



GRADUATION BULLETIN

12TH GRADUATION CEREMONY

Date: Monday, 9th December, 2024



THEME:

Innovation in Environmental Resources Management and Climate Change Mitigation for Sustainable Development

www.mmarau.ac.ke



INTRODUCTION

Maasai Mara University was chartered on 12th February, 2013. The University's competitive advantage lies in its strategic location as a gateway to Maasai Mara National Reserve, which is a worldwide renowned natural heritage. It is also close to the Mau Forest, one of the most important water towers in the East African region, as well as its location in a major livestock and wheat production area in the country. These intertwined with the rich Maasai culture makes the University the ideal place for studies in science, natural resources, tourism, wildlife, livestock, agriculture, cultural heritage and the social sciences that we have identified as our flagship courses.

VISION

A university focused on innovation and empowerment for societal transformation

MISSION

To provide quality university education through teaching, research, innovation and community Outreach

UNIVERSITY NICHE

Tourism, Environmental Resource Management and Conservation

MOTTO

Eng'eno e Puaan
(Knowledge for Prosperity)

CORE VALUES

Excellence
Innovation
Productivity
Accountability
Collaboration
Equity

SCHOOLS

School of Education
School of Health Sciences
School of Tourism and Hospitality
School of Business and Economics
School of Pure and Applied Sciences
School of Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences and Creative Industries
School of Natural Resources, Environmental Studies and Agriculture

THEME: Innovation in Environmental Resources Management and Climate Change Mitigation for Sustainable Development

NATIONAL ANTHEM

O God of all creation
Bless this our land and nation
Justice be our shield and defender
May we dwell in unity
Peace and liberty
Plenty be found within our borders.

Let one and all arise
With hearts both strong and true
Service be our earnest endeavour
And our homeland of Kenya
Heritage of splendour
Firm may we stand to defend.

Let all with one accord
In common bond united
Build this our nation together
And the glory of Kenya
The fruit of our labour
Fill every heart with thanksgiving.

WIMBO WA TAIFA

Ee Mungu nguvu yetu
Ilete baraka kwetu
Haki iwe ngao na mlinzi
Natukae na undugu
Amani na uhuru
Raha tupate na ustawi.

Amkeni ndugu zetu
Tufanye sote bidii
Nasi tujitoe kwa nguvu
Nchi yetu ya Kenya
Tunayoipenda
Tuwe tayari kuilinda.

Natujenge taifa letu
Ee, ndio wajibu wetu
Kenya istahili heshima
Tuungane mikono
Pamoja kazini
Kila siku tuwe na shukrani.

EAST AFRICA ANTHEM

Chorus

Jumuiya Yetu sote tuilinde
Tuwajibike tuimarike
Umoja wetu ni nguzo yetu
Idumu Jumuiya yetu.

Verse 1.

Ee Mungu twaomba ulinde
Jumuiya Afrika Mashariki
Tuwezeshe kuishi kwa amani
Tutimize na malengo yetu.

Verse 2.

Uzalendo pia mshikamano
Viwe msingi wa Umoja wetu
Natulinde Uhuru na Amani
Mila zetu na desturi zetu.

Verse 3.

Viwandani na hata mashambani
Tufanye kazi sote kwa makini
Tujitoe kwa hali na mali
Tuijenge Jumuiya bora

MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY ANTHEM

Thank you, O Lord, The Almighty God
Thank you for Maasai Mara Our University
The Star Between the Mau Forest,
And the Mara the home of the seventh Wonder of the World
So, Thank you O Lord for Maasai Mara University
We glo-rify your Ho-ly Name
The Epitome of academic Excellence
Research and innovative Teaching
Embracing Creativity, Embracing Transparency
Professional, Accountabi-lity
The Epitome of academic Excellence
Research and Innovative Teaching
Promoting Equity and Social Justice
So God bless Maasai Mara University.

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MEMBERS OF THE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL

Chairman	Dr. Kennedy Ole Kerei BEd (Moi), MEd (Maseno), PhD (CUEA)
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Quality Assurance	Dr. Kennedy Karani Onyiko BSc, MSc, PhD (SEU, Bratislava)
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Gender, Equity and Culture	Dr. Jane Ombati BEd (Egerton), MA (KU), PhD (Laikipia)
Centre for ICT & E-Learning	Mr. Anil Kumar BEd, BSc, MSc (MDU, Rohtak-India) PGDCA (KU, Kurukshetra-India)
Public Relation & Linkages	Dr. Edward Kateiya BSc, MSc (UoN), PhD (MMARAU)
CHAIRPERSONS OF ACADEMIC DEPARTMENTS	
Mathematics and Physical Sciences	Dr. Edward Njuguna Muturi BEd (Maseno), MSc (Egerton), PhD (UoN)
Biological Sciences	Dr Paul Wanjala Mutevi BSc (Egerton), MPhil, Dphil (Moi)
Health Sciences	Ms. Jaqueline Naulikha BSc (JKUAT), MSc (JOUST)

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Computing & Information Sciences	Mr. Justus Ope BSc, MSc (UoN)
Social Sciences	Dr. Zeddy Lemein BA, (MSU, Udaipur), MSW (SU, Kolhapur), PhD (Egerton)
Humanities and Public Administration	Dr. John Ndungu Kungu BEd (Egerton), MA, PhD (Laikipia)
Languages, Linguistics & Culture	Dr. Lily Koske BEd (KU), MA (Universite de' Auvergne), PhD (Universite de Lorraine)
Media, Film & Communication	Dr. Denis. Ikachoi BA, MA (Daystar), PhD (JKUAT)
Tourism, Hospitality & Leisure Management	Dr. Muraya Moses Kaguma BHBM, MHM, PhD (Moi)
Animal Health & Production	Dr. Patrick Kamundia BVM, MSc (UoN)
Environmental Studies, Geography & Planning	Dr. Meshack Langat BSc (Moi), MSc (KU), PhD (MMARAU)
Forestry & Wildlife Management	Dr. Jedidah Nankaya BEd (UoN) MSc (Clemson USA), PhD (UoN)
Agriculture	Dr. Maurice Omollo BA, MA, PhD (KU)
Education Management and Policy Studies	Prof. Paul Maithya BEd (KU), MEd (UoN), PhD (CUEA)
Educational Communication, Technology and Curriculum studies	Dr. Alexander Ronoh BEd (Uon), Med (KU), PhD (Egerton)
Educational Foundations and Psychology	Dr. Newton Mukolwe BEd, MEd, PhD (KU)
Special Needs and Early Childhood Education	Dr. Naftali Rop BEd (Maseno), MEd (KU), PhD (Maseno)
Business Management	Dr. Edmund Gathuru, PhD, CIFA Bed (Moi), MBM (MMARAU), MSc (Strathmore), PhD (MMARAU)
Economics	Mr. Job O. Ogada BSc, MSc (Egerton)

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MEMBERS OF THE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL



Dr. Kennedy Ole Kerei
Chairman of the Council



Prof. Peninah Aloo-Obudho
Vice Chancellor
(Council Secretary)



Amb. Peter Ole Nkuraiyia, CBS
Council Member



Dr. Susan Chebet, Hsc
Council Member



CPA. Dickson Malanga Shikanga
Council Member



Ms. Agnes Busienei
Council Member



Mr. Silas Muyela
Council Member



Ms. Elizabeth Ayoo
Council Member



Mr. Mulatya Nzumbi
Council Member

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THE CABINET SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF EDUCATION



Hon. Julius Migos Ogamba
Cabinet Secretary,
Ministry of Education

Mr. Chancellor, Distinguished Guests, Members of the Maasai Mara University Council and Senate, Faculty, Staff, Parents, Guardians, Graduands of 2024, and all gathered here today,

It is a great honour to address you on this significant occasion, the 12th graduation ceremony of Maasai Mara University under the theme **“Innovation in Environmental Resource Management and Climate Change Mitigation for Sustainable Development”**. This theme resonates well with our national priorities and global efforts to secure a sustainable future. It signifies a proactive approach to addressing pressing environmental

challenges. This involves adopting sustainable practices like efficient resource utilization, biodiversity conservation, waste reduction and pollution control.

Ladies and Gentlemen, this is a clarion call to all of us to balance economic growth with environmental protection, ensuring social equity and international cooperation to create a sustainable future for generations to come. It also necessitates the transition to renewable energy sources, carbon capture and storage, and climate-smart agriculture.

Today, we gather to celebrate the resilience, determination, and triumph of the Class of 2024. To the graduands, you embarked on your university journey during one of the most challenging periods in recent history—the year 2020, marked by the global COVID-19 pandemic. Your ability to adapt and persevere in the face of unprecedented disruption is a testament to your strength and commitment. You are a generation of achievers, and we are proud of you. Having sailed through the tough

times, you have demonstrated tenacity which is a critical virtue as you go out in to the job market.

To the parents, guardians, and sponsors, we salute your unwavering support, which has been instrumental in the success we are celebrating today. To the faculty and staff, your dedication to nurturing these graduates, especially during the pandemic's challenges, deserves the highest commendation.

The Government of Kenya recognizes the transformative power of higher education in addressing the pressing challenges of our time. Through the New Funding Model, which is student-centred, we continue to expand access to education, ensuring that no deserving student is left behind. Moreover, we are committed to fostering innovation through initiatives like Ajira Digital and Konza Technopolis, equipping young people to thrive in a rapidly changing world of digital jobs.

We also recognize the exceptional work Maasai Mara University has undertaken, particularly its commitment to environmental conservation,

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sustainable development, and community engagement. Collaborating with our National Research Fund (NRF), the university has advanced research in critical areas such as renewable energy and biodiversity conservation. I am informed that the university recently joined other 13 universities for mentorship by the Kenya National Innovation Agency (KENIA) and the British Council to become an Entrepreneurial University through innovation and commercialization. These efforts are not only building knowledge but also providing practical solutions to some of the most urgent challenges facing our nation and the world today.

Located near the Maasai Mara National Reserve, this institution has leveraged its unique position to address environmental and climate-related challenges. Through innovative academic programs and research initiatives, Maasai Mara University has become a beacon of progress in aligning education with sustainable development goals.

To the graduates, as you step into the next phase of your lives, I urge you to reflect on the lessons learned during your time at this university. The resilience you have demonstrated this far is the same resilience that will propel you forward in the face of future challenges. The education and values you have gained in the university has not only prepared you for personal success but also a call to action to serve your communities and contribute to Kenya's development.

The theme of today's graduation is a challenge to all of us, but particularly to you, the graduates. It reminds us of the need for innovation and critical thinking to address issues such as climate change and environmental resource management. Whether you find yourselves in technology, conservation, tourism, or agriculture, your contributions will be essential in achieving our national vision and securing a sustainable future.

As you venture out into the world, I encourage you to embrace lifelong learning,

uphold integrity, remain adaptable and true to yourself. Remember that your success is intertwined with the progress of your communities and the nation.

In closing, I extend my heartfelt congratulations once again to the Class of 2024. You have overcome extraordinary challenges to reach this milestone, and the future is yours to shape. Dream boldly, innovate courageously, and lead with purpose. Kenya needs your creativity, your energy, and your passion to build a brighter and more sustainable future.

To everyone gathered here, thank you for making this day a success. Let us continue to work together to harness the power of education for the betterment of our beloved nation, Kenya.

Congratulations, 2024 graduates! May you go forth and make your mark.

God Bless you and God bless Kenya

PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, STATE DEPARTMENT OF UNIVERSITY EDUCATION AND RESEARCH, MINISTRY OF EDUCATION



**Dr. Beatrice Muganda
Inyangala**
Principal Secretary, State
Department of Higher
Education and Research,
Ministry of Education

*The Cabinet Secretary,
Ministry of Education,
Chancellor, Members of the
University Council, Vice
Chancellor, Distinguished
Guests, Members of the
University Senate, Faculty
and Staff, Graduands,
Parents and Guardians,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

It gives me great pleasure to join you today in celebrating Maasai Mara University's 12th Graduation Ceremony. On behalf of the State Department for Higher Education and Research, I extend heartfelt congratulations to the

graduating class of 2024. Today marks a significant milestone in your lives, and I commend your determination, perseverance, and hard work that have culminated in this remarkable achievement.

I note that the theme for today's graduation ceremony is **Innovation in Environmental Resource Management and Climate Change Mitigation for Sustainable Development**. This theme is both timely and relevant. As a nation and as a global community, we face pressing challenges in managing our environment and combating climate change. It is through innovative solutions, grounded in research and practical application, that we can ensure sustainable development for future generations.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the State Department for Higher Education and Research recognizes the unique role Maasai Mara University plays in environmental conservation. Situated between two critical national resources—the Mau

Forest Water Tower and the Maasai Mara Game Reserve—this institution is ideally positioned to lead in environmental studies, research, and conservation initiatives.

The niche area of the University that is **"Tourism, Environmental Resource Management and Conservation"** which should not only define the academic identity of this university but also shape its outreach programmes, ensuring that the values of conservation and sustainability are deeply integrated into the lives of the community.

Therefore, we expect Maasai Mara University, as a leading academic institution, to continue embedding environmental conservation principles into all its curricula. This includes fostering innovation in sustainable practices and addressing the challenges of climate change through teaching, research, and community engagement.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the State Department for Higher Education and

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Research is committed to providing strategic leadership and oversight in the higher education sector. Our responsibilities to the Cabinet Secretary include executing policy decisions and ensuring public accountability for our actions. It is within this framework that we have closely collaborated with Maasai Mara University on various initiatives, including research in environmental conservation, capacity building, and infrastructure development. We applaud the university's efforts in championing conservation and sustainability and urge you to intensify these initiatives. We also recognize the critical role you play in preparing graduates equipped with the skills, knowledge, and competencies needed to tackle complex challenges, including those posed by climate change.

Another area of focus for the State Department is the full implementation of the Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC), with universities expecting to admit the first CBC students by 2029. We call upon Maasai Mara University and other institutions of higher learning to prepare adequately for this transition

by reviewing and aligning their curricula to meet CBC requirements. The CBC emphasizes not only academic excellence but also the development of practical skills and competencies that enable graduates to excel in an increasingly competitive and dynamic world. As Maasai Mara University continues to refine its programs, we encourage the inclusion of problem-solving, critical thinking, and innovative skills to ensure your graduates are well-prepared to contribute meaningfully to society.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to urge all stakeholder present today in this 12th congregation to continue supporting Maasai Mara University in achieving its vision of being ***A University focused on innovation and empowerment for societal transformation.*** Your partnership and contributions are invaluable as the university continues to expand its impact through research, teaching, and community service.

Finally, to the graduating class, today is a day to celebrate your achievements and reflect on the journey that has brought you here. As you step into the world

beyond these walls, I urge you to utilize the skills and competencies you have acquired to make a positive difference. The challenges you will face are numerous, but they also present opportunities for innovation, leadership, and transformation. As ambassadors of Maasai Mara University, carry forward its vision and mission with pride. Be agents of change, committed to creating a better world for generations to come. Whatever path you choose, strive for excellence and remain steadfast in your commitment to service and integrity.

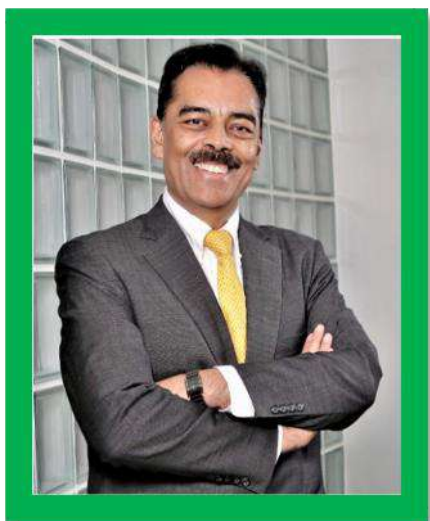
In conclusion, I once again sincerely congratulate all the graduands on this momentous occasion. May you find success in all your endeavors and contribute meaningfully to your communities and the nation. As we celebrate today, let us also look to the future with hope and determination. Together, through innovation, research, and collaboration, we can build a sustainable and prosperous Kenya.

May God bless Maasai Mara University, bless Kenya, and bless all its stakeholders.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

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THE CHANCELLOR



Dr. Vimal Shah
Chancellor

The Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education, Principal Secretary, State Department for Higher Education and Research, Chairman and Members of the University Council, Vice Chancellor of Maasai Mara and those from other Universities, Narok County Leaders, Distinguished Guests, Members of the University Senate, Faculty and Staff, Graduands, Parents and Guardians, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the university and my own behalf, I wish to congratulate all graduands of the 2024 cohort. This ceremony which marks the 12th graduation ceremony of Maasai Mara University, is the most significant and meaningful occasion in a University's calendar.

The University's vision is, ***A University focused on innovation and empowerment for societal transformation.***

This vision is explicit on the role of academia in the local, national and global transformational agenda. I believe that during the four years, the graduands have acquired the appropriate values and skills to enable them play their transformative role in the society on development matters.

