



MMUST NEWS

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

Post

Vol 2 Issue 11: 1st April-14th April 2019

Review of the Strategic Plan in Realignment to the Big Four Agenda



**In our Next Issue:
Extensive Coverage on
Tamasha Week**

**UPCOMING
EVENTS**



□ 13th Multi Disciplinary International
Conference-19th June, 2019



Editor's Pen



Dear MMUST Community!

Welcome to Issue 11 of the MMUST NewsPost.

We are proud of our students for putting the name of the University on the East African map in the soon to be completed East African Community Ushirikiano Digital Campaign.

Also proud of the African Women in Science and Engineering (MMUST Chapter) for their continued mentorship of secondary school students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics disciplines.

Thank you!

Nashilluh Brendah Kabindio

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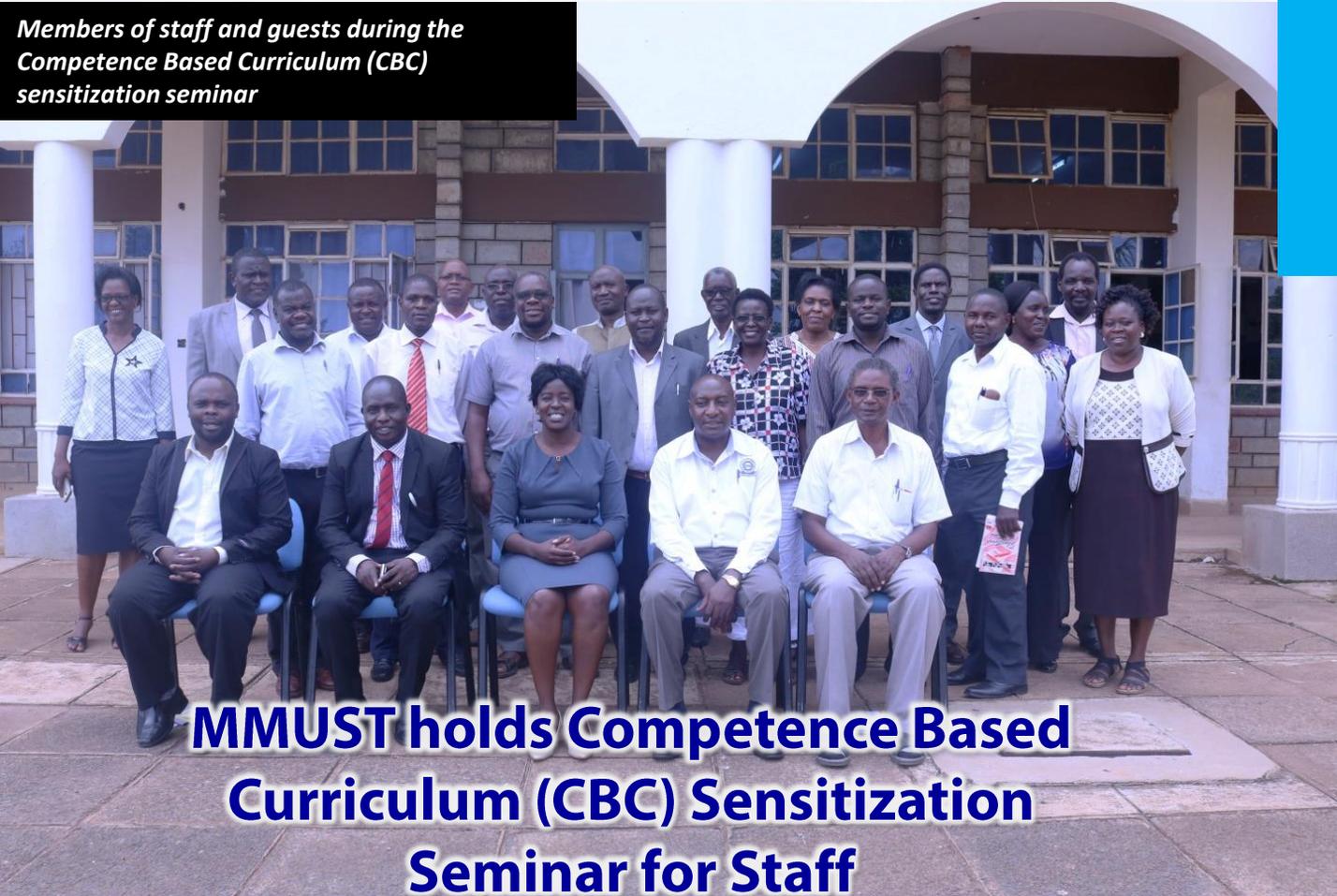
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MMUST holds Competence Based Curriculum (CBC) Sensitization Seminar for Staff

