



# MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY

## NEWSLETTER

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



University Member of Council Ms. Agnes Busienei (2<sup>nd</sup> left), the Vice-Chancellor Prof. Peninah Aloo-Obudho (3<sup>rd</sup> right), A.g DVC, RIO Prof Francis Mburu (right), Bishop Dr. Augustine Rugut (2<sup>nd</sup> right) and Bishop Sam Moonka (3<sup>rd</sup> left) with a section of University management and the prayer day committee members in a group photo.

### TOP NEWS: ANNUAL PRAYER DAY (MAOMBI KWA WOTE) - A MOMENT OF FAITH, UNITY AND REFLECTION

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## ANNUAL PRAYER DAY (MAOMBI KWA WOTE) - A MOMENT OF FAITH, UNITY AND REFLECTION

The atmosphere at the University was filled with serenity and purpose as students, faculty, and staff gathered to observe Prayer Day — a beautiful reminder of the power of prayer, faith and togetherness. It was a moment of reflection, thanksgiving, worship, and renewed hope.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. P. Aloo-Obudho, alongside the Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research Innovation and Outreach Prof. Francis Mburu, shared the history of the prayer initiative.

The V.C acknowledged the challenges the institution faced in the year 2025, noting that despite the hardships, God had seen the university through. She expressed optimism that 2026 would mark a year of restoration, divine acceleration, breakthroughs, blessings, peace and growth, appreciating all who set aside time to participate in the prayers. " This University is going experience restoration. I am seeing a brighter future. Without God, our efforts are futile, " the V.C highlighted. The V.C drew scriptural reflections from the books of Jeremiah 33:3, Psalms 20:7 and Isaiah 43:18-19 emphasizing trust and divine guidance.



*The Vice-Chancellor Prof. Peninah Aloo-Obudho officially opened the prayer day.*

Bishop Dr. Augustine Rugut led the prayers for the university . He called on the university to uphold God’s word with the assurance that , “Keep the word and your door shall be open.”

He guided the congregation through a solemn session of repentance and forgiveness, dedicating the institution’s leadership, staff, and students to God. The sermon was delivered by Bishop Sam Moonka, who preached from Joshua 1:6–9 on strategies for success, urging the university community to be courageous and spiritually strategic. The worship team, Maasai Mara University Catholic Association and the S.D.A group punctuated the session with melodious songs of praise and worship.

Drawing further teachings from 2 Corinthians 10:3–5 and 2 Kings 6:24, he challenged all present to embrace a lifestyle of consistent prayer , praying every day and at all times as a foundation for victory and transformation within the university.

From heartfelt prayers to soul-lifting hymns, the hall transformed into a sanctuary of hope, gratitude, and renewed strength. In the midst of busy schedules and academic pursuits, this special day allowed everyone to pause, reflect, and reconnect — not only spiritually, but as one united community.

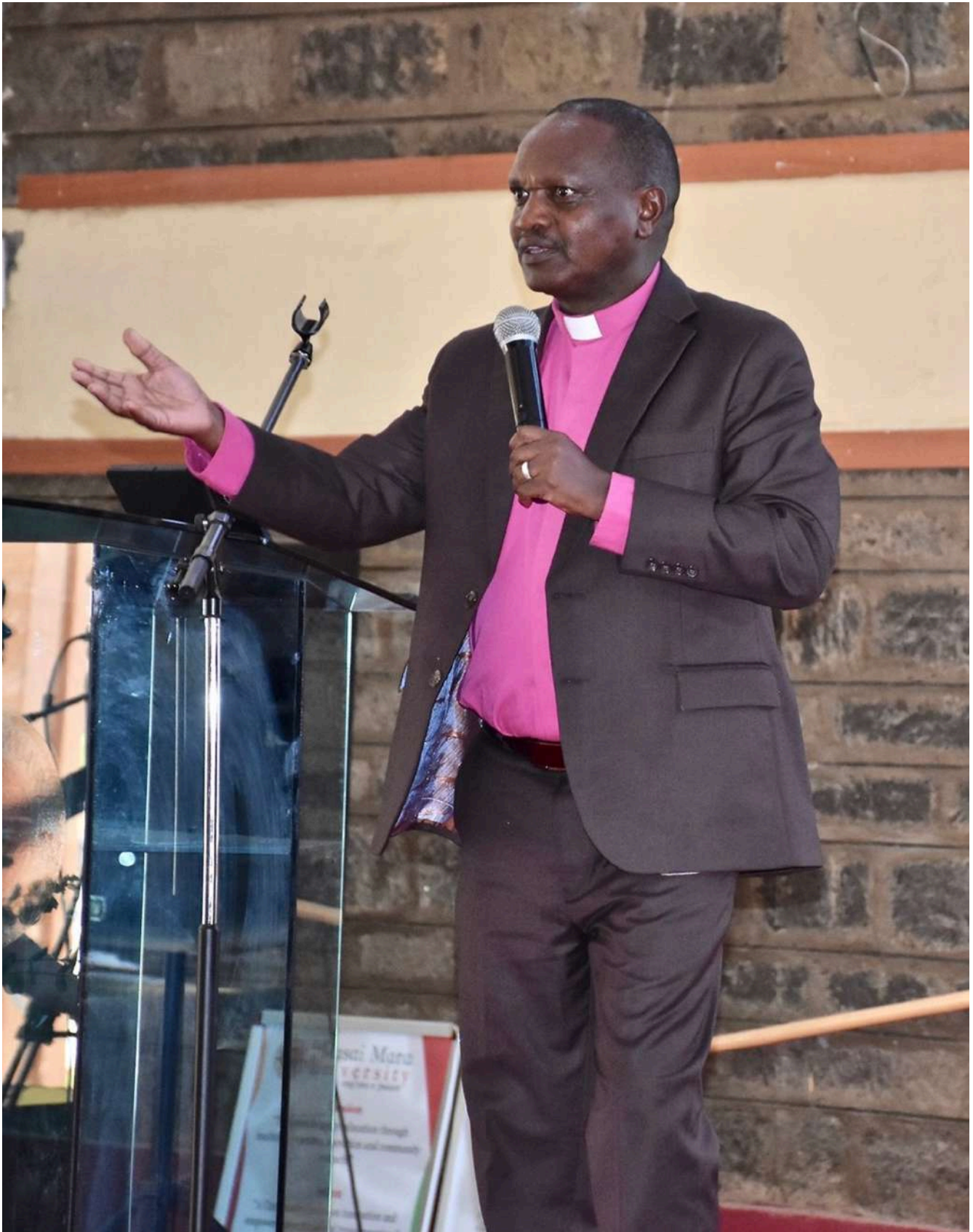
As voices rose in prayer and hearts aligned in faith, we were reminded that beyond academics, the University stands strong on values of compassion, integrity, and belief.