To the graduands, please note that Maasai Mara University values you as our loyal supporters. We implore you to play your part as role models and inspirers, career mentors, improving student recruitment efforts, fund raising and supporting the university's reputation. Every alumnus has the experience of being a student and

becoming a unique and different graduate so I challenge you to play your role in the society.

Maasai Mara University is committed to playing its role as a key driver to the local, national and global agenda. This year's graduation theme is ***Innovation in Environmental Resource Management and Climate Change Mitigation for Sustainable Development*** that is in line with the university's niche which is *"Tourism, Environmental Resource Management and Conservation."*

Innovation in Environmental Resources Management and Climate Change Mitigation for Sustainable Development is a multifaceted approach to addressing pressing environmental challenges. It involves the development and implementation of innovative solutions to promote sustainable resource use, reduce pollution, and mitigate climate change. By prioritizing renewable energy, efficient resource management, and climate-smart practices, we can foster a more sustainable future that balances

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economic growth with environmental protection.

As the chancellor of this great university, I am happy to note that the University regularly ensures that all academic programmes are not only accredited by CUE (Commission for University Education) but adopt the latest techniques that are relevant to learners to prepare them to serve in their respective specializations. Our students continue to be linked with the industry through industrial attachments, field course academic visits, and visits by professionals in various fields who share real professional experiences that help our students learn. I recently learnt that the University invited a professor from a university in the United Kingdom to sensitize the student community on responsible use of Artificial Intelligence (AI). I encourage the university Senate to organize more of such professional talks to prepare our students for life in today's technological world. I will support the University !

as much as possible towards making it an institution of international standards.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we live in a disruptive world where there is ***survival for the fittest*** as stated many years ago by Charles Darwin, the Ecologist. Adapting to the change that we witness everyday has become the norm of our lives. This demands that the management, senate, faculty and students must embrace the change to remain relevant. Therefore, with the launch of CBE (Competence Based Education), I believe our university is preparing to ensure that academic programmes remain relevant where learners use their talents to serve in different fields and contribute not only to the development of communities but the country and the global arena.

I am impressed with the infrastructural developments in the university. Worth noting is the construction of the Mau Complex with high architectural quality that contains modern classes,

academic and administrative staff offices and academic schools. The construction of an Ultra- Modern Library which is at the initial stage is another milestone for the university. Indeed, these will bolster the University's initiatives towards attainment of quality education.

As I conclude, I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate the 2024 class for their academic achievements and wish them well as the Maasai Mara University ambassadors. This will forever remain your alma mater. You will always remain in our hearts even as we release you to the job-market. I urge you to go out there as job creators and not seekers. You have been adequately prepared for the challenges out there so take courage.

Congratulations and best wishes to the 2024 graduates!.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE COUNCIL



Dr. Kennedy Ole Kerei
Chairman of the Council

*The Cabinet Secretary,
Ministry of Education,
Principal Secretary, State
Department of Higher
Education and Research,
Chancellor, Council Members,
Vice Chancellor, Esteemed
Faculty, Proud Parents, Class
of 2024, Ladies and
Gentlemen.*

It is a privilege to stand before you today as we commemorate the height of years of diligence, commitment, and academic growth. This day marks a significant milestone not only for our graduates but for the entire academic community that has supported and nurtured the students along their journey.

To the Class of 2024, receive my heartfelt congratulations! Your accomplishments thus far are a demonstration of your solid loyalty to excellence. The pursuit of knowledge is a noble endeavor, and each of you has demonstrated exceptional dedication to the principles of scholarship and learning. Today, we not only recognize your academic

accomplishments but also the resilience and tenacity you have exhibited in overcoming challenges during your life in the university.

Ladies and Gentlemen

As we acknowledge the graduates, let us also express gratitude to the families and friends who have stood by them throughout their educational pursuits. Your support, encouragement, and sacrifices have played an integral role in the success we celebrate today. Your belief in the power of education and your commitment to these graduates have undoubtedly contributed to their achievements.

To the academic and non-academic staff, I extend my appreciation for your tireless efforts in shaping the minds of these graduates. Your passion for teaching, mentorship, and research has left an indelible mark on the academic landscape of our institution. Today's graduates carry with them not only the knowledge you have imparted but also the values and principles you have instilled in them.

Ladies and gentlemen.

Today, we gather not only to celebrate academic achievements but to embark on a journey of reflection and inspiration centered around a theme that is both timely and imperative: "**Innovation in Environmental Resources Management and Climate Change Mitigation for Sustainable Development**".

I have taken time to deduce from this year's theme and the following salient reflections suffice:

1. Innovation in renewable energy technologies like solar and wind power, as well as energy storage solutions like batteries, can significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
2. Additionally, innovative waste management techniques, such as advanced recycling technologies and waste-to-energy conversion, can minimize waste and reduce pollution.
3. Addressing environmental challenges requires a collaborative effort from scientists, engineers, policymakers, and social scientists. By working together, we can develop comprehensive and effective solutions that consider the complex interplay of environmental, social, and economic factors. For instance, integrating ecological knowledge with engineering expertise can lead to the development of sustainable infrastructure projects that minimize environmental impact.
4. Eco-tourism and sustainable agriculture

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can promote economic development while preserving natural resources.

To the graduands, I urge you to come up with **innovative solutions to climate change** for sustainable development. Carry the torch of climate action into your respective fields. Whether you find yourselves in the tourism industry, environmental organizations, policy-making bodies, or any other sector, let your decisions be guided by a commitment to leaving a positive and lasting impact on the planet.

Ladies and Gentlemen

The number of institutions for higher learning have tremendously increased in the last 10 years and consequently created stiff competition in the industry. To favorably compete and continuously become attractive and relevant to its clients, the Maasai Mara University has created a niche, to be a **Centre of Excellence in Tourism, Environmental Resource Management and Conservation.**

The University enjoys a unique location in the geo-economic and socio-cultural life of Kenya and the entire region. The University is located in Narok Town, the Headquarters of Narok County, which is located in the greater Mau-Mara Ecosystem. The Mau-Mara ecosystem, that boasts of the Mau Forest, Maasai Mara Game Reserve and large-scale plantation

farming among others, is one of the central nerves of Kenya's economic life.

Further, we are re-aligning our academic programmes, research and innovation activities as well as working with industry to support the five (5) pillars of the Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA): Agricultural Transformation; Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) Economy; Housing and Settlement; Digital Superhighway and Creative Industry.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to appreciate the immense support that the University has received from the government through the Ministry of Education. We have continuously received funding to enable the university carry out its operations. We are particularly grateful for the support towards construction of our Ultra-Modern Library. I am aware that the project has slowed down but we remain optimistic that funding will be released for the project to continue. One of the challenges we face is inadequate laboratory space and classrooms. We are exploring partnership with private sector players to put up additional structures.

The University has made great strides during the last one year including carrying out a number of Innovation activities, creating partnerships and collaborations, research and community outreach. This has

been possible because of teamwork demonstrated by management and the council. My sincere gratitude to the two teams for the many successes that we have achieved since the last graduation.

To the Graduands, the University has equipped you with requisite competencies to positively impact on our country and the boundaries yonder. You have harnessed knowledge and skills not only in your disciplines of specialty; but also in critical thinking, digital innovation, emotional intelligence, mentorship, leadership among others. Indeed, an educated nation is a progressive nation in economic, social and political life. As you match into the world, I urge you to be the critical change agents the nation, the continent and the world need to realize various development goals. This demands a constant focus on Innovation.

Finally, I wish all graduands success in their future undertakings and urge those who have not reached the academic pinnacle to consider coming back for their Masters and Doctorate degrees. I also invite you to join our alumni and take part in development of your alma mater. Be ambassadors and friends of the University and promote the rich ethos bestowed unto you.

Thank you and God bless you

THE VICE-CHANCELLOR



Prof. Peninah Aloo-Obudho,
PhD, EBS
Vice Chancellor

The Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education, Principal Secretary, State Department of Higher Education and Research, Chancellor, Council Members, Leaders of Narok County, Distinguished Guests, Senate, Faculty, Parents, Class of 2024, Ladies and Gentlemen.

On behalf of Maasai Mara University management, senate, staff and students, it is with great pleasure that I welcome you to Maasai Mara University to celebrate with us the 12th graduation ceremony. I join you all in congratulating the graduands. This, indeed is a rare moment of great joy for all of us gathered here today to witness the end of a job well done. The graduands will agree with us that it is indeed a remarkable achievement. We thank them all for demonstrating resilience

throughout this academic journey. They have gone through a number of challenges including Covid-19- but that does not matter now because they have made it this far.

Maasai Mara University takes pride in our strategic location in Narok County, not far from the Maasai Mara Game reserve, within the Mau-Mara Ecosystem and the among the Maasai people with a rich culture. The University has selected its niche of **Tourism, Environmental Resource Management and Conservation**, given its location. Tourism is the leading foreign exchange earner in Kenya but has not been given much attention in higher education. Management and conservation of environmental resources is closely linked to the three planetary crises identified by UNEP: Climate Change, Biodiversity Loss and Pollution. Maasai Mara University has made a deliberate effort to be part of the solution. The following programmes have been developed to further position the university within its niche area: Bachelor of Environmental Management; Bachelor of Environmental Studies (Biology and Health); Bachelor of Hotel and Hospitality Management; Bachelor of Science in Animal Health and Production and

Bachelor of Science in Forestry Management, among others.

Our vision is “**A University focused on innovation and empowerment for societal transformation**”. The key components of this vision are innovation, empowerment and transformation which are critical ingredients for addressing societal challenges.

The theme of the 12th graduation is **Innovation in Environmental Resource Management and Climate Change Mitigation for Sustainable Development**. This was calculatedly selected in line with our niche. Recently, the Council approved the establishment of a Centre for Climate Action and Biodiversity Conservation. I sincerely thank the Council for the continued support. The Centre is expected to mobilize resources for innovative research on climate change mitigation.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The university has made great strides since the last graduation. We have undertaken a number of academic activities including hosting several conferences such as the Mara Day Conference jointly with the Lake Victoria Basin Commission; high level research activities; development of partnerships

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and collaborations; innovation activities and community outreach. In this regard, I recognize and celebrate the remarkable achievement of Maasai Mara University team of students in the Inter-University Hackathon 2024 this November where they were ranked third position overall and a first place in Artificial Intelligence for Climate Change, Agriculture, and Food Security. This achievement only demonstrates how our university is making great steps in line with its niche. Maasai Mara University is among the 14 Universities under the mentorship of KENIA and British Council to become an Entrepreneurial University through innovation and commercialization. To this end, the University has established a Technology Transfer Office (TTO) and we are looking forward to the establishment of an Innovation Hub.

In addition I would like to point out that Maasai Mara University celebrated the appointment of Dr. Vimal Shah by His Excellency the President of the Republic of Kenya Dr. William Samoei Ruto on 8th September 2023 for a period of 5 years. Dr. Vimal was officially installed on the 7th June 2024 as the 2nd Chancellor. The University will benefit immensely from Dr. Vimal's wise counsel. He is a renown

Industrialist in East Africa and Chairman of BIDCO Africa, therefore brings a wealth of experience and expertise to the University. He was recognized as the East African's Entrepreneur of the Year in 2012 by all African Business Leaders Awards. Our sincere congratulations to Dr. Vimal as he presides over our graduation for the first time.

Maasai Mara University recently signed memoranda of understanding with various institutions such as Vaal University of Technology (South Africa) where students and academic staff in various fields will benefit through exchange visits that will entail teaching, research and various collaborations. Also, between Maasai Mara University and SINO AFRICA Joint Research Centre of the Chinese Academy of Science strategic partnership that was formalized through the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) early this year. This collaboration sets the stage for a new era of academic and research cooperation between Kenya and China. We are also at advanced stage in reviving our collaboration with Clemson University (USA), partnering with University of Munster (Germany) and Maasai Mara Wildlife Conservation Agency, among others. These collaborations ensure that our university is global with great

impact on the quality of academic programmes.

I am proud to note that the number of students has been increasing tremendously and this year, our university received over 2,800 1st year students from the Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Service (KUCCPS) into various academic programmes thus making a total of over 9,000 students, including the continuing students. As a university, this is an achievement that we thank God for.

I wish to applaud the parents and guardians for the support you gave the graduands which has culminated in today's celebrations. The faculty, Senate and staff of the university deserve special recognition for the efforts they made to nurture the graduating class. I am grateful and appreciate all the efforts.

To the 2024 graduands,

You have been adequately prepared to face the world, go out and make a difference in the society. Do not underestimate your potential but instead be creative and look for opportunities around and about you.

Congratulations to you all and best wishes

Thank you and God bless you

THE DEPUTY VICE CHANCELLOR (ACADEMICS & STUDENT AFFAIRS)



Prof. Bulitia Godrick Mathews, PhD.
Deputy Vice-Chancellor
(Academic and Student Affairs)

As Maasai Mara University celebrates its 12th Graduation Ceremony, the Academic Division reflects with immense pride on the transformative milestones achieved over the past year. Guided by the University's niche focus on Tourism, Environmental Resource Management, and Conservation, the Division continues to be the bedrock of our mission to provide quality education, innovative research and impactful community engagement.

Key Achievements and Highlights:

Strategic Partnerships and Sustainable Development: Water Purification Plant: In collaboration with Tongji University, the University secured a KES 35 million state-of-the-art water purification plant, officially commissioned in November 2024. This transformative project guarantees access to clean water for the Maasai Mara University community and demonstrates our commitment

to sustainable environmental management.

Solar Energy Integration: Our partnership with BLUETTI Solar Company, through Tongji University, resulted in the donation of 200 solar panels, valued at KES 1.8 million, to promote renewable energy use within our Campus.

Global Recognition: Prof. Bulitia Godrick Mathews, the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic and Students Affairs), was appointed as a Guest Faculty at the UNEP-Tongji Institute for Environment and Sustainable Development for a period of three years commencing September, 2024 to September, 2027. This honor solidifies our role in advancing global conversations on sustainability and supports opportunities for scholarships and collaborative research for Kenyan and African students. He was further appointed as a distinguished researcher of the Collaborative Innovation Centre for Emissions Trading System Co-constructed by the Province and Ministry, Wuhan, in the People's Republic of China.

Excellence in Curriculum Development and Accreditation: The Bachelor of Science (BSc) in Food, Nutrition and Dietetics programme received accreditation, while new programmes such as a Diploma in Healthcare Support Assistance and a BSc in Data Science with AI are under development. Further, the University's Teacher Education

programmes were successfully reviewed to align with the Competency-Based Education and Training (CBET) model, meeting national education standards.

Collaborative initiatives are underway to introduce groundbreaking courses like the PhD in Ethnomedicine and Ill Health, and the Bachelor of Science in Public Health.

Academic Excellence and Enrollment Growth: Over 10,600 examination results were processed and released in adherence to rigorous academic standards.

The Academic Division facilitated the successful admission of 3,366 new students comprising undergraduate, diploma and postgraduate levels. Despite challenges such as national lecturers strikes, teaching and learning activities resumed smoothly with the development of dynamic timetables and strategic engagement of faculty and Department Chairpersons.

Technology-Enhanced Learning and Innovation: Maasai Mara University continues to lead in the adoption of Open and Distance e-Learning (ODEL) by integrating advanced technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) to enhance learning experiences. University-wide common course modules have been developed and integrated into the Learning Management System (LMS), enabling seamless digital learning.

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Future Prospects and Commitment

The Academic Division remains steadfast in its mission to uphold the highest standards in education, research and community service. Moving forward, our focus will include expanding national and international collaborations, introducing

market-driven programmes and fostering innovation to address societal challenges.

To our esteemed graduands, this day marks a significant milestone in your academic journey. You are the pride of Maasai Mara University, a testament to our shared vision for excellence and ambassadors of the

transformative power of higher education. As you step into the world, carry the values of resilience, integrity and innovation that this institution has instilled in you.

Congratulations on your achievements and may you continue to illuminate every path you take.

THE DEPUTY VICE CHANCELLOR (ADMINISTRATION, FINANCE & STRATEGY)



Prof. James Simiren Nampushi, PhD, MKIM
DVC (Administration, Finance & Strategy)

As the Deputy Vice Chancellor in charge of Administration, Finance and Strategy at Maasai Mara University, I take pride in overseeing a division dedicated to fostering excellence through the effective management of resources, strategic planning, and the provision of essential services that support the University's core mission of teaching, research, and community service. The Administration, Finance and Strategy Division is responsible for ensuring the institution's financial sustainability, operational efficiency, and

strategic alignment with both national and global educational priorities.

The 12th Graduation Ceremony is a momentous occasion that highlights the culmination of hard work, determination, and resilience demonstrated by our graduands. It also underscores the collective efforts of the entire University fraternity, which has worked tirelessly to provide a conducive environment for learning, innovation, and personal growth.

