

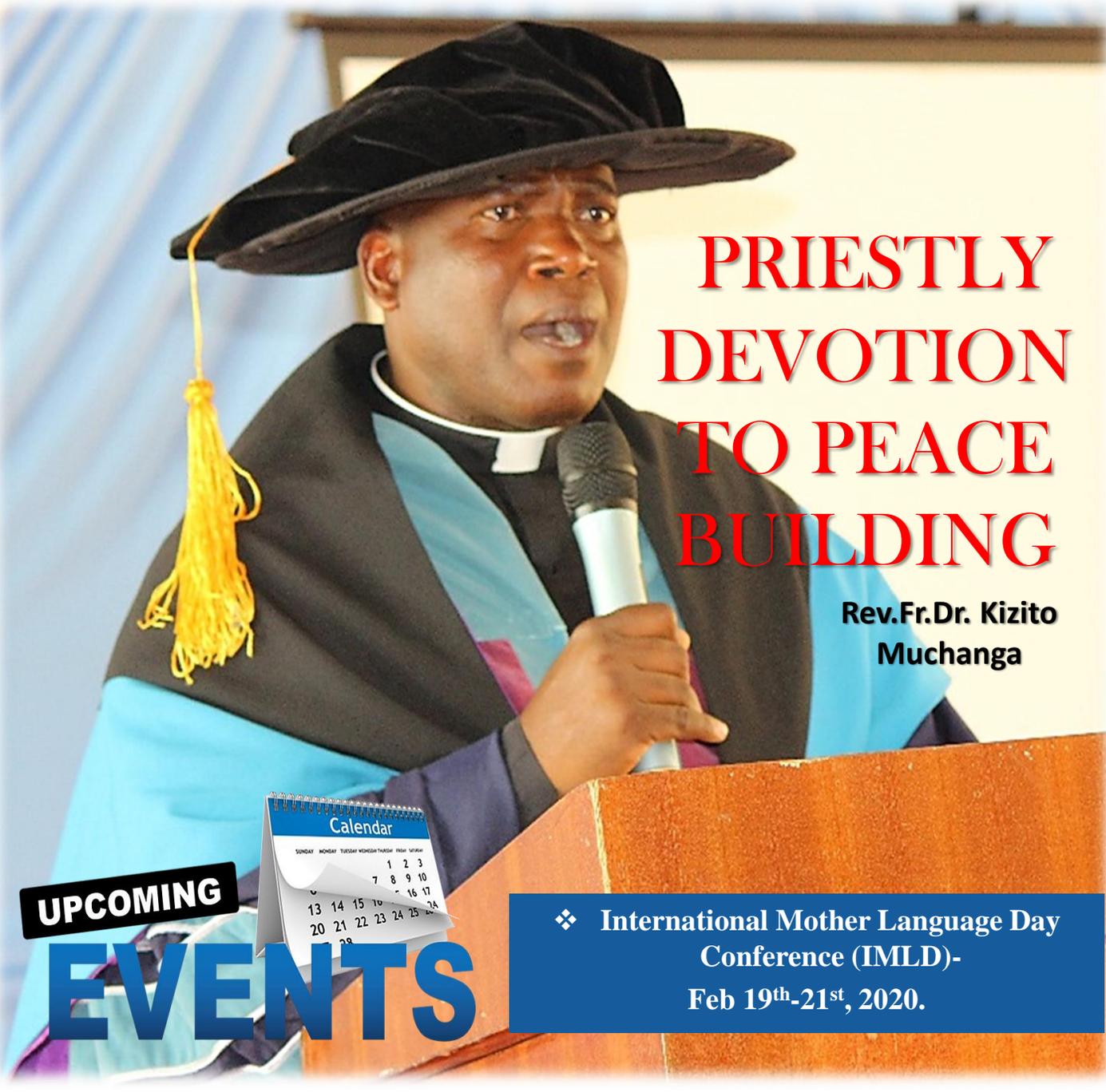


MMUST NEWS

Post

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

Vol. 4 Issue 3: 9th February to 16th February 2020



PRIESTLY DEVOTION TO PEACE BUILDING

Rev. Fr. Dr. Kizito
Muchanga



UPCOMING

EVENTS

❖ International Mother Language Day
Conference (IMLD)-
Feb 19th-21st, 2020.