*Culture and prayers. University Member of Council Ms. Agnes Busienei (right) joins the Vice-Chancellor Prof. Peninah Aloo-Obudho (2<sup>nd</sup> right), Bishop Dr. Augustine Rugut (left) and Bishop Sam Moonka (2<sup>nd</sup> left) adorned in Maasai Shukas.*



*University management present, visitors, staff and students in a prayer moment.*



*Bishop Dr. Augustine Rugut led the congregants in praying for the University prosperity and transformation*



*Bishop Sam Moonka, the preacher of the day.*

Maasai Mara University hosted Hon. Josphat Lowoi Lodeya, Head Secretary for Minorities and Marginalized Affairs Unit-(MMAU) in the Executive Office of the President of Kenya, for discussions on strengthening collaboration in Indigenous-led research, education, cultural heritage and sustainable livelihoods.

Hon Lodeya later paid a courtesy call on the Vice-Chancellor. The engagement was hosted by the Maasai Mara University's Centre for Cultural Heritage Studies and facilitated through Dr. Charity Konana. This is a positive step toward advancing Indigenous knowledge and cultural heritage.



*The Vice-Chancellor Prof. Peninah Aloo-Obudho (2nd left) with Head Secretary for Minorities and Marginalized Affairs Unit-(MMAU), Hon. Josphat Lowoi Lodeya (2nd right), Dr. Charity Konana (left) and Mr. Bursuna Ejere (right).*



*Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research Innovation and Outreach Prof. Francis Mburu (Centre) contributing during the active engagement sessions.*



*Head Secretary for Minorities and Marginalized Affairs Unit-(MMAU), Hon. Josphat Lowoi Lodeya (left) at the meeting advancing indigenous Research, Heritage and Sustainable Livelihoods at Mmara-U. DVC Research Innovation and Outreach Prof. Francis Mburu is 2nd left with Dr. Charity Konana (2nd right), Maasai Mara University's Centre for Cultural Heritage Studies.*

## COMPLIANCE IN FOCUS: INTERNAL AUDIT DEBRIEF

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peninah Aloo-Obudho, attended the internal audit closing meeting for the Integrated Management System (IMS), during which she praised the consultant, management, and process owners for their dedication throughout the audit.

In her remarks, the Vice-Chancellor lauded the ongoing collaboration with the external ISO auditors to identify and resolve areas needing corrective action, emphasizing that this would help the University fully meet the highest standards established by the IMS.

The meeting was also attended by: The Deputy Vice-Chancellor Administration, Finance, and Strategy, Prof. J. Nampushi; Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research, Innovation, and Outreach Prof. F. Mburu; ISO Standards Consultant Mr. Martin Nyongesa; deans; Department Chairpersons (CODs); and other key members of the University community.