As we celebrate the achievements of the Class of 2024, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the graduands for their success. Your perseverance and dedication have borne fruit, and today you step into the world as ambassadors of Maasai Mara University, equipped with the skills to make a positive impact in society.

I wish to recognize the invaluable contributions of our teaching and non-teaching

staff, parents, guardians, and stakeholders, whose support has been instrumental in shaping the success of our students. Their commitment has ensured that the University continues to provide holistic education and nurture leaders of integrity and vision.

As we look to the future, Maasai Mara University remains steadfast in its commitment to excellence, accountability, and innovation. Guided by our strategic vision, we shall continue to invest in infrastructure, adopt cutting-edge technologies, and forge partnerships that propel us to greater heights.

To the graduands, I urge you to embrace this milestone as the beginning of a lifelong journey of learning, service, and excellence. Go forth and shine in your chosen paths, always upholding the values of Maasai Mara University.

Congratulations, and may success follow you in all your endeavours.

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THE AG. DEPUTY VICE CHANCELLOR (RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND OUTREACH)



Prof. Francis Mburu, PhD
Ag. DVC (Research, Innovation and Outreach)

It is with great joy that I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the class of 2024 as you celebrate your academic excellence. This indeed is a great day as you reap the rewards of your commitment, resilience and focus at the University.

The Division of Research, Innovation, and Outreach has made significant strides in advancing research initiatives, fostering innovation, and enhancing community engagement. Through a partnership with Kenya Innovations Agency (KeNIA), Maasai Mara University was included in the *Institutional Support Program* by KeNIA. The program includes 14 universities both public and private as well as Research Centers. These institutions are being incubated to become Entrepreneurial Institutions. Each Institution has an Institutional Working Group IWGs that coordinates the development of institutional masterplans to help in guiding the institution to become entrepreneurial and enhance the innovation ecosystem. This involves a series of training, workshops, validation meetings and evaluations in readiness for

the journey to become an entrepreneurial university.

Some of the key innovation activities that the Division has accomplished include: the Incubation and Entrepreneurship Center at the University that was officially launched in July 2024 in partnership with the Patron of the University Innovations Club; the commencement of one innovation; the AI innovations hackathon at Maasai Mara University that took place on October 22, 2024 which featured 26 AI innovations from six different organizations and universities across Kenya; and the KAPS-JKUAT AI innovations hackathon that was held at JKUAT in Juja on November 15th, 2024, attracting over 300 AI-based innovations. The University had two projects that made it into the final 40 innovations. Also, the University was one of four in Kenya selected to host a summit on AI during the Kenya Innovation Week that took place between November 25th -29th, 2024. This summit was co-organized with Huawei Kenya and other partners.

The efforts of our student innovators from the Nursing Department have not gone unnoticed. They managed to become 1st runners up for a One Health - Afro Hun competition and managed to emerge second. As a result, they will be taken through Incubation, Acceleration and Commercialization program where they will be linked to the industry for easy penetration of the market and also, they will receive capacity building and a tour to Konza City Technopolis.

This year, our researchers have embarked on groundbreaking

projects that address pressing societal challenges. Most of the projects are interdisciplinary in nature that bring together experts from various fields, including environmental science, education, renewable energy, and public policy, to develop actionable strategies for local governments.

The recent appointment of School Research and Innovation Committees (SRICs) will play a critical role in enhancing research and innovation activities, in line with our strategic goals under the Research, Innovation, and Outreach division. The SRICs will play a pivotal role in spearheading research initiatives, guiding innovation, and ensuring alignment with our institutional vision of becoming a leading research and entrepreneurial university.

As we celebrate our achievements, we remain focused on the future. In the coming year, we aim to expand our research initiatives, enhance our innovation programs, and deepen our community engagement. We are excited to explore new partnerships and funding opportunities that will enable us to continue making a difference in our community and beyond.

In conclusion the accomplishments are a testament to the hard work and dedication of our faculty, students, and partners. Together, we have made significant strides in research, innovation, and community engagement, paving the way for a brighter future. As we graduate the Class of 2024, let us celebrate not only our individual successes but also our collective impact on society.

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SCHOOLS

SCHOOL OF ARTS, HUMANITIES, SOCIAL SCIENCES AND CREATIVE INDUSTRIES



Prof. Kodak Benard, MPRSK
Dean, School of Arts,
Humanities, Social Sciences and
Creative Industries



Dr. John Ndungu Kungu
Chairperson, Department of
Humanities & Public
Administration



Dr. Denis. Ikachoi
Chairperson, Department
of Media, Film &
Communication (MFC)



Dr. Lily C. Koske
Chairperson, Department of
Languages Linguistics &
Culture (LLC)



Dr. Zeddy Lemein
Chairperson, Department
of Social Sciences

HARNESSING INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS TO ENHANCE TRAINING, LEARNING AND RESEARCH

On behalf of the School of Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences and Creative Industries (SAHSSCI), it is my honor and privilege to congratulate the graduating Class of 2024. Today marks the culmination of your hard work, perseverance, and dedication. This milestone is not only a testament to your academic achievements but also to your resilience and determination in navigating challenges to reach this moment.

As you step forward into the world, remember that university education has equipped you with the tools to inspire, create, and

transform. Whether your journey leads you to further studies, professional endeavors, or personal growth, carry with you the values and knowledge that Maasai Mara University has instilled in you.

You are the custodians of creativity, innovation, and positive change. Your unique voices and perspectives will shape the future, and we are confident that you will create positive impacts on the many people you are going to interact with in life after university education. Celebrate your achievements today and look to the future with courage and optimism.

As our alumni, you are forever part of our family. Stay connected, and know that we are cheering you on every step of the way.

The SAHSSCI has four departments namely: 1. Languages, Literature and Culture, 2. Media, Film and Communication 3. Humanities and Public Administration 4. Social Sciences. The Department of Languages, Literature and Culture offers programs in Language and Corporate Communication, Kiswahili and Journalism and Literature, Theatre and Film. The department of Media, Film and

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Communication houses two programmes namely: Communication and Journalism and Public Relations. The Department of Social Sciences is home to Social Work, Sociology, Community Development, and Criminology and Penology while the Department of Humanities and Public Administration offers programs in Political Science and Public Administration, Religious Studies and Leadership, History and Governance and Philosophy. These programmes lead to postgraduate degrees at Masters and Doctor of Philosophy levels. Delivering these programmes is a team of qualified and competent teaching faculty and administrative staff that work in synergy. We focus on student-centered learning and salient applications in the real world.

The school continues to position itself in its role of providing valuable training, learning and research opportunities in the Arts, Creative Industries, Humanities and Social Sciences. In the year 2024, the school was honored to host the 2nd Biennial International Social Work and Multidisciplinary Conference between 29th July-31st July 2024 which was organized by Maasai Mara University (Kenya), Millerville University (USA), Concord University (USA) and Association of Social Work Educators (Kenya). The Conference brought together researchers and scholars from 49 countries across.



Prof. Benard Kodak, Dean, School of Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences and Creative Industries addressing conference participants emphasizing key themes and objectives



The Joint-Organizing Committee of the 2nd Biennial International Social Work and Multidisciplinary Conference



Conference participants posed for a photo alongside Maasai cultural dancers

Our faculty are engaged in research collaborations with scholars in other universities both local and international. These include Clemson University (USA), Stellenbosch University (RSA), University of KwaZulu Natal (RSA), University of South Carolina (USA), Oregon State University (USA), Lagos Business School (Nigeria), Millersville University (USA), Clarke University (USA) and University of Alabama (USA).



Prof. Benard Kodak Dean, SAHSS&CI Standing from left, Dr Ndungu Kungu chair Department of Humanities and Public Administration at the middle and Prof. Umar Ubandawaki standing left from Sokoto States University, handing over proposed Mou.

The objectives of collaborations are as follows:

- a) Development of academic research, workshops,

- conferences, or other joint projects.
- b) Exchange of scholarly and pedagogical materials.
- c) Mobility of faculty, staff, or research personnel.
- d) Mobility of undergraduate and graduate students.
- e) Development of dual-degree, transfer-degree, or joint-degree programs

Further, the school celebrates significant milestones that have enriched our learning environment and strengthened our commitment to cross-cultural understanding. Chief among these was the establishment of the French Resource Centre, a transformative project made possible through a fruitful partnership with the French Embassy in Kenya. This remarkable milestone is not only for the Department of Languages, Linguistics, and Culture but also students studying French for Tourism and Hospitality from the School of Tourism and Hospitality.

This vibrant hub offers students a space to watch films, study, and create podcasts, fostering immersive learning and cultural engagement in the French language.



Reading and Discussion Space at the French Resource Centre

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Students Recording Podcasts at the French Resource Centre



Entrance to the French Resource Centre

Congratulations, graduates! The world awaits your brilliance.

Warm regards!

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS & ECONOMICS



Dr. Maurice O. Ombok
Dean, School of Business & Economics



Dr. Edmund Gathuru,
Chairperson, Business Mgt.



Mr. Job O. Ogada
Chairperson, Economics

ALIGNING GRADUATE PROGRAMMES TO MARKET TRENDS

This is a day we reflect on how much we have accomplished in the last four years and how much it costs parents, sponsors, guardians, graduands and the faculty, School of Business and Economics to do it. I am so proud of us all. Congratulations!

I want thank the Chairmen of Departments in the school for their tireless effort and synergy to the realization of the School of Business and Economics graduating class of 2024.

In line with the 2024 graduation theme “Innovation in Environmental Resources Management and Climate Change Mitigation for Sustainable Development”, the

School of Business and Economics reviewed all postgraduate programmes to incorporate data analytics and machine learning skills for effective predictive modelling.

One of the key postgraduate programmes reviewed that align not only to the theme but also to the University niche is the Master of Science in Agricultural Economics and Resource Management.

Noteworthy, to mention, the schools’ programmes are all CUE accredited and meet the industry demand trends. We endeavor to rightfully place our students in industrial attachment/internship to their fields of training. Equally, the students are exposed to the industry through academic

excursions to enable them link theory to practice. For instance, in the 2023/2024 academic year, our students were engaged to the workings of the institutions; KIPPRA, KALRO, Muhoroni Sugar Factory and Nairobi Security Exchange.

We are therefore confident that the School of Business and Economics graduates are competent all round particularly in filling the industry skills mismatch with jobs and flexibility in the changing technological, economic and social environment.

Once again, congratulations to the School of Business and Economics graduating class of 2024.

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SCHOOL OF EDUCATION



Dr. Sammy Mutisya
Dean, School of Education



Dr. Naphtali Rop
Chairperson, Special Needs and
Early Childhood Education



Prof. Paul Maithya
Chairperson, Education
Management and Policy Studies



Dr. Alexander Ronoh
Chairperson, Educational
Communication, Technology
and Curriculum studies.



Dr. Newton Mukolwe
Chairperson, Education Foundation
and Psychology

EMBRACING COMPETENCY-BASED EDUCATION AND TRAINING (CBET) AT MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY

As we celebrate this momentous occasion with our graduating class of 2024, I am filled with immense pride and joy. This milestone marks the culmination of years of hard work, dedication, and perseverance. The School of Education at Maasai Mara University remains committed to providing quality teacher education that is relevant to the evolving needs of our society.

In line with the global shift towards Competency-Based Education and Training (CBET), we have undertaken a comprehensive review of our Teacher Education Programmes. This review has led to the integration of transformative

pedagogies, value-based education, and community service learning into our curriculum.

The current third-year cohort of 2024/2025 will embark on two crucial practicums from May 2025 onwards:

1. **School Practicum:** During this practicum, our students will immerse themselves in the practical aspects of teaching and learning. They will observe experienced teachers, participate in lesson planning, and assist in classroom activities. This hands-on experience will enable them to apply theoretical knowledge to real-

world scenarios and develop essential pedagogical skills.

2. **Teaching Practicum:** The teaching practicum will provide our students with the opportunity to take on the teaching role under the guidance of mentor teachers. They will independently plan and deliver lessons, assess student learning, and manage classrooms effectively. This intensive experience will equip them with the confidence and competence to become effective educators.

The adoption of CBET by the school will empower our graduates to become versatile and adaptable educators capable of meeting diverse needs of 21st-

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century learners. Integration of transformative pedagogies is meant to develop critical thinking, problem-solving, and creativity, enabling students to become active participants in their own learning and the learning of others. Value-Based Education will instill moral values, ethical principles, and

social responsibility, shaping our graduates into compassionate and responsible citizens. Community Service Learning will ensure equip our students with capacity to apply the knowledge and skills they acquire in course of their training to address real-world challenges, fostering a

sense of civic engagement and social justice.

As our graduates embark on their professional journeys, we are confident that they are well-prepared to make a positive impact on the education sector. We wish them all the best in their future endeavor

SCHOOL OF PURE AND APPLIED SCIENCES



Dr. Dominic Menge
Ag. Dean, School of
Pure and Applied Sciences



**Dr. Edward Njuguna
Muturi**
Chairperson, Mathematics
& Physical Sciences



Mr. Justus Ope
Chairperson,
Computing &
Information Sciences



Dr. Paul Wanjala
Chairperson,
Biological Sciences

CULTIVATING SCIENTIFIC EXCELLENCE AND FOSTERING INNOVATION FOR A BETTER FUTURE

The School of Pure and Applied Sciences (SPAS) fosters a vibrant community of scholars engaged in both generating new knowledge and applying it to create innovative products. This year, the school celebrates graduates from STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) disciplines, emphasizing its role as a driving force for national development.

With competency-based curricula focused on hands-on learning experiences, the school prepares students to address contemporary global challenges and seize opportunities worldwide. Through practical learning, mentorship, and exposure to cutting-edge science

and technology, the school nurtures a generation of creative and innovative learners poised to lead technological advancements.

SPAS takes pride in offering a comprehensive array of programmes spanning bachelors, master's, and doctoral levels across various scientific disciplines. At the undergraduate level, we provide extensive opportunities through Bachelor of Science programmes in Computer Science, Information Science, Mathematics, Microbiology, Physics, Applied Statistics with Computing, Plant Science, and Chemistry. These programs are meticulously designed to provide students with a solid foundation in their respective fields while

emphasizing practical applications and hands-on experience.



Advanced research equipment at our research laboratory

The master's programmes offered by our school represent advanced specialization opportunities in crucial scientific fields. These include Master of Science degrees in Applied Entomology, Applied Mathematics, Applied Statistics, Chemistry, Computer Science, Physics, and Pure Mathematics. Each programme is carefully structured to combine theoretical

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knowledge with practical applications, ensuring our graduates are well-prepared for both academic research and industry positions. For those seeking the highest level of academic achievement, our doctoral programmes offer unparalleled opportunities for advanced research and scholarly contribution. The school offers Doctor of Philosophy degrees in Physics, Pure Mathematics, Applied Mathematics, Applied Statistics, and Chemistry. These programmes are designed to push the boundaries of scientific knowledge and contribute to groundbreaking research in their respective fields.

In a remarkable display of innovation and technological prowess, the Bachelor of Science in Computer Science students from Maasai Mara University have made significant waves in the 2024 Kenya Inter-University Hackathon Competition. The team distinguished themselves by securing an impressive second runners-up position overall, while also clinching a top performance in the specialized category of **AI for Climate Change, Agriculture, and Food Security**. This prestigious competition, which brought together talented computer science students from multiple Kenyan universities, was sponsored by industry leaders including Microsoft and KAPS. The event provided a critical platform for young innovators to demonstrate their technological skills and develop cutting-edge solutions addressing crucial agricultural and environmental challenges.



Maasai Mara University's Computer Science Students Shine in 2024 Kenya Inter-University AI Hackathon

The team's exceptional performance not only highlights the high caliber of computer science education at Maasai Mara University but also underscores the institution's commitment to practical, problem-solving approaches in technological education. Their achievement is particularly noteworthy in the AI for Climate Change, Agriculture, and Food Security category, which demands both technical expertise and innovative thinking about sustainable agricultural solutions. As a reward for their outstanding performance, the hackathon winners, including Maasai Mara University's team, were extended a special invitation to showcase their groundbreaking innovations at Strathmore University. This opportunity provides the students with a valuable platform to present their work to potential industry partners, investors, and academic peers. Under the mentorship of Dr. Joash Bii, the team has demonstrated the exceptional quality of computer science education at Maasai Mara University. Their success serves as an inspiration to current and future students, proving that with dedication, creativity, and proper guidance, students can develop technological solutions that have the potential to address critical global challenges.

