

Mount Kenya University



12th Graduation Ceremony

Theme: The Role of Ethics and Values in Sustainable Socio-economic Development

MORE THAN 6,000 GRADUANDS READY FOR GRADUATION AT MKU

Mount Kenya University (MKU) will tomorrow hold its 12th Graduation Ceremony at its main campus in Thika town. The university will confer degrees and award various academic certificates to a total of 6,603 candidates who have successfully completed their studies. Bachelors' degree programmes account for

the bulk of the numbers, with 4,157 graduands. Other graduands will receive diplomas or certificates, and a few will be conferred with doctorate degrees. The university continues to release highly skilled graduates who are absorbed in public service, private firms, non-governmental organisations and international

agencies. The enterprising ones set up own firms to employ themselves and others. The theme for the ceremony is, "The Role of Ethics and Values in Sustainable Socio-economic Development." The graduation ceremony will be aired live on Citizen TV from 9am tomorrow.

CHIEF SPEAKER

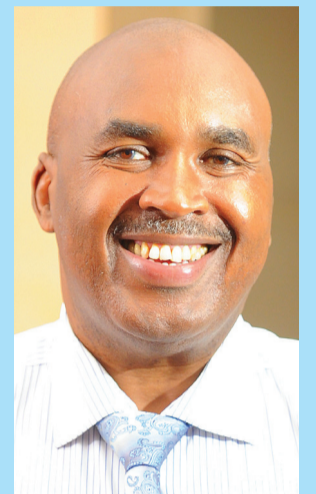


Prof. Olive M. Mugenda, Ph.D, CBS

Prof Olive Mugenda, immediate former Kenyatta University Vice-Chancellor, will be the chief speaker during Mount Kenya University's 12th Graduation Ceremony. She will deliver a keynote speech titled, *The Role of Ethics and Values in Sustainable Socio-economic Development*. She served as Kenyatta University Vice-Chancellor from 2006 to March 2016, during which she transformed the university into an entrepreneurial and research institution and championed innovation in academics, administration and research. For this achievement, the French government awarded her the Order of

Academic Palms. Prof. Mugenda sits in a number of boards, serving at Nation Media Group, UBA Kenya Bank Limited, African Centre for Transformative and Inclusive Leadership Initiative, and the Global Training and Research Programme of the University of California. She is also a member of the Steering Committee for the Young African Leadership Initiative. Prof. Mugenda is a recipient of the Elder of Burning Spear and Chief of the Order of the Burning Spear presidential awards. She is also a recipient of the Ernst and Young Lifetime Achievement Award, and

was recently honoured with the prestigious Impact Research and Science in Sub-Saharan Africa Award by the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture. She holds a first class honours degree in education from the University of Nairobi, a Master of Science degree and PhD in Family and Consumer Sciences from Iowa State University (USA), and a Master of Business Administration from the Eastern and Southern Africa Management Institute. She is involved in consultancy work focusing on training in leadership and governance.



WELL SET IN OUR ROLE TO CREATE INNOVATIVE ENTREPRENEURS

Mount Kenya University (MKU) continues to commit huge resources towards building the entrepreneurial capacity of its graduates. This is through the Graduate Enterprise Academy (GEA), where we nurture business start-ups of our students. We would like to see our alumni develop into top-notch entrepreneurs who create jobs for themselves and for others, while offering services and producing goods innovatively. MKU appreciates that entrepreneurship is an important part of a nation's ability to develop a competitive advantage in the global market place. We recognise too that innovation is the major element of success in entrepreneurship. It is the ultimate instrument of entrepreneurs. We must therefore promote it.

Indeed, Africa must unleash investors and entrepreneurs who will apply their innovative spirit to solve the numerous challenges that still call for solutions.

Africa has all that is needed to eradicate poverty, disease and other societal vices. By exploiting synergies, we can attain this dream in the spirit of pan-Africanism.

Kenya can contribute to this by equipping young minds to embrace innovation. As MKU, we are playing our part through GEA.

Prof Simon N. Gicharu, CBS, Founder and Chairman,

SO MANY PARTNERSHIPS, SO MUCH IMPACT

Mount Kenya University (MKU) is cultivating more strategic partnerships. These are fruitful linkages that build institutions and society in general. Using the open school approach, the MKU School of Education faculty induct inmates at Naivasha Maximum Security Prison on pedagogical skills. The inmates, in turn, act as teachers to fellow inmates. MKU has a joint research and exchange partnership with Vincent Pol University, (in Poland): the Erasmus+ programme.

The MKU and University of West of Scotland partnership focuses on establishing, where appropriate, franchising/local delivery agreements for specified programmes.

National Commission for Integration and Cohesion (NCIC), a government agency, partnered with MKU in a recent International Conference for Peace, Security and Social Enterprise hosted in Nairobi. MKU has so far signed two memoranda with two UNESCO offices: the UNESCO headquarters in Paris and the Kenya National Commission for UNESCO (KNATCOM) in Nairobi.