*The Vice-Chancellor Prof. Peninah Aloo-Obudho (3<sup>rd</sup> right), the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Administration, Finance, and Strategy, Prof. James Nampushi (2<sup>nd</sup> right), Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research, Innovation, and Outreach Prof. Francis Mburu (2<sup>nd</sup> left) and the ISO Standards Consultant Mr. Martin Nyongesa (4<sup>th</sup> right) during the audit closing meeting.*



*Turning Findings into Action! The dean school of business and economics Dr. Maurice Ombok (standing) joins the Internal Audit Closing Conversations for effective service delivery.*



*A cross-section of members of the University staff keenly following the proceedings of the meeting.*

# STRENGTHENING ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIPS: VISITING SCHOLAR FROM OJIBO HAMANI UNIVERSITY ENGAGES WITH LEADERSHIP AT MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY



*The Vice-Chancellor Prof. Peninah Aloo-Obudho (centre) with Dr. Adamou Ide Oumarou (left) and the Dean School of Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences and Creative Industries Prof. Benard Kodak*

Visiting Senior Lecturer Dr. Adamou Ide Oumarou paid a courtesy visit on the Vice-Chancellor Prof. Peninah Aloo-Obudho.

The meeting provided an opportunity to exchange ideas, strengthen professional ties, and discuss avenues for future academic and research collaboration.

Dr. Ide is from Ojibo Hamani University, Tahoua, Niger. He will be at Maasai Mara University for three months post-doctoral studies in the department of Languages, Linguistics and Culture. Dr. Ide was accompanied by his host, the Dean School of Arts the Dean School of Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences and Creative Industries Prof. Benard Kodak.

The courtesy call reflects our shared commitment to fostering strong institutional relationships and promoting scholarly growth.

We appreciate the visit and look forward to the positive outcomes that will emerge from this engagement.

# 7TH MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION ELECTION

Maasai Mara University Students' Association successfully conducted peaceful election for the 7<sup>th</sup> season.

The election culminated into the swearing in ceremony presided over by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peninah Aloo Obudho. The V.C commended the outgoing Chairperson, Victor Muema, and the 6<sup>th</sup> MMUSA Council for their dedicated service. She also congratulated the newly elected student council, led by Victor Mitema, and applauded the student body for conducting peaceful, mature, and credible elections, noting that the process demonstrated democratic maturity and a strong sense of growth among students.

The Vice-Chancellor challenged the new leadership to live up to the confidence placed in them by their peers, emphasizing that students expect guidance and effective representation. She reminded them that they serve as a vital link between University Management and the student community and must maintain clear and consistent communication. She encouraged the council to embrace dialogue, seek mentorship from the outgoing leadership, balance academic responsibilities with leadership roles, and uphold integrity, honesty, empathy, and a positive institutional image. In her closing remarks, she urged all students to maintain good conduct and strive to leave a legacy of excellence.



The vice-chancellor Prof. Peninah Aloo-Obudho (4<sup>th</sup> right) with the newly elected 7<sup>th</sup> MMUSA office leaders and the outgoing officials.



*Oath of office. The President Elect, Mr Victor Mitema being sworn in.*



*The 7<sup>th</sup> MMUSA office bearers. From left to right: President Victor Mitema, Vice-President Pauline Njeri, Secretary General Mohamed Ali, C.S Finance Gerald Kioko, C.S Academics Zachary Kamau , C.S Health Whitney Fabesha, and C.S Sports Washington Amollo*

The seven student council members were sworn in before the Deputy Chief Legal Officer, Mr. Alfred Nyabwocha

Also present at the ceremony were Prof. Edward Tanui, Ag. Deputy Vice-Chancellor (A&SA); Prof. Aloys Osano, Ag. Deputy Vice-Chancellor (F&S); the Ag. Dean of Students, Dr. Sr. Alice Sambu; the Chief Returning Officer, Dr. Samwel Bangara; the Deputy Returning Officer, Ms. Cecily Murage; and the ISEC Chairperson, Mr. Bashir.



*The Dean of students Mr. Adan Mohammed over-seeing the election process that was generally peaceful*

## MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Maasai Mara University ad-hoc committee on establishment of Maasai Mara University College convened a meeting with the late Member of Parliament for Emurua Dikirr Constituency, Hon. Johanna Ngeno, to officially kick off the feasibility study for the proposed establishment of a Maasai Mara University College in Emurua Dikirr Constituency.

The meeting deliberated on the visibility and viability of the proposed institution, which aims to expand access to higher education and promote socio-economic development in the region.

In attendance were: The Deputy Governor of Narok County, Hon. Tamalinye Koech, the Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor Prof Francis Mburu, who represented the Vice-Chancellor, the members of the ad-hoc committee, chaired by the Dean School of Business and Economics Dr. Maurice Ombok who also represented Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academic and Students Affairs.



*Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor Research Innovation and Outreach Prof Francis Mburu (2<sup>nd</sup> left), joins with the Member of Parliament for Emurua Dikirr Constituency, Hon. Johanna Ngeno, (centre), the Deputy Governor of Narok County, Hon. Tamalinye Koech, (2<sup>nd</sup> right), the Dean School of Business and Economics Dr. Maurice Ombok (left) and the Dean school of Education Prof. Edward Tanui (right) in a group photo. Others, standing from left to right: Dr. Augustine Kara, Dr. Nancy Kimile, Ms. Jaquiline Naulikha and Ms. Pentina Ayabei.*

Discussions focused on the scope of the feasibility study, infrastructure requirements, academic programs, and collaborative efforts between the county government, the constituency leadership, and Maasai Mara University to ensure the successful establishment of the proposed university college.

The initiative marks an important step towards strengthening higher education opportunities in Narok County and advancing the University's mission of training, research, and community outreach



*Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor Research Innovation and Outreach Prof Francis Mburu (right), welcomes the Member of Parliament for Emurua Dikirr Constituency, Hon. Johanna Ngeno, (left) with the Deputy Governor of Narok County, Hon. Tamalinye Koech (Centre).*



*The Deputy Governor of Narok County, Hon. Tamalinye Koech, signing the visitors book.*



*Ongoing session charting a way forward for the establishment of Maasai Mara University college in Emurua Dikirr Constituency.*

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## COMMISSION FOR UNIVERSITY EDUCATION

12.	Pwani University	2013
13.	Kisii University	2013
14.	University of Eldoret	2013
15.	Maasai Mara University	2013
16.	Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology	2013
17.	Laikipia University	2013
18.	South Eastern Kenya University	2013
19.	Meru University of Science and Technology	2013
20.	Multimedia University of Kenya	2013
21.	University of Kabianga	2013
22.	Karatina University	2013
23.	Kibabii University	2015
24.	Rongo University	2016
25.	The Co-operative University of Kenya	2016
26.	Taita Taveta University	2016
27.	Murang'a University of Technology	2016
28.	University of Embu	2016
29.	Machakos University	2016
30.	Kirinyaga University	2016
31.	Garissa University	2017
32.	Alupe University	2022

Maasai Mara University is among the 65 universities officially approved by the Commission for University Education (CUE) to operate in Kenya, following a notice issued on Tuesday, January 20.

# NATIONAL EARTH OBSERVATION AND INNOVATION LAB PROJECT COMPETITION

Maasai Mara University participated in the National Earth Observation and Innovation Lab Project Competition held at Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (DeKUT) on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2026 under the theme “Using Earth Observation to Drive Innovation for Sustainable Development.”

The University was represented by Jared George, School of Natural Resources, Department of DESGP – Urban and Regional Planning, Peter Kimani, Computer Science, and Millie Mateima, School of Natural Resources.

This marked a significant milestone for the School of Natural Resources, which had previously seen limited engagement in national innovation competitions.

The event was jointly organized by DeKUT, the Kenya Space Agency (KSA), and Expertise France (EF), and hosted by the Center for Spatial Information Science and Systems (CSISS) under the Institute of Geomatics, GIS and Remote Sensing (IGGRoS).



*Mmara-U was well represented during the National Earth Observation and Innovation Lab Project Competition held at Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (DeKUT).*



*Mmara-U representatives at the competition.*



*A group photo of the participants at the National Earth Observation and Innovation Lab Project Competition held at Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (DeKUT).*

## ROLLOUT OF MICROSOFT OFFICE 365 E3 AND E5 LICENSES

Maasai Mara University once again re-affirmed commitment to accelerate digital transformation with the official rollout of Microsoft Office 365 E3 and E5 licenses. The deployment, carried out under the guidance of Computer Revolution Africa (CRA), a Microsoft partner seconded to the university by the ICT Authority, mark a significant milestone in the institution's journey toward modernized, secure, and efficient service delivery.

The launch ceremony was presided over by the Vice Chancellor represented by Ag. DVC RIO Prof. Francis Mburu, who was joined by members of senior management, Directors, Deans, and Chairs of Departments. Together, they commissioned the deployment of 50 Microsoft Office 365 licenses, strategically allocated to offices critical to the university's operations.

In his remarks, the Vice-Chancellor underscored the importance of data protection compliance and reaffirmed the university's commitment to eliminating counterfeit software. He noted that reliance on unauthorized tools has historically led to data loss, a risk the university is determined to minimize such risks through genuine, enterprise-grade solutions. This initiative is part of a government-backed program that is distributing 10,000 free Microsoft Office 365 E3/E5 licenses to Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) across Kenya. Maasai Mara University secured its share of the licenses through a successful bid, positioning itself among the beneficiaries of this nationwide digital empowerment drive.

Beyond providing staff with access to powerful productivity tools such as Word, Excel, PowerPoint, OneDrive, and SharePoint, the deployment signals a broader transformation. It reflects Kenya's commitment to strengthening ICT infrastructure in public institutions, ensuring that education and governance are powered by secure, modern, and collaborative technologies.