Recently the Department of Biological Sciences held a Microbiology Symposium from 16th to 18th September, 2024 at the Departments Biotechnology and Microbiology Laboratory, an event which was graced by the American Society for Microbiology (ASM). The event which was the first of its kind to be hosted in Maasai Mara University brought together students undertaking Microbiology in the Departments

of Biological Sciences and Animal Health and Production from the First Year to the Fourth Year of study. The learners interacted with a variety of scientists with expertise in the discipline of microbiology drawn locally and internationally both physically and virtually from Kenya, Central Africa Republic (CAR) and Burkina Faso. At the end of the symposium students were awarded based on various tasks undertaken in the Laboratory and these tokens acted as a motivation and boost for the current enrolment of students in the Microbiology undergraduate degree program. The department plans to host a similar event in the next and subsequent years wrecking in the learners from various high schools in Narok County and its neighboring counties in readiness for the roll out of learners drawn from the Competency Based Education Curriculum (CBC).



Microbiology Symposium held on 16th to 18th September 2024 by the department of biological sciences sponsored by the American Society for Microbiology (ASM)

The school places significant emphasis on mentorship and exposure to cutting-edge science and technology. Our faculty members, recognized experts in their fields, work closely with students to provide guidance and support throughout their academic journey. This mentorship extends beyond traditional classroom settings to include research laboratories, industry partnerships, and international collaborations, ensuring our students receive a well-rounded education that combines theoretical knowledge with practical experience. Our

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students are encouraged to think creatively, challenge existing paradigms, and develop novel solutions to real-world problems. This approach is supported by advanced research equipment that provide students with the tools they need to excel in their chosen fields.

International collaboration and global opportunities form another crucial aspect of our programmes. Through partnerships with leading institutions worldwide, we offer our students opportunities for international exchange programmes, collaborative

research projects, and global networking. These experiences broaden their perspectives and prepare them for careers in an increasingly interconnected world. The success of our approach is evident in the achievements of our graduates, who go on to pursue successful careers in academia, industry, research institutions, and entrepreneurial ventures. Many of our alumni hold leadership positions in prestigious organizations worldwide, contributing to scientific advancement and technological innovation across various sectors.

Looking to the future, the School of Pure and Applied Sciences continues to evolve and adapt to meet the changing needs of society and industry. We remain committed to our mission of providing excellence in scientific education while fostering innovation, creativity, and practical application of knowledge. Through our comprehensive programs, dedicated faculty, and state-of-the-art facilities, we are preparing the next generation of scientific leaders who will drive progress and innovation in their respective fields.

SCHOOL OF TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY



Dr. Justus Muchiri
Ag. Dean, School of
Tourism and Hospitality.



Dr. Moses Muraya
Chairperson, Tourism,
Hospitality & Leisure Studies

LEVERAGING STRATEGIC ACADEMIC-INDUSTRY LINKAGES TO ENHANCE LEARNER EXPERIENCE

The School of Tourism and Hospitality proudly celebrates the outstanding achievements of the graduating Class of 2024. This milestone represents the culmination of years of dedication and effort while marking the beginning of impactful careers in the tourism and hospitality industry, both locally and globally. The school offers a wide array of programmes, including masters and bachelors degrees, diplomas, and certificates. These

programmes are meticulously crafted to align with the evolving demands of the industry, providing students with the expertise required to excel in fields such as hotel management, eco-tourism, tour guiding, and sustainable tourism practices.

The involvement of industry stakeholders in curriculum development and periodic reviews ensures that our graduates are equipped to lead and innovate in the sector.

The School of Tourism and Hospitality emphasizes experiential learning that extends beyond traditional classroom settings. Through its Student Experiential Learning Model, students are immersed in real-world environments, blending theoretical knowledge with practical applications. Practicums, interactive projects, and field courses equip students with the critical skills necessary for success in this dynamic field.

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Field courses offer students invaluable exposure to Kenya's iconic tourism circuits, including the Western Circuit, Great Rift Valley, Mount Kenya, the coastal regions, and the Maasai Mara National Reserve. These experiences not only deepen their understanding of Kenya's biodiversity and cultural heritage but also instill a commitment to sustainable tourism and hospitality practices.

The school's commitment to bridging academia and industry is evident in its strategic partnerships. Collaborations with key industry players facilitate timely industrial attachment placements, providing students with hands-on experience in areas such as customer relations, policy and planning, eco-tourism, and culinary arts. These partnerships nurture well-grounded graduates who are well-prepared to meet the demands of the job market.

This year, several notable achievements highlight the school's progress:

- **The French Resource Centre:** Established in collaboration with the French Embassy, this hub fosters linguistic and cultural exchanges, benefiting students and the broader community.
- **Korean Language Initiative:** In partnership with WECA, this program broadens students' language options, enhancing cultural understanding and global competitiveness.
- **Tourism Research Institute Collaboration:** This partnership enhances research excellence through

capacity building, access to research funds, and joint studies addressing key industry issues and trends.

- **Culinary Arts Partnership with Papa John's:** This collaboration has resulted in 24 graduates securing positions with Papa John's outlets across Kenya, showcasing the career-readiness of our programs.

These milestones demonstrate the school's dedication to equipping students with the skills and global perspective needed to thrive in an increasingly interconnected industry. By fostering cultural and linguistic diversity, the school prepares graduates to excel in multinational environments while showcasing Kenya's vibrant tourism potential.

Graduates of the School of Tourism and Hospitality are in high demand both locally and internationally. Many secure roles in Kenya's leading tourism and hospitality establishments, while others contribute to global organizations, government bodies, conservation efforts, and renowned culinary institutions.

The Class of 2024 carries forward the legacy of Maasai Mara University, stepping into their professional journeys as ambassadors of innovation and excellence. Their achievements embody the promise of a brighter future for the tourism and hospitality industry.

The school extends heartfelt congratulations to its graduates, with immense pride in their accomplishments and confidence in their potential to make a

lasting impact. May God bless you abundantly in all your future endeavors.



Tourism and Hospitality students at Olpejeta



Tourism students at Aberdare National Park



Hospitality students in a training session at Sarova Whitesands Beach Resort and Spa, Mombasa

SCHOOL OF NATURAL RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES AND AGRICULTURE (SNRESA)



Dr. Samson Mabwoga
Ag. Dean, School Natural Resources, Tourism & Hospitality Management



Dr. Jedidah Nankaya
Chairperson, Forestry and Wildlife Management



Dr. Patrick Kamundia
Chairperson, Animal Health and Production



Dr. Meshack Langat
Chairperson, Environmental Studies, Geography and Planning



Dr. Maurice Omollo
Chairperson, Agriculture

SNRESA'S JOURNEY IN ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION: ADVANCING INNOVATION, SUSTAINABILITY AND STEWARDSHIP

In an era where environmental conservation has become more critical than ever, SNRESA has emerged as a beacon of hope and innovation in Kenya's fight against climate change. Through its groundbreaking **Green Cover Concept** initiative and strategic partnerships, SNRESA has planted over 200,000 trees in 2024 alone, marking a significant milestone in the University's commitment to environmental sustainability.

The school's achievements align with its strategic location near the world-renown Maasai Mara National Game Reserve. Operating under the innovative "5Ms" framework - Maasai Mara National Game Reserve, Mau Forest Ecosystem, Mara River Ecosystem, Maa Culture and "Maombi kwa Wote" (Spiritual

Wellbeing for all), SNRESA has demonstrated exceptional leadership in environmental conservation and community engagement.

The crown jewel of SNRESA's 2024 achievements has been its comprehensive tree-planting campaign. The school's **Model Tree Nursery** and **Botanical Garden** have become a cornerstone of environmental conservation efforts, producing and distributing tree seedlings to schools, churches and community organizations. Notable initiatives include:

- National Tree Planting Day at Chebitet Forest Area (May 10, 2024) contributing to 3,000 tree seedlings
- National Elimu Tree Planting Day (May 17, 2024) with a

donation of 2,000 seedlings to Emaiyan Primary School

- Narok County Churches Greening Program where we distributed over 25,000 seedlings to various churches
- School Outreach Program with a donation of over 22,000 seedlings to six local primary schools.

Among the school's most promising research initiatives is the **Cultivation of Prunus Africana**, an endangered species known for its potential in preventing prostate cancer. This project exemplifies SNRESA's commitment to combining conservation with medical research and innovation.

The school continues to expand its academic offerings through four robust departments:

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1. Environmental Studies, Geography and Planning
2. Forestry and Wildlife
3. Animal Health and Production
4. Agriculture (Newly Established)

Each department offers specialized programs that leverage the biodiversity-rich Mara River Basin and surrounding Mau Water Tower as natural laboratories for hands-on learning.

As SNRESA celebrates its achievements in 2024, it remains committed to its vision of becoming a **Center of Excellence in Environmental Resource Management**. The school's efforts align perfectly with Kenya's national goal of planting 15 billion trees by 2032 and increasing Narok County's forest cover from 14% to 30%.

SNRESA's influence this year extended far beyond the classroom. The school fostered valuable partnerships with organizations including, Kenya Veterinary Association, Kenya Wildlife Service, Brooke East Africa, World Animal Protection, and Welttierschutzstiftung (WTS-Germany)

SNRESA understands that collaboration strengthens ties between universities. In demonstrating the power of international cooperation in addressing environmental issues, five students from the Technical University of Delft (TU-Delft), partnered with students from Maasai Mara University to address flood management challenges in Narok Town. A visiting group of students specializing in Water Resources Engineering, Geotechnical Engineering and Construction Management, engaged with local students from Earth Sciences, Environmental Studies and Urban Planning programmes to develop flood management strategies for Enkare-Narok River basin. The project address needs like early warning systems, theft-proof flood sensors and efficient warning communication methods for Narok residents. The project emphasizes the involvement of local stakeholders - including business owners, farmers, and residents - in co-designing and installation of flood sensors to create culturally appropriate flood warning system.



Photos: - An interactive session between students from Maasai Mara University and Technical University of Delft (TU-Delft)

As we celebrate this year's graduating class, SNRESA continues to strengthen its position as a leader in environmental conservation and sustainable resource management. Through its comprehensive approach to education, research and community engagement, the school is nurturing the next generation of environmental stewards who will shape Kenya's sustainable future.

SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES



Prof. Nathan Oyaro
Dean, School of Health Sciences



Ms. Jacqueline. Naulikha
Chairperson, Health Science

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On behalf of the school and myself, I would like to congratulate the graduates of the year 2024 for achieving this great milestone. I am pleased to note that these graduands of this day will champion, the Universal health Care (UHC), because they understand the community, and with partnership and collaborations, communities will receive health services they need, without suffering financial hardships.

The 33 of you graduating this day, were well spotted and

appreciated everywhere you stepped, in class, in practical areas, you were always recommended as the best. This day I recommend you to the world, as the best from Maasai Mara University.

I urge our graduates to be on the lookout for scholarship opportunities. Also, I encourage you to register for the various postgraduate programmes.

Let the knowledge you have acquired in our university be a stepping stone as you face the world tomorrow. The school would like to wish you good luck

in your future endeavors. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



A nursing instructor demonstrates the use of medical mannequin in training nurses



Mr. Mohamed Abdullahi Adan
Dean of Students

Dear Graduands, Congratulations on reaching this significant milestone in your academic journey! Today, as you prepare to graduate from Maasai Mara University, we recognize your dedication, hard work, and resilience that has led to this memorable achievement.

On behalf of the Office of the Dean of Students, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to each of you on this proud day. Your graduation is a testament to your

commitment, perseverance, and the many sacrifices you have made to achieve this important goal.

At Maasai Mara University, we strive to nurture not only academic excellence but also personal growth and community engagement. It has been a privilege for us to support you on this journey, watching you develop into well-rounded, thoughtful, and responsible individuals ready to make meaningful contributions to society.

The Student Affairs Department is honored to have been a part of your university experience. We have witnessed your developmental milestones, celebrated your successes, and supported you through challenges. We are confident that the values and skills you have acquired during your time here will empower you to make a

positive impact in your communities and beyond.

As you move forward into the next phase of your lives, remember the values you've learned and the friendships you've built here. Stand tall as ambassadors of Maasai Mara University and continue to pursue your dreams with purpose, integrity, and passion. Maasai Mara University will always be a home for you. Stay connected, uphold the spirit of excellence, and continue to inspire others as you have inspired us.

Congratulations once again. We are immensely proud of you, and we look forward to seeing the positive impact you will make in the world. Wishing you all the best in your future endeavors. Go forth and make a difference!

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Games and Sports

“ Sports teaches you character, it teaches you to play by the rules, it teaches you to know what it feels like to win and lose- it teaches you about life” - **Billie Jean King**.

Games and sports are essential components of a student’s journey in Higher Education. It enhances self-esteem, improves self-confidence and promotes a healthy and happy society. Games and sports are important in fostering social harmony, inculcating discipline and helping in channelizing the vast youth potential.

The University offers an array of disciplines namely; soccer, rugby, handball, table tennis, volleyball, basketball, scrabble, chess, netball, tennis, hockey, badminton and athletics among others. These events are played as planned in the calendar of events which is done at the beginning of every academic year.

For this semester our students have so far competed in indoor events and Soccer. The indoor activities include; chess, badminton, scrabble, tennis, tae-kwondo, darts, karate and many more.

The following teams for both men and women competed with other KUSF-RIFT region universities and were ranked as follows:

Team	Scrabble	Table Tennis	Chess	Badmint on	Tennis
Men	3/7	5/7	5/7	3/7	4/7
Women	2/7	4/7	2/7	4/7	2/7

Positions **one** and **two** qualifies for national competitions. Hence Maasai Mara University got **three events** (Scabble, Chess and Tennis -all women) to take to the **national level in February, 2025**.



Badminton -University of Eldoret. 5th October,2024



Tennis-University of Eldoret. 5th October, 2024



MmaraU vs Egerton University Scrabble game at UoE 6th October, 2024

For soccer KUSF-RIFT competitions that were held in Laikipia University on 2nd -3rd November, 2024. Our soccer team displayed exceptional teamwork throughout the tournament securing the **first** position in the region. **Congrats!**

6th KUPAA Drama, Film and Beauty Pageant Festival

Maasai Mara University Students participated in the 6th Kenya Universities Drama, Film, Visual Arts and Beauty Pageant Annual Festival which was held at Egerton University from 8th --16th November 2024. A total of 38 Universities, both Public and Private took part in the festival.

Our students fought the Stiff Competition exhibited at the festival to win in Two Unique but hotly contested genres.

- Beauty Pageantry:** Our Student - Fanaka Newron Juma braved the Night cold of 14th November 2024 at Egerton to clinch Miss Universities position 1 out of 64 contestants. Congratulations!
- The Maa Cultural Troupe** emerged the winners in the uniquely contested genre out of twelve.
The Indigenous Dance category.



Our student’s portrayed maturity and innovativeness to compete and win. They showed their potential of even doing better going forward. We lead and others follow. Kudos! for shining out there.

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THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN



Dr. Nancy Kimile

University Librarian

Academic libraries are indispensable to educational institutions, providing resources, research support, and a conducive learning environment for students, faculty, and researchers. In particular, they provide access to a wide range of information resources both

physical and digital. The diverse collections include: physical collections and e-resources that support broad array of academic disciplines. Furthermore, they provide students and faculty with information critical to their studies and research. Through the development of Institutional Repositories (IR), libraries help increase the visibility and accessibility of faculty and student research, boosting the impact of an institution's academic reputation and fostering knowledge dissemination. In addition, Academic libraries promote open access to research, making scholarly work freely available to the global academic community and contributing to a more equitable knowledge-sharing

environment. Hence, Libraries are dynamic centers for knowledge acquisition, information skills development, adapt to changing technological advancements and address emerging challenges. Academic Libraries will continue to play a pivotal role in fostering academic excellence, collaborative learning and innovation.

Beyond offering books and journals, modern academic libraries play a transformative role in education by promoting digital literacy, providing access to cutting-edge technology, and supporting collaborative learning. This report explores the importance of academic libraries, examining their various functions, benefits, and the challenges they face.

Books Donations: Empowering Communities through Knowledge Sharing

Education as a key to success is embedded in Books. Maasai Mara University through Ratansi foundation received an assortment of books worth KESH 1.3 million from Michael Blundell foundation. This was the fifth donation of its kind in a series of such yearly practice.

