHANCELLOR WELCOMES FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS AT 2026/2027 MATRICULATION CEREMONY
- PRESERVING INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE: MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY STRENGTHENS GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS IN CULTURAL HERITAGE
- PASSING ON OF MR. JACKSON OLE NCHOE

COURTESY CALL AT MMARA-U BY H.E KOSIOM FRANK KIBELEKENYA, KENYA'S AMBASSADOR TO THE KINGDOM OF DENMARK

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. P. Aloo-Obudho, received the Kenyan Ambassador to Denmark, H.E. Kosiom Frank Kibelekenya, on a courtesy call at the University. H.E. Kibelekenya, who hails from Narok County, has maintained a close friendship and association with Maasai Mara University since its inception, reflecting his longstanding interest in the University's growth and development.

During their meeting, discussions centred on strengthening academic and research collaboration between Maasai Mara University and institutions in Denmark, exploring opportunities for student and staff exchange programmes, and enhancing partnerships in areas such as environmental conservation, tourism, agriculture, IT and climate change.

The visit underscores the University's commitment to expanding its international linkages and positioning itself as a key player in global higher education and research. Maasai Mara University was honored by the visit and look forward to fruitful collaborations ahead.

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Brand ambassador. The V.C Prof. Peninah Aloo-Obudho, handing over copies of the university brochure to H.E. Kibelekenya for publicity and global marketing.

A token of recognition and a memorable souvenir from the V.C Prof. Peninah Aloo-Obudho to H.E. Kibelekenya

The V.C Prof. Peninah Aloo-Obudho (seated 2nd left) with the Kenyan Ambassador to Denmark, H.E. Kosiom Frank Kibelekenya (seated centre) joined by a cross-section of University management for a group photo.

FROM PLANTING SEEDS TO GROWING A LEGACY

Maasai Mara University was delighted to welcome back distinguished scholars, Prof. Jill Hanley of McGill School of Social Work and Prof. Julie Drolet of the Faculty of Social Work, University of Calgary, who returned to revisit the tree seedlings they planted during the recent Social Work Conference held at the University. Dr. Edward Kateyia, Director of Public Relations, Marketing and Linkages, received the scholars, who were accompanied by faculty members and postgraduate students.

Their return to check on the seedlings' growth reflects a profound sense of responsibility, ownership, and commitment to nurturing not only the trees but also the enduring partnerships and shared vision for a greener future. Beyond revisiting the trees, the scholars toured the University, reconnecting with its vibrant academic community and witnessing remarkable progress in teaching, research, innovation, and community engagement.

The visit underscored an important message: meaningful partnerships extend far beyond conferences. They flourish through sustained collaboration, shared values, and collective action toward sustainable development.
At Maasai Mara University, every tree planted tells a story of hope, resilience, and our unwavering commitment to environmental stewardship. What began as a simple act of planting a seedling has blossomed into a lasting symbol of friendship, collaboration, and a shared commitment to future generations.

The visitors enjoying the ambience of Mmara-U

Dr. Edward Kateyia, Director of Public Relations, Marketing and Linkages (2nd right), highlighting the Mmara-U mini mara.

Strengthening Networking: The visitors comparing notes and exchanging information withDr. Edward Kateyia, Director of Public Relations, Marketing and Linkages

As one of Kenya's leading institutions of higher learning, the University remains committed to academic excellence, innovation, and empowering future leaders.

Through collective efforts, the University continues to grow and make a lasting impact in the education sector and beyond. The University warmly welcomed all 3,230 newly placed students of the 2026 cohort to its growing population and looks forward to supporting them throughout their academic journey.

INSPIRING YOUNG MINDS

Maasai Mara University, through the Directorate of Public Relations, Marketing and Linkages (PRM&L), welcomed enthusiastic young learners from Moi Eor Enkitok Junior Comprehensive School for an unforgettable educational visit!

The pupils enjoyed a guided tour of our beautiful Botanical Garden, a living classroom where nature meets knowledge. The learners had the rare opportunity to explore the vibrant university environment, discover the importance of environmental conservation, appreciate the beauty and serenity of our campus, and be inspired to pursue higher education and chase their dreams

The excitement, curiosity, and joy on the pupils' faces made the day truly memorable! Their laughter and questions reminded us why we do what we do.
This visit reflects Maasai Mara University's unwavering dedication to community engagement, mentorship, environmental stewardship, and nurturing the next generation of leaders. By opening our gates to schools and communities, we continue to empower future generations, promote sustainable development, build lasting connections with society, and inspire young minds to dream big.

At Maasai Mara University, we believe every child deserves a glimpse of what's possible.

Mr. Kenor, Centre for student career and placement services welcoming the pupils.

The visiting pupils getting a word of motivation and mentorship from the mmusa student leaders with Mr. Kenor.

Moi Eor Enkitok Junior Comprehensive School pupils at the waste management and recycling point at the Botanical Garden.

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A group photo of the Moi Eor Enkitok Junior Comprehensive School pupils and teachers at the Botanical Garden

NANINGOI GIRLS BOARDING JUNIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL VISIT

The University, through the Directorate of Public Relations, Marketing and Linkages (PRM&L), had the pleasure of hosting learners from Naningoi Girls Boarding Junior Secondary School for an exciting and educational visit to our campus.

During the visit, the students enjoyed a guided tour of some of the University's key learning and innovation sites, including the Botanical Garden and the Biogas Plant. The tour provided the learners with a unique opportunity to: Explore the vibrant university environment; Learn about environmental conservation and sustainability; Understand the role of renewable energy through the Biogas Plant; Appreciate the beauty and serenity of the Maasai Mara University campus and be inspired to pursue higher education and achieve their future goals.

The learners expressed great excitement and admiration for the University's facilities and breathtaking view. Their enthusiasm, curiosity, and eagerness to learn made the visit both engaging and memorable.

The educational tour reflected Maasai Mara University's continued commitment to community engagement, mentorship, environmental stewardship, and nurturing future leaders. By welcoming schools and communities to our campus, the University continues to: Empower young learners through exposure and mentorship; promote sustainable development and environmental awareness, strengthen partnerships with schools and local communities and inspire the next generation to dream big and pursue academic excellence.

