



MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY

»» NEWSLETTER ««

THE VOICE OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE



Mr. A. J. Patel (seated centre), The Vice-Chancellor on his left in a group photo with a cross section of University Management.

TOP NEWS OF THE MONTH

IN THIS EDITION

- PUBLIC LECTURE BY A.J. PATEL ON "LOSING IN LIFE IS THE PATH TO WINNING: INVESTMENT AND CHANGE OF MIND-SET"
- ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MAA CULTURE AT MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY
- MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY HOSTED RELIGIOUS LEADERS CONFERENCE IN AUGUST 2024.
- MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY RANKED 4TH IN THE UNIVERSITY'S JOURNEY TOWARDS BECOMING A MATURE ENTREPRENEURIAL UNIVERSITY
- MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY PARTICIPATES IN BASI EXHIBITION IN MBITA, HOMA BAY COUNTY
- DIRECTORATE OF ICT AND E-LEARNING STAFF ATTENDED SKILLS ENHANCEMENT TRAININGS
- ORBITUARIES

PUBLIC LECTURE BY A.J. PATEL ON "LOSING IN LIFE IS THE PATH TO WINNING: INVESTMENT AND CHANGE OF MIND-SET"

A.J. Patel is a successful entrepreneur and investor and co-founder of TiE organization rooted in Silicon Valley, USA. The visionary leader is passionate about networking and entrepreneurship via mentorship. He gave an inspiring talk to the University staff on investment and change of mind set.

Mr. Patel's personal story and brief on his life is an exemplary connotation on success brewed on a positive mindset. Mr. Patel, among other Asian communities was kicked out of Uganda during the Iddi Amin regime and ended up in Silicon Valley.



Mr. A.J. Patel, (2nd right) clad in a Maasai Shuka, The Vice-Chancellor Prof. P. Aloo-Obudho, (2nd left) Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic and Student Affairs (A&SA), Prof. Bulitia Godrick Mathews (left) and Dr. Edward Kateiya, (right), Director, Public Relations and Linkages at the VC's office.

‘Even after being kicked out of Africa, I was still very passionate about helping Africa. I was shaped by what I saw and I grew up with. I am motivated by the desire to be known as having impacted positively on others’.

“ Our lives are built on cracks and we got to have principles in order to succeed,” he emphasized that entrepreneurship success is not devoid of challenges. This he relates with many childhood challenges he faced and triumphed. “ If you are not prepared to lose in life, then you’ll never win”. Mr. Patel noted that investment success requires a firm conviction, risk taking and a positive mindset . One must know and understand that there’s always different sides of things. He added that different peoples have different strength that they should use to succeed.

He also noted that entrepreneurship is open and is not a closed event. Other ingredients of investment success he mentioned include; right mentorship, time and money investment, working together and team work, risk taking, avoiding excuses, effective planning and goal setting among others. Mr. Patel stressed that history does not change and urged everyone to work on where to go next. On this aspect, there is need for a clear map of life. For him, he set a target of three stages of life that included; raising a family and retiring at 50, making enough wealth and using the wealth to help others for the soul’s satisfaction.

“Retirement does not mean doing nothing, do your homework before opening your mouth”, he said. He posed a rhetorical question, “What would you want to be known for?”



A.J. Patel giving his talk during the Public Lecture at Maasai Mara University

He explained that people who have some fire from within go about doing good to others and that is what drives him. A.J Patel elaborated that Silicon Valley is a society that takes pride in creating mindsets but NOT the people, life is built on the foundation of Character, religious, social, and cultural activities narrow down one’s mind and entrepreneurship exposes one’s mind and that success in investment is not how one approaches a problem but how the problem is solved.