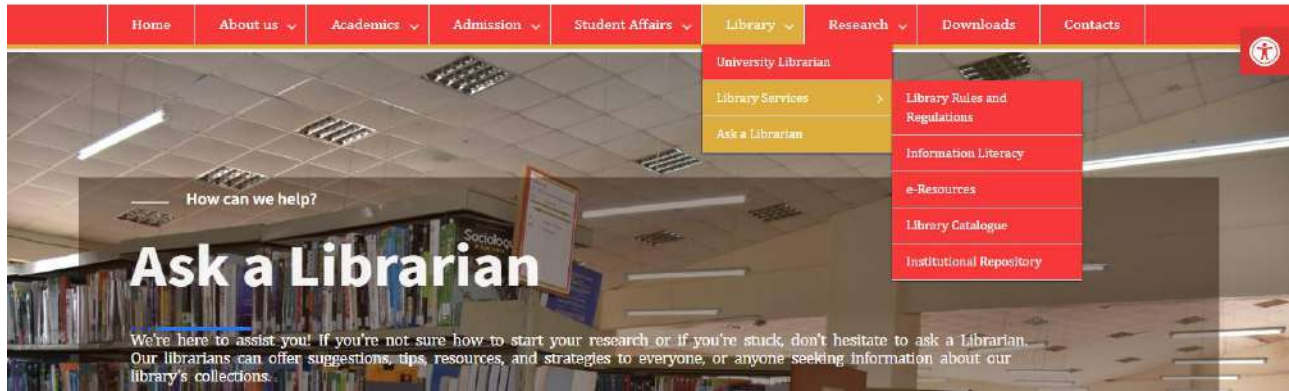
The books are of diverse disciplines: health, sciences, agriculture, animal sciences and CBC related. The Books donation

exercise was aimed at enhancing reading culture, building strong collaborations and partnerships. Libraries are crucial and ingrained pillar in learning Institutions and harbor the foundation of knowledge. These books as temples of reading will provoke creative ideas and thoughtful innovations. The books too, will go along way to playing an in fatigable role in fulfilling needs of the society and reforming the world.



The University Librarian with the assortment of books donated to the University from Ratansi Foundation

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To access our Library Online Services, visit our university Library Website Page at www.mmarau.ac.ke



Links as they appear in the University Website, they include Library Catalog, University Repository, MyLOFT Login, and Turnitin

Information Literacy

The library provides users with education programmes and training workshops to assist users in using the library effectively. Library orientation programmes for new students and staff are scheduled at the beginning of an academic year. Training workshops on using resources of different subject areas are held from time to time. Library also coordinates with Schools to customize training programmes related to the needs of their courses.

E-Resources

The Maasai Mara University library subscribes to online full-text Academic journals in various disciplines through membership to **Kenya Libraries Information Services Consortium (KLISC)**, who directly engages with publishers as well as open-access databases. Visit our website page for the Links to Access. Visit the MMARAU library Webpage for

journals with username and password.

Institutional Repository

The repository collects, stores, preserves and disseminates digital information resources. It serves Maasai Mara University community with intellectual output.

My LOFT?

MyLOFT stands for “My Library On Finger Tips.” This is a reliable access to Maasai Mara University library subscribed e-Resources and web articles. It allows you to access, download, organize, share and read offline all of your e-content, anytime, anywhere.

Ask a Librarian

Ask a Librarian is a free service provided by our library for those who need help with library and research-related questions. Our knowledgeable reference staff are here to assist you in person, over the phone at our library service

desks, and online through email, instant messaging, and texting.

Scope: While our primary focus is on serving students, faculty, and staff, we are open to anyone with library-related questions. We specialize in providing information about library resources, collections, facilities, and services. Additionally, we can address queries about library-supported technologies, such as our library online resources.

Feedback: Your feedback is important to us. You can reach us via email at library@mmarau.ac.ke or visit our facebook page

ORCID

ORCID, stands for Open Researcher and Contributor ID, its vision is a world where all who participate in research, scholarship, and innovation are uniquely identified and connected to their contributions across disciplines, borders, and time. Get Your ORCID iD Today!

DIRECTORATES

DIRECTOR, QUALITY ASSURANCE

MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY RECEIVES FAVORABLE REVIEW IN THE REGULAR INSTITUTIONAL QUALITY AUDIT CONDUCTED BY THE COMMISSION FOR UNIVERSITY EDUCATION BETWEEN 27TH – 30TH MAY, 2024



**Dr. Kennedy Karani
Onyiko, PhD**

Director, Quality Assurance

The Commission for University Education (CUE) is mandated under the Universities ACT, No. 42 of 2012, section 5(1) to undertake regular inspections, monitoring, and evaluation of universities to ensure compliance with the provision of the Act.

The regular institutional Audit is carried out every five years. The first audit of the University was carried out in July 2018. To enable the CUE Audit in 2024, the University conducted an Institutional Self-assessment Audit following the CUE guidelines in preparation for the regular institutional audit. The following areas were audited and captured in the Self-Assessment Report (SAR): *The specific profile of the university; Stakeholders' Requirements; Governance and Management of the University; Core Institutional Activities; Quality Assurance; Physical Facilities and Utilities; Achievements; and, Stakeholder Satisfaction.*

The Commission conducted the Regular University Institutional Quality Audit from 27th-30th May

2024 based on the SAR. The objectives of the audit were to assess the extent to which the University has: continued to uphold its goals and objectives for which it was established in the charter; implemented recommendations of the Commission award of the charter and or previous audit; continued to enhance the quality of the expected outcomes; and, to assess any other institutional achievements.

As per the audit programme, the audit team interviewed the following stakeholders: students, academic staff, administrative staff, alumni, suppliers, members of senate, the University management board, and the University council members. The audit team also perused evidences presented to them and inspected facilities including Library and Information Resources, Conference Halls/Lecture Theatres/Rooms, Laboratories/ICT Laboratories, Medical/Health Facilities, Workshops, Studios, Farms, Staff Offices, Student Hostels and Utility Services among others.

The commission specifically praised the University for its strengths in several key areas:

- The university has a strategic plan for 2019-2024 and is developing a new strategic plan for 2024-2029.
- The university has a Chancellor, a Council, and a substantive Vice-Chancellor.
- Annual estimates of the Revenue and Expenditures are approved as per the Universities Act No. 42 of 2012 Section 44(I) for the five-year

period. Financial statements were audited by the Office of the Auditor General.

- The university offers academic programmes accredited by the Commission. The programmes facilitate a balanced learning process. Also, some of the programmes have qualified programme leaders.
- The University engages various cadres of teaching staff.
- Monitoring of teaching and learning is conducted using a standard tool and weekly reports shared with the DVC, Academic, and Student Affairs.
- The average student retention and graduation rate of 94.6% and 93.7% respectively is commendable.
- The University has portable LCD projectors dedicated to academic departments to support face-to-face teaching.
- The library subscribes to over 40,000 print resources guided by the Collection Development Policy as per LIBR/LIB/STD 02 for various subject areas. Further, the library has a good collection of Open Source, e-Books and e-resources to the library users.
- There is a provision for remote access of the library resources.
- The University has a dedicate Center for Community Outreach which is engaged in outreach activities as per INST/STD/11. They carry out clinical services to the locals, engages in book donations and tree planting.
- The University has in place an Internal Quality Assurance Structure and Quality Assurance Policy and Curriculum Development and

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Review Policy that guide IQA processes.

- The University has ongoing construction of an ultramodern library.
- There is a 50-year Physical Master Plan (2020-2070) indicating its existing and proposed physical facilities
- The University has produced prominent/ eminent persons including Senators, academia, and managerial roles in leading organizations
- There is a university-run medical scheme
- The University has established partnerships and collaborations within and without the country.

WE acknowledge the dedication and hard work of the entire university fraternity - faculty, staff, and students - whose unwavering commitment to excellence made the IQA success possible. We look forward to a future of continuous growth and innovation, further solidifying our position as a premier institution of higher learning.



The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Peninah Aloo-Obudho gathered for group photo with the CUE Audit team



The Vice-Chancellor received the Summary Audit Exit Report



Audit team meeting with Senate members



The Audit team also participated in tree planting activity within the University, alongside their audit exercise, the University gave them a section/corner named after the Commission



L-R: The Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Eunice Marete, Deputy Commission Secretary – Standards and Quality Assurance and Dr. Arch Micah Makworo sign the Summary Audit Exit Report



The CUE Audit Team, The University Management Board and Senate gathered for a group photo

DIRECTOR, UNIVERSITY - INDUSTRY LINKAGES

MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY AND ROAM ELECTRIC GREEN E-MOBILITY PARTNERSHIP



Prof. Justus Simiyu
Director, University Industry Linkages

The Directorate of University-Industry Linkages is proud to be at the forefront of transformative educational and industry collaborations in Narok County and beyond. As a dynamic unit within our institution, we are committed to fostering meaningful partnerships that enhance academic excellence, promote sustainable development, and stimulate economic growth.

As part of strengthening academia-industry partnership,

the University has initiated talks with ROAM Electricals, an innovation start-up company specializing in the retrofitting of electric engines in gasoline vehicles. This collaboration will mark a significant stride towards green e-mobility initiatives designed to revolutionize the tourism industry in the Great Mara region. ROAM Electric boasts expertise in manufacturing electric motorbikes, which have already made a substantial impact in Nairobi County, in alliance with the local county government.

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Through this new partnership, the University aims to use this expertise and apply it within the tourism sector, thus promoting environmental sustainability and reducing carbon emissions in one of Kenya's most treasured natural landscapes.

Furthermore, we prioritize student industrial attachment and internship opportunities to bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and real-world application. By facilitating placements within industry settings, our students gain invaluable hands-on experience, enhance their professional competencies, and explore potential career paths. This initiative also benefits our partners by providing access to a pool of talented and well-trained individuals equipped to tackle industry challenges.

In our efforts to drive technology transfer and bring cutting-edge innovations to the market, we are closely working with the Directorate of Research, Innovation and Outreach to empower the already established Technology Transfer Office. This office serves as a conduit for accelerating the commercialization of university research outputs, fostering entrepreneurship, and nurturing startups that address pressing

social and economic needs. Our aim is to not only equip our students with the knowledge they need but also provide them with the tools to innovate and lead in various industries.

To augment these initiatives, we are setting up Industry Advisory Boards within the Directorate. This Board will consist of industry leaders and experts who will provide strategic guidance and ensure that our programs remain relevant and responsive to the changing industry landscapes. Their advice will be crucial in shaping curriculum development, research agenda, and strategic partnerships that support our long-term mission of academic excellence and societal impact.

We are also exploring partnerships with financial institutions such as AfrExim Bank to support our initiatives through funding and financial consultancies. These collaborations will enable us to access resources necessary for research and development, as well as provide financial literacy programs for our students and faculty.

In the field of digital business solutions, we are engaging with companies like Dotsavvy to enhance our digital capabilities

and integrate technology into our academic and administrative processes. This partnership will help us streamline operations, improve communication, and offer digital learning opportunities to our students.

Moreover, we are collaborating with advocacy groups such as the Kenya Association of Manufacturers (KAM) and the Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA) to align our initiatives with national development goals and industry standards. These partnerships will ensure that our programs are relevant to the needs of the industry and contribute to the economic growth of the region.

In conclusion, the Directorate of University-Industry Linkage is charting a course towards a promising future where academic prowess and industry innovation converge. Our partnership with ROAM Electric is just one step in a broader strategy to create sustainable economic and environmental outcomes while fostering knowledge, creativity, and leadership among our students and faculty. We are excited about the journey ahead and look forward to continued collaboration and collective achievements that will stand the test of time.

DIRECTOR, POSTGRADUATE STUDIES



Prof. Beatrice Manyasi, PhD
Director, Postgraduate Studies

The Board of Postgraduate Studies (BPS) plays a pivotal role in coordinating all postgraduate activities in the university. It monitors Postgraduate students research progress and process their theses. In addition, the BPS organizes seminars, trainings, establish strategic partnerships and solicit for scholarships for students. The enrollment of

Postgraduate students to pursue various Masters and PhD programmes has increased across the years due to substantial strategies such as: paperless admission process, regular monitoring of student progress, timely processing of theses, student support through annual training in proposal writing, grant application, data analysis,

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publication and exposure to international best practices.

The Board is committed to internationalization of education through various initiatives that enhance both regional and international student experiences. Recently, Maasai Mara University, through the Directorate of BPS expressed interest in the DAAD In-Country/In-Region Scholarships. The university collaborates with Vaal University of Technology (VUT), South Africa, on staff and students exchange, partnerships in the fields of governance, science, technology, research and innovation, as well as community development programmes. We are grateful to the National Research Fund (NRF) for their support through capacity building, conferences and scholarships.

Postgraduate students research aligns with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a

universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030, all humanity enjoy peace and prosperity; anchored in the three pillars: economic, social, and political development. Furthermore, the research outputs help shape evidence-based policies, guiding decisions across disciplines such as education, industrialization, trade, investment, infrastructure development, climate action, and sustainable development.

Education being a Social Pillar, is aimed at improving the quality of Life.

Research in pedagogy, curriculum development and other relevant areas ensure that the education system is aligned with relevant market needs and enhance human capital. Research in Competency Based Education designs, transformative Pedagogies and Competency

Based Assessment, enhance quality implementation, monitoring and evaluation. It also amplifies voices of the marginalized groups, fostering inclusion. Studies in governance systems, transparency, and accountability, contribute to democratic growth and political stability. Likewise, Research in peacebuilding and conflict management, address national and regional conflicts, promoting stable political environment. Mathematical models are crucial tools in research, serving as bridges between theory and application. They not only enhance understanding but also enable innovation across diverse fields. Graduate students research address grassroots challenges and contribute to sustainable development nationally and globally.

Congratulations to the graduates!

DIRECTOR, CENTRE FOR ICT & E-LEARNING



Anil Kumar

Director, ICT and E-Learning

DEAR Class of 2024, Congratulations on reaching this significant milestone! Today marks a new chapter in your lives, one filled with limitless potential and endless opportunities. Your

dedication and hard work have brought you to this remarkable achievement, and we are immensely proud of you.

In the spirit of progress and innovation, we at the Directorate of ICT and eLearning are fully committed to adopting digital technology to enhance how we serve and support our university community. Our initiatives, such as digital payment systems, eLearning platforms, digital invitation cards, and interactive newsletters and magazines, reflect our dedication to a future where technology empowers each of us in our daily lives.

Digital transformation not only streamlines operations but also enriches our interactions, making

knowledge and resources more accessible to everyone. From enabling flexible learning through eLearning to offering efficient digital payment options, technology has become a powerful tool for growth and efficiency. As graduates, you are entering a world where digital solutions will play a pivotal role in both personal and professional realms, opening doors to endless possibilities.

Once again, congratulations to all our graduands. We wish you a very bright and successful future. May your journey ahead be filled with purpose, innovation, and the courage to embrace change.

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DIRECTOR, RESEARCH, INNOVATION & OUTREACH



Dr. Aloys Osano, PhD
Director, Research, Innovation
& Outreach

The Directorate of Research, Innovation & Outreach has enhanced research and innovation activities within the University and her community. Over the year, 2024, we have accomplished the following key milestones;

1. Research

- a) Formalization of the Research and Innovation Board. The role of the board is to regulate and mainstream research and innovation activities, was formalized and commenced their mandates in January, 2024. The board is anchored in the University Statutes, 2022 and is currently working on mainstreaming internal research grants
- b) Coordination of research teams to develop fundable grant winning proposals – at least 14 research grants proposals were developed in 2024. Consequently, six (6) research grants (Financially and in-kind) have been won over the year as reported by the DVC RIO above.
- c) Accreditation of the Institutional Research ethics review committee (ISREC). The Maasai Mara University Institution Research Ethics Review Committee (ISREC) accreditation is ongoing with the National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI).

- d) Research workshops. The Directorate has organized at least five (5) research workshops over the year targeting various audiences. Most recently, a Community One Health and Climate Coalition workshop was held with African Community for Partners in Planetary Health and Environment (ACOPPHE), Birdlife Africa and Nature Kenya and Nature Tanzania.
- e) The University Big Data Analytics (BDA) establishment is well on course. In 2024, the Culture BDA team has been very active in collecting and documenting on various Maa practices in Narok and Kajiado Counties.
- f) The following conferences were held in 2024: (1) The 2nd Biannual International Social Work and Multidisciplinary Conference, 2024 held between 29th and 31st May, 2024, (2) The 3rd Great Development Rift (GDR) Colloquium, 13th to 17th May, 2024, and (3) The 13th Mara Day Celebrations Scientific Conference.



Conference proceedings

2. Innovations

- a) Several innovation milestones were accomplished over the years as follows: (1) The University was embedded onto the Kenya National Innovation Agency (KeNIA) Institution Support Program; (2) the University Innovations Incubation and Entrepreneurship Center was commissioned in July, 2024; (3) we have commenced commercialization while several other are underway; (4) the University was amongst three other Universities in

Kenya privileged to organize a side-event and a Summit on AI during the Kenya Innovation Week, 2024 (25th – 29th November, 2024). The Summit was co-organized with Huawei Kenya and other partners; (5) five innovation trainings were held in 2024. The trainings ranged on becoming an entrepreneurial University facilitated by Dr Tonny Omwansa on 24th January, 2024, innovations and business model facilitated by Prof Dimitrios Tsagidis on 28th February, 2024, establishing an innovation fund framework by Dennis Maloya (Business Magazine & KeNIA) on 21st June, 2024, Innovation training for University management and staff and for students and by Victoria Ventures on 16th and 17th October, 2024; and (6) the University has engaged in three hackathons/innovation competitions over the year as follows: a. the Africa One Health Universities Network (AFROHUN) network conducted in Pride Inn Azure, Nairobi on 29th September, 2024 which attracted 31 Universities. The University's Innovation Club emerged first runners up bagging cash rewards (\$1,000), mentorship programmes and software development support, b. The Maasai Mara University AI Innovations hackathon held in the University on 22nd October, 2024. The hackathon attracted 26 AI innovations from six organizations and universities in Kenya, and the Kenya Airport Packing Services (KAPS)-JKUAT AI innovations hackathon held in JKUAT, Juja on 15th November, 2024 that attracted over 300 AI based innovations. The University had two AI innovations in the final 40 innovations.