Maasai Mara University remains dedicated to creating meaningful learning experiences that motivate young minds and shape a brighter future for society.

Naningoi Girls Boarding Junior Secondary School group photo.

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Pupils of Naningoi Girls Boarding Junior Secondary School enjoying the beauty of our botanical garden

Practical learning! Pupils of Naningoi Girls Boarding Junior Secondary School being taken through the wastewater treatment and recycling process.

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The Director , Research and Innovation Prof. Alloys Osano (2nd right) with Mr. Lugalia from R&I empowering the visiting pupils about the biogas production process at the centre for renewable energy .

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PROUD MOMENT FOR MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY

The Kenya Red Cross Society Maasai Mara University Chapter, led by their Patron, Mrs. Ruth W. Sipitiek, proudly represented the university at the Kenya Red Cross South Rift Region First Aid Competition held on 18th July 2026 at Chepgaina Comprehensive School in Bomet County where Mmara-U were the 1st runners up.

The exciting competition brought together teams from Bomet, Narok, Kericho, Baringo, Nakuru, and Nyandarua counties, who competed across various categories including Primary, Junior Secondary School (JSS), High School, University/College Chapters, Corporate, Persons with Disabilities (PWD), and the Red Cross Action Team.

The event was held under the World Red Cross Day 2026 theme: “First Aid in a Migration Context: Advancing Innovation, Creativity, and Inclusion in a Humanitarian Context.” Maasai Mara University remains a committed partner in this annual initiative, having successfully hosted the competition at our Main Campus in 2025.

We are proud of our Red Cross Chapter for continuing to promote life-saving skills, humanitarian values, and community service beyond the classroom.

Mrs. Ruth W. Sipitiek, the patron of the Kenya Red Cross Society Maasai Mara University Chapter, addressing participants during the competition at Chepgaina Comprehensive School, Bomet

The drill: A member of the Kenya Red Cross Society Maasai Mara University Chapter demonstrating a real-life emergency situation.

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STRENGTHENING MMARA-U INTERNATIONALIZATION: THE VICE-CHANCELLOR BIDS BYE TO MAEL PERROUD, AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF NEUCHÂTEL, SWITZERLAND

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. P. Aloo-Obudho (Centre) with the Dean of Students Mr. Mohamed Adan and Mael Perroud (left) at the V.C'S office during Perrouds' exit call.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. P. Aloo-Obudho, , bid farewell to Mael Perroud, an international student from the University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland, who successfully completed his internship at Maasai Mara University.

During the courtesy call marking the conclusion of his internship, Mael expressed his sincere appreciation to the University Management, his supervisors, and staff members for their support, guidance, and warm hospitality throughout his stay.

Throughout his internship, Mael gained valuable practical experience, enhanced his professional skills, and interacted with staff and students from diverse cultural backgrounds. His time at Maasai Mara University provided an enriching opportunity for knowledge exchange, collaboration, and appreciation of Kenya's rich academic and cultural heritage.

The Vice-Chancellor congratulated Mael on successfully completing his internship and wished him every success in his academic and professional journey.
Maasai Mara University continues to strengthen international partnerships and provide a welcoming and inclusive environment for students from across the globe through academic collaboration, cultural exchange, and global learning opportunities.
Congratulations, Mr. Mael on a successful internship, and we wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

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The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. P. Aloo-Obudho, and Mael Perroud

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. P. Aloo-Obudho (Left), with the Dean of Students, Mr. Mohamed Adan (right), and Mael Perroud (centre).

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MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY PARTICIPATES IN THE NAROK COUNTY AGRICULTURAL, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE EXHIBITION

Maasai Mara University, led by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. P. Aloo-Obudho, and represented by the Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research, Innovation and Outreach),The late Prof. Francis Mburu, participated as both a key stakeholder and exhibitor at the Narok County Agricultural, Environment and Climate Change Exhibition held at Ole Ntimama Stadium, Narok. The late Prof. Mburu was accompanied by Dr. Edward Kateiya, Director of Public Relations, Marketing and Linkages, along with staff members and student representatives.

The exhibition was held under the theme: "Building Community-Led, Resilient and Climate-Smart Agricultural Value Chains." The Principal Secretary for the State Department for Agriculture, Dr. Paul Kipronoh Ronoh, represented Hon. Mutahi Kagwe, EGH, Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture and Livestock Development, as the Guest of Honour.

During the exhibition, the University showcased its diverse academic programmes, research, innovations and technologies that demonstrate its commitment to advancing climate-smart agriculture, environmental conservation, biodiversity protection, sustainable natural resource management and community development. The exhibition also provided an invaluable platform to engage with stakeholders, share knowledge, and foster partnerships that promote agricultural transformation, environmental sustainability, and climate action.

The event brought together farmers, cooperatives, youth and women's groups, investors, development partners, environmental practitioners, researchers and industry leaders from across the country, creating opportunities for collaboration and knowledge exchange aimed at building resilient and sustainable communities.

The Principal Secretary for the State Department for Agriculture, Dr. Paul Kipronoh Ronoh (centre); H.E Patrick Ole Ntutu, Governor of Narok (2nd right); the First Lady, Dr. Agnes Ntutu (right); at the Mmara-U booth with Dr. Edward Kateiya (left), Director of Public Relations, Marketing and Linkages.

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An innovator Mr. Stephen Mburu explaining his innovation to interested participants.

The Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research, Innovation and Outreach), the late Prof. Francis Mburu (5th from left), who represented the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. P. Aloo-Obudho, PhD, EBS, with the Mmara-U team at the exhibition booth.

A NEW CHAPTER IN GLOBAL RESEARCH COLLABORATION BEGINS AT MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY

China delegation and Mmara-U teams in a group photo

Great partnerships begin with meaningful conversations. On 26th July 2026, Maasai Mara University proudly welcomed a distinguished delegation of renowned scholars from China, marking another significant milestone in the University's journey towards becoming a globally connected Centre of research and innovation.