*Participants of the Rollout of Microsoft Office 365 E3 and E5 licenses in a group photo.*



*Practical sessions: accelerating digital transformation with the official rollout of Microsoft Office 365 E3 and E5 licenses.*



*The Dean school of arts, humanities, social sciences and creative industries Prof. Benard Kodak (standing) embracing digital transformation and advancement.*

# THE FOURTH NATIONAL ECONOMICS DEBATE COMPETITION

Maasai Mara University participated in the Fourth National Economics Debate Competition held at Machakos University on 31st October 2025, alongside sixteen universities from across Kenya. The competition focused on defining a fair and inclusive economic structure in Kenya and featured Debate and Creative Writing categories.

The university team performed strongly in the debates, addressing key economic issues such as the labor market, trade development, fiscal policy, and the role of government, and finished fifth overall in the debate category. Their most notable success came in the Collaborative Writing segment, where Joyfridah Mumbi and Louise Peggy Rasiga tied for first place.

These achievements propelled Maasai Mara University to second position overall in the competition. The experience offered valuable opportunities for intellectual growth and engagement with national economic issues. The team expressed appreciation to Mr. Job Ogada, the team patron, for his guidance and support, and to Dr. Patrick Gudda, Director of Student Career and Placement Services, for facilitating opportunities to engage with professionals and peers in the field of Economics.



*Members of Economics Debate Club were the second-best overall position. where Joyfridah Mumbi and Louise Peggy Rasiga tied for first place in the Collaborative Writing segment*



*One of the convenors congratulating Joyfridah Mumbi.*

# 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES ADMISSION DAY , MAGUNGA IN SUBA, HOMA BAY COUNTY



*Director Public Relations, Marketing and Linkages Dr. Edward Kateyia (left) and Angela Lemein (Centre) with the managing director, Suba Educational Resource , Dr. Ben Seno at the Mmara-U booth*

The University participated in the the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Colleges and Universities Admission Day , at Magunga in Suba, Homa Bay county. The event was attended by 42 institutions of learning

The team: Dr. Edward Kateiya, Director Public Relations, Marketing and Linkages (PRM&L), Catherine Kamwaro , Nickson Magak (PRM&L) and Angela Lemein Admissions, had the incredible opportunity to connect with aspiring students, parents, and education stakeholders.

Our team engaged participants with detailed information about our diverse academic programs, career pathways, admission requirements, mentorship, the value of professionalism, and student life at the University.

It was inspiring to interact with bright, ambitious students eager to shape their futures through quality higher education.

At Mmara-U, we remain committed to empowering the next generation with knowledge, skills, and innovation for global impact.

Thank you to everyone who visited our booth and showed interest in joining the Mmara-U family. Your future starts here!



Angela Lemein, Admissions and Nickson Magak, PRM&L assisting prospective students with programme information and the admission process during at the booth.



Director Public Relations, Marketing and Linkages Dr. Edward Kateyia (2<sup>nd</sup> right) and Angela Lemein assisting and prospective student (standing) and her parents.

## 2ND PUBLIC LECTURE BY PROF. PETER KAGWANJA

Prof. Peter Kagwanja a distinguished intellectual, adviser, and political strategist, delivered the second Public Lecture at Maasai Mara University. This is part of the series of Public Lectures domiciled in the office of the Vice-Chancellor. The lecture, themed “Ethnicity and Land Politics in Kenya: Challenges and Opportunities,” attracted both staff and students and featured the keynote lecture, engaging panel discussions, and interactive Q&A sessions.

This initiative reflects the University’s commitment to quality teaching and learning, student mentorship and dedication to exposing learners to insightful academic discourse on critical topics of national importance.



*Prof. Peter Kagwanja giving a public lecture talk dubbed “Ethnicity and Land Politics in Kenya: Challenges and Opportunities”.*



The Vice-Chancellor Prof. P. Aloo-Obudho (2<sup>nd</sup> right), Prof. Peter Kagwanja (seated centre), Mrs Kagwanja (wearing a cap), Acting DVC- RIO, Prof. Francis Mburu (right) and Director, RIO, Prof. Alloys Osano (left) joined staff in a group photo



Ms. Juliet Oduor (right) contributing during the talk

## INDIGENOUS-LED INNOVATION: SHAPING RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

Maasai Mara University, ILEPA, other stakeholders, and members of the community convened strategic discussions in a workshop coordinated by the Centre for Cultural Heritage Studies aimed at strengthening collaboration with the Minorities and Marginalized Affairs Unit (MMAU) in advancing Indigenous-led research, education, cultural heritage preservation, and sustainable livelihoods.

The engagement culminated in presentations and constructive stakeholder feedback, reaffirming continued support for the MMAU in the development of a Bill and an Indigenous Knowledge Institute targeting Minorities and Marginalized Communities in Kenya.



*Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research, Innovation and Outreach Prof. Francis Mburu opening the workshop on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor.*



*Bursuna Ejere, the Centre for Cultural Heritage Studies, facilitating the workshop*



*A cross-section of the participants in attendance*

## COLLABORATION IN ACTION: MMARA-U EXCHANGE ENGAGEMENT WITH KENYA FORESTRY COLLEGE

The Maasai Mara University (Mmara-U) representatives were privileged to conduct an exchange visit to the prestigious Kenya Forestry College in Londiani.

The Mmara-U team was led by members of the Mmara-U and KFS MOU steering committee: Director of Public Relations, Marketing and Linkages (PRM&L), Dr. Edward Kateiya, Dean of the School of Natural Resources, Environmental Studies and Agriculture, Dr. Samson Mabwoga, Chairperson of the Department of Forestry and Wildlife, Dr. Paul Oyier, and other members of staff from DPRM&L.

The Kenya Forests Services (KFS) was represented by: the Principal, Mr. Francis Musyimi, Deputy Principal, Francis Owuor, Dean of Students, Margaret Githaiga, Chief Forest Conservator, Narok, Mr. Patrick Wasike, and members of management and staff.

The visit marked an important step in implementing the Mmara-U and Kenya Forest Service MOU, strengthening partnerships, fostering knowledge exchange, and enhancing academic excellence in forestry and environmental studies.



*Representatives from Maasai Mara University and Kenya Forestry College in a group photo outside KFC administration block.*



*Ongoing deliberations and discussion. Mr. Francis Musyimi (left) principal KFC with Mnara-U representatives: Dr. Paul Oyier (2<sup>nd</sup> left), Dr. Samson Mabwoga (Centre) Dr. Edward Kateiya (2<sup>nd</sup> right) and Nickson Magak (right)*

During the engagement, both institutions engaged in:

- Comparative forestry studies curriculum review, harmonization, and training modules
- An extensive tour of the KFC infrastructures and facilities
- Discussions on exchange programme and attachment opportunities
- Marketing of the academic programme and admission requirements
- Sustainable forestry management
- Research and innovation initiatives
- Community engagement and environmental conservation strategies.

The exercise provided valuable insights into capacity building, modern forestry technologies, and collaborative research opportunities aimed at promoting sustainable natural resource management.

This exchange not only strengthens our academic cooperation but also reinforces Mmara-U's commitment to internationalization, experiential learning, and continuous improvement.

We look forward to deeper collaboration, joint research projects, staff and student exchange programs, and shared growth in advancing environmental sustainability.



*The team touring the KFC value addition centre which is well equipped and placed in wood production technology, processing and preservation. Graduates under-go a holistic training in forestry from tree nursery to final products value addition.*



*Forestry officer (right) taking the team through modern tree nursery management at the KFS tree nursery and practical learning field.*

# INSPIRING SUSTAINABILITY IN FUTURE TOURISM LEADERS! -MAARIFA PROGRAMME



*A group photo of the Sustainability Talk meeting participants*

Let'sGo Travel Uniglobe, under the aegis of MAARIFA Programme, and in collaboration with the School of Tourism and Hospitality successfully hosted an engaging and insightful Sustainability Talk for 121 students passionate about shaping the future of travel and hospitality. This is in line with the niche of the university on Tourism, Environmental Management and Conservation

The MAARIFA programme introduces students to the principles and practice of sustainable tourism. The program covers foundations of sustainability, environmental and socio-cultural dimensions, economic viability, innovation and technology, case studies from Kenya and East Africa, responsible traveler behavior, and career pathways in green tourism.

The sessions highlighted the growing importance of sustainable tourism practices, responsible travel, and the role young professionals play in protecting our planet while driving industry growth. Students gained valuable insights into eco-friendly operations, ethical travel trends, and practical steps to incorporate sustainability into their future careers.

The sessions blended lectures, interactive discussions, and mini projects and practical activities aiming to inspire students to become future advocates and innovators in sustainable tourism.

It was truly inspiring to see the enthusiasm, curiosity, and commitment of the students toward building a greener, more responsible tourism industry.

A big thank you to the faculty and students of the School of Tourism and Hospitality for their warm participation and thoughtful discussions. Together, we move towards innovations in tourism and a more sustainable future.



*Some of the Mmara-U students attentively following the Sustainability Talk proceedings at the Main Hall.*



*Some of the facilitators from Let's Go Travel Uniglobe: MAARIFA Programme*



*Dr. Justus Muchiri and Dr. Catherine Kifworo ( standing left and right respectively) during the meeting*

## INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY

Maasai Mara University marked this year's International Mother Tongue language Day with vibrant celebrations that underscored the importance of preserving and promoting indigenous languages for cultural sustainability.

Present at the event were Dr. Dominic Menge, Dean of School of Pure and Applied Sciences, the Dean of the School of Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences and Creative Industries, Prof. Bernard Kodak, Mr. Bursuna Ejere, Coordinator of the Centre for Cultural Heritage Studies, the Chair of Languages, Linguistics and Culture, Dr. Lily Koske, Dr. Juliet Oduor from the MFC Department and other members of staff and students.