The MKU partnership with Makerere University Business School (MUBS) is effective this year to enable the partners



to jointly offer the Executive Master of Business Administration (EMBA) programme. The two institutions will also collaborate on joint research, joint publications, mentoring of student leaders and at the MKU Graduate Enterprise Academy's programme. MKU partnered with Africa Cyber Space Network during the international peace conference and hosted a panel to discuss on ways of seeking solution to Cyber Crime. The university is partnering with the Wadhvani Foundation, a Silicon Valley firm, in inculcating entrepreneurial skills among its students.

Prof Victoria Wulsin, Ph.D, Chancellor, MKU

WHY RESEARCH IS A BIG THING AT MKU



Universities exist to primarily contribute to the development and prosperity of society. This mandate is vested on the academia, who society views as the ultimate generator of knowledge that addresses societal challenges. It is, therefore, a reasonable community expectation for universities to prioritise research. At Mount Kenya University, we continue to establish ourselves as a lighthouse and a citadel in solving the challenges that afflict the community through research. We have, therefore, made deliberate efforts to build our capacity in terms of infrastructure, human capital and external collaborations in research. In community-oriented research, the University has endeavoured to fill the gap between academia and community needs by initiating programmes, in collaboration with partners, that impact directly to the welfare of society.

Prof Stanley W. Waudu, Ph.D, Vice-Chancellor

QUALITY LEADERSHIP BEHIND MKU SUCCESS



Leadership has a critical role in quality management. It determines the levels of transparency and accountability in the management of institutions, as well as the level of success.

In recognition of the critical role that policies play in guiding the process of decision-making and institutional operations, the University recently approved several new policies to support existing ones.

I recognise that we are in election period, and my humble appeal to all is that regardless of your political inclination, let us keep peace.

Prof David K. Serem, Ph.D, Council Chair, MKU

SOME PhD GRADUANDS



WAWERU PETER NDIRANGU, candidate, PhD in Education Management, Administration and Leadership: "MKU provided a serene environment for me to learn and its staff members guided me to remain on course in my pursuit of a PhD degree."



SEVERINA WAMBETI, candidate, PhD in Education Management, Administration and Leadership: "I value the skills and knowledge I have acquired during my studies at Mount Kenya University. Now trained to an advanced level, I look forward to serving as a lecturer and partnering with development-conscious leaders to improve the living standard of communities across Kenya."

DOUBLE FORTUNE FOR 14 GEA BENEFICIARIES

As 14 apprentices commissioned by Mount Kenya University's (MKU's) Graduate Enterprise Academy (GEA) in April found out, fortune favours the bold. Family Bank, through its Chief Executive Officer, Dr David Thuku, offered to further mentor them for another year - for free.

Dr Thuku, the Chief Guest at the commissioning ceremony on 27 April 2017, announced that, the 14 apprentices would enjoy free membership in the bank's Business Club for a year. The club offers a networking forum for small and medium enterprises. This additional mentoring is on top of the nurturing and handholding GEA has taken them through for a year - also for free.

SYNERGETIC LINKAGES



MKU Vice-Chancellor Professor Stanley W. Waudu receives guests from Clarke University. The visitors were part of a team from Clarke and Dixie universities, USA, on an exchange programme with MKU comprising 16 students and four members of staff.

Mount Kenya University

12th Graduation Ceremony



Venue: MKU Graduation Pavilion,
Happy Valley Grounds,
Thika- Garissa Road

Live on: @9.00am
Friday 7th July, 2017

STRING OF STAFF AWARDS SHOWS SPIRIT OF EXCELLENCE AT MKU

Mount Kenya University (MKU) faculty members and administrators with a knack for research are flying the institution's flag high in the region. Two of them beat their colleagues drawn from the East African Community member states to scoop top awards. Yet another winner is an information technology tutor who has earned global recognition for excellence in his work. Ms Hannah Nyakio, a Preclinical Coordinator and lecturer at the School of Pharmacy, was feted as one of the presenters of the best six papers at the

6th East African Health and Scientific Conference and International Health Exhibition and Trade Fair, held in Bujumbura, Burundi earlier this year. She presented a research paper highlighting how a novel combination of two drugs could be used to treat malaria.

On his part, science faculty member Mr Donatus Njoroge is one of East Africa's champion innovators. He developed a plant-derived fumigant that repels and kills pests of stored food. The MKU staffer emerged second in a competition held in Arusha, Tanzania last April that attracted 250 participants from the region.

Mr Njoroge, a School of Pure and Applied Sciences faculty member, was the only Kenyan winner in the competition that featured innovators from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi.

Yet another winner is IT lecturer Mr Charles Ng'ang'a. The Cisco Networking Academy has recognised him as one of the top 25 per cent of instructors globally in the Cisco networking system. Mr Ng'ang'a, a lecturer at MKU, has been recognised for Advanced Level Instructor excellence and lasting contribution to the academy.