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Awards ceremony for hackathon winners

DIRECTOR, PUBLIC RELATIONS, MARKETING AND LINKAGES (PRM&L)



Dr. Edward Kateiyya,
Director, PR, Marketing & Linkages

Over the year, the Directorate has effectively participated in numerous marketing initiatives that include exhibitions, conferences and other gatherings. Some of the counties reached directly span from Narok, Kisii, Nyamira, Homa Bay, Migori, Samburu, Nairobi, Vihiga, Kakamega, Isiolo and Siaya among others.

We offer strategic communication with internal and external audiences which includes and not limited to; customers and potential customers, employees of the University, key stakeholders and partners, the media and general public and other Government agencies.

The Directorate produces a variety of content for online consumption and management social media accounts: Facebook, X, Instagram, YouTube, Tumblr, Tiktok and LinkedIn. They were effective in enhancing the university publicity, image, marketing and communications. These fora embrace modern digital technology to enhance university education and have continued to gain in terms of followers, likes, shares and feedback.

In the year 2024, the Directorate engaged various partners and signed MOUs with L'école Des Hautes Études En Sciences Sociales, France, JUAMI CHARZ and Windle International Kenya (WIK) Education Transforms Society. Additionally, draft MOUs have been developed awaiting signing with: Equity Bank, Makerere University, Retirement Benefits Authority, Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI), Metharath University, Thailand, Standard Group, KASNEB among others. These collaborations maximise mutually beneficial relations in advancement of inclusive University education. Also, the Directorate has initiated partnerships with African

Population and Health Research Centre (APHCR), Innov8 Africa, The Institute of Public Finance (IPF), ABSA bank and Equity Bank Kenya.

The French Embassy, Nairobi established a French Resource Centre to facilitate language learning and cultural exchange in the University through collaboration. A Family lighting unit is aligned to recipient pupil education performance tracking.

The Directorate has had direct impact on the society through community services and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). Through these active participatory services and engagements, we create a more vibrant, caring, informed and empowered community able to steer sustainable development agenda.

To the class of 2024, graduation is a monumental milestone in a person's life. You have a huge multitude of us cheering your success. We are so honoured your success. We are so honoured to be a part of this special day! You deserve recognition and encouragement. Throw those caps in the air like they'll not land down.

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DIRECTOR, GENDER, EQUITY AND CULTURE.



Dr. Jane Ombati
Director, Gender, Equity and Culture)

On behalf of the Directorate of Gender Equity and Culture, I warmly congratulate the Maasai Mara University Class of 2024 on achieving this significant milestone. Your dedication, resilience, and hard work have brought you to this moment of accomplishment. We are immensely proud of you as your graduation today is no mean achievement.

The Directorate's vision is to foster a community free from Gender-Based Violence and prepare students and the university community as a whole to safeguard lives by addressing Gender-Based Violence, combating drug abuse, and promoting a morally upright society for tomorrow. As graduates, you carry the responsibility to embody and advance these values as you step into the world.

During the year 2024, the directorate of Gender, Equity and Culture made significant milestones in achieving its mandate. The Directorate worked closely with Narok County

Gender Technical Working Group to drive mission of the Directorate besides internal activities in the University.

The Directorate joined other Narok County partners to celebrate the International Day of the Girl Child at Narok West on 11th October, 2024. The theme was: "Girls' Vision for the Future". International Day of the Girl Child is a global observance dedicated to highlighting the challenges faced by girls around the world and promoting their empowerment, education, and rights. This important day serves as a reminder of the need to address gender inequalities, discrimination, and violence against girls and to create a brighter future for them.



Celebration of the International Day of the Girl Child

The Directorate participated during the launch Children Justice Service Month organized by the Judiciary through the Chief Magistrate's court, Narok Law courts whereby the Directorate donated tree seedlings and sanitary pads to the girls. The activity took place on 13th November, 2024 at Narok South, Oleshapani.

The Directorate has established a working relationship with other universities on matters relating to Gender Based Violence (GBV). This is aimed at providing an opportunity to engage and seek innovative strategies and solutions that would contribute

to the prevention and response to Gender-Based Violence. The universities include: Moi, Egerton, Kibabii, Kabarak, University of Kabianga (host) and University of Eldoret. The universities organised a conference that took place between 29th - 30th, November, 2024 focusing on Technology Facilitated Gender Based Violence (TFGBV) to mark the 16 Days of Activism whose main theme will be centered around GBV in the digital landscape.

The Directorate also observed the Internationally Menstrual Hygiene Day and the International Day of Men.

As we commemorate the 2024 theme for the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence: "Unite! Activism to End Violence Against Women and Girls", I urge each one of you to actively engage in this vital course. Let us work together to challenge harmful norms, amplify marginalized voices, and create safe, inclusive spaces for all.

In conclusion, as you embark on this new chapter, remember the core principles of equity, respect, and inclusivity that this University holds dearly. You are now ambassadors of a positive transformation, and the trust that you will use your knowledge and skills to champion a just and equitable society.

Finally, I congratulate once again the class of 2024 and wish you success in your future endeavors. I wish you Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New year, 2025.

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DIRECTOR, ENDOWMENT FUND.



Mr. Lankeu Reason, MKIM
Director, Endowment Fund

AT the Directorate of Endowment Fund (DEF), we proudly support Maasai Mara University's vision of being "a university focused on innovation and empowerment for societal transformation" and its mission "to provide quality

education through teaching, research, innovation, and community outreach."

The mandate of the Directorate is to source resources both financial and material through fundraising and partnerships with strategic donors and Friends of Maasai Mara University for University advancement and growth.

This year, the Directorate has made notable strides in resource mobilization and strategic partnerships. Highlights include the donation of a water purification treatment plant by the Shanghai Environment Group LTD, worth USD 200,000 which will enhance the University's water security and sustainability. In collaboration with Tongji University and

Bluetti Power Company, the university received a donation of 200 solar light kits worth USD14,000 promoting environmental sustainability and expanding access to equitable education.

We encourage the graduating Class of 2024 to join our Alumni Association and be part of the team to grow Maasai Mara University,

Once more congratulations on this incredible achievement! As you embark on the next phase of your journey, carry forward the values of innovation, empowerment, and transformation. We wish you success and fulfilment in all your endeavors.

FACULTY INVOLVEMENT IN FUNDED RESEARCH PROJECTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

SHAPING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

A consortium led by Professor Han Olf from Groningen University has won a significant **€6.75 million** grant from the Dutch Research Council (NWO). Maasai Mara University, a co-applicant in the East Africa work package, was awarded €793,500, equivalent to approximately Ksh 112 million. The project focuses on the Maasai rangelands of the Greater Serengeti-Mara Ecosystem, comparing diverse collectives with varied governance structures across different land tenure systems to evaluate their effectiveness in biodiversity conservation and sustainable land use.

Dr. Jedidah Nankaya and Professor James Nampushi will lead the project at Maasai Mara University, reinforcing the university's dedication to ecological research and its commitment to collaborative efforts that align with global environmental conservation goals.

The grant will fund two post-doctoral positions and one fully sponsored PhD opportunity, which will be offered at Maasai Mara University.



"This funding will enable us to contribute to impactful research that merges traditional knowledge with modern science to foster sustainable biodiversity restoration. It's an exciting step forward for our university and the region." Dr. Jedidah Nankaya

"The CurveBend project Lead by Dr. Nankaya and Prof. Nampushi, exemplifies the power of collaborative research in addressing pressing ecological challenges. It underscores the importance of international partnerships in advancing sustainable practices and demonstrates how joining forces can make meaningful strides in tackling environmental issues"

Prof. Francis Mburu, Ag. DVC Research, Innovation and Outreach

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RESEARCHERS FROM THE KING'S COLLEGE LONDON, KEMRI AND MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY WIN BRITISH ACADEMY 'S ODA CHALLENGE-ORIENTED RESEARCH GRANT 2024

Project Title Co-developing a multi-sectoral-primary care partnership to address inequalities in cardiovascular disease prevention and management in the Maasai in Kenya (HEKIMA_Maasai)

Objective To understand the lived experiences of CVD among the Maasai in Kenya and co-develop a multisectoral partnership with primary health care for prevention.

Funder The British Academy

Amount £199,974.01

Award reference number IOCRG/101801



Dr Kennedy Karani Onyiko, PhD

Investigators and Institutional Affiliations:

Name	Role	Institution
Dr. Lydia Kaduka	PI	KEMRI CPHR
Prof. Seeromanie Harding	Co-PI	King's College London
Dr. Joseph Mutai	Co-I	KEMRI CPHR
Dr. Kennedy Karani Onyiko	Co-I	Maasai Mara University
Dr. Joanna Olale	Co-I	Centre for Clinical Research
Ms. Schiller Mbuka	Co-I	Centre for Public Health Research

Maasai Mara University is represented by Dr. Onyiko who is a Senior Lecturer of Social Work, Department of Social Sciences. He is also the Director, Quality Assurance. He has research interests in positive youth development, gerontology, care leaving, street children and online education.

For more information:

<https://www.thebritishacademy.ac.uk/projects/co-developing-a-multi-sectoral-primary-care-partnership-to-address-inequalities-in-cardiovascular-disease-prevention-and-management-in-the-maasai-in-kenya/>

MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY MEMBER OF STAFF WINS THE CARNEGIE AFRICAN DIASPORA FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM GRANT 2024



Dr. W. Nyaiyoti Omwoyo, PhD, MRSC, FNGS

Grant Awardee – Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship Program (CADFP), 2024

The Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship Program (CADFP) is a programme in which an accredited African host University requests a Diaspora scholar to work on a jointly funded project for a given period of time. This program is available for Universities in Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda as well as institutions that are members of the African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA) and also partner

Universities with the Consortium for Advanced Research Training in Africa (CARTA) which are eligible to apply to serve as hosts. Host Universities can submit project requests to support any two of the following activities;

- Innovations in curriculum co-development. Requests outlining activities in curriculum co-development should focus on innovative and collaborative approaches to designing and implementing new courses and curriculum(s).

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Fellowships that assist host institutions in developing and strengthening online instructional capacities are highly encouraged.

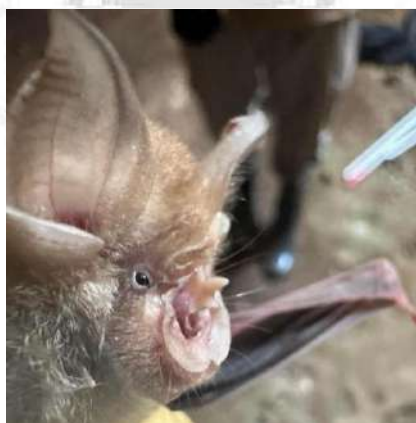
- New approaches and methods to graduate mentoring and training. Requests which include mentoring and training graduate students should identify new approaches and methods that will enhance graduate students' disciplinary knowledge and academic research skills.
- Impactful research collaboration and capacity strengthening. Research collaborations proposed by potential hosts and fellows should demonstrate long-term impact and strengthening of host faculty disciplinary knowledge and academic research skills.

Maasai Mara University through Dr. Nyaigoti Omwoyo, a Senior Lecturer of Chemistry submitted a project proposal to the Carnegie Africa Diaspora Fellowship program for the summer 2024 applications cycle and after evaluation by the advisory council, he was awarded the grant with an approved budget of USD 62,800. The grant is meant to facilitate a Diaspora researcher to be hosted at Maasai Mara University for a given period of time. The Diaspora fellow who should be arriving in the University early next year 2025, will work on a joint research project with the host while supervising graduate students. In this particular case, CADFP will be funding the purchase of chemicals and characterization for the development of a nanocomposite for the removal of endocrine

disrupting compounds from portable water. This is a project that will take the research to commercialization approach as per the funding agreement. Further the grant aims to establish a strong collaboration with the University of Arkansas, USA where the diaspora researcher is based. The host researcher will equally be legible to visit the University of Arkansas for collaborative activities. Additional funding through CADFP is also available after the completion of the research project for attendance of conferences and workshops. As Maasai Mara University fraternity, we congratulate Dr. Omwoyo for being awarded this grant that opens more opportunities in the world of academia.

CELEBRATING A LEGACY: A NEW BAT SPECIES (*RHINOLOPHUS WEBALAI*) NAMED IN HONOR OF DR. PAUL WASWA WEBALA OF MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY

R*hinolophus webalai*, also known as **Webala's Horseshoe Bat**, a new species to science, has been named in honour of Dr. Paul Waswa Webala, a renowned figure, not only in our department (Forestry and Wildlife Management), and School (Natural Resource, Environmental Studies, and Agriculture) but also regionally and globally. Dr. Webala's extraordinary contributions to wildlife research, prolific publication record, and mentorship that has inspired a new generation of African conservation scientists have earned him this one-of-a-kind honour.



Scientific name: Rhinolophus webalai
Common Name: Webala's Horseshoe Bat



Dr. Paul W. Webala

Dr. Webala's journey into bat research and conservation, as well as his relentless efforts to conserve Africa's biodiversity, have had a profound impact, making this recognition especially befitting. With his name eternally associated with a newly recognized species, Dr. Webala has cemented his place not just in the academic

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community, but also in the history of African conservation.

The Discovery of *Rhinolophus webalai*

The designation of *Rhinolophus webalai* is a watershed moment that not only recognizes Dr. Webala's lifetime of study, but also represents a significant increase to Africa's bat species diversity. *R. webalai* was discovered in Kilifi County, Malindi Marine Park, in Kenya's human-modified coastal dry forest, and was classified as a separate species based on distinctive morphological, genetic and echolocation traits. The species, known as Webala's Horseshoe Bat, has a characteristic nose structure that distinguishes it from other *Rhinolophus* bats and those in the *R. landeri* group. These adaptations enable the bat to strengthen its echolocation abilities, which are essential for navigating and hunting in the dense woodlands where it lives and forages.

Webala's Horseshoe Bat is an important addition to the biodiversity of Kenyan ecosystems, highlighting the region's natural habitat diversity. Such discoveries shed light on the tremendous, often hidden diversity of these ecosystems, emphasizing the importance of continued conservation efforts to

safeguard unusual species like *R. webalai*.

Implications of the discovery of *Rhinolophus webalai* for Conservation

The discovery of *R. webalai* underscores the critical need for continued research and conservation efforts. Species discovery is typically a reminder of how much more there is to learn about biodiversity, even in familiar habitats. In Kenya and other regions of Africa, where habitat loss and climate change pose severe dangers to wildlife, identifying new species is an urgent priority. With *R. webalai*, researchers and conservationists now have a new focal point for studying habitat requirements, behaviours, and ecological roles. Protecting this newly identified species, along with other lesser-known bats, will require habitat preservation efforts and policies that mitigate human encroachment on their environments. Dr. Webala's pioneering work in this field sets a strong precedent, providing both a roadmap and an example for future conservation initiatives.

Bridging Science and Public Awareness

In addition to his scholarly work, Dr. Webala has made it a priority to bridge the gap between science and public awareness.

Recognizing that conservation efforts require public support, he has actively worked to raise awareness about the importance of bats and their conservation among local communities. Through public talks, community outreach programs, and collaborations with non-profit organizations, Dr. Webala has advocated for the protection of bats, emphasizing their ecological significance and dispelling myths surrounding them.

His outreach efforts have been particularly successful in regions where bats are often seen as pests or harbingers of bad luck. By engaging with community leaders, local stakeholders, and the public at large, he has promoted a greater understanding and appreciation of this diverse group of mammals. His work has helped foster a cultural shift, encouraging communities to view bats not as nuisances but as integral parts of their ecosystems, **Mt. Suswa community** are beneficiaries of such trainings given that the caves pay homage to the threatened Harrison's Giant Mastiff Bat (*Otomops harrisoni*)

Message by Evance Ouya, a Wildlife biologist and Dr. Webala's Mentee.

NANOTECHNOLOGY RESEARCH PROJECT AT MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY



Dr. W. Nyaigoti Omwoyo,
PhD, MRSC, FNGS

The Nanotechnology project at Maasai Mara University, supports Academic and Research Programmes in Nanotechnology. The project is operating at the forefront of nanotechnology with a strong focus on application of nanomaterials in environmental remediation, technical drug delivery, environmental monitoring and biosafety, Climate Smart Agriculture and

textiles. The project has a unique operating model combining expertise from different branches of science to work on a common theme of Nanotechnology. The project has a strong relationship with the leading nanotechnology experts both from the national and international level. The successful evolution of nanotechnology has centered on a unique cohesiveness to provide a nourishing atmosphere for

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students, researchers and the society.

