



MMUST NEWS

A Weekly Digital Publication of Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology

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Post

Hon. Pius Masinde Muliro; A Special Bulletin



In the Next Issue
Know your Professor

UPCOMING

EVENTS



Editor's Pen

Greetings MMUST Community!

The series 'Know Your Professor' takes a break in this edition as we bring you a special issue in commemoration of the Hon. Henry Pius Masinde Muliro. We bring you news, and a photo gallery, of the Masinde Muliro Memorial Lecture held at the University and the grand celebrations held at his Sibanga Farm in Trans Nzoia County.

We also bring you news of the newly established and fully equipped Media Lab for use by the Journalism and Mass Communication students.

As per one of the University's mandate, we continue to forge international linkages with other universities in Africa and the world over. We feature a visiting scholar from Walter Sisulu University, South Africa.

As always, let us tell our stories.



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Remembering a Hero: The Late Hon. Masinde Muliro Memorial Lecture and Service

By Sandra Dorcas Awuor

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A Memorial Public Lecture and Service in honor of the late Hon. Henry Pius Masinde Muliro was held on 12th and 14th August 2019 respectively. The Memorial Public Lecture was held at Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology while the memorial service took place at the late anti-colonial activist's home in Sibanga, Trans-Nzoia County. These marked the inaugural 27th Anniversary Celebrations for the late political leader who played a central role in shaping the political landscape in Kenya.

Speaking during the Public Lecture, the Ag.VC, Prof. Asenath Sigot said that the late Hon. Masinde Muliro was a firm believer in education and that Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology (MMUST) was a dream in the imagination of a young man. She added that as an institution, MMUST is honored and privileged to be named after such an icon. Prof. Sigot said that the memorial public lecture will be made an annual event.

The keynote addresses were given by Prof. John Shiundu and Prof. Frank Matanga on the topics 'The Place of Masinde Muliro in the History of Kenya; A fight for Multipartyism and Democracy' and 'A Dream in the Imagination of a Young Man; Masinde Muliro University' coming to fruition. Prof. Shiundu talked about the late fiery MP's stewardship in the formation of WECO (Western College) of Applied Sciences which became WUCST (Western University College of Science and Technology) and was later renamed Masinde Muliro university of Science and Technology (MMUST). He said that several names were proposed but some people tried to oppose the naming of the institution after the late Masinde Muliro.

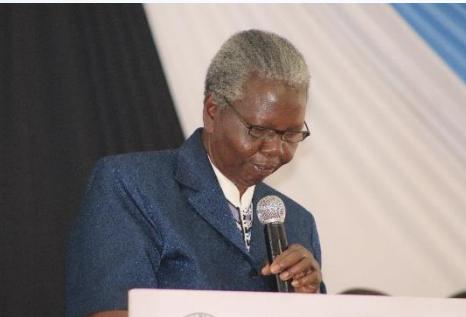
“Masinde Muliro was the ‘President that never was’. He never amassed wealth like most leaders today. To him, leadership was a service to the people,” said the Professor of Education.

As an acknowledgement of Masinde Muliro's contribution to education and politics in the country, Prof. Shiundu recommended that Masinde Muliro's statue be set up within the University.

Professor of Political Science, Prof. Frank Matanga, said that Masinde Muliro played a major role in the fight for Africans during the colonial period. He said that Masinde Muliro, alongside other prominent leaders like Oginga Odinga and Martin Shikuku, are recognized as 'Fathers of liberation' in the country.

“He was a moderate leader whose values ought to be emulated. Masinde Muliro stood for honesty, principles, progress and development,” said Prof. Matanga.





Ag. Vice Chancellor Prof. Masenath Sigot making opening remarks



Prof. Frank Matanga giving the First Keynote address at the Memorial Lecture

Mwambu Muliro, Masinde Muliro’s son, said that his father was an orphan whose education was paid for by step brothers and members of the church. He implored the leaders present to think about the idea of starting a scholarship in honor of Masinde Muliro.

“Kenyan politics has always been violent and sometimes even deadly but that did not deter him. There were many assassination attempts on Masinde Muliro. He was one of the leaders that ushered in multipartism in Kenya,” said Mwambu Muliro during the memorial service in Sibanga.

Grand Memorial Celebrations at Sibanga

Prof. Charles Mutai, Ag. DVC (PRI) at Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology (MMUST) and Prof. John Shiundu spoke on behalf of the Ag. Vice Chancellor, Prof. Sigot and the University fraternity at the memorial service. Prof. Mutai said that Masinde Muliro was a great leader who did great things for the country. He added that MMUST is proud to be named after Masinde Muliro.