Editor's Pen

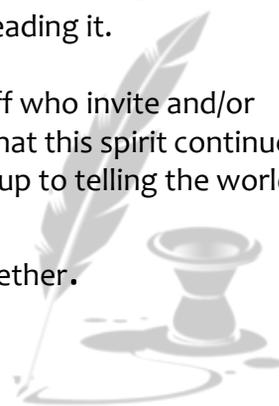
Greetings MMUST Community,

We are glad to bring to you this edition of the MMUST NewsPost.

We commend all staff and students whose works and contribution to the society is putting MMUST on the world map. We are especially proud of Rev. Fr. Dr. Kizito Muchanga for the recent launch of his book 'Peace Building in Kenya'. We urge you all to look out for this Book and contribute towards its success by reading it.

Also, we thank the members of staff who invite and/or send us events to cover. We hope that this spirit continues and that many more sections open up to telling the world what they are doing.

As always, let us tell our stories together.



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



MMUST POSITIONS ITSELF IN ONGOING CURRICULUM AND EDUCATION REFORMS

By Awuor Sandra Dorcas

A Competency Based Curriculum(CBC) Workshop was held by Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology(MMUST) on Wednesday,12th February, 2020 at Golf Hotel in Kakamega. The Workshop aimed at involving the academic staff and key education stakeholders in the country from Kenya National Qualification Authority(KNQA), Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development(KICD) and the Commission for University Education(CUE) among others, in an intensive discussion regarding the University's preparedness, repositioning and role in the new curriculum.

MMUST Acting Vice Chancellor, Prof. Asenath Sigot, emphasized on the need for universities to offer courses that have competencies in order for students to fit in the work place.

“It is not what the students need to know but what they can do,” she asserted.

Prof. Sigot added that MMUST is positioning itself to provide flexible and sustainable education under the new curriculum reforms.

Prof. Charles Mutai, Ag. DVC(PRI) said that the University is lucky to have some of its members in the new curriculum taskforce. He further encouraged staff members to fully embrace the Competence Based Curriculum (CBC).

Also speaking during the Workshop was Ag. DVC (ASA), Dr. Bernadette Sabuni, who said that the University is expected to review its academic programmes in line with the Competence Based Curriculum. She added that more time should be allocated to practical skills or courses.

Prof. Thomas Sakwa, Ag. Registrar in charge of Academic Affairs, reiterated Dr. Sabuni's remarks emphasizing on the need for reviewing of programmes to be in line with the country's policies.

“Universities need to take their place in the whole process of CBC,” said Prof. Sakwa.

In his opening remarks, Dr. Ndiku, who serves as the Executive Dean, School of Education, stated that the University is committed to developing market driven programmes and embrace new modes of teaching and learning.

Prof. Stephen Odebero, a senior lecturer at the University and a member of the CBC taskforce in the country, gave the keynote address during the Workshop. Prof. Odebero spoke to the attending participants on the role of the University in Competence Based Curriculum and Development of the 21st Century skills. He said that MMUST should aim at producing all-rounded individuals who are capable of meeting the challenges of the 21st Century.



Prof. Stephen Odebero giving the keynote address.

He highlighted shortcomings of the previous 8-4-4 education system such as being too academic, focused on traditional pedagogy and examination oriented, stating that the new Competence Based Curriculum focuses more on skills acquisition and character development. Prof. Odebero said that the University should prepare to accommodate the CBC Cohort transitioning to Universities by developing programs in line with the new curriculum and hire more staff in STEM areas, sports and arts.

Dr. Juma Mukhwana, KNQA Director General and CEO, talked about the need for qualification frameworks in universities. The Kenya National Qualification Authority(KNQA) coordinates and harmonizes the various levels of education and creates a database of all qualifications in the country.