STRUCTURAL GROWTH CONTINUES



The magnificent Alumni Plaza

WHY WE REMAIN CONNECTED TO MKU

I wish to convey my appreciation to the Mount Kenya University (MKU) Board of Directors, led by Prof Simon N. Gicharu, as well as to the University Council and the entire management for the tremendous achievements the institution continues to register. More specifically, we are proud of the magnificent **Alumni Plaza**, which stands out as a demonstration to the world of our Alma Mater's confidence in us, her alumni. I am proud to note that through the Graduate Alumni Relations Office, a new wave has been

generated across the University's alumni chapters since last year, linking students in the various departments with the alumni for support in soft skills development. Let us continue working together to create a bright future. I call upon all the MKU family out there in the political arena as well as all of us and all Kenyans in general to conduct their campaigns and elections peacefully.

Peter Saroni, Alumnus,
School of Hospitality, Travel and
Tourism Management

FOCUS ON SCIENCE TRAINING DELIVERS MKU TO THE TOP - CPS SURVEY

It is ranked first among private Universities

Mount Kenya University (MKU) leads in science training in Kenya, topping private universities. At the same time, it is among the top 10 among all universities in Kenya. This is according to research conducted by CPS Research International. The survey found that "it is almost two to five times harder to find a private university offering hands-on science

courses such as nursing, engineering or computing." MKU scored highly because it offers all these. The CPS research thus vindicates the University's decision to invest heavily in science training. The survey, titled "**State of Science Training in Kenyan Universities**", also revealed that in the top five private university category, MKU topped both the sciences and arts lists at 3.1 percent (or 64 courses), and 3.3 percent (30 courses) in that order.

INVESTMENTS IN RESEARCH BEARING FRUIT

Over the years, the research and innovation capability of Mount Kenya University has experienced tremendous growth. This has been as a result of heavy investments in the enablers of research, inter alia policy documents, human capital, research infrastructure and finances. These efforts are now bearing fruit. For instance, there has been double digit growth annually in the number of scientific publications, students and staff attending local and international conferences, and in the number of donor supported projects. In 2015, the University received research grants worth Ksh140 million. The University has received research funding from USAID, NACOSTI, TWAS (2013), DFID, Bill & Melinda Gates, Templeton World Charity Foundation Inc, among others.

MKU ESTABLISHES NEWBORN FACILITIES IN BUNGOMA

Mount Kenya University, in partnership with Bungoma County Government, has built eight newborn units in a project funded by County Innovation Challenge Fund (CICF) through the Department for International Development (DFID-UK). The project aims to enhance survival of neonates by improving quality of care and access to newborn services in the eight sub-counties of Bungoma County. It is expected that there will be increased utilisation of quality neonatal services and that the health system management will be strengthened to deliver quality.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Kenya National Commission for UNESCO Deputy Director Dr. Reuben Nthamburi (left) donates a Digital Television Set, a DVD player, antennae and Digital Content from the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD) to Naivasha Maximum Prison officer in charge, Patrick Kiriinya Mwenda. This was during an education evaluation programme conducted among inmates so as to promote quality education. Looking on in a white t-shirt is Mount Kenya University's School of Education Director Mr Moses Nderitu. The school donated books, pens and bar soaps.

MKU GETS A CLEAN BILL OF HEALTH

The committee that Education Cabinet Secretary, Dr. Fred Matiang'i, tasked to conduct a quality audit in all Kenyan universities released the final report in February 2017. The Commission for University Education (CUE) audit affirmed that MKU had, in mounting its programmes, firmly stuck to the letter of the law. The inspection focused on the university's governance and management systems, quality aspects, teaching and learning process, and research. The university was found to be compliant, and was given recommendations on areas to improve. "This fits well with our quality policy that emphasises continuous improvement," says the Vice-Chancellor Prof Stanley W. Waudo.

VARSITY ROOTS FOR PEACE IN AFRICA

Mount Kenya University (MKU) has given the drive for peace in Africa a major fillip. This is after hosting an International Conference on Peace, Security and Social Enterprise, which established a think tank named African Consortium for Peace (AC4P). The university donated Sh5 million towards the consortium's establishment. AC4P is a platform to deliberate and promote a peaceful future for Africa. MKU sponsored the conference to the tune of Sh10 million, and teamed up with several partners to make the event a huge success.



Releasing doves during the official opening of the MKU-organised International Peace, Security and Social Enterprise conference in May are (from left to right) Prof John Struthers of the University of West of Scotland, Major-General (Rtd) Joseph Nkaissey, Kenya's Cabinet Secretary for Interior and Coordination of National Government, Prof Simon N. Gicharu, MKU Founder and Board Chairman, Rwanda's High Commissioner to Kenya His Excellency Ambassador James Kimonyo and Kenya's National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC) Chair, Francis Ole Kaparo.

Mount Kenya University
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