*The panellists at the celebration of the International International Mother Tongue Language Day held in the Main Hall*

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The celebration featured insightful academic presentations. Dr. Catherine Lore presented a paper titled “Indigenous Language Vitality and Attitudes among Dholuo Native Speakers,” highlighting the current status of indigenous languages and the need to strengthen positive attitudes toward their use. Mr. Maison Ole Nkurranah recited a moving poem in the Maa dialect titled “Muain Sidain” (Beautiful Shades), showcasing the richness and aesthetic value of indigenous expression. Dr. Nchorira Naikuni delivered a presentation on “Language and Intergenerational Communication,” emphasizing the role of language in bridging generational gaps and transmitting cultural knowledge.

The event later transitioned into a panel discussion and question-and-answer session moderated by Muyanga Muthama. The panelists included Dr. Lily Koske, a lecturer at Maasai Mara University, Mr. Maison Ole Nkurranah, a writer, Dr. Nchorira Naikuni, a lecturer and Maa elder, and John Owuor, a student representative from the university. The discussion provided a platform for participants to reflect on the challenges and opportunities surrounding mother tongue language preservation in contemporary society.

The celebration concluded with a strong call to embrace and promote mother languages as vital tools for cultural identity, heritage preservation, and sustainable development



*A group photo of the participants during the celebration of the International Mother Language Day*



*The Dean of the School of Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences and Creative Industries, Prof. Bernard Kodak at the event.*



*Acting Deputy Registrar (RIO) Mr. Galfen Omuse, (2<sup>nd</sup> right) led the Mmara-U team for the Green Cover Concept exercise at Osegel Comprehensive School, Narok North. The team planted donated tree seedlings.*

Maasai Mara University continues to champion environmental sustainability! The team took the Green Cover Concept to Osegel Comprehensive School in Narok North for a massive tree-planting exercise. Representing the Vice-Chancellor Prof. P.Aloo-Obudho and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (RIO) Prof. Francis Mburu, who are the champions of the project, the Acting Deputy Registrar (RIO) Mr. Galfen Omuse emphasized that involving young learners in conservation is the key to a sustainable future. In this elaborate exercise, at-least 3,000 tree seedlings were planted within the school compound and 2,000 trees donated to the local community to boost regional reforestation.

Special thanks to our host, Principal Naomi Kasero, and Board Member Ms. Josephine Kuresha, whose dual roles at the school and university helped bridge this partnership.

This initiative is a testament to the visionary leadership of our Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peninah Aloo -Obudho (Team Leader of the Green Cover Concept Project), and Prof. Francis Mburu, DVC-RIO (Chairman of the Green Cover Concept Committee). Together, we are growing a greener tomorrow!



*University staff planting seedlings at Osegel Comprehensive School, Narok North*



*Acting Deputy Registrar (RIO) Mr. Galfen Omuse (2<sup>nd</sup> left), Alice Sointa (left) and George Kemboi (2<sup>nd</sup> right) joined by the Principal Osegel Comprehensive School Naomi Kasero (right) deliberating about the day's event.*

## MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY HOSTS INSTITUTIONS FOR STUDENT SERVICE OUTREACH

Maasai Mara University hosted a multi-agency outreach program bringing essential services closer to students and the larger university community. Among the institutions present were Light Shepherd Hospital, Huduma Centre– Narok Branch, and the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC).

Light Shepherd Hospital partnered with the university to offer free medical services, including general check-ups and consultations, promoting preventive healthcare among students. Huduma Centre provided various government services, enabling students to access essential documentation and assistance conveniently within the campus.

Meanwhile, the IEBC conducted continuous voter registration in preparation for the 2027 General Elections, encouraging eligible students to register and participate in the democratic process. The initiative reflects the university's commitment to supporting student welfare, civic engagement, and institutional collaboration.



*Voter registration exercises offered at the University premises.*



*Integrated Government services at the doorstep. Students and staff benefited from a range of government services*



*Light Shepherd Hospital offered various health services to students at the University during the outreach services.*

## MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY MARKS WORLD WETLANDS DAY IN NAROK COUNTY

Maasai Mara University, through a team led by Mr. Galfen Omuse, the Acting Deputy Registrar for Research, Innovation and Outreach (RIO), participated in the organisation and celebration of World Wetlands Day on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2025 at Keyian Ward, Enosaen, Kilgoris, in Narok County.

The event was a collaborative initiative involving Maasai Mara University, the Narok County Government, and the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA). The Chief Guest was Mr. Chuck Musau, Deputy County Commissioner, Transmara West. Also in attendance was Mr. Jackson Muturo, Director of NEMA, alongside other government officials, community leaders, university staff, and students.