Led by Prof. Xue Yan and including Prof. Dr. Zhigang Lei, Prof. Jie Wang, and Dr. Kelvin Githaiga, the delegation visited the University after engagements at the Sino-Africa Joint Research Centre (SAJOREC) Headquarters in Kenya.

Hosted by the Centre for Climate Change and Biodiversity Conservation (CCCBC), led by Prof. Dr. Wycliffe Wanzala, PhD, the meeting brought together scholars united by a common goal: using science, innovation, and collaboration to address some of the world's most pressing challenges.

The discussions focused on exciting opportunities for collaboration in: Epidemiological and field research, Genetics, Molecular Biology, Immunology, Parasitology and Vector Studies, vaccine and drug research and development, Joint research projects and international grant acquisition, Exchange of scientific knowledge, publications and research materials, Professional training opportunities for Kenyan researchers in Chinese institutions, and Long-term institutional partnerships between Maasai Mara University and universities in China.

On-going meeting at the university hall

Prof. Xue Yan (left), (SAJOREC), with a gift for the coordinator, Centre for Climate Change and Biodiversity Conservation (CCCBC), Prof. Dr. Wycliffe Wanzala.

The Dean of Students, Mohammed Aden (centre) with MUSA president Victor Mitema (right) and the Secretary General Mohamed Ali (left)

This was more than a courtesy visit; it was the beginning of a shared vision. The partnership is expected to unlock opportunities for collaborative research, postgraduate training, staff and student exchange programmes, joint scientific publications, and increased international research funding. Most importantly, it reflects our unwavering commitment to generating knowledge that transforms lives and addresses global challenges.

As a university with a niche in Tourism, Environmental Resource Management and Conservation, Maasai Mara University remains dedicated to forging strategic partnerships that drive scientific excellence, climate action, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable development for the benefit of Kenya, Africa, and the global community.

Together, we built bridges across continents, advanced knowledge beyond borders, and left a strong, rich legacy for future generations.

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HISTORIC SITE HANDOVER FOR NEW CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS AT JOHANNA NG'ENO UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Maasai Mara University marked a major milestone with the official handover of the construction site for Johanna Ng'eno University College at Simotwet Secondary School, Emmurua Dikirr Constituency, Transmara East Sub-County, Narok County. The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peninah Aloo-Obudho, PhD, EBS, led the ceremony, which was attended by the Deputy Governor of Narok County, Hon. Tamalinye Koech, the area MCA, local leaders, and community members.

Speaking during the ceremony, Prof. Aloo-Obudho reaffirmed the University's commitment to delivering the project with the highest standards of quality, integrity, transparency, and accountability. She noted that the new constituent college will expand access to quality higher education, strengthen research and innovation, and contribute to the region's socio-economic transformation.

In his remarks, Hon. Tamalinye Koech welcomed the project, describing it as a significant investment in education and regional development. He commended Maasai Mara University for bringing university education closer to the people and pledged the County Government's continued support.

The Vice-Chancellor was accompanied by Dr. Maurice Ombok, Dean, School of Business and Economics and Member of the Senate Ad Hoc Committee for the Establishment of Johanna Ng'eno University College; Dr. Augustine Kaara, Member of the Senate Ad Hoc Committee; Mr. Paul Sankale Loonturot, Estates Manager; Ms. Pentina Ayabei, Secretariat to the Senate Ad Hoc Committee; and Mr. Nickson Magak, Public Relations, Marketing and Linkages.

The contractor is expected to construct modern lecture halls, student hostels, and an administration block, paving the way for Johanna Ng'eno University College to become a center of academic excellence, innovation, and community transformation.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. P. Aloo-Obudho, PhD, EBS (Centre), accompanied by the Deputy Governor of Narok County, Hon. Tamalinye Koech (2nd left), receiving the design of the hostel for Johanna Ng'eno University College.

Deputy Governor of Narok County, Hon. Tamalinye Koech, during the site handover for construction at Johanna Ng'eno University College.

Members of the committee for the establishment of Johanna Ng'eno University College, Simotwet from left; Dr. Augustine Kara, Dr. Maurice Ombok and Ms. Pentina Ayabei.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. P. Aloo-Obudho (standing), addressing the meeting

Dr. Augustin Kara (left) and Estate Manager Mr. Paul Sankale examining the hostel construction documentation.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. P. Aloo-Obudho,(4th left) and Estate Manager Mr. Paul Sankale (3rd left) accompanied by other visitors touring the site for construction of the new hostel.

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CLARIFI LEARNING EXCHANGE AND ANGLOPHONE AFRICA STRATEGY MEETING

Maasai Mara University participated in the CLARIFI Learning Exchange and Anglophone Africa Strategy Meeting, convened by the Indigenous Livelihoods Enhancement Partners (ILEPA) under the theme "Enhancing Indigenous Resilience." The late Prof. Francis Mburu, Ag. Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research, Innovation & Outreach), representing the Vice-Chancellor, and was accompanied by Bursuna Ejere, Coordinator of the Centre for Cultural Heritage Studies.

The engagement provided a valuable platform to strengthen strategic partnerships, advance indigenous knowledge systems, and foster collaborative research and innovation aimed at enhancing community resilience and sustainable development.

The participation reflects the University's vision of "A University Focused on Innovation and Empowerment for Societal Transformation" by promoting innovative, community-driven solutions rooted in indigenous knowledge. It also advances the University's niche in Tourism, Environmental Resource Management and Conservation through cultural heritage preservation, sustainable natural resource management, and collaborative initiatives that contribute to resilient communities and inclusive development.

Prof. Francis Mburu, Ag. Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research, Innovation & Outreach), represented the Vice-Chancellor, at the CLARIFI Learning Exchange and Anglophone Africa Strategy Meeting

Bursuna Ejere, Coordinator of the Centre for Cultural Heritage Studies, attended the meeting.

On-going session during the CLARIFI Learning Exchange and Anglophone Africa Strategy Meeting.

