



MMUST NEWS

A Weekly digital publication of Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology

Post

Vol. 4 Issue 4 :17th February to 29th February 2020

MMUST CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY (IMLD)



**UPCOMING
EVENTS**



- ❖ 14th Multidisciplinary International Conference
13th May 2020.
- ❖ 3rd International Conference on Future of Education
22nd June 2020.



Editor's Pen

Dear reader,

We thank you for keeping it with us throughout the NewsPost publications.

In this issue, we bring you part proceedings of the International Mother Language Day Conference which was well attended by scholars cutting across the fields of Language & Linguistics, Literature, Anthropological Linguistics, Communication, Translation, Sociology of Language, Interpretation, Language Localization, Language Education and Political Science.

As the University is working towards transition into the ISO 9001:2015 standards, we also bring you the activities which took place during the Bureau Veritas Kenya Ltd visit to MMUST.

The School of Engineering and the Built Environment hosted a Public Lecture on Lightning Protection to demystify facts and myths associated with lightning.

Read on.



**Nashilluh Brendah
Kabindio**

**Ag. Public Relations Officer/
Editor-in-Chief**



**Awuor Sandra Dorcas
Writer, Creative Design and
Layout**



**Wambugu Mary Wangari
Writer, Creative Design and
Layout**



**Induli Albert
Writer**



**Shiundu Wilberforce
Photographer**

'LANGUAGE WITHOUT BORDERS' SHAPES DISCOURSE DURING THE IMLD CONFERENCE.

By Albert Induli

Linguistic and communication scholars across the globe, on Wednesday the 19th of February 2020, converged at Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology for an International Mother Language Day (IMLD) Conference.



Participants during the International Mother Language Day Conference at Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology on 19th of February 2020.

The three day UNESCO-initiated event organized by the Languages and Literature Education (LLE) Department at MMUST themed *'Indigenous Languages Matter for Development, Peace Building and Reconciliation,'* brought together different stakeholders including; the County Government of Kakamega, Ministry of Youth, Gender, Sports and Culture, Longhorn Publishers and the Bible Translation and Literacy Society of Kenya; where the diversity of language was spotlighted.

During her Conference opening Remarks, the Acting Vice Chancellor, Prof. Asenath Sigot, applauded the move by the organizers to have MMUST host this global function spearheaded by Dr. David Barasa from the LLE department, stating that the Theme resonates well with the current Building Bridges Initiative (BBI) conversation in Kenya.



MMUST LLE Lecturer, Dr. David Barasa, the lead person of the Conference giving his remarks.

Among the sub-themes that generated debate was 'Language Education, Gender and Politics'. According to Associate Professor of English Language Education, currently the Dean of the School of Education and Social Sciences at Alupe University College, Prof. Carolyne Omulando, language is central to all aspects of society shaping all social interactions and hence considered as a communicative infrastructure. She observed that we must be moved by the following propelling thoughts; First, preparing teachers for culturally responsive pedagogic contexts, that is, teaching of mother language in early years of education in Kenya. Two, changing our teachers' perspectives towards indigenous languages in Kenya and lastly asking ourselves, which learning environment can education in the mother language be effectively embraced within a multi-cultural class room context? Prof. Omulando cited Kumar & Prakash (2019 p2) Identity in language encompasses many elements apart from language such as class, religion, ethnicity, nationalism among others. She added Pandey (2019 84) Identity and society can be thought of in isolation.

MMUST's Dr. Benard Angatia Mudogo anchored his research on immediate indigenous sub-tribe of the Luhya community in Kakamega county-Lukabararas. Focusing on 'Non-Equivalence and Translatability of English Medical Discourse into Lukabararas.' Dr. Mudogo argues that if translatability is the essence of translation, then untranslatability constitutes an equally significant concept in the translation of culture specific English terms into Lukabararas. According to him, non – equivalence is more realistic and applicable than equivalence in rendering culture specific English terms into Lukabararas in medical discourse. The MMUST Literature Lecturer, who is currently working on a 'Lukabararas' dictionary, reveals that some medical terms lose their meaning and relevance when translated to the said vernacular. For instance, HIV/AIDS-ovulwale (in real sense 'ovulwale' is just any disease), all female medical practitioners are referred to as 'Omusista' (which is quite irrelevant), injection-'okhupa esindani' (beating the needle) among others.