The Vice-Chancellor Prof. Peninah Aloo-Obudho led a cross sections of University management in welcoming Mr. Patel; Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic and Student Affairs (A&SA), Prof. Bulitia Godrick Mathews, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Administration, Finance and Strategy, (AF&S), Prof. James Nampushi, Registrar Academic Affairs (AA), Dr. Fredrick Otieno, Registrar Administration and

Strategy, Samuel Partoip, Chief Finance Officer, Mr. Skamo Loltianya, Dean of Students, Mr. Mohamed Adan, Chief Procurement Officer, Mr. Julius Oyamo, Director Endowment, Mr. Lankeu Reson, Director Public Relations and Linkages, Dr. Edward Kateiya among other staff.

The Vice-Chancellor gave a brief snapshot of the University; schools, university niche, vision and mission of the university. She mentioned that the University is among the 14 selected in Kenya for piloting of the entrepreneurship and innovation. The University strives to be a Centre of excellence in tourism.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MAA CULTURE AT MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY



Leading the way in celebrating the Maa attire is the Chancellor, Dr. Vimal Shah (Centre) in full regalia during his installation. He is flanked by the Chairman of Council (L), Dr. Kennedy Ole Kerei and the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. P. Aloo-Obudho (R). Watching is Mrs Shah in the background.

Maasai Mara University is located in Narok County where the pre-dominant community is the Maasai people. The community is known for their rich culture which has permeated the rest of Kenya and across the globe. One of the major components of their culture is their style of dressing-Red shuka or beaded attires.

Maasai Mara University recently re-branded itself using what has come to be known as the 5-Ms.

They include: the Maasai Mara Game Reserve, the Mau Forest Ecosystem, Mara River Ecosystem (including the 8th Wonder-the wild beast Migration), The Maa Culture and “Maombi Kwa Wote” (Prayers for all). To implement the Maa culture component, the University has adopted a culture of wearing a Maa attire every Friday to promote the rich culture which is closely intertwined with tourism in Kenya. This has now formed the culture of the University.



Ladies in the University Council fully branded in Maa attire. From L to R : Ms. Elizabeth Ayoo, Prof. P. Aloo-Obudho, Dr. Susan Chebet and Ms. Agnes Busienei



Council Members out in the field garlanded in red Maasai Shukas and looking splendid. Extreme left is Ms. Agnes Busienei, The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. P. Aloo-Obudho, Dr. Kennedy Ole Kerei (Council Chair), Ms. Elizabeth Ayoo, Dr. Susan Chebet and Amb. Peter Nkuraiya.



Students of Maasi Mara University during a cultural event

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MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY HOSTED RELIGIOUS LEADERS CONFERENCE IN AUGUST 2024.



Part of Religious leaders in a group photo with the Vice-Chancellor. Seated R to L; Bishop Augustine Rugutt, Mrs Randy, Vice-Chancellor, Prof. P. Aloo-Obudho, Pastor Randy, Amb. Peter. Nkuraiyia (Council Member) and another Pastor. Standing L to R: CPA Shikanga Malanga (Council Member), two pastors and Dr. Susan Chebet (Council Member)

Maasai Mara University had the privilege of hosting the above leadership conference. Preparing the way ministries in Partnership with Narok Town Bishops and pastors fellowship organized a Leadership Conference which was held at Maasai Mara University in Narok, Kenya from August 6th to August 10th, 2024. The event witnessed an impressive attendance of approximately 1,400 leaders, with around 271 participants opting for boarding accommodations. The conference was sponsored by Preparing the Way Ministries, led by Pastors Randy and Bonnie Martin in conjunction with Narok Town Bishops and pastors fellowship. Their commitment to empowering leaders aligns with the organization's mission of preparing the church for the imminent return of Jesus Christ.

The conference featured 18 seasoned facilitators who provided valuable training on a range of topics essential for holistic leadership development. Each day encompassed four intensive training sessions, covering various subjects, including: - Agribusiness, Starting and running profitable businesses, Mental health awareness, among other topics touching on spiritual growth, Personal welfare, and community empowerment.

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The sessions aimed not only to equip leaders with practical skills but also to inspire them to enact meaningful changes within their communities.