By Sandra Dorcas Awuor

T Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology (MMUST), School of Education, organized a forum for sensitization on implementation of the competence based curriculum on 4th April, 2019.

The Government of Kenya gave mandate to the Kenya Institute for Curriculum Development (KICED) to design and implement curriculum reforms with an aim of transforming education in Kenya. The Competence Based Curriculum, once fully implemented, is to replace the 8-4-4 system.

The seminar tackled key issues on the proposed 2-6-3-3 education system, dubbed as the Competence Based Curriculum, preparation for instruction in the CBC, curriculum implementation and evaluation, computer- aided instruction in implementation of Competence Based Curriculum and implication for teacher and tertiary education.

The Dean School of Education (SEDU), Dr. Judah Ndiku, said that MMUST as a training institution should make concerted efforts to embrace and make the CBC a success. He added that the proposed Competence Based Curriculum was introduced to fill the gaps in the 8-4-4 system which focused more on content rather than competencies. The 2-6-3-3 education system is meant to equip learners with 21st Century skills so that they become self- directed, culturally engaged, effective communicators, financially and economically literate, techno-savvy, globally aware and collaborators.

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According to Dr. Ndiku, Kenya has the highest number of years at primary level compared to other countries such as Tanzania and Burundi, which have 6 years at the same level. He said that there was concern over the increased number of drop-outs in Kenyan schools at Class Six.

The new curriculum framework is organized in three levels, namely; early years education, middle school education and senior school. Learners will spend 2 years in lower primary, 6 years in upper primary, 3 years in junior secondary (grade 7,8,9), 3 years in senior secondary (grade 10,11,12) and 3 years in university.

The Director, Career Services, Dr. Teresa Okoth, said that for effective implementation of the CBC, there should be effective interpretation and understanding of the curriculum design. Prof. Elizabeth Abenga of the Curriculum and Instruction Technology Department (CIT) said that the University should hold more workshops for hands on training of staff on the new education system. The Kenya Institute for Curriculum Development (KICD) new curriculum, which is mainly skill based, has introduced seven core competencies; digital literacy, learning to learn, self-efficacy, imagination and creativity, critical thinking and problem solving, citizenship, communication and collaboration.

“We need learners who can communicate and collaborate across disciplines,” said Dr. T. Okoth.

According to the KICD curriculum needs assessment report on the CBC, it is recommended that TVET programs be incorporated from the primary and all subsequent levels, also with a pathway up to relevant University Education. It was further recommended that the teacher education curriculum ought to be re-oriented to provide a balance between knowledge of appropriate content and pedagogy. Such education should provide for a competitive entry point, sufficient experience in schools and a shift

towards the CBC. The training should culminate in the award of Diplomas that offer relevant competencies of the teaching profession while also providing a pathway into the University. Teacher Education (TE) now focuses on content, compared to traditional use of grades in TE exams, TTC entry criteria and number of years spent in TTC programs to ascertain competent teachers.



Two pupils enrolled in D-School Digital program making a demonstration of the solar system

Mr. W. Kinisu, Director, D-School in Kakamega, said that the new curriculum focuses on demonstrative teaching and learning. Mr. Kinisu said that the Sustainable Development Goal 4(SDG 4) emphasizes on an inclusive and equitable quality education. However, most of Kenyan graduates lack the 21st century skills.