Other researchers who delved into the above sub-theme included MMUST lecturer Mr. Robinson Oduma who concentrated on 'Rethinking a workable language- in-education planning Model in Kenya' proposing a 3 language model' i.e. English, Swahili and Mother tongue; Laikipia University's, Mr. Murage Joseph looked into 'Coercive Social Power: A Boomerang in Motion', Turkana University's, Akinyi Eunice presenting on 'Mother Tongue Use and Learning Lags in Public Secondary Schools in Radieda Sub-county, Siaya County of Kenya'. Prof. Jayne Mutiga who is currently the

Director, Centre for Translation and Interpretation at the University of Nairobi offered constructive feedback on a paper by Onyango J, & Mbaabu presented by Namunyu Wafula an MA student by citing self-plagiarism. She questioned the assertion in the paper that says most of the indigenous languages in Kenya have no orthography terming it as a fallacy. On behalf of Onyango, J & Mbaabu, I Namunyu had presented on; 'Teaching Mother Tongue in Kenya: Role of Teacher Training'.

"Language is a resource which can harness wealth if well managed. If not well managed, it can create disaster," these were the words of Prof. Kenneth Inyani Simala who is the Executive Secretary of the East African Kiswahili Commission during the 2nd day of the Conference at the Main Catering Unit (MCU) in MMUST. Alluding to the fact that Kiswahili is a Pan African language of identity, Prof. Simala said that one can be independent but unless the mind is decolonized, he or she can do very little. He further confirmed that International Mother Language Day will not be effective if other languages were excluded.

At its peak, MMUST marked the climax of the International Mother Language Day on Friday 21st of February 2020 being the final day of the Conference with a march in Kakamega town and, later, all communities in Kakamega speaking their vernacular and a cultural performance extravaganza at the Graduation Square of the University. UNESCO has observed this day for the past 20 years.



From right: Prof. Kenneth Inyani Simala, Professor of Kiswahili and Cultural Linguistics at MMUST, Ag. DVC ASA, Dr. Bernadette Sabuni, Ag. Vice Chancellor, Prof. Asenath Sigot and the Ag. DVC PRI, Prof. Charles Mutai during the IMLD Conference. →

MMUST WORKING TOWARDS ATTAINING ISO:9001: 2015 CERTIFICATION



Photo; Officers from the Bureau Veritas Kenya Ltd, (Mr. Kennedy Gachoki and Mr. Kennedy Obuya) share a light moment with part of the members of the University Management Board on Monday 24th of February 2020.

By Albert Induli

Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology (MMUST), on Monday the 24th of February 2020, welcomed external auditors from the Bureau Veritas Kenya Ltd for a one-week exercise intended to check and approve its quality/standards of operation. This exercise is geared towards transition of the University to the ISO 9001:2015 standard.

“As an institution, we are open to bench mark for new ideas and work towards positive development through evidence-based decision making. We shall give you our full support and cooperation as you execute your duties through-out the week,” said Prof. Asenath Sigot, the Acting Vice Chancellor in a brief meeting that took place at the University Boardroom.

According to the Directorate of Quality Assurance headed by Prof. Maurice Omollo, the previous ISO:9001:2008 expired in 2018. The University is, therefore, in the process of transiting to the new standard. The Audit had the following scope and objectives; identifying opportunities of improvement to qualify management systems(QMS), verifying the effectiveness of processes in the system and validating conformance to documentary procedures. In addition, it was to check the conformance to ISO:9001:2015 requirement. Furthermore, finding out if systems meet applicable regulatory and legal requirements and finally evaluating compliance to meeting organization’s objectives. The Auditors carried out their operations in the Main, Bungoma and Nairobi Campuses with 3 days in the Main Campus.

ISO certification means that an organization has efficient management process in place to deliver on its mandate.

ABA505b

Dr.Samson Ndege of MTRH Exchanging signed MoUs with MMUST's Acting VC, Prof.Asenath Sigot.



MMUST-MTRH EFFORTS TO PROVIDE COMPREHENSIVE CARE SERVICES

By Wambugu Mary Wangari

Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology (MMUST), on Friday, 21st February, 2020, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital (MTRH), currently the second largest National Teaching and Referral Hospital in Kenya. The Hospital is also a medical training centre to undergraduate and postgraduate students of Moi University College of Health Sciences as well as other medical training institutions.

MTRH received an award from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) for a project titled 'AMPATHPlus' under the direction of Prof. Sylvester Kimaiyo, the Chief of Party. This project, created to treat those with HIV, is a partnership between Moi University, MTRH, North American universities led by Indiana University, and the Kenyan Government. The project has grown to currently provide care to more than two hundred thousand (200,000) HIV positive patients in eleven (11) counties throughout western Kenya. About seventeen (17) people from various Departments in MMUST are working under this project.