Preparing the Way Ministries operates under the vision of preparing the church for Christ's return. The organization emphasizes the need for pre-preparation, urging leaders to live impactful lives as they await His coming. The conference highlighted the essential resources the church needs to extend the love of Christ to those in need, emphasizing the importance of financial support for spreading the gospel.

The pillars of Preparing the Way Ministries—Evangelism, Leaders Trainings, and Community Empowerment—were fundamental themes throughout the conference. These guiding principles reflect the organization's dedication to fostering a community of leaders who are not only spiritually prepared but also equipped to make a positive impact in their respective areas of influence.

The sponsors led by Pastor Randy and Bonnie Martin paid a courtesy call to the Vice-Chancellor Prof. Peninah Aloo Obudho, where they shared the objective of the conference and further had discussion on possibility of having a University Chapel for staff and students. The team offered prayers for the university community in the Vice-Chancellors Board Room.



Pastor Randy branded in a Maasai Shuka. Looking on are Bishop Rugutt, Vice-Chancellor, Amb. Peter. Nkuraiya and CPA Malanga.



Mrs Randy flanked by the Vice-Chancellor and Dr. Chebet

In conclusion, the Leaders Conference at Maasai Mara University was a significant event that served to strengthen the capabilities of leaders through comprehensive training and vital discussions. It provided a platform for networking and collaboration among leaders dedicated to serving their communities while preparing for the future. The work of Preparing the Way Ministries continues to be crucial as it equips leaders to spread love, hope, and the message of the gospel effectively.



Praise and worship session during the leadership conference

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MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY RANKED 4TH IN THE UNIVERSITY'S JOURNEY TOWARDS BECOMING A MATURE ENTREPRENEURIAL UNIVERSITY



The Principal Secretary, Ministry of Education, Dr. B. Inyangala (Seated 4th from right) with the Vice-Chancellors of the 14 Pilot universities. Seated 3rd from left is the Vice-Chancellor of Maasai Mara University, Prof. P. Aloo-Obudho and 2nd from right is the CEO of KENIA, Dr. Tony Omwansa.

Maasai Mara University (Mmarau) has embarked on a transformative journey to become an entrepreneurial and Innovative university. This transformation aims to enhance the institution's role in fostering innovation, economic growth, and community development.

This journey is through the support of Kenya National Innovation Agency (KeNIA) under the Institutional Support Programme. Under this programme, the 14 participating institutions are tasked with coming up with their unique masterplan to lay the strategy to be applied in transforming from the traditional teaching and research university to a world class entrepreneurial university. Maasai Mara University's strategic initiative, encapsulated in the Maasai Mara University Commercialization & Entrepreneurial Masterplan 2024-2027, seeks to integrate entrepreneurial and commercialization strategies into the core fabric of the university's activities.

Between 27th and 31st of August 2024, a team from Maasai Mara University led by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peninah Aloo-Obudho attended a training workshop in Mombasa on the theme "Youth, Jobs and Wealth Creation through Innovation and Entrepreneurship". The objective of the workshop was how to strengthen the innovation ecosystem in universities. The workshop organized by the Kenya National Innovation (KENIA) brought together local and international universities and the private sector to share experiences. The 14 participating local universities included Moi University, Maasai Mara University, University of Embu, KCA University, Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology, University of Nairobi and Daystar University among others. The International Universities included the University of Safford (UK), University of Lagos (Nigeria) and University of Ghana (Ghana), among others.

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Maasai Mara University has been on the journey towards becoming an Entrepreneurial University since November, 2023. During this journey, the university has been subjected to two Peer Assessment. Out of the 14 universities, Maasai Mara University was ranked number 4 as an emerging Entrepreneurial University. This is a major achievement given that the university was the last institution to be admitted in to the class of the 14 pilot universities.

This is a major milestone for the university and a testament of the potential of the university to be an Entrepreneurial university. The team behind this sterling performance include Prof. J. Simiyu, Dr.A. Osano, Dr. J. Ombiro, Mr. A. Marjan, Mr. G. Omuse and Mr. B. Chaka. The next steps will be intergrating Entrepreneurship in the curriculum, sensitization of staff and appointing Entrepreneurship champions among others. The message from the workshop was to inculcate Entrepreneurial culture in the university.