INTER-UNIVERSITY COUNCIL FOR EAST AFRICA (IUCEA) EXHIBITION AT THE ARGYLE GRAND HOTEL

Maasai Mara University participated in the 17th Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) Exhibition at the Argyle Grand Hotel, where institutions of higher learning from across the region showcased innovative solutions shaping the future of higher education.

Representing the University were lecturers Lydia Kiptum and Auma Grace, together with MBA student Sharon Mosima, who exhibited a range of transformative innovations developed at Maasai Mara University. Their exhibits highlighted the University's commitment to research, innovation, entrepreneurship, and commercializing knowledge to address societal challenges.

The exhibition provided an important platform for collaboration, knowledge exchange, and showcasing cutting-edge innovations that contribute to sustainable development and advance higher education in East Africa.

Maasai Mara University's participation reflects its vision of being a university focused on innovation and empowerment for societal transformation, while reinforcing its commitment to producing impactful research and innovations that benefit communities locally, nationally, and beyond.

Mmara-u representatives at the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) Exhibition at the Argyle Grand Hotel. From left: Lydia Kiptum, Auma Grace, and Sharon Mosima,

Auma Grace (left) and Sharon Mosima at the exhibition booth

Sharon Mosima, Auma Grace and Lydia Kiptum

MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY HOSTS INTERNATIONAL WHO AFRICAN TRADITIONAL MEDICINE DAY

Maasai Mara University had the honor of hosting the International World Health Organization (WHO) African Traditional Medicine Day at the University Conference Hall. Spearheaded by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peninah Aloo-Obudho, PhD, EBS, and hosted by the Centre for Climate Change and Biodiversity Conservation (CCCBC) under Prof. Dr. Wycliffe Wanzala, PhD, the event brought together an esteemed gathering of scholars, researchers, policymakers, and practitioners. Organized in partnership with SAJOREC-CAS, the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS), and the Narok County Government, the landmark occasion celebrated African traditional medicine and its vital role in modern healthcare.

The program featured key addresses from prominent global and local figures, setting a collaborative tone for the day's discussions. Chief guest speakers—including Prof. Yan Xue (SAJOREC), Dr. Yamane Yumi (Director, JSPS), and a representative from the Narok County Government—offered insightful remarks alongside a thought-provoking virtual keynote address delivered by Prof. Chen Guilin of the School of Traditional Chinese Pharmacy at China Pharmaceutical University. Beyond the podium, attendees participated in a ceremonious tree planting, explored the University Botanical Garden, and visited vibrant exhibitions showcasing traditional medical practices at Ole Ntimama Square.

A central highlight of the event was an engaging round-table discussion centred on "The Practice of Ethnomedicine and the Law in Kenya," which allowed experts to address policy frameworks and legal considerations surrounding traditional practice. The day concluded with clear resolutions mapping out the future of traditional medicine research and policy, followed by the presentation of certificates and gifts to facilitators and participants. Through hosting this successful international forum, Maasai Mara University reaffirmed its dedication to advancing indigenous knowledge, fostering global scientific partnerships, and driving healthcare innovation.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. P. Aloo-Obudho, PhD, EBS (4th left), in a group photo with a cross-section of participants during the International WHO African Traditional Medicine Day.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. P. Aloo-Obudho, PhD, EBS, delivering her speech and officially opening the International WHO African Traditional Medicine Day

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peninah Aloo-Obudho, PhD, EBS (right), and the coordinator, Centre for Climate Change and Biodiversity Conservation (CCCBC), Prof. Dr. Wycliffe Wanzala, PhD

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peninah Aloo-Obudho, PhD, EBS (center), with the chief guests

Participants following proceedings' during the International WHO African Traditional Medicine Day

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Tree planting exercise during the International WHO African Traditional Medicine Day.

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MEDICAL SERVICES TO COMMUNITIES: MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY TRANSFORMS LIVES IN LESHUTA

Mr. Bursuna Ejere, Coordinator of the Centre for Cultural Heritage Studies, represented the University at the commemoration of the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development, held at Ole Ntimama Stadium in Narok

Demonstrating a commitment to community service and sustainable development, Maasai Mara University successfully hosted a two-day free medical camp on August 6–7, 2026, at the Leshuta Dispensary. Driven by the institution's core mission of service to humanity and active community engagement, the outreach jointly held with Lions Sight First Hospital brought quality, accessible healthcare directly to more than 500 residents from Leshuta and surrounding areas across Narok County.

Local community members gathered at the dispensary to access a comprehensive range of cost-free medical services delivered by a dedicated team of doctors, nurses, Community Health Volunteers, and university student volunteers. Over the two-day initiative, the medical team provided specialized eye screenings and optical care; diabetes and hypertension testing alongside personalized lifestyle counselling; general medical consultations and treatments; preventive health education; and direct referral pathways for patients needing specialized follow-up care.

MmaraU student volunteers played a critical role during the exercise, and the nursing students got first hand practical field experience during the Leshuta community free medical camp

Reflecting the university's distinct niche in tourism, environmental resource management, and conservation, the outreach extended well beyond clinical care. Recognizing that long-term community well-being is deeply tied to environmental health, Maasai Mara University integrated a green initiative into the program by distributing and planting over 300 tree seedlings. This effort re-emphasizes the institution's dedication to environmental stewardship, climate resilience, and sustainable community development alongside public health enhancement.

This impactful milestone was made possible through strong inter-agency collaboration. Maasai Mara University extends its sincere gratitude to all participating healthcare professionals, student volunteers, and community leaders, as well as its key partner organizations: the Narok County Government, Amref Health Africa, World Vision, We World, Kenya Red Cross, Lions Sight Eye Hospital, Dandelion Africa, Rotary Club of Narok, Afyafrica, Medicatia, Premiercare Health, Elongo Africa Initiatives, and NACOSFI. Together, these organizationshelped to bring essential healthcare closer to underserved communities while laying the groundwork for a healthier, more sustainable future.

Bringing quality healthcare closer to home, free for the Leshuta community. Maasai Mara University staff and students reached out for a free medical camp initiative.

A coordinated, integrated approach led to the event's success. Several partners came together for the common goal.