‘Any child can do what they can as long as they have resources,’ he said.

Other facilitators during the seminar included Prof. E. Abenga, Dr. K. Bota and Ms. Rose Auma.



Review of the Strategic Plan in Realignment to the Big Four Agenda

By Wangari Mary Wambugu

Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology held a council retreat at Le Savanna Country Lodges and Hotels, Kisumu, from 11th to 12th April, 2019, to review the strategic plan for the period 2015/16-2019/20. The two day conference was graced by the University Chancellor, the Council, the acting Vice Chancellor, members of the University management board, Deputy Vice Chancellors, a number of directors, heads of sections, among others.

Since its transition into a University, MMUST has been guided by two previous strategic plans (2004/05-2008/09 and 2009/10-2013/14) which enabled it to achieve growth and development. MMUST embarked on developing a third strategic plan, that is, 2015/16-2019/20, to; enhance the University's ability to solve problems and cope with changes in the environment, strategically identify alternative ways of generating income without compromising academic standards, help to give priority to funding allocation more rationally to avoid wastage and scramble for the limited resources by allowing prioritization of expenditure through making strategic choices, act as a tool for building consensus and commitment through stakeholder engagement in identifying priorities and provide a framework for effective monitoring and evaluation of performance.

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In his presentation during the workshop, Mr. Antony Sang, the director of strategic and institutional planning, said that the 2015/16-2019/20 strategic plan focuses on the following issues;

- Physical infrastructure
- Information and communication technology (ICT)
- Students welfare
- Teaching and learning
- Human resource management
- Governance
- Research, innovation and development
- Marketing and corporate image
- Internationalization, collaboration and linkages
- Mainstreaming social values
- Resource mobilization and investments
- Environmental management and sustainability
- Technical vocational education and training (TVET)

Key strategic objectives, which were discussed in depth during the workshop, were formulated from each issue and appropriate strategies and activities developed, which would lead to enhanced performance results identified in the plan. However, according to Mr. Sang, there have been some challenges in the strategic plan which include; inadequate human resources, insufficient ICT equipment, inadequate lecture and office space, reduced student numbers and lack of sufficient resources to fully implement the goals.

According to Mr. Dishon Wanjere, the Directorate of Strategic and Institutional Planning (DSIP) is tasked with the development, review, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the strategic plan. To achieve its mandate, a technical committee was appointed to champion the review process. "To keep our strategic plan alive, we must update it. The current strategic plan as it is needs to be reviewed," he stated. He also gave the philosophy behind the strategic plan which states that; *MMUST upholds the view that education, science and technology are indispensable tools in harnessing resources of nature for sustainable development by creating an environment in which all individuals can realize their full potential.*

The theme of the retreat was 'aligning the MMUST strategic plan to the Big Four Agenda'. As stated by Mr. Henry Wati, MMUST intends to support the agenda in the following ways;

1. Food Security and Nutrition

Modernization of the farm under the School of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences (SAVET). The farm will consist of dairy production, poultry production and aquaculture
Development of green houses
Training of agricultural specialists
Mushroom production

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2. Universal Health Care

- Enhance the effort of the School of Medicine (SOM) to boost the training of high quality doctors in the country
- The School of Public Health, Biomedical Sciences and Technology (SPHBST) will engage in extension services and campaigns in the region to increase awareness on health issues
- The School of Nursing, Midwifery and Paramedics (SONMAPS) will roll out extension services such as community training

3. Affordable Housing

- The School of Engineering and Built Environment (SEBE) will develop high quality low cost building materials
- Development and establishment of a University 'village' which will provide accommodation, for students and staff, a shopping mall, a school and other basic amenities and infrastructure. The village will be developed in collaboration with the government and the private sector

4. Manufacturing

- Incorporation of more industry-oriented programmes
- The TVET institute will establish a teaching factory which will be used for training and attachment of trainees and also do the actual production of basic industrial parts for domestic and export market
- Start the computer assembly unit through ICT
- Improve and commercialize products that have been produced in MMUST



Ag. Vice Chancellor,
Prof. Joseph Bosire making
a presentation

Mr. Wati also mentioned some of the proposals that have been made by MMUST students in contribution to the Big Four Agenda. They include; researchers who have developed ceramic non-material water purifiers, proposal to develop cheap feeds for dairy animals, creating awareness of cervical cancer and promotion of physical fitness for universal health care.