The Innovation Team from Maasai Mara University. L to R are Dr. A. Osano, Prof. J. Simiyu, Mr. A. Marjan and Mr. G. Omuse

MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY PARTICIPATES IN BASI EXHIBITION IN MBITA, HOMA BAY COUNTY



A group photo of the Representatives of the University at the Mbita Exhibition led by Dr. Kateiya, Director of PR, Marketing and Linkages (2nd from left).

Maasai Mara University staff participated in the BASI - Bless A Soul International Universities and Colleges Exhibition at Mbita High School, Homa Bay, on July 19-20, 2024. The exhibition, organized by a youth mentorship organization, aimed to enlighten students about career choices and promote university programs. The university aimed to market its academic programs, increase its visibility, and engage with prospective students. Activities included face-to-face interactions, career talks, mentorship, and providing information on course requirements, funding, and scholarships.

Benefits

The event directly reached seven secondary schools, with over 200 students expressing interest in joining Maasai Mara University. The university enhanced its image and visibility, gaining insights into student expectations and needs while also networking with other institutions. Besides, students from the county had a chance to know about programmes offered at Maasai Mara University.

Key Recommendations

The team suggests aggressive marketing of the university's programs, continuous participation in exhibitions, and the introduction of more marketable programs like medicine, law, and engineering.

They also highlight the importance of booth decorations in attracting students. Future exhibitions should include current university students for motivation, inspiration and experience sharing.

Conclusion

The exhibition was a significant success in marketing Maasai Mara University, attracting potential students, and enhancing the institution's visibility in the region.



A cross section of students thronged the University booth for information, discussions

DIRECTORATE OF ICT AND E-LEARNING STAFF ATTENDED SKILLS ENHANCEMENT TRAININGS

A team from the Directorate of ICT and E-Learning staff at Maasai Mara University recently attended various training on skills enhancement. The trainings covered the following areas: ERP security, cybersecurity, cloud management, network monitoring, and disaster recovery planning. The key takeaways from these trainings include:

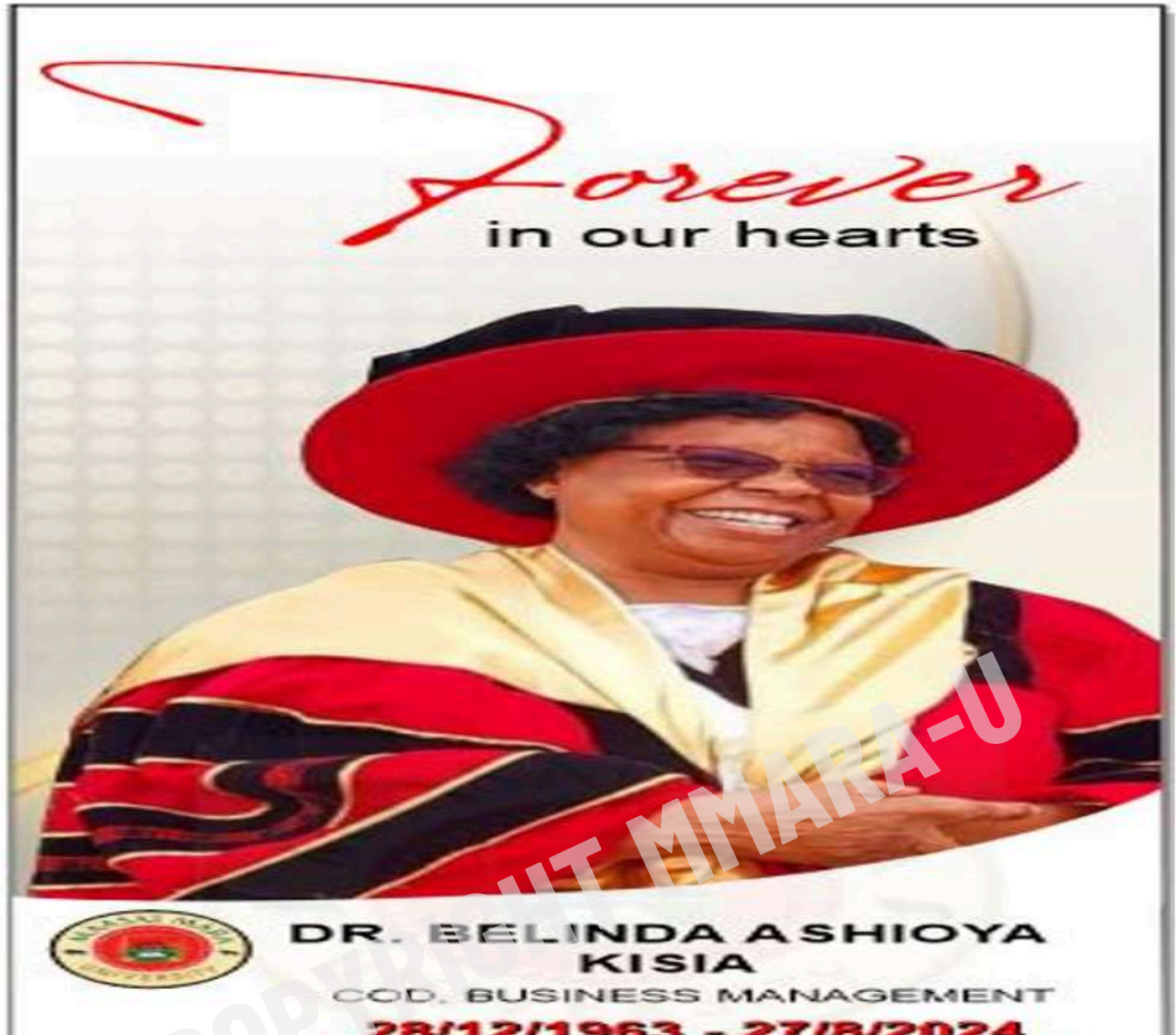
- 1.ERP Security, Cybersecurity, and Cloud Management: Maasai Mara University is undergoing a digital transformation, emphasizing the need for robust ICT and cybersecurity measures. The university is focusing on strategic role definitions, policy updates, security awareness, and advanced ICT tools. Regular cybersecurity assessments, compliance with standards, and vendor vetting are highlighted to enhance the university's digital infrastructure.
- 2.KENET Network Monitoring and Management: This training aimed at building the capacity of ICT staff, particularly in managing TCP/IP networks.

Three technicians from the university attended the training and acquired skills to enhance network performance, availability, traffic, and security monitoring. The knowledge gained will be applied to maintain strong network availability and performance, essential for uninterrupted operations.

- 3.ERP and Disaster Recovery Planning: The university is considering a hybrid system through Microsoft 365 to enhance business continuity. The need for VPN access, offsite backup, and a more secure ERP system was discussed. These measures are expected to improve data privacy and security, particularly for online teaching and administrative tasks.

After the rigorous trainings, the team recommends that the university should implement the above practices to secure the university's systems, with an emphasis on the importance of management support for these initiatives.

ORBITUARIES



Maasai Mara University is mourning the death of Dr. Belinda Kisia, Chair of the Department of Business Administration in the School of Business. She was also the Chair of the Committee on Maasai Mara University Annual Prayer Day (Maombi Kwa Wote), a role she played with total commitment and Passion. Dr. Kisia was a committed Christian and a prayerful lady. She was described as very strict and believed in doing the right thing at all times.

Dr. Kisia died on Tuesday 27th August 2024. Tributes during her funeral service testified to the virtues that Dr. Kisia held. She will be missed by the entire Maasai Mara University Community.

MAY GOD REST HER SOUL IN ETERNAL PEACE.



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