Political leaders who were in attendance during the memorial service and Public Lecture include the Cabinet Secretary; Ministry of Devolution and ASALs, Hon. Eugene Wamalwa, Amani National Congress (ANC) party leader Musalia Mudavadi, H.E. Sospeter Ojaamong, H.E. Wycliffe Wangamati, H.E Dr. Wilbur Ottichilo, Kakamega Women Rep. Elsie Muhanda, Trans Nzoia County Assembly Speaker Joshua Werunga, Cherangany MP Joshua Kutuny, Kiminini MP Chris Wamalwa, Nominated MP Hon. Musikari Kombo, Kanduyi MP Wafula Wamunyinyi, Tongaren MP, Eseli Simiyu, former MP, Noah Wekesa among others.

More Pictorial on Pg. 11



Newly Set Up Modern Media Lab Shifts Focus To Skills Acquisition

By Sandra Dorcas awuor

The Department of Journalism and Mass Communication at Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology (MMUST) has set up a well-equipped Media Lab which will serve its students at the start of the 2019/2020 Academic year. The Department, through the Procurement Office, received the state of the art equipment worth Kshs five (5) million on 27th June, 2019.

The Senior Technician in the Department, Mr. Gabriel Bombo, said that the Media Lab will familiarize students with the equipment and enable training of students to be skilled, professional content producers and market-oriented journalists. He also added that there will be three (3) sessions daily taking a maximum of three (3) hours each and catering for at least twenty (20) students per session. He noted that an expansion plan was in place for recruitment of more personnel for maximum training and installation of a sound booth and lighting system in the Lab.

“99% of journalism graduates cannot mount a camera on the tripod. This is why we are shifting from knowledge based training to acquisition of skills such as video editing, photo editing, photography, film and videography. The Media Lab will serve all students regardless of their different specializations,” said Mr. Bombo.

Mr. Bombo said that the idea of setting up the Media Lab was conceptualized in 2017 and realized in June 2019 and that the University procured the best and latest equipment in the market. He thanked the University Management for its continued support even as plans are put in place for expansion phase of the Media Lab.

“In the next five years, we can have the best equipped media lab in the country,” he said.

Dr. Perez Wenje, the Chairperson of Department, said that the quality equipment in the Media Lab will enhance more practical aspects of the programmes offered. Speaking in his capacity as the Acting Dean, School of Arts and Social Sciences (SASS), Dr. Wenje also said that the School’s strength has always been in print media and the radio station, which has produced reputable journalists in the country including Francis Ontomwa, Leila Mohammed among others. He said that the Media Lab is a great boost to the School.



***The Media Lab
Technical staff;
Gabriel bombo (left)
and Barongo Peris
(right)***

“The University was recently accredited as a Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institution. Our intention is to develop more programmes next month such as BA in Public Relations and BA in Communication Studies. We already have Masters and PhD in Communications Studies. In line with the implementation of the new Competency Based Curriculum (CBC), we want our students to specialize in specific skills,” said Dr. Wenje.

Dr. Wenje said that with the new equipment, the students will be more equipped in desktop publishing.

“We expect students to come up with their own magazine,” he said.

Some of the Equipment in the new Media Lab

| Item | Description | Model | Quantity |
|------|---|-----------------|----------|
| 1 | Apple 21.5" iMac with Retina 4K Display With Wireless Keyboards With Wireless Mouse | Gen8 | 10 |
| 2 | Paintshop | Prox9 | 10 |
| 3 | Final Cut | Version 10.3.2 | 10 |
| 4 | Brother Smart Plus All-in-One Inkjet Printer | MFC-J5830DW | 2 |
| 5 | Panasonic Camera with 20x Optical Zoom Lens & Carry Bag | AG-AC30 | 2 |
| 6 | Canon DSLR Camera with 18-55mm Lens | EOS 80D | 2 |
| 7 | EF-S 18-135mm f/3.5-5.6 IS STM Lens | 18-135mm | 2 |
| 8 | 200mm f/2.8L II USM Lens | 200mm f/2.8L II | |
| 9 | Magnus Tripod System with Fluid Head | VT-4000 | 4 |
| 10 | PaintShop Pro 2019 Education Edition License (5-50) Serial No 445350 | LCPSP2019MLA2 | 10 |



MMUST CONTINUES TO ACTIVELY ENGAGE IN DEMYSTIFYING RESEARCH

By Wambugu Mary Wangari

Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology hosted Dr. A.K. Masha of Walter Sisulu University (WSU) for a three-day seminar which took place from 5th to 7th August, 2019. This Workshop marked Dr. Masha's second visit to MMUST after his first visit on 26th April, 2019 where he made presentations on decolonizing research and the need to do things differently.

The purpose of the Workshop was to demystify research, to provide a platform of inspiration for participants to find their voices and to share knowledge on matters research.

"Knowledge alone is not power. The sharing of our knowledge is when knowledge becomes powerful," quoted Dr. Masha.

In one of his presentations, Dr. Masha took the audience through a 30-step research process he developed and later launched in May, 2019.