The celebration featured speeches and tree-planting activities aimed at raising awareness on the importance of wetlands and the need for their conservation. Participants were sensitized on the critical role wetlands play in water purification, climate regulation, wildlife protection, and the maintenance of ecological balance. They are breeding and feeding grounds for many aquatic birds. Speakers further highlighted the significance of wetlands in supporting biodiversity and sustainable development, while showcasing Maasai Mara University's commitment to the implementation of the 5M Pillars and its strategic focus on the University's niche areas. Through such initiatives, Maasai Mara University continues to promote environmental responsibility and strengthen community engagement in conservation efforts, reaffirming its dedication to safeguarding natural ecosystems for present and future generations.



*The Acting Deputy Registrar for Research, Innovation and Outreach (RIO) Mr. Galfen Omuse (2<sup>nd</sup> right) with a section of University staff who participated in the celebration of World Wetlands Day on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2025 at Keyian Ward, Enosaen, Kilgoris, Narok County.*



*Mmara-U staff Mercy Nkipida planting a tree seedling in celebrating the world wetlands day*



*Acting Deputy Registrar for Research, Innovation and Outreach (RIO) Mr. Galfen Omuse addressing participants of World Wetlands Day at Keyian Ward, Enosaen, Kilgoris, Narok County.*



*University staff planting seedlings during the event*

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## MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY PARTICIPATES IN THE COMMEMORATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ZERO TOLERANCE TO FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION (FGM)



*Opening procession for the International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) held at Naikarra Comprehensive Boarding School, Naikarra Ward, Narok West Sub-County*

Maasai Mara University participated in the commemoration of the International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) held at Naikarra Comprehensive Boarding School, Naikarra Ward, Narok West Sub-County on 5th February 2026. World Vision organised the event in collaboration with other Civil Society Organizations and development partners under the umbrella of the Narok County Gender Technical Working Group.

The 2026 commemoration was held under the global theme: “Her Voice Matters in the Global Movement to End FGM.” The theme underscored the importance of amplifying the voices of girls and women in efforts to eliminate harmful cultural practices and promote gender equality.

Also, the event brought together representatives from national and county governments, the judiciary, development partners, community leaders, and learners. Among those present were Mrs. Agnes Ngeno, Narok County Director representing the State Department of Gender and Affirmative Action; Ms. Pauline Naikuni, Narok County Government Gender Coordinator; representatives from the Ministry of Health, the State Department of Youth Affairs and Creative Economy, Children Services, and the Narok Law Courts, among others.

In her address, Mrs. Agnes Ngeno sensitized young girls on the importance of reporting Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) cases, including FGM. She informed the audience about the toll-free hotline 116, accessible on any phone, including non-digital devices, and encouraged timely reporting to enable protection and access to justice.

Mrs. Ngeno further highlighted the “My Dear Daughter” Campaign to End Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), a national initiative championed by the Office of the First Lady. Launched in 2025 during the National Launch of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, the campaign seeks to accelerate the elimination of FGM in Kenya and globally.



*Dr. Kennedy Karani Onyiko, Director of Gender, Equity, and Culture, led the University team .*

She explained that the campaign is anchored on a three-legged stool model, comprising:

1. Men as Custodians of Culture, whose leadership and influence are critical in transforming harmful cultural norms;
2. Mothers as Survivors Turned Protectors, who are empowered to break the cycle of FGM and protect their daughters; and
3. Girls as the Generation to End FGM, whose voices and aspirations are central to achieving lasting change.

As part of her remarks, Mrs. Ngeno also referenced a historic declaration by the Maasai community, in which elders, women, and girls jointly committed to eradicate FGM, child marriage, and gender-based violence within Maa communities. She noted that the declaration included commitments to end FGM in Narok and Kajiado counties, affirm equal blessings and value for both cut and uncut girls, allow uncut girls full participation in cultural ceremonies, and develop a community-driven Alternative Rite of Passage (ARP) that preserves cultural identity without causing harm. She emphasized that this declaration represents a significant cultural shift toward safeguarding the health, dignity, and future of girls and women.

The Guest of Honour, Senior Magistrate Nancy Baraza, assured the community of continued support from the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) in enforcing anti-FGM legislation. She further outlined circumstances under which individuals can be charged with FGM-related offences under the Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation Act, 2011, including: Directly performing FGM, Aiding, abetting, or counseling FGM, Allowing premises to be used for FGM, Possession of equipment intended for FGM, Failure to report FGM, Procuring or taking a person abroad for FGM, Using derogatory or harassing language related to FGM, Self-procuring FGM

Maasai Maa University was represented by Dr. Kennedy Karani Onyiko, Director of Gender, Equity, and Culture, who encouraged learners, particularly girls, to focus on their education, work hard, achieve good academic performance, and aspire to pursue university education as a pathway to empowerment and leadership.

In conclusion, the commemoration provided a strong platform for advocacy, legal awareness, cultural dialogue, and community engagement in the fight against FGM. The University reaffirmed its commitment to supporting initiatives that promote gender equality, human rights, and the empowerment of girls and women.



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