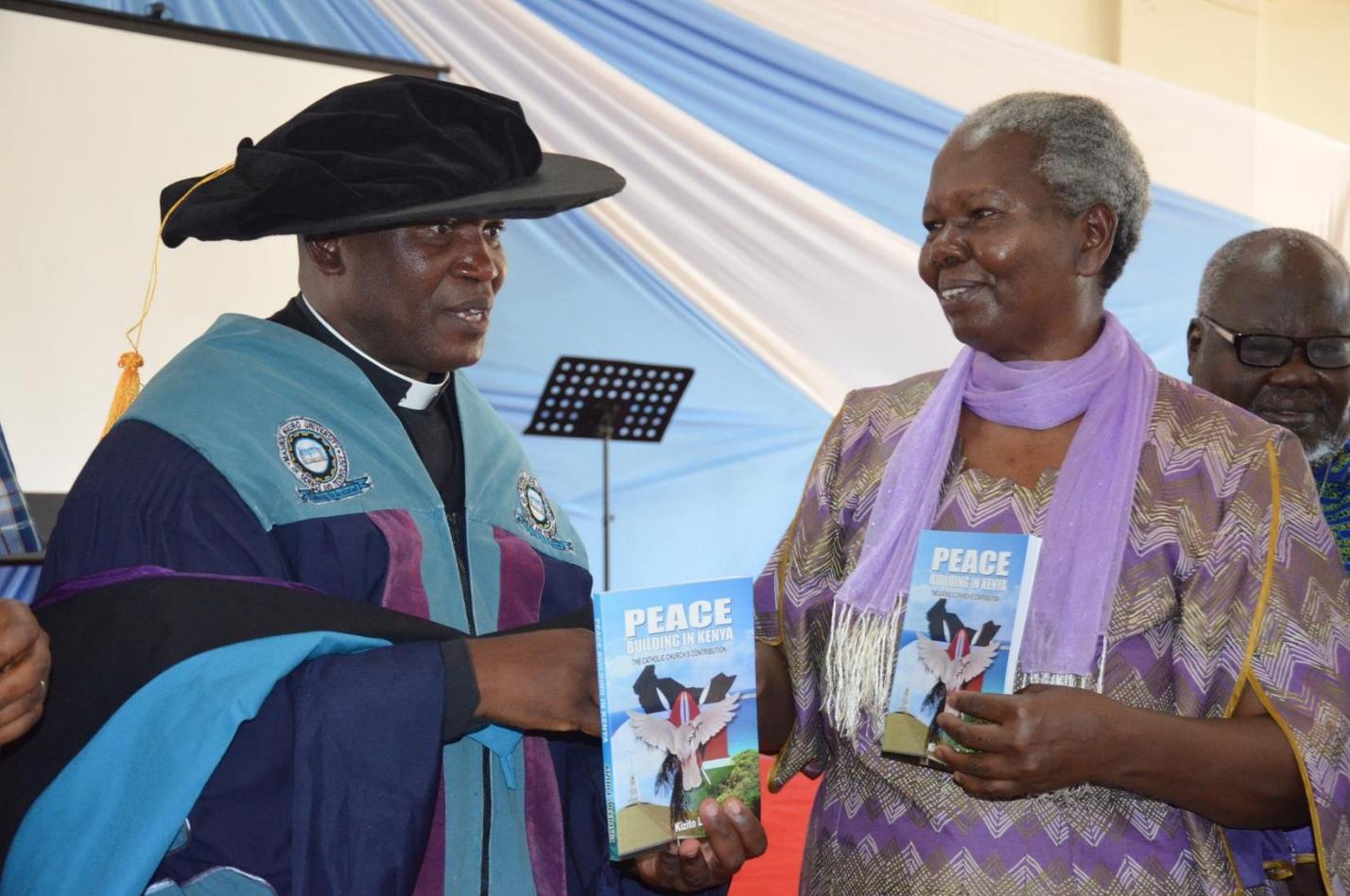
Dr. Mukhwana said that there is need for a qualification framework because there is a skills mismatch, lack of clear and standardized progression between and within levels of education, promote transparency in acquisition of qualifications and to curb the increasing rate of fraudulent academic credentials in the country.

“We need to re-engineer our training in order to be relevant to the Kenyan economy and international standards,” he said.

Mrs. Millicent Koga, a curriculum expert at KICD, also stated that teacher training is one of the key drivers for CBC. She said that schools of education in universities need to equip teachers with skills and methods to deliver CBC.



A section of the audience during the training session.



MMUST'S REV. DR. FR. KIZITO TRIGGERS INSPIRATION IN HIS NEW "PEACE BUILDING IN KENYA" BOOK

By Albert Induli

In a colorful event that brought together the MMUST fraternity at MCU on Saturday the 8th of February 2020, Dr. Muchanga actualized the idea of "PEACE BUILDING IN KENYA" in about Ten Chapters full of inspirational text and real life examples. The Book, which costs Kshs 500/-, is a product of the devoted efforts of the Catholic church in collaboration with other stakeholders towards peace Building. Dr. Muchanga adapts a holistic and multifaceted approach to issues around peace building by examining the contribution of the Catholic Church on Peace Building in Kakamega County Western Kenya. The book is guided by Functionalism theory by Emile Durkheim and the structural peace theory by Johan Gultang. It delves into the challenges and opportunities presented to the peace builder in the process of peace building.