STRENGTHENING GLOBAL ACADEMIC TIES: MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY PARTNERS WITH SHENZHEN INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY

Marking another significant milestone in its journey toward becoming a globally connected hub for research and innovation, Maasai Mara University officially welcomed a distinguished delegation from the Shenzhen Institute of Advanced Technology (SIAT) on August 12, 2026. Representing Vice-Chancellor Prof. Peninah Aloo-Obudho, PhD, EBS, was the Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research, Innovation, and Outreach, the late Prof. Francis Mburu, alongside university management, staff, and students, received the visiting team led by SIAT Vice-President Prof. Fan Jiapin.

The Centre for Climate Change and Biodiversity Conservation (CCCBC), led by Prof. Dr. Wycliffe Wanzala, hosted the strategic meeting. Bringing together scholars and leaders from both institutions, the engagement focused on leveraging science, innovation, and cross-border collaboration to address pressing global challenges.

Key partnership areas include academic exchange programs, joint research initiatives, technology transfer, and studentship opportunities such as the China-Kenya Student Dialogue and summer field programs. By bridging Kenya's rich academic potential with Shenzhen's world-leading technological ecosystem, this strategic collaboration aims to advance knowledge beyond borders and pave the way for sustainable development for future generations.

Goodies for the vulnerable and most in need, a demonstration of the university's commitment to the Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research, Innovation, and Outreach, the late Prof. Francis Mburu (2nd left), receiving a memoir from SIAT Vice-President Prof. Fan Jiapin (2nd right) societal transformation and lasting impact.

MmaraU representatives and Shenzhen Institute of Advanced Technology (SIAT) in a group photo during the meeting.

Worthy collaboration. Shenzhen Institute of Advanced Technology (SIAT) students gifting Mmara-U counterparts

BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN RESEARCH AND POLICY: MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY CHAMPIONS FOUNDATIONAL LEARNING

Reaffirming the transformative power of evidence-based education, Maasai Mara University hosted the Foundational Learning Policy Brief Workshop on August 14, 2026, in collaboration with Education Sub-Saharan Africa and the Technical University of Kenya. The high-level gathering focused on converting academic research into actionable, policy-ready solutions that directly address critical challenges in primary education.

Addressing participants, Vice-Chancellor Prof. Peninah Aloo-Obudho, emphasized that while improving access to schooling remains essential, building strong foundations in literacy and numeracy ultimately changes lives. She noted that academic research delivers its true value only when evidence informs better decision-making and yields tangible outcomes for society. The workshop aimed to empower researchers to move beyond problem identification, guiding them to formulate clear, evidence-backed recommendations that enable policymakers to enhance educational quality for every child.

Throughout the session, attendees were urged to explore collaborative frameworks that allow higher education institutions to work together seamlessly. By aligning academic outputs with national development goals, Maasai Mara University and its partner institutions are showing how universities can ensure the knowledge they generate addresses community and national challenges meaningfully.

Ongoing session during the workshop brief.

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Staff from Education Sub-Saharan Africa at the workshop

Mmara-U staff who coordinated the workshop

CHAMPIONS OF EXCELLENCE: ELITE BRAND AWARDS PRESENTED TO VICE-CHANCELLOR

The Vice-Chancellor Prof. Peninah Aloo-Obudho, receiving the 11th Elite Brands Awards International certificate and trophy from Director of Public Relations, Marketing, and Linkages Dr. Edward Kateiya

Celebrating a major milestone in academic leadership, Maasai Mara University officially presented its recently awarded global honors to Vice-Chancellor Prof. Peninah Aloo-Obudho, Following the university's success at the 11th Elite Brands Awards International, Director of Public Relations, Marketing, and Linkages Dr. Edward Kateiya presented the "Elite Institution of Higher Learning" trophy alongside the "Brand of the Year (Education)" certificate to the Vice-Chancellor.

Dr. Denis Ikachoi, Chair of the Department of Media, Film, and Communication, received the honors on behalf of the university during a ceremony at the Argyle Grand Hotel. The prestigious recognitions reflect the institution's rapid growth, innovative spirit, and unwavering dedication to higher education standards.

Upon accepting the awards, the Vice-Chancellor dedicated the achievement to the university's collective community, recognizing that the honor reflects the tireless efforts of staff, students, and key stakeholders who continually elevate the institution's global standing. Moving forward, Maasai Mara University remains committed to delivering transformative education and cultivating leaders who drive meaningful impact

The 11th Elite Brands Awards International certificate and trophy won by the University

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EMPOWERING WOMEN, TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES

Mr Fredrick Lugalia, R&I, demonstrating briquette and soap marking during the women's empowerment workshop in Lolgorian, Kilgoris.

In a bold step toward sustainable community development, Maasai Mara University launched a transformative three-day women's empowerment workshop in Lolgorian, Kilgoris, Narok County. Organized through the university's Research, Innovation, and Outreach Department, alongside the Health Services Department and the Enkitati Seed of Hope CBO, this grassroots initiative was designed to equip local women with the practical tools, knowledge, and self-advocacy skills needed to build healthier, more self-reliant lives.

The program addresses community growth through two core pillars: economic innovation and personal health. On the economic front, participants engage in practical, eco-friendly training including briquette making, soap making, and biogas production. These hands-on technological skills offer immediate, sustainable income-generating opportunities for financial independence and entrepreneurship, while simultaneously promoting environmental conservation throughout the region.

The momentum continued on the second day as the team had the honour of hosting former First Lady Mrs. Sarah Tunai and her daughter, Naserian Tunai. Their presence brought inspiration, wisdom, and encouragement, setting the tone for open, impactful dialogue. Facilitators and community members engaged in bold conversations centred on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), mental health, positive parenting strategies, and child welfare, while taking a firm stance on ending Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), child marriage, and teenage pregnancy.

By combining practical skills training with vital social and health advocacy, the workshop creates a safe space for growth, dialogue, and self-awareness. Every story shared, and every skill learned reinforces a shared commitment: equipping, uplifting, and empowering women to build stronger, healthier communities one step at a time.