The MoU detailed each party's responsibilities as follows:

Responsibilities of MTRH

- Provide programmatic support.
- Provide leadership in technical assistance to strengthen the implementation of HIV/AIDS services in the AMPATHPlus supported counties.

- Provide direct research and sponsored projects administration support to MMUST and build up the capabilities of the finance and administration team to undertake sourcing of resources and management of grants/contracts on behalf of the University, through the development of systems, policies, Standard Operating Procedures and training of staff.
- Support care clinic facilities in reaching the treatment targets by ensuring that they are in a position to provide quality HIV services.
- Make direct payments to facilitate MMUST individuals engaged in activities related to AMPATHPlus.
- Oversee that all activities described in the MoU are performed primarily by the AMPATHPlus team, including financial management, hiring of staff, procuring equipment and any materials, and leasing of office space.

Responsibilities of MMUST

- Conduct regular clinical mentoring and supportive supervision for multidisciplinary care teams with MTRH programme advisors.
- Coordinate site selection, assessment, planning to support effective comprehensive HIV/AIDS care at AMPATHPlus supported sites.
- Work with the county and sub-county medical officers to provide technical assistance and support supervision on an agreed periodic basis depending on the volume output of the respective facilities.

Having signed an Agreement on this project, which shall remain in force for five (5) years, the two institutions hope and intend that their work will be useful to the Ministry of Health and the people of the AMPATHPlus-supported counties.



MMUST's Acting VC, Prof. Asenath Sigot and Acting DVC(PRI), Prof. Charles Mutai, sign MoU in the presence of Dr. Samson Ndege.



Prof. Robert Jalang'o Akello, Professor of Telecommunication and Information Engineering, Technical University of Kenya, during the public lecture.

EXPERT SAYS INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH WAY TO GO IN TACKLING LIGHTNING PROBLEM

By Wambugu Mary Wangari

Prof. Robert Jalang'o Akello, a Professor of Telecommunication and Information Engineering at Technical University of Kenya has identified Kakamega, Kericho and Kisii counties as regions that are more susceptible to lightning strikes in Kenya.

The renowned Lightning expert was delivering a Public Lecture titled '*Lightning for Multidisciplinary Research: Facts and Myths*' at Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology (MMUST) on Friday, 28th February, 2020.

According to Prof. Jalang'o, there is a high rate of lightning fatality cases in Kenya every year and in order to save lives in time, it is prudent that disciplines share and collate their research to make an interdisciplinary research team/s all over the globe, more so in East Africa.

“Lightning studies embrace many disciplines, such as religion, sociology, demography, economics, mathematics, insurance and actuarial science,” he stated.

Kenya has a very diverse population and people from different cultural backgrounds have different myths about lightning. Most often, lightning is imagined as a bird (Red cockerel). Others associate it with witchcraft in the sense that witches can send lightning to kill people or to destroy their property or livestock; some say that wearing red attracts lightning.



A section of the audience during the public lecture at MMUST's Main Catering Unit.



Prof. Robert Jalang'o Akello poses for a photo in the company of staff and students after the lecture.

However, Prof. Jalang’o says that there is a scientific reason for lightning. For example, in the red cock concept, he says that people must have seen some images similar to the cock because: when lightning strikes the ground, the point of entry is heated to red hot; this is the ‘head’ of the cock. Since the ground is wet, evaporation occurs and, against the light, the rainbow colours are seen from one projection. This forms the ‘wings’.

Additionally, he described the three types of lightning which are: intra-cloud, cloud to air and cloud to cloud. He also talked about the lightning strike mechanisms, namely; direct strike which means that the victim becomes a part of the main lightning discharge channel; this mostly occurs to people who are in open areas, side flash strike which occurs when lightning strikes a taller object near the victim and a portion of the current jumps from taller object to the victim, and the step voltage strike which takes place when a person makes contact with a part of an electrical system which is not live under normal conditions but has become live due to the passage of a lightning current.

During the Public Lecture, Prof. Akello stated that the most affected parts of the human and animal bodies when lightning strikes are the circulatory, nervous and respiratory systems.

He encouraged the installation of lightning protection systems in buildings and insisted that international standards be strictly adhered to. Consequently, he urged MMUST to provide lightning awareness education in order to enhance preparedness in the event of an emergency.





Medical practitioners from EAC Partner States pose for a photo during courtesy call to Acting Vice Chancellor. Prof. Asenath Sigot.