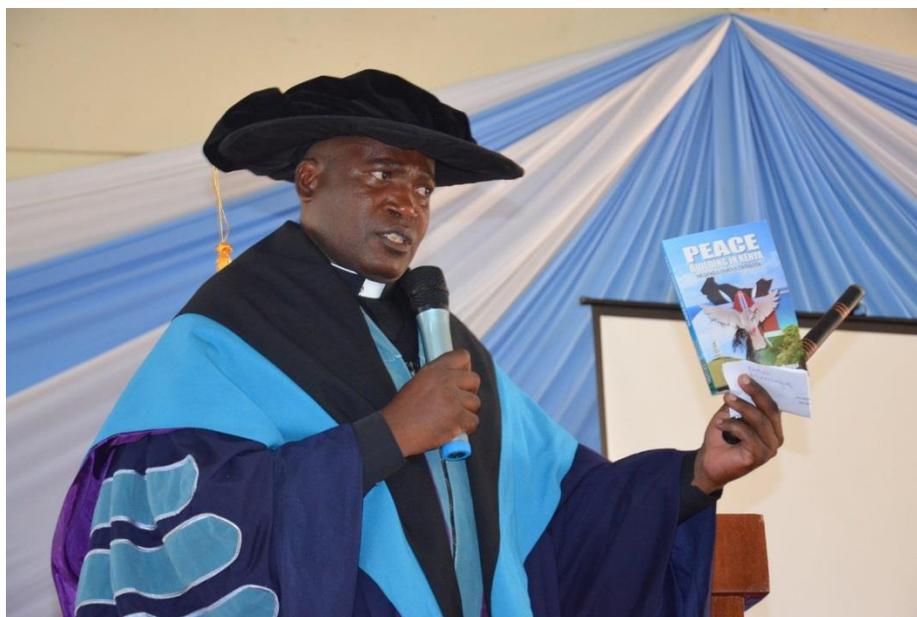
During the Launch, Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology's acting Vice Chancellor, Prof. Asenath Sigot, who graced the occasion thanked Rev. Dr. Father Muchanga for taking the challenge of authoring the book and making MMUST proud. Prof. Sigot highlighted the importance of peace and harmony asserting that it is the fundamental requisite for every development.

According to this great scholar of Kakamega based Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology, this did not happen coincidentally as many would think. It has been occasioned by the unfolding events of (BBI) Building Bridges Initiative debate in the country currently. Father Kizito conceived the idea long ago just after the 2007/08 post-election violence.

It is worth noting that, this book is a “Must Read” as Dr. Muchanga has based his research on home examples in bringing the reader close to understanding of the theme. The Roman Catholic priest draws a vivid picture of the past Kenya’s dark moments in absence of peace ...

“according to Ndege (2009), the climax of the conflicts was the 2007/8 post-election violence in Kenya. During this violence, the Catholic Parishes and churches were greatly affected. Christians who worshipped together and professed the same faith turned against each other, killing others, destroying property and displacing those deemed unwanted. According to Lonsdale (2008), this scenario was witnessed across the country and especially in parishes within and around Kakamega County, including areas like; Mumias, Mautuma, Chekalini, Kipkaren, Lumakanda, Kongoni, Nzoia, Soi, Likuyani, Malava, Mukumu, and Matunda...” (excerpt from chapter 1-THE CONCEPT OF PEACE BUILDING -PG 5).

It, therefore, goes without saying that, the Book is timely and relevantly positioned to save the current situation facing Kenyans.



Rev. Fr. Dr. Kizito Muchanga explains in summary to the audience what his new book entails during the launch.

“It is of benefit to various sectors, institutions and individuals including policy makers, academicians, the Catholic church in Kenya and Kakamega in particular. In addition, the book becomes a stepping stone for further research to understand matters of Peace Building in Principle,” observes the author.

Currently a lecturer of History and the Chaplain at Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology, Rev. Fr Dr. Kizito L. Muchanga is a priest in the Catholic Diocese of Kakamega. He holds a Diploma in Theology, and in Philosophy from St. Mbaaga Major Seminary Ggaba, Uganda. He holds a B.A in Philosophy and a B.A in Theology from Pontificia Universitas Urbaniana Institutis Affiliatis. He has a Bachelors of Education (Arts) degree and a Masters degree from Kenyatta University. The renowned member of the clergy tops up his nonstop academic venture with a Doctorate degree in Peace and Conflict Studies from Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology.