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Mmara-U Staff: Janet Kaelo (Left) and Fredrick Lugalia (Right), R&I, and Ruth Sipitiek, health unit (2nd right), with Sarah Tunai, one of the training beneficiaries.

Janet Kaelo, highlighting about briquettes to a group of women.

A group photo of Mmara-U staff and women empowerment training beneficiaries

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ADVANCING TRANSPARENCY AND EFFICIENCY: MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY UNDERTAKES ELECTRONIC GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT SYSTEM (EGP) TRAINING

In line with its dedication to operational excellence and regulatory compliance, Maasai Mara University conducted a comprehensive Electronic Government Procurement System (EGP) training for its staff. The specialized program brings together procurement officers alongside departmental users from across the institution to deepen their understanding of modern, technology-driven procurement frameworks.

The training session focused on equipping staff with a thorough operational knowledge of the EGP platform, detailing its core functionalities and highlighting the regulatory standards that govern public procurement. Beyond functional instruction, the workshop served as a dynamic forum for knowledge sharing, constructive dialogue, and clarifying key procedural guidelines. By standardizing these processes, the university ensures that all internal stakeholders are fully aligned with national procurement policies.

This initiative underscores Maasai Mara University's ongoing commitment to fostering transparency, accountability, and integrity in every aspect of its administration. Through continuous capacity building and the adoption of modern administrative systems, the institution continues to streamline its operations while upholding the highest standards of governance.

A cross-section of university staff attending Electronic Government Procurement System (EGP) training

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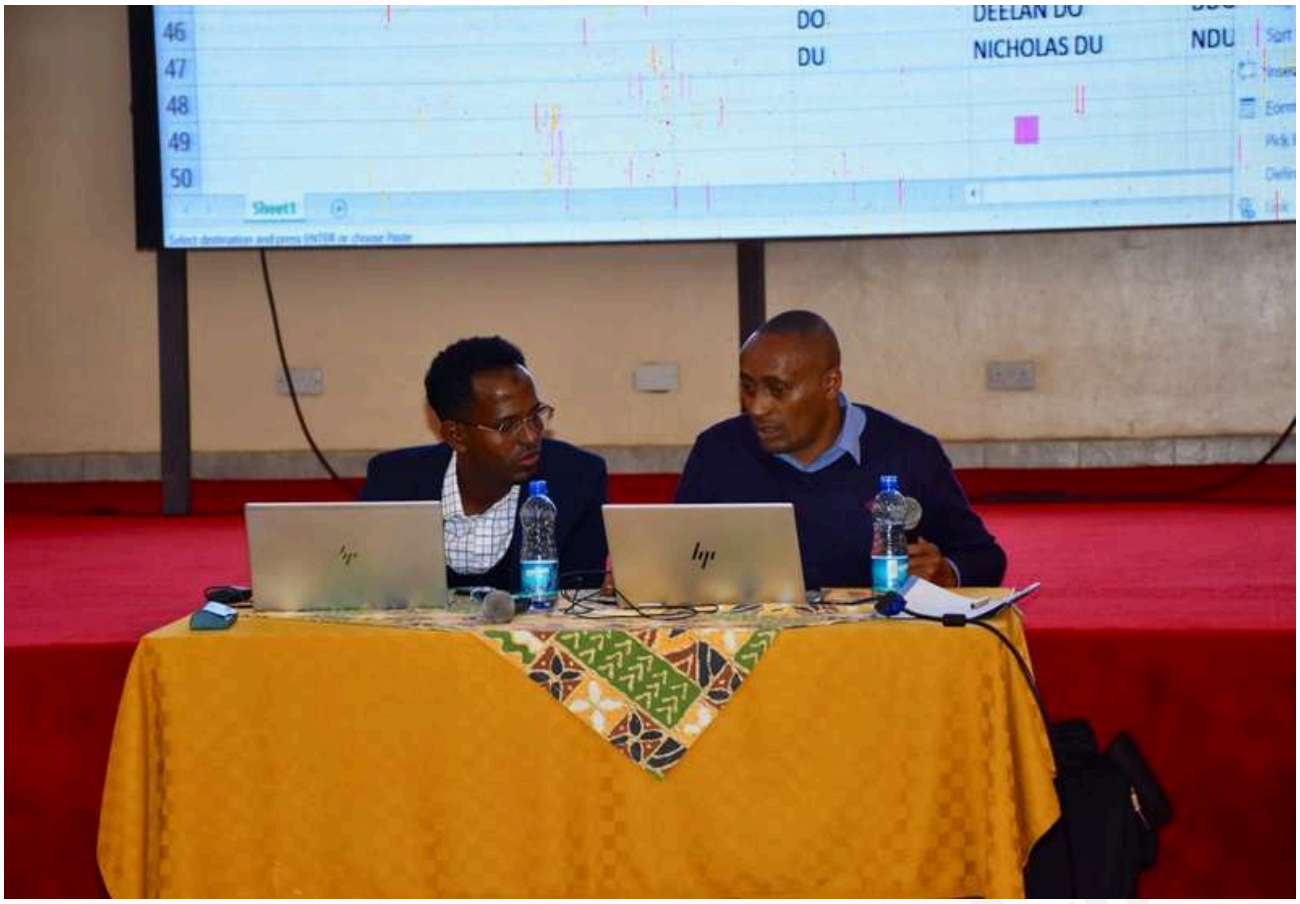

The facilitators: Mr. Ahmed Ismail (Left) and Robert Mwangi

Mmara-U staff in the training.

ENHANCING STUDENT FINANCIAL SUPPORT: MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY STAFF UNDERGO SPECIALIZED HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCING (HEF) TRAINING

To ensure students enjoy seamless access to vital financial assistance, staff members at Maasai Mara University participated in a targeted training workshop hosted by the University Funding Board (UFB). The session was designed to upskill university personnel in navigating, managing, and operating the Higher Education Financing (HEF) portal.

Through this interactive workshop, administrative staff gained hands-on expertise in managing the portal's features and addressing common student queries. The enhanced technical knowledge enables the team to offer streamlined, expert guidance throughout the government funding application process. From navigating initial submissions to managing ongoing funding accounts, the university's trained personnel are now fully equipped to assist students every step of the way.