The major focus of the project is research towards areas of national priorities such as healthcare, environment, climate change and food security. The project relies on the state-of-the-art research equipment in the Chinese laboratories within the University which are capable of synthesizing nanomaterials and preliminary characterization. Advanced characterization is done at our collaborating institutions including Vaal University of Technology, South Africa, Center for traditional Medicine and drug Research, KEMRI and Northwest University, South Africa.

This year the project will be graduating four (4) PhD students, namely;

1. Dr. John Mining – Graduated from Vaal University of Technology, South Africa
2. Dr. Lynda Mesopirr – Graduating from Maasai Mara University, Kenya
3. Dr. Bakari Chaka – Graduating from Maasai Mara University, Kenya
4. Dr. Evans Suter – Graduating from Vaal University of Technology, South Africa.

Several other postgraduate students are attached to the project working on various nanotechnology related projects including but not limited to;

- i) Nanotechnology in Agriculture- Preparation of a Controlled and sustained

release fertilizer for climate-smart Agriculture.

- ii) Nanotechnology in Medicine and ethnomedicine – Encapsulation of conventional medicines/ ethnomedicines for a controlled and sustained release profile, enhancing bioavailability and reducing the dose and dose frequency.
- iii) Nanotechnology in Environmental remediation – Synthesis of nanocomposites for the removal of inorganic and organic pollutants from wastewaters.
- iv) Nanotechnology in textiles – Preparation of an insect/mosquito repellent fabric through embedment of selected nanoparticles.



Researchers from Maasai Mara University, Nanotechnology Research Center together with Professors from Vaal University of Technology at Rivatex East Africa Limited for the tripartite engagement on the development of a mosquito repellent fabric and industrial dye

Soon, the project will develop products for commercialization as replicated in our partnering institutions. This will be a move from the norm where the project has been having a good number of research outputs in terms of publications in renown peer

reviewed journals. The project has a target of publishing at least ten (10) research articles in high impact factor journals and graduating at least three postgraduate students yearly.

This year 2024, the project through its collaborations has published over ten (10) peer reviewed articles some of which are listed below meeting its target.

Currently, the project is engaged in tripartite collaborative research involving Vaal University of Technology, South Africa and Rivatex East Africa Limited in the development of a mosquito repellent fabric in the fight against Malaria and lymphatic filariasis in Kenya and South Africa, development of industrial dye for fabrics and the synthesis of nano filters for water purification. We are open to more collaborations in nanotechnology related researches as this is the new frontier to research.



Researchers from Maasai Mara University, Nanotechnology Research Center together with Vaal University of Technology researchers exploring water treatment technologies

HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY INITIATIVES AND ACHIEVEMENTS ACCOMPLISHED OVER THE YEAR

MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY INSTALLS THE SECOND CHANCELLOR



The University Chancellor



The University Chancellor and Council members

The University Chancellor, Dr. Vimal Bhimji Shah was appointed by His Excellency the President of the Republic of Kenya Hon. Dr. William Samoei Ruto, on 8th September 2023 as the 2nd Chancellor of the University. He was officially installed on Friday 7th June, 2024.

Process of Installation of the Chancellor

The Vice-Chancellor read the Citation on the Chancellor and thereafter the Chancellor was installed and robed by the Chairman of Council assisted by the Vice-Chancellor and the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (A&SA). The Vice-Chancellor handed over the instruments of authority to the Chancellor including the Mace and Charter.

In his acceptance speech, the Chancellor stated that he was honored and humbled to have been accorded the opportunity by His Excellency the President of the Republic of Kenya, Dr. William Samoei Ruto, to serve as the second Chancellor of Maasai Mara University. He

promised to work with all stakeholders with integrity to positively impact on the university and the community as expected. He further promised to support the University Council and the Vice-Chancellor to make the University a leading University of higher learning. The Chancellor reiterated the strategic location of the university near the Mara Game Reserve.

He introduced the term MAD telling people to strive to Make a Difference. He appreciated the Maa leaders especially Hon. Sankok for coming to welcome him to the university. The Chancellor promised that he would do his best to improve the university. He appreciated the Council, Management, Senate, staff and students for the warm welcome.

The Chancellor and other invited guests were hosted to a luncheon in the University's main hall where, for the first time in the history of the University, Indian Cuisine Dishes were served, courtesy the Chancellor.



Chancellor being received by the Vice Chancellor



Chancellor being received by Council members



Chancellor, escorted by the Chairman of the Council, Vice Chancellor and a Council member



Hon. Sankok Ole David, East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) member and the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Peninah Aloo-Obudho pose for a photo during the installation of the Chancellor



Chancellor cutting his cake assisted by the Chairman of Council and the Vice-Chancellor



Chancellor Planting a tree

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DAAD DIRECTOR DR. DOROTHEE WEYLER VISITED MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY

ON the 1st March, 2024 the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) Director for the East African Region, visited Maasai Mara University. This was the first time in the history of the university for a high ranking DAAD official to visit the university. This signifies the institution's growing importance in the academic landscape. The objective of the visit was to discuss possible collaboration and scholarship opportunities for staff and students. The Director was accompanied by her colleague Ms. Pia Schauerter who is the DAAD Senior Desk Officer in Bonn, Germany.

The two presented opportunities for collaboration as well as scholarships available for staff and students. The dialogue primarily centered around opportunities provided by DAAD scholarships and collaboration possibilities between Maasai Mara University and German universities. The discussions covered the following areas:

DAAD Scholarship Overview

The DAAD scholarship program was highlighted as a crucial avenue for academic advancement and international collaboration. Projects initiated during 2017-2019 focused on training directors in Kenya and sponsoring university leaders in 2018-2019. Emphasis was placed on encouraging Maasai Mara University community to apply for and benefit from these opportunities. Scholarship Application Process Prospective applicants were advised to maintain active engagement with the alumni network and align their proposals with relevant themes to secure funding. It was suggested that Deans and Directors should apply for courses offered every two years to enhance their qualifications and institutional capacity.

DAAD East Africa Programs

The Director elaborated on DAAD's presence in East Africa, outlining various scholarship programs for PhD and Master's degrees with

options for shorter durations and sandwich programs and how Maasai Mara University could benefit.

The availability of over 50 different courses under the Master's program was highlighted, showcasing the diversity of scholarships available.

German Language Initiatives

Discussions centered on how Maasai Mara University could initiate German language courses, ranging from certificate to degree levels, to facilitate smoother academic exchanges. Future support to be provided by DAAD in terms of supplying lecturers was also explored.

Future Collaboration

The Director encouraged staff to be checking their website for any scholarship announcements. She also suggested that the staff can make use of DAAD Alumni including the VC, Prof. P. Aloo-Obudho and Prof. Adu Wasike, Dr. F. Otieno and Mr. S. Partoip, among others to explore study opportunities in Germany.

The meeting concluded on a positive note, with both parties expressing a keen interest in fostering long-term collaboration. The exchange highlighted the potential for Maasai Mara University to leverage DAAD scholarships and programs to enhance its academic offerings and international standing.



Dr. Dorothee Weyler, Director DAAD and Pia Schauerter from DAAD, Kenya paying a courtesy call to the Vice Chancellor, Maasai Mara University Prof. Peninah Aloo-Obudho



Photo session with the welcoming entourage from Maasai Mara University



Dr. Dorothee Weyler with a gift of Maasai shuka and University custom bag from the Vice-Chancellor, Maasai Mara University- Prof. Peninah Aloo Obudho



A group photo of members of Maasai Mara University fraternity with the team from DAAD

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THRIVING AMIDST THREATS: UNBOUND BENEFITS OF THE RESILIENT MAA CULTURE

Many world cultures have become extinct. Despite modernisation, diverse influences, Maa Culture remarkable resilience amidst strains depicts Karen Blixen's description of the Maasai Moran as *a fine sight, daring, wildly fantastical and unswervingly true to their own nature, and to an immanent ideal, of a style not an assumed manner, nor an imitation of a foreign perfection.*

The University strategic location and anchoring the '5Ms' pillars in its Strategic Plan 2024-2029 is an indicator of its very commitment to development of the region. The celebration of the annual Maa culture week and the University culture week is a demonstration of the efforts and commitment towards the promotion, nurturing, preserving and documenting the rich Maa cultural heritage.

Every Friday, is a cultural celebration where staff are encouraged to adorn Maa Cultural attire. During the year, diverse genres of the Maa culture were on display at Samburu and at the University. At the gate of the Samburu Game Reserve, Acher-Post, the symbolic field housed demonstration Manyatta dotted with typical Maa tribal huts. Groups of the sub-tribes inter-mingled freely.

The Maa leaders and everyone present joined the dances and beats as dazzling beads, head, leg gears, bright attires sparked the scenes speaking volumes of one

un-matched culture. The more reason the University must lay emphasis to keep intact and preserve one of the few customs that have existed for longest period and has become a symbol of the country.

It is a fact that some facets of the Maa culture is facing extinction. This was confirmed by some of the participants during the Maa cultural festival. They said that aspects such as communal living is fast fading, owning many animals too is no longer tenable. It is thus the role of the University to be ahead to document and preserve this historic beauty under threat.

Furthermore, arts and cultural events often serve as platforms for social and political expression. They provide a space for community members to voice their concerns, share their stories, and advocate for social change.

Culture and cultural events act as catalysts for development, unity and socialization. Culture brings social cohesion a platform for engagement and sharing cultural experiences. Maa culture can be harmonized to be a major economic booster for the region.

The University is best placed to take the full advantage of this opportunity to flourish and impact the society positively.

Culture enhances social cohesion. People of diverse backgrounds interact and share experiences resulting into mutual respect and understanding. It's a celebration of differences and commonalities weaves a social fabric in society.

Individuals become more connected to their community, taking pride in their culture leading to a stronger sense of community identity.

The University realisation of the diversity of contexts culture plays in enhancing the social fabric of society is timely. It will go a long way to inspire the institution and the local community to adopt more sustainable lifestyles, contributing to long term community development.



University staff and students led by the Chair of the Council Dr. Kennedy Ole Kerei. (3rd right) and the Vice-Chancellor Prof. Peninah Aloo-Obudho, (2nd right), a cross section of staff and students on stage during the 2nd Annual Celebration of the Maa Culture Week, Samburu.



The Vice-Chancellor Prof. Peninah Aloo-Obudho adorned a Maa Cultural attire joins a traditionalist outside her symbolic cultural hut for interaction in a Manyatta erected at the entrance of Samburu Game Reserve during the Annual Maa Culture Week

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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



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 Nkuraijia.

UNIVERSITY'S ODEL TRAINING WORKSHOP FOSTERS EXCELLENCE IN ONLINE EDUCATION

Maasai Mara University concluded a highly successful Online Distance Education and Learning (ODEL) Training Workshops, held in January 2024. This dynamic initiative underscores the institution's unwavering commitment to providing cutting-edge educational experiences that meet the needs of a diverse and evolving student body. Thirty-seven dedicated faculty members representing various academic disciplines participated in the workshop. The first phase, expertly facilitated by Anil Kumar, Dr. Sammy Mutisya, Professor Manyagi and Ms. Nila, with the invaluable guidance of COL consultant Dr. Rebecca Wambua, focused on the crucial task of ODeL policy development.

A spirit of collaboration permeated the workshop, evident in the insightful discussions, engaging activities, and collaborative policy development exercises.



COL consultant Dr. Rebecca Wambua with Maasai Mara university Faculty members and staff during the ODeL policy development training workshop

The faculty members actively contributed to building a robust and effective framework for online education, demonstrating their commitment to ensuring accessibility and quality for all learners. The success of this initial phase can be attributed to the seamless coordination and expertise of the organizing team. Their dedication and guidance fostered a productive environment where diverse perspectives were encouraged and valuable insights were exchanged.

The second phase of the workshop delved into the equally crucial aspect of ODeL policy development. Faculty members were equipped with the skills and knowledge necessary to create rich and engaging online learning experiences that cater to the unique needs of distance learners.

Professor P. Aloo-Obudho, Vice Chancellor of Maasai Mara University, expressed her full support for this initiative, stating, "The ODeL Training Workshop represents a significant step forward in our journey towards

becoming a leader in online education. We are committed to providing our faculty with the resources and training they need to deliver high-quality, accessible online programs that benefit all our students."

The University's commitment to embracing innovation and inclusivity in education was evident in this ODeL Training Workshop. This initiative serves as a powerful example of how institutions can invest in faculty development to ensure that online education programs are at the forefront of quality and accessibility. As the university moves forward, this successful workshop paves the way for a future where technology and innovation are harnessed to empower students and faculty alike, propelling the University to even greater heights as a leader in online education.



Maasai Mara University Faculty members and staff during the workshop

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Maasai Mara University Faculty members and staff during the workshop



Maasai Mara University Faculty members and staff during the workshop

MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY MODERN LIBRARY DEDICATION

The University Modern Library was dedicated on the 6th February, 2024. This is in line with biblical teachings where King David dedicated the Temple of the Lord before construction work started. The dedication event was presided over by Bishop Augustine Rugut of the Jesus Gospel Power Ministries. The event was attended by members of the University Management, staff and students led by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. P. Aloo-Obudho. The bishop urged the representative of the contractor to implement the project with integrity and according to the procurement procedures.

During the dedication of the project, the bishop prayed that God would provide the resources required to complete the project. He urged members present to shun evil ways and walk in the ways of God. He added that the library project is part of the many projects that will be implemented in the University because of the Maasai Mara University of the New Beginning. The bishop stated that the forces that have worked

against the university have been rendered powerless. In her opening remarks, the vice Chancellor, Prof. P. Aloo-Obudho elaborated on the importance of dedicating the library project being her first project in the university and looks forward to many more such projects to raise the profile of the University.

In conclusion, Bishop Rugut dedicated the site using anointing oil saying that the site where the library is being constructed is dedicated to God. He warned those who take shortcuts during such huge projects that they would face the wrath of God if they tried to do so in this project.



Bishop Rugut and the VC before the dedication of the Library



Bishop Augustine Rugut and the Vice Chancellor heading to the site of the library



Staff and students led by the VC during a short sermon to dedicate the Library



Ground breaking and dedication of the library by Bishop Rugut

BRINGING MAASAI MARA GAME RESERVE TO THE UNIVERSITY

The recent installation of wildlife sculptures, featuring the Elephant, Buffalo, Lion, Crocodile, Giraffe, Rhino, Hippo, Wildebeest, Warthog, and Leopard, marks a significant achievement for Maasai Mara University. The sculptures were strategically installed within the University's premises to foster an appreciation for

biodiversity and contribute to a unique and engaging environment for the University community. The sculpture installation event, attended by key stakeholders and staff, was a celebration of wildlife conservation and artistic innovation.

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The event showcased these remarkable representations, each crafted with meticulous attention to detail to capture the essence and character of the animals. These sculptures now serve as daily reminders of the beauty and diversity of Kenya's wildlife, creating an interactive and educational atmosphere that aligns with Maasai Mara University's niche area and promotes environmental awareness. They are already serving as outdoor laboratory for students undertaking Tourism and Wildlife courses.

The primary objectives of the wildlife sculpture were:

- **Enhance Environmental Awareness:** By showcasing iconic African wildlife, the sculptures aim to promote awareness and understanding of local biodiversity among students, staff, partners, and visitors.

- **Inspire Conservation Efforts:** The sculptures symbolize our commitment to wildlife conservation and seek to inspire everyone within the university to support and participate in conservation initiatives.
- **Create a Unique and Engaging Workplace:** The sculptures have enhanced the University's aesthetic appeal and provide a visually stimulating environment, fostering a sense of pride and connection to Kenya's natural heritage.

Key Highlights

- **Authentic Wildlife Representation:** Each sculpture captures the unique characteristics of its respective species, combining realism with artistic interpretation. Special attention was given to iconic traits like the elephant's tusks, the lion's mane, and the leopard's spots, making each sculpture easily recognizable and life-like.
- **Innovative Use of Eco-Friendly Materials:** In line with our commitment to sustainability, the sculptures were constructed using eco-friendly materials, ensuring minimal environmental impact. This choice of materials highlights our dedication to eco-conscious practices.
- **Strategic Placement for Maximum Impact:** The sculptures were installed at key points within the premises, such as entryways, courtyards, and high-traffic areas, maximizing their visibility and ensuring that each piece contributes to the overall aesthetic and ambiance of the university.



Outcomes and Achievements

- **Increased Environmental Awareness:** Since the installation, internal assessment indicates an increase in engagement with wildlife and environmental issues. The sculptures have sparked conversations around conservation, with the University community expressing interest in participating in upcoming environmental initiatives.