Fr. Dr. Kizito Muchanga addresses the media before the book launch. On his left is Ag. Vice Chancellor Prof. Asenath Sigot.

THE FEMALE JOURNALIST MENTORSHIP PROJECT 2020

By Marvin Wangatiah

Ten female students from the MMUST Journalism and Mass Communication Department have been enrolled into a mentorship programme for one year funded by United States Embassy in Kenya courtesy of International Association of Women in Radio and Television, IAWRT, Kenyan Chapter.



Students during the launch of the 3rd phase of the mentorship project.

The Female Journalist Mentorship programme, in its third phase, aims to nurture talent among upcoming female journalists to increase the presence and quality of women in the media industry. The programme was initiated in September, 2018 with students from University of Nairobi. MMUST female Journalism students have been privileged to be among the largest cohort, among them include students from Maasai Mara, Moi and Technical University of Mombasa.

In the programme, the students have been paired with established and successful female journalists from various media houses. The mentors equip and empower them with communication and journalism skills as well as leadership and life skills for successful careers in communication and media industry.

During the launch of the third phase mentorship project, Ms. Josephine Karani, Chairperson of International Association of Women in Radio and Television (IAWRT), Kenyan Chapter said, “Mentors have been like big sisters to the mentees, giving advice and support beyond the class set-up and providing life skills. The programme is becoming bigger and better.”

Ms. Karani also expressed confidence that the programme will help produce some of the best journalists in the country and beyond.

The two-day Workshop revisited areas in Media Ethics in the 21st Century, Fact checking as a basic tool for everyday use by journalists in the era of false news, Digital media, Creating content for both radio and television, Professional integrity, Personal branding in the newsroom and beyond, Digital netiquette among others.

MMUST Programme Chaperones were, Mr. Tom Ouko and Ms. Marvin Wangatiah of Journalism and Mass Communication Department.



The students with their chaperones.



JMC students keenly following the discussions.

MMUST CONDOLES WITH THE FAMILIES OF THE FALLEN KAKAMEGA PRIMARY PUPILS



MMUST Ag. Vice Chancellor, Prof. Asenath Sigot, seated with MPs- Emmanuel Wangwe Mumias West, Bernard Shinali-Ikolomani and Bishop Titus Khamala -Lurambi during the funeral Service at Bukhungu Stadium on Friday 7th of February 2020.

By Albert Induli

Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology, on Friday, 7th February 2020, joined the bereaved families in a requiem Mass service at Bukhungu Stadium in Kakamega County in remembrance of the departed Kakamega Primary School pupils who lost their lives in a stampede that saw 14 succumb to death and scores others injured.

The University fraternity led by Prof. Asenath Sigot, the Acting Vice Chancellor, expressed their deep sense of sympathy and solidarity with the entire Kakamega County Community for the big loss. Representatives from MMUST Kenya Red Cross and St. John Ambulance emergency teams set up a tent during the service to deal with any eventualities.

Fourteen pupils lost their lives in a stampede that occurred as they left their classrooms on the 3rd floor of a three storey building. The 3rd February 2020, 5pm, incident sent shock waves through Kakamega town as parents and relatives try to come to terms with the deaths. According to reports, 39 pupils suffered serious injuries and were rushed to Kakamega Teaching and Referral hospital.

The funeral service for the 13 of the 14 brought together leaders from all over the region. Somber stricken mourners were urged to avoid speculations and give the investigating agencies time to ascertain what really led to the incident. One of the pupils who died in the stampede, Naillah Keverenge, was buried on earlier Wednesday in line with the Islamic faith.

Rev. Dr. Fr. Kizito Muchanga of the MMUST Catholic Chaplaincy, who was among other religious leaders drawn from the Protestant churches and Hindu religion, led in praying for the affected families. They sought God's intervention for the protection against the repeat of the tragedy.

According to the Government pathologist, Dickson Mchana, they conducted limited post-mortem tests since the deaths were not contestable and it emanated that six of the fourteen pupils who passed away in the stampede died of suffocation. The School was closed temporarily for a week to pave way for thorough investigations.



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P.O.Box 190-50100

Kakamega, Kenya

Tel No: +254 702597360/1,

+254 733120020/2

Email: pr@mmust.ac.ke