This initiative highlights Maasai Mara University's dedication to student welfare and academic accessibility. By continuously strengthening staff capabilities, the institution ensures that administrative processes remain student-centred, efficient, and responsive to the needs of the university community.

University Funding Board (UFB) trainer (right) facilitated the session.

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Scenes of the ongoing Specialized Higher Education Financing (HEF) Training

STRENGTHENING ACADEMIC COLLABORATIONS: MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY VISITS TOM MBOYA UNIVERSITY FOR LAW SCHOOL BENCHMARKING

The Dean of the School of Arts, Prof. Benard Kodak (2nd left), Ms. Winfridah Kerubo (2nd right), and Senior Legal Officer Mr. Alfred Nyabochwa (right the Dean of the School of Law, Tom Mboya Uni, Prof. Wamara (left)

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In a strategic move to expand its academic portfolio, a delegation from Maasai Mara University recently visited Tom Mboya University for a comprehensive benchmarking mission focused on establishing a School of Law.

Led by the Dean of the School of Arts, Prof. Benard Kodak, the Maasai Mara University team, which included Law Lecturer Ms. Winfridah Kerubo and Deputy Chief Legal Officer Mr. Alfred Nyabochwa, held consultative meetings with Tom Mboya University Vice-Chancellor Prof. Charles Ochola and the Dean of the School of Law, Prof. Wamara.

The visit provided a dynamic platform for constructive dialogue and the exchange of best practices in legal education, curriculum implementation, infrastructural development, and regulatory compliance. Through such inter-institutional partnerships, Maasai Mara University continues to reinforce its commitment to academic excellence and meaningful contributions to national development.

TRANSFORMING HOSPITALITY EDUCATION: HOSPITALITY LAB GETS A MASSIVE DIGITAL BOOST

In a major milestone toward integrating real-world, industry-standard technology into the classroom, the School of Tourism and Hospitality at Maasai Mara University officially deployed the Biodux Property Management System (BioduxPMS). This cutting-edge software and equipment package, valued at USD 80,000 (over KES 10.4 million) and delivered under a five-year renewable, cost-free license from Vallinno Systems Ltd, directly bridges the gap between academic theory and practical hotel operations.

To mark the launch, a delegation from Vallinno Systems Ltd, led by CEO Mr. Timothy Ojo, paid a courtesy call on Vice-Chancellor Prof. Peninah Aloo-Obudho. During the visit, the company formally donated three internet-enabled Point of Sale (POS) printers and accessories designed to power hands-on front-desk and restaurant simulations. The BioduxPMS software is now fully operational across 25 computer workstations in the university's training lab, creating an immersive, simulated hotel environment for students.

The Vice-Chancellor Prof. P. Aloo-Obudho (Seated Centre) and Vallinno Systems Ltd CEO Mr. Timothy Ojo (left) with Mmara-U representatives.

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The Vice-Chancellor Prof. P. Aloo-Obudho (left) with the Vallinno Systems Ltd CEO Mr. Timothy Ojo during a courtesy call at her office

To support the rollout, a cross-section of faculty and technical staff completed an intensive five-day Training of Trainers program at the University of Embu. Maasai Mara University now has certified institutional trainers who can teach students across core modules, including Front Office and Reservations, Housekeeping Operations, Food and Beverage Management, POS Systems, and Revenue Management. Students completing this curriculum will earn an industry-recognized Certificate of Competence, giving graduates a distinct competitive edge in top hotels, safari lodges, and global hospitality venues.

Delivered in partnership with consortium lead Moi University and host institution University of Embu, the project's success stems from dedicated leadership, including Project Lead Dr. Moses Muraya, Dean Dr. Judy Polly Kibe, Director of ICT Prof. Ratemo Makiya, Lecturer Ms. Abby Christine Njeri, and ICT Support Officer Mr. Kevin Wainaina. Following the successful deployment, the visiting Vallinno Systems team enjoyed an excursion to the iconic Maasai Mara National Reserve, capping off an initiative set to empower the next generation of hospitality leaders.

Maasai Mara University staff and other beneficiaries of the Training of Trainers program in a group photo at the University of Embu

Ongoing hands-on practical training

HERE WE COME: MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY WELCOMES THE CLASS OF 2026

Maasai Mara University officially opened its gates to welcome a vibrant new cohort of first-year students, 2026. The atmosphere on campus buzzed with electrifying energy as incoming scholars, accompanied by proud parents and guardians, completed a well-coordinated and seamless admission process. Mirroring the world-renowned wildlife migration of the neighbouring Mara, this annual arrival marks the beginning of an extraordinary intellectual journey for the next generation of global champions, innovators, and leaders.

As these new students settle into university life, they transition from ambitious dreamers to true "scholars of the savannah." Grounded in an environment where untamed ambition meets academic excellence, the Class of 2026 enters a transformative chapter dedicated to sharpening their minds, broadening their perspectives, and defining their futures.

Maasai Mara University officially launched the new academic year by welcoming its incoming cohort during a vibrant orientation program designed to help first-year students transition seamlessly into campus life. The week opened with an energetic welcome as freshers gathered across lecture halls to meet key figures in their academic journey, including Deans, Department Heads, and lecturers from different schools. These initial introductory sessions gave students direct insight into faculty expectations, academic requirements, and the campus support systems available to guide their degree pursuits.

Reporting of the 2026 new student cohort.

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Happy and satisfied parents and new students (centred) on the reporting day.

The momentum built as the university's executive leadership took the stage to offer strategic guidance and practical counsel. Addresses from Deputy Vice-Chancellors Prof. James Nampushi, Prof. Alloys Osano (representing Prof. Bulitia Godrick Mathews), and the late Prof. Francis Mburu encouraged students to remain disciplined, focused, and dedicated to both personal growth and academic excellence. To ensure the new cohort was thoroughly prepared for the operational side of university life, Dr. Otieno Fredrick Onyango from the Office of the Registrar detailed examination rules and academic policies, while Mr. Christopher Maokomba outlined conflict resolution through the Office of the Ombudsman. Additionally, Prof. Alloys Osano reintroduced his role as Director of Research and Innovation, challenging students to tackle real-world societal problems and protect their intellectual property rights from the start of their studies.