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- **Enhanced University Image:** Feedback from students, staff, and visitors has been overwhelmingly positive. The sculptures have become a talking point, enhancing the University's image as a leader in innovative environmental initiatives and community engagement.
- **Promoted Employee Well-being and Creativity:** The sculptures provide an inspiring and refreshing work environment that positively impacts employee morale. Many staff members have reported that the art installations make the

premises feel more vibrant, which contributes to a positive work culture.

The successful installation of the wildlife sculptures has not only enhanced the visual appeal of the University premises but also reinforced our commitment to environmental conservation and community engagement. Through the project, we have strengthened our role as advocates for Kenya's rich biodiversity and created a lasting impact on the staff, students, and visitors. The University plans to create a Mara River Ecosystem in the same spot.



Vice-Chancellor, Prof. P. Aloo- Obudho (middle) with Management during the launch of the animal Sculpture



Students and staff joined the Vice-chancellor during the launch of the sculptures.



Vice Chancellor, Prof. Peninah Aloo-Obudho admiring the sculpture of a hippo

MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY CELEBRATED THE 2024 CULTURAL WEEK



Maasai mara University students from Maa Community performing traditional dance during the Cultural Week

Maasai Mara University, Directorate of Gender Equity and Culture, in Collaboration with the office of the Dean of students held an annual Cultural Week at Maasai Mara University which began on 22nd -25th October 2024, celebrating a diverse range of cultures from across Kenya and beyond. The theme of the event was Cohesion and Integration for a peaceful co-existence in the Universities.

The event showcased vibrant traditional attire, music, dance, cuisine and cultural expressions from different communities. This colorful celebration

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emphasizes the university's dedication to promoting cultural diversity, unity, and pride within the academic community. The event was coordinated by the Directorate of Gender, Culture and equity lead by the Director Dr. Jane Ombati and officers from the office of the Dean of Students.



Maasai Mara University LUO community students performing traditional dance during Cultural Week



Maasai Mara University students Islam Community during Religious performances



The Vice-Chancellor Prof. Peninah Aloo-Obudho, inspecting different traditional cuisines displayed by the students during the cultural week accompanied by guests from China

The chief guest Mr. Hosea Wangeri from the National Museums of Kenya, talked about cultural diversity and its place in contemporary society. The guest urged students not to forget their cultures to

promote the diverse and rich culture of the Kenyan communities. He was accompanied by Ms. Jennifer Koikai, Asst.Registar at Maasai Mara University. The students showcased: popular cultures from different regions in Kenya, folk songs, traditional dances, traditional food festivals and preparations, modern dances, sports, religion performances which ended up in a beauty pageantry. The show stopper was performance by Arabantone artist, Topsy Gee of the famous Finish “Kumalo” who performed to the jubilation of hundreds of culture lovers in attendance.

The 2024 Annual Maasai Mara University Cultural Week came to a close with pomp and glamour. The Vice-Chancellor Prof. Peninah Aloo-Obudho graced the event with a cross section of University management and guests from China led by Prof. Yan. The Vice-Chancellor stressed the importance of cultural activities as showcased by students. She appreciated the diverse cuisines prepared by students as well as the beautiful traditional attires. The Vice-Chancellor informed the participants that this was the first time a few cultural groups were invited from across Kenyan communities to showcase their rich culture.



Maasai Mara University students during the cultural week accompanied by guests from China



Maasai Mara University students Islam Community during Religious performances

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The Vice-Chancellor Prof. Peninah Aloo-Obudho, inspecting different traditional cuisines displayed by the students during the cultural week accompanied by guests from China.



A jig from the Coastal Community

THE 13TH MARA DAY CELEBRATIONS SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE, 2024 HELD AT MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY



Participants in the conference Hall with the Chief Guest, Prof. PLO Lumumba (seated front row 3rd from left), Vice-Chancellor, Prof. P. Aloo-Obudho (next to Prof. Lumumba), the Deputy Governor of Narok County Government, Mr. L. Koech, Dr. A. Bwire, the Executive Secretary of LVBC and the EALA member H. Ole Sankok (extreme right)

from Tanzania who jointly worked together to document resolutions from each of these rooms.

The resolutions were then cascaded to a declarations team composed of Dr. Peter Kariuki (LVBC) and Dr. Jane Ombati (MMARAU) who made the recommendations which were further declared and countersigned during the climax of the celebrations at Sekenani, Narok. The Conference was thus instrumental in originating key policy briefs which are expected to shape the trajectory of the East Africa Commission towards conservation of the Mara Basin. This agenda aligns well to the University 5 M's where conservation of the Mara Basin has a role.

The 13th Mara Day Celebrations Scientific Conference, 2024 took place at Maasai Mara University on 14th September, 2024. The conference was co-organized by Maasai Mara University, the East Africa Commission through the Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC) and County Government of Narok. The theme of the conference was “Flowing Forward Together: Conserving the Mara Basin Ecosystem for Sustainable Biodiversity & Climate Resilience”. The guest speaker of the conference was Prof. PLO Lumumba, a Pan-Africanist and the Director, Kenya School of Law. The conference attracted at least 500 attendees with four (4) thematic keynote speakers from Kenya and Tanzania (two each), 28 oral presenters, 22 poster presenters and 10 innovation exhibitors. The breakout rooms during the conference were manned by a session chair, a session moderator and a rapporteur drawn from the University, LVBC and



The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. P. Aloo-Obudho contributing in one of the break-away sessions. Looking on are Dr. Susan Chebet (Council Member, seated right) and the session Chair, Dr. Kamundia (standing in front)

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The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. P. Aloo-Obudho waving at the crowd at Sekenani during the Climax of Mara Day Celebrations. Seated on her left is Mrs. Agnes Ntutu, the First Lady of Narok County and on the left is the EALA Member Hon. Ole Sankok. Extreme right is the Deputy Governor of Narok County, Hon. L. Koech.

CELEBRATING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF OUTSTANDING STUDENTS

UNBROKEN AKUTI: DEFYING ODDS TO EXCEL AS A WRITER



Kevin Akuti presenting his 4th book to Hon. Isaac Mwaura, The Government spokesman while at Radio Maisha studio

Born and raised in Seka village, Kendu Bay, Homa bay county where Kiswahili is revered and referred synonymously as “not our mouth”, meaning not commonly spoken language, Kevin Akuti has conquered both his physical challenges and the narrative that Kiswahili is not for his roots.

Akuti is a fast-rising Kiswahili Author whose eloquence is a refinement of his mentor the late Kiswahili Prof. Ken Walibora. It is not a surprise he is nicknamed “Mwana Wa Walibora”. Akuti, a 4th year undergraduate student in the School of Education, pursuing BED (Arts) Guidance and Counselling specializing in Kiswahili/History, has contributed in five books: Majini wa Mijini, Barua ya Hukumu, Taswira ya Maisha, Peremende za Mkubwa and Diwani ya Hassan Muchai. In one of these books (Peremende za Mkubwa), Kevin mentored fellow Maasai Mara University students; Joshua Olinda and Chacha Reagan who are expecting to have their books published.

Akuti operates by the mantra “Irrespective of my condition, struggles and several life challenges, I have conquered obstacles and proved that indeed am differently enabled but NOT disabled. I Wake up every morning with strength, courage and the spirit that everything is possible. Without passing the buck. I pose no blames nor excuses. This enables me to continue chasing my dreams”.

Akuti has graced many Media Houses such as TV 47, Radio 47, Radio Maisha, Gospo FM, and others where he continues to contribute in promoting the Kiswahili language, Maasai Mara University and addressing issues concerning writing and the challenged people.

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Akuti recently represented the University in a Kiswahili Conference that took place at Kibabii University, Bungoma and another one at Mount Kenya University.

In tackling challenges, Akuti's determination resonates as in the lines of one of his poems:

*Ulemavu ni makosa, kuwekwa kizingitio,
Huenda utakikosa, ukitakacho kuchao,*

*Wenzangu ni hivi sasa, wasikize wasemao,
Ulemavu si udhaifu, nafasi ndo tunataka!*

Akuti takes pride in and has high regards for his mentors who are his Kiswahili Lecturers: Dr. Nancy Ayodi, Dr. Owalla Silas, Dr. Paul Sito, Dr. Meitamei and Dr. Evans Nyachoi.



Sample of covers for books and Keviv Akuti Kevin Akuti while at Radio Maisha Studio

Malenga wa Wiki

Gwiji aliyejikita katika mashairi ya kuitetea jamii ya walemavu

JUMAMOSI hii tunamwagazisa mshairi ambaye amekuwa akiwakilisha walemavu kwa kupigania nafasi yao katika jamii.

Huyu si mwingine ila Kevin Ochieng' Akuti maarufu kwa lakabu yake Mwana wa Walibora.

Akuti amechukua nafasi ya mtetezi wa walemavu na mara nyingi hutunga tongo zinazodhihirisha ukakamavu wa jamii hii licha ya hali yao.

Malenga huyu alizaliwa Desemba 18, 2000 eneo la Seka, Kendu Bay, Kaunti ya Homa Bay. Ni mtoto wa marehemu Dalmas Akuti na Mary Akuti.

Allianza masomo yake katika shule ya msingi ya Kamser kabla ya kujunga na shule ya msingi ya Nyaburi ambayo ni ya wanafunzi wenye mahitaji maalum na kufanya mtihani wa KCPE kabla ya kujiunga na Shule ya Upili ya Joyland.

Kutokana na kuzorota kwa hali yake ya afya, alihamishwa hadi shule ya upili ya Nyong'ong'a, Nyakach Magharibi na kukamilisha masomo hayo baada ya kufanya mtihani wa KCSE.

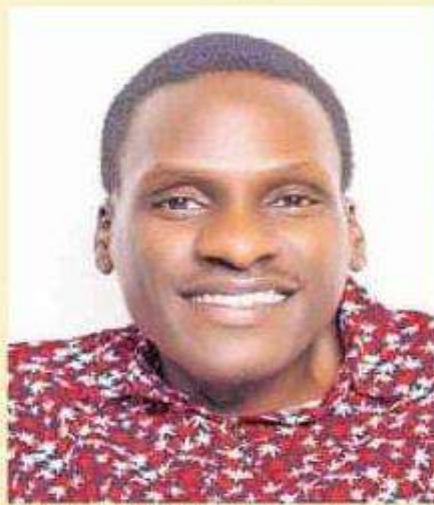
Kwa sasa Akuti ni mwanafunzi katika Chuo Kikuu cha Maasai Mara anakosomea taaluma ya Elimu na Ushauri Nasaha, Kiswahili na Historia.

Safari yake ya ushairi ilianza akiwa shuleni Joyland baada ya kuwaona wanafunzi wenzake wakikariri mashairi kwenye tamasha za muziki.

Hapa Joyland alipata usaidizi kutoka kwa mwalimu Andrew Odhiambo, Mwingine alikuwa Bi Mary Okoth aliyekuwa mwalimu wake wa somo la Kiingereza. Alitamani sana kuhusika ila hali yake ya kiafya haikumruhusu.

Hata hivyo, ili kuridhisha raghba yake, alianza mazoezi ya kutunga mashairi na kuyakariri alipohitaji utulivu wa mawazo.

Baada ya kuhitimu na kujiunga na chuo kikuu, alipata fursa mwafaka kutangamana na wakereketekwa wengine wa lugha hii kutoka maeneo



Malenga Kevin Ochieng' Akuti.
PICHA/HASSAN MUCHAI

mbali mbali hasa kwenye mitandao ya kijamii.

Hususan alinao kipawa chake kwa kusoma tongo zilizochapishwa kwenye gazeti la Taifa Leo.

Kwa kuwa atafutaye hachoki, Akuti alifurahi kuona shairi lake likichapishwa kupitia gazeti hili baada ya kupata himizo hkutoka kwa mshairi mwenzake kwa jina Kyelanzi Matei.

Alipata mori ya kuendelea kutunga na kuyatuma mashairi yake hapa na kupatilia kipawa chake.

Alifurahia kutunga na kupata fursa adhimu kuwatetea na kuwahamasisha walemavu wenzake. "Washairi na waandishi walionivutia wakati huo.

walikuwa Prof Ken Walibora, Bi Pauline Kea, Hassan Mwana wa Ali (Amope) na wengine wengi.

"Kazi zake Prof Walibora ndizo zimenijenga kwani wengi waliosoma ubunifu wangu walipachika lakabu ya Mwana wa Walibora.

Dennis Ngatia, Paul Gabriel, Dennis Shonko, Samson Nyamosi, Ann Mwanasarifu, na wengineo wamekuwa wakinpunga sana," anasema.

Shairi lake la kwanza lenye mada *Ulemavu si Kizingiti* lilichapishwa kwenye gazeti la Taifa Leo mnamo Januari 20, 2024, huku likinua kuwahimiza wenye mapungufu kama yeye wasiweke ulemavu wao kama kisiki cha ufanisi.

Kupitia shairi hilo, aliwahimiza walemavu wenzake kwamba wanafaa kujitolea sabili katika kila hali wala wasiwategemee watu walio karibu nao kwani nao pia wana uwezo tu.

*Ulemavu ni makosa, kuwekwa kizingitio
Huenda utakikosa, ukitakacho kuchao
Wenzangu hivi sasa, wasikize wasemao
Ulemavu si udhaifu, nafasi ndo tunataka!*

Hadi sasa Bi Pauline Kea Kyovi ndiye kielelezo kikuu kwake kupitia tongo zake zikiwemo za ushairi, hadithi fupi, tamthilia na hata riwaya.

Anasema anatumani sana, na ana imani kubwa, kuwa miaka ijayo, atajifunga kibwebwe kushiriki naye uandishi wowote ile inshallah.

Mbali na ushairi, Akuti amechangia uandishi wa vitabu vya hadithi fupi na kushirikishwa kwenye vipindi vya kukuza Kiswahili kwenye runinga na radio mbalimbali nchini.

Mafanikio haya humitea staha miongoni mwa wanagenzi anawaongoza darasani kwani amekuwa mwakilishi wa darasa lao toka mwaka wa kwanza hadi sasa.

Kevin Akuti who is a content contributor has been appearing on several National Magazines, the above a Screenshot from Taifa Leo Magazine dated 1st June 2024

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MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY ECONOMICS STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION (MMUESA) ACHIEVED OUTSTANDING SUCCESS IN THE NATIONAL DEBATE CHAMPIONSHIP, SHOWCASING EXCEPTIONAL SKILL AND TEAMWORK

MMUESA was established to enhance acquisition, advancement and sharing of economic values and knowledge among students so as to ensure their personal, professional and networking growth.

This year, the Association participated in numerous interactive activities, fora and debates at local and national levels.

The Kenya Economic Students Association (KESA) held its third National Economic debate on 5th November, 2024 at the University of Nairobi, Chandaria Auditorium with an objective of offering insight, knowledge sharing and essay writing competitions among students in different categories. The debate brought together 30 universities from across the country with the theme: ***Sustainable Education; From Access to Return.*** Apart from the students, the event was graced by prominent Economists and Stakeholders from various sectors. MMEUSA had a representation of 25 students who participated in different categories. Our best performance won the award for the **Best University in Collaborative Writing**. Our very own Louise Nyambori won the **Best Writer's Award (The Golden Pen Award)**. The debaters also did an excellent job in both the first and second rounds of the debates.

MMUESA has had an excellent year. Our achievements speak volumes and our desire is to be the best association in ***Promoting Economic Excellence, Integrity and Accountability.*** We thank the University for giving us the platform to enhance the interests of our Association but we also request for institutional support during our participation in national and international forums.

Moses Juma - MMUESA Chairperson
Brian Wainaina - MMUESA Secretary General
Job Ogada - Patron/COD Economics



A picture of the association members who attended the 3rd National Economics Debate at University of Nairobi



A picture of the debating team that represented MMUESA. From left, Amos Bonuke, Vincent Muthama, Kyle Chan, Louise Nyambori



A Picture of the team being awarded the Best Collaborative Writing University



A picture of Louise Nyambori receiving the Best Writer's Award



The Golden Pen Winner, Louise Nyambori

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MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY REBRANDS AS AN ENTREPRENEURIAL UNIVERSITY

VICE-CHANCELLOR ATTENDED THE 5TH ENTREPRENEURIAL LEADERS TRAINING PROGRAMME: INDIA BOOTCAMP

Between 14th and 18th October 2022, the Vice-Chancellor Prof. Peninah Aloo-Obudho attended the above training in India. The Vice-Chancellor was among the fourteen university leaders who attended the training. The Entrepreneurial Leaders Training Program (Vice Chancellors Edition) is a programme specifically designed by the Kenya National Innovation Agency (KENIA) to equip university

leaders with entrepreneurial skills and mindset to drive innovation and economic development within their institutions, aiming to drive economic development through academic research