One issue that was greatly emphasized during the workshop was on marketing and corporate image of MMUST. "Modernization of the corporate unit should be made a strategy. The corporate image of the University should be improved," suggested Dr. Jeremy Bundi, the Chairman of the University Council. Other suggestions made were; corporate wear during events, increase on advertising, MMUST should also concentrate on branding other campuses, not just the main campus, use of Huduma centres to advertise and providing the best services to students, as the acting librarian said, "in most cases, a product that comes out of MMUST markets MMUST."

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Other matters raised at the conference were;

- Need to increase partnerships at local and international levels
- Accountability especially by leaders
- The importance of financial and cost management
- Security of non-residential students
- Training of virtues particularly to first year students
- The University should have a uniform way of monitoring and evaluating performance
- Strategies to increase the student numbers
- The University should know how to manage risks
- Proposal to have a resource mobilization committee
- Prioritize transition to the new ISO standards
- Strategies on how to engage the private sector

The Chancellor urged the strategic plan committee to move with speed and finalise the review process to pave way for further stakeholder involvement. The acting Vice Chancellor, Prof. Joseph Bosire said that the strategic plan is an important document as it reflects what the entire community of MMUST would want or like to see. Dr. Jeremy Bundi beseeched the MMUST community to support the University in reforming these strategies, and to avoid negative communication.

Some of the Presentations during the Kisumu Retreat



From Right; Joseph Kaira, Linet Ooko,
Bonface Nyalwal and Sam Makori
(MMUST Grand Award Winners of the
Ushirikiano Digital Campaign)



MMUST shines in East African Community (EAC) Ushirikiano Digital Campaign

By Sandra Dorcas Awuor

The Ministry of East African Community (EAC) and Regional Development, in collaboration with Riaru University, launched the Ushirikiano Digital Campaign on 27th September, 2018, aimed at creating awareness amongst youths and members of the public, on the role and integration processes within the East African Community (EAC). The campaign was held from 1st October to 31st December, 2018.

It drew participants from Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology (MMUST), Riaru University, Catholic University of East Africa (CUEA), University of Nairobi (UoN) and Technical University of Kenya (TUK) and St. Paul's University. Students engaged in development and presentation of online content within the following thematic areas; One People One Destiny, protecting shared resources for mutual development, access to education and training in the EAC, making EAC integration a youth agenda, promoting peace and security in the region for enhanced socio-economic development and any composition on EAC agenda, which was solution oriented.

Four students from Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology (MMUST), namely Joseph Kaira, Linet Ooko, Bonface Nyalwal and Sam Makori were recognized by the Ministry of EAC for their exemplary performance in the EAC Integration Social media Campaign. Bonface Nyalwal took the first position on Wordpress while Linet Ooko came in third. On Facebook, Samson Makori was in first position and Joseph Kaira was third.

Talking to Bonface Nyalwal, he said that the campaign provided an opportunity to learn leadership skills and understand how young people can be effective when given opportunities. Linet Ooko added that it was a good way to make use of time after lectures and a learning opportunity as well. "Students were able to interact and meet professionals from the EAC," said Sam Makori. Joseph Kaira said that the campaign was intense but they were persistent. He added that the campaign provided a platform for students to showcase talents in writing articles, creating videos, spoken word and fashion modeling. The four expressed their gratitude to the University for the opportunity to participate in the campaign and to their fellow students for liking, sharing and commenting on their online content.

The students are to attend the awards ceremony scheduled for 15th April, 2018 in Nairobi.