Grounding the orientation experience in holistic support, the university community subsequently gathered for an uplifting interdenominational prayer session. Led by figures including Deputy Dean of Students Dr. Sister Sambu, University Chaplain Dr. Odhiambo, Ms. Bilha Ogolla, and Christian Union Co-Patron Mr. Yego, the gathering united students across diverse faith traditions including the Christian Union, Catholic Association, Seventh-day Adventist Church, and Muslim Association. Speakers underscored the vital balance between rigorous academic exploration and spiritual development, urging incoming students to plug into campus religious groups for ongoing fellowship, mentorship, and personal grounding throughout their university years.

Dr. Otieno Fredrick Onyango, Registrar (Academics), interacting with the new students during the orientation process.

Ms.Purity Ngotiek, a lecturer in Nursing, addressing newly admitted first-year nursing students as part of the orientation programme.

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Song and dance at the interdenominational prayer session

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VICE-CHANCELLOR WELCOMES FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS AT 2026/2027 MATRICULATION CEREMONY

The first-year 2026/2027 orientation event climaxed with an inspiring keynote address by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peninah Aloo-Obudho, PhD, EBS, who warmly welcomed the new cohort and congratulated them on securing their admission. In her opening remarks, she noted that matriculation is more than a formal ceremony; it marks the official start of a deeply transformative personal and academic journey.

Throughout her address, Prof. Aloo-Obudho challenged the incoming students to turn their raw potential into meaningful purpose by expanding their ambitions beyond the traditional classroom. While emphasizing the importance of attending lectures diligently and reading widely, she urged the new freshers to immerse themselves fully in campus life. She highlighted a wide range of growth opportunities across the university, encouraging students to participate in extracurricular activities, community service, research, innovation, entrepreneurship, sports, and student-led clubs to build a well-rounded foundation for their future careers.

In a poignant call to unity, the Vice-Chancellor urged the student body to celebrate Kenya's rich cultural diversity while firmly rejecting tribalism, discrimination, and intolerance within the university community. She cautioned new arrivals against risky behaviours, urging them to make disciplined, responsible choices throughout their academic tenure. Closing her address with a vision for their ultimate success, Prof. Aloo-Obudho challenged every student to make the absolute most of their four years at Maasai Mara University and ensure they graduate as more confident, capable, and responsible leaders than when they first stepped onto campus. She left them with a bible verse from Proverbs 16:3- Commit whatever you do to the Lord and will establish your plans. She urged them to put God first in whatever they do and they will succeed.

Vice-Chancellor Prof. P. Aloo-Obudho, PhD, EBS during the First-Year Students 2026/2027 cohort Matriculation Ceremony

Taking selfies with the Vice-Chancellor: They must be saying this “One Day We will be like you”

New students from the 2026/2027 cohort taking memorable selfies with the Vice-Chancellor.

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Students following the Vice-Chancellor's speech

A cross-section of Mmara-U academic staff at the First-Year Students 202026/2027 cohort Matriculation Ceremony

PRESERVING INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE: MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY STRENGTHENS GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS IN CULTURAL HERITAGE

Maasai Mara University marked a major step toward expanding its international reach by hosting Prof. Tamas Regi from the Museum of Ethnography in Budapest, Hungary, for a strategic consultative meeting on museology, cultural heritage, and anthropology. Chaired by Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research, Innovation, and Outreach) Prof. Makiya Ratemo, the high-level delegation featured key university representatives, including Deputy Registrar for Strategy and Resource Mobilization Mr. Lankeu Reson, Centre for Cultural Studies Coordinator Mr. Bursuna Ejere, alongside Mr. Benjamin Karume, Marjan Hamisi, Mr. Amos Mwendwa, and Mr. Denis Kipkosgey. The gathering focused on bridging academic scholarship, heritage conservation, and tangible community impact through international cooperation.

The collaborative discussions yielded several impactful outcomes to strengthen cultural management locally and globally. A primary initiative includes repackaging museology and heritage training into specialized short courses designed specifically for Kenya's 47 County Governments to build devolved capacity for local heritage management. Additionally, the university plans to modernize its academic offerings by enriching the Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology curriculum with advanced museology content. The university will also formalize institutional partnerships through upcoming Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) frameworks to secure long-term joint research opportunities and facilitate academic mobility.

Prof. Makiya Ratemo (4th right) chaired the discussion between the two institutions.

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Ongoing discussions between representatives of the two institutions

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PASSING ON OF MR. JACKSON OLE NCHOE

The late Mr. Jackson ole Nchoe requiem mass.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peninah Aloo-Obudho, joined the family of the late Mr. Jackson Ole Nchoe and members of staff in mourning his passing. Mr. Nchoe served as an Administrative Assistant in the School of Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences and Creative Industries.

Representing the Vice-Chancellor, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Prof. James Nampushi, conveyed her heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family. He noted that Mr. Nchoe's passing was a great loss to the School of Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences and Creative Industries and to the University community at large.

In her message, the Vice-Chancellor described Mr. Nchoe as a man of calm demeanor, dedication, and warmth, whose kindness and commitment endeared him to colleagues and all who interacted with him. She extended her deepest sympathies to his wife, children, relatives, friends, and the entire family during this difficult time.

Among those who joined the family and the University community in paying their final respects was Mrs. Hellen Sankok.Mr. Jackson ole Nchoe was laid to rest at Limanet on 18thJuly 2026.

Fare thee well, our colleague, our friend. May your soul rest in eternal peace until we meet again.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor AF&S Prof. James Nampushi led the University staff during Mr. Nchoe's requiem mass at the University hall.

Mr. Galfen Omuse, Acting Deputy Registrar RIO and KUSU Secretary General, addressing mourners during Mr. Nchoe's requiem mass

The family of Mr. Nchoe at the mass.

A cross-section of staff in attendance

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