EAC Partner States Approves Status of MMUST School of Medicine

By Awuor Sandra Dorcas

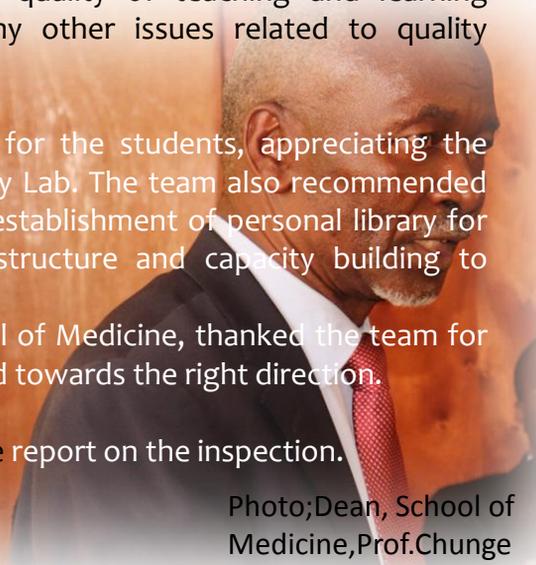
The East Africa Community Partner States carried out an inspection of the School of Medicine at Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology (MMUST) on Monday 2nd March, 2020. The inspection was carried out by a team of medical specialists from respective EAC partner states, led by Dr. Vuguziga, from the Rwanda Medical and Dental Council.

Their Terms of Reference included verification of numbers and qualifications of top management at the School and Departmental levels to confirm the number and qualifications of the academic staff currently in place in order to establish the staffing levels, establish whether the academic programs being run by the School have been approved and accredited by relevant authorities and the status of curriculum implementation including monitoring and evaluation, as well as to verify the adequacy and quality of teaching and learning infrastructure such as classrooms, laboratories or any other issues related to quality improvement in the respective School among others.

Dr. Vuguziga commended the infrastructure available for the students, appreciating the efforts made towards the establishment of the Anatomy Lab. The team also recommended the fast tracking of the Microbiology lab construction, establishment of personal library for medical students and continuous expansion of infrastructure and capacity building to accommodate more students.

Prof. Charles Change, in his capacity as the Dean, School of Medicine, thanked the team for the recommendations affirming that the School is headed towards the right direction.

The EAC Partner States is yet to compile a comprehensive report on the inspection.



Photo; Dean, School of Medicine, Prof. Change



MMUST HOSTS THE 54TH KENYAN UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN'S WORKSHOP

By Albert Induli

Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology on Thursday the 27th of February 2020, played a host to about fifty (50) representatives of the Kenya Public and Private University Librarians as well as other governmental and private organizations.

The meeting organized in partnership with the World Bank, the United Nations and the Kenya University Librarians was geared towards enhancing services in the workspaces with key focus on the millennials. Furthermore, it looked into promoting network, sharing ideas and capacity building.

According to Masinde Muliro University Librarian, Mr. Vincent Chobani, the Workshop was crucial in stimulating service delivery and improving library standards. He acknowledged the support by the United Nations in MMUST, where there is a Section in the facility dubbed 'UN CORNER' up and running all thanks to the UN. The segment, open to the public, is equipped with materials covering the Sustainable Development Goals and serves the Western and Nyanza Region.

Focusing on the millennials who are the enthusiast current users of modern Library facilities during the workshop, Assenath Ateka, from the United States International University (USIU), presented

an incisive paper on how to reach out to their satisfaction by understanding their needs and working with them in the ever fast changing technological environment. The discussion was directed towards infrastructural composition when planning for new libraries where the users have to be engaged before decision making.

Kenyan Librarians had a major milestone that stood out at the Workshop which saw them realize a Union Catalogue called Kencat. This is a Kenyan Libraries online platform where all Libraries deposit their data making it easy for users across the country to locate which library has what material for efficient operation. It is an idea bought from World-Cat which is the first international renowned online search for documents and Library materials globally. This move was applauded by Mr. Raphael Uppal who is a research Librarian with the World Bank terming it as one of the platforms that will be able to develop the Kenyan Library services and give it a new face and place it at another level.

Even though Librarians in Kenya are operating as an amorphous entity, their objective is to register their Union and engage other stakeholders in their dealings in order to combat the problem of funding.

INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY (IMLD)







MMUST NEWS

Post

A Weekly digital publication of Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology

A publication of Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology

P.O.Box 190-50100

Kakamega, Kenya

Tel No: +254 702597360/1,

+254 733120020/2

Email: pr@mmust.ac.ke