Accounting is a Profession that will be there now and Forever” CPA Edwin Makori

By Wangari Mary Wambugu

On Friday, 5th April 2019, MMUST Accounting and Finance students were privileged to meet a team from the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya (ICPAK). ICPAK is an institution mandated to protect and uphold public interest as well as develop and regulate the accountancy profession in Kenya. The group comprised of ICPAK’s Chief Executive Officer, CPA Edwin Makori, the institution’s Chair of Council, FCPA Julius Mwatu and a few council members.

The team was in MMUST to give students better guidance as they start their accounting profession. “There are a lot of opportunities in Accounting. Accounting skills are low supplied globally,” said CPA Rose Mwaura, a council member.

During his speech, CPA Edwin Makori gave an insight of the institution. According to him, the role of ICPAK is; to promote standards of professional competence and practice amongst members of the Institute, to undertake research which informs policy on issues of financial accountability and governance, to advice the cabinet secretary and the national treasury on matters relating to finance and accountability, and to discipline members where there are cases of malpractice. CPA Edwin went ahead to urge students to keep abreast of the changes in their profession. “Life does not end after exams,” he stated. He also encouraged students by mentioning successful people that are certified accountants such as the Chief Executive Officers of Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB) and Equity Bank, Joshua Oigara and James Mwangi respectively. “You’ll never stop counting money, budgeting and investing. Accounting is a profession that will be there now and forever,” he said.

The CEO urged students to register into ICPAK to become certified public accountants (CPAs). “ICPAK conducts CPA training which is meant to transform students into professionals. When you have a CPA in Kenya, you can work anywhere in the world,” he concluded.



MMUST Cultural Week Embraces Cultural Diversity for Attainment of Big Four Agenda

By Sandra Dorcas Awuor

The 2019 Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology (MMUST) Cultural Week (Tamasha) whose theme is "Recognizing and Celebrating our Cultural Heritage and Diversity for attainment of the Big 4 Agenda," was officially opened on 10th April, 2019 at the Graduation Square.

Prof. Charles Mutai, the DVC (PRI), who represented the Ag. Vice Chancellor, Prof. Joseph Bosire, said that diversity and culture should provide strength and unity to any society or country. He said that culture plays a role in driving the Big Four Agenda, which consists of four pillars; employment creation through manufacturing, affordable and decent housing, affordable healthcare, food and nutritional security. Prof. Mutai said that there are aspects of traditional medicine in the School of Medicine and aspects of building traditional houses in the School of Engineering and the Built Environment (SEBE) Department.

Dr. Bernadette Sabuni, the Ag.DVC (ASA) said that MMUST annual Cultural week started in 2003 with an aim of fostering a sense of national unity, enrich research, promote self- awareness and a sense of caring for disadvantaged in the society. She urged students to make use of their talents even as they participate in class work.

MMUSO Chair, Clifton Kisera said that this year's Tamasha is student centered and celebrates diversity. He said that it creates a strong bond between comrades and external community, while nurturing talents.

On 11th and 12th April, 2019, there were cultural exhibitions by students representing different tribes. The Kuria performed a traditional dance, encouraging circumcision as a way of reducing the risk of contracting HIV/AIDS. There were also medical camps which provided free HIV testing.

The 2019 Tamasha Cultural Festivals provided a platform for students to showcase their talents and cultural heritage through music, dance, attire, food and lifestyle. There were a range of performances from students, which was proof that MMUST nurtures talents. Some of the activities for this year's Tamasha festival include cultural exhibitions, bullfighting, Mr. and Miss MMUST, Miss Jumbo and Mr. Flex and an inter-denominational mass led by the University Chaplains, Rev. Dr. W. Otuya and Rev. Dr. K. Muchanga.

PICTURE SPEAK

Students from various schools on an outreach programme on the girl child organized by UNESCO, NACOSTI, and Ministry of Education paid a visit to the University on Thursday, 11th April 2019. The students were mentored on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics disciplines by the MMUST Chapter African Women in Science and Engineering (AWSE).



**IN OUR NEXT ISSUE>>>
COMPREHENSIVE COVERAGE
ON MMUST TAMASHA
CULTURAL EVENT**



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Post

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