"Academic disciplines often conventionally follow a set of traditional steps in the course of executing a research project," he stated.

According to him, this process is an advancement of the Research Onion which only contains six steps. He went on to mention authors that propagated this activity.

Below is Dr. Masha's recommended 30-step research process

1. Wishing to research
2. Issues to be researched
3. Training of the researcher
4. Selecting a research title
5. Reviewing the literature
6. Writing a research proposal
7. Introduction
8. Identifying and defining problem
9. Determining and formulating the research questions
10. Determining research objectives
11. Formulating a hypothesis
12. Choosing a theoretical approach
13. Research strategies (Research design and methodology)
14. Methods of data collection
15. Selecting research paradigm/philosophy
16. Deciding on time horizon
17. Formulating and development of research plan
18. Ethical considerations
19. Selecting a research site and negotiating access
20. Piloting
21. Documenting of data
22. Processing and analysing data
23. Discussions of findings, interpretation and evaluation
24. Formulating the conclusions and preparing the report
25. Generalising results
26. Reporting results
27. Dissemination of results
28. Use of results
29. Development of new research questions
30. Identification of a new study



***Dr. A.K Masha from
Walter Sisulu
University, South Africa***

A 16-Step Model of Questionnaire Construction was another topic of discussion during the Workshop. This model was prepared by Dr. Masha, in the year 2014 whereby he modified questionnaire design steps from different authors.

“Questionnaires are very critical for getting data in research. They provide a relatively cheap, quick and efficient way of obtaining large amounts of information from a large sample of people,” said Dr. Masha.

He urged those in attendance to balance their questionnaires and link them with the literature review. The research guru encouraged the use of different categories of scales in designing a questionnaire, such as; quality, importance, interest, satisfaction, frequency, truth and uniqueness.

In another session, Dr. Masha made a presentation on conducting focus group discussions (FDGs) where he explained, in detail, the differences between these types of discussions and group discussions.

“Focus group discussions and group discussions are methods often used synonymously to mean an organized discussion with a group of individuals to gain collective data about a research topic. As a result, inexperienced researchers often confuse the two, yet there are fundamental differences between them,” he said.

According to him, FDGs involve a small group of people, usually about eight (8) to ten (10), discussing a specific topic of interest led by a mediator who is more knowledgeable on the issue at hand. He went ahead to describe the different steps of collecting and analysing data in FDGs

and in semi-structured interviews.

There was a discussion on Mixed Methods (MM) research, which is frequently mistaken for multi-method research. According to Dr. Masha, MM is not simply the addition of qualitative data to a quantitative design or vice versa, neither is it a collection of multiple forms of qualitative data nor the collection of multiple types of quantitative data. It involves the collection, analysis and integration of both qualitative and quantitative data to contribute to more understanding of the research problem that one form of data collection would on its own. According to him, when multiple forms of qualitative or quantitative data are collected, the term is multi-method research, not mixed methods research.

Other areas of discussion that were tackled during the seminar were; conducting a case study research, slipperiness of research terminologies, proposal writing, constructing a bibliography, and ethical considerations and guiding principles in research.

Subsequently, Dr. Masha touched on the issue of competition for PhDs.

“People are desperate about the Doctorate title that they can go to any lengths yet, the doctoral position is a protected space” he stated.

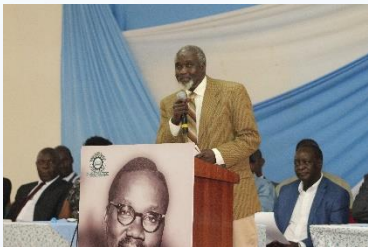
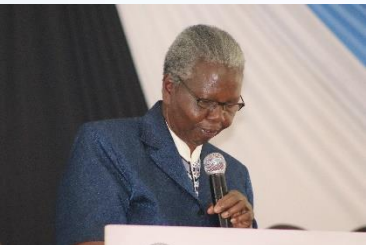
“Globally, there is intense competition among national governments on behalf of those newcomers who wish to enter the doctoral space and by those already well-established to protect their privileged space. Countries, particularly in Asia and Africa, are aggressively trying to catch up with extraordinarily ambitious and largely unrealistic growth goals for their universities,” he said.

During his visit, Dr. Masha had one-on-one sessions with students for further discussions. He also encouraged the culture of reading, and as he stated, “you cannot become a leader, if you are not a reader.”



From Left: Dr. Judah Ndiku (Executive Dean, School of Education), Dr. A.K Masha (Walter Sisulu University), Prof. Aggrey Simiyu (School of Education) and Dr. Catherine Aura (Director, Academic and International Linkages)

Western Leaders led by Cabinet secretary Ho. Eugene Wamalwa during the Memorial Lecture held at MMUST on 12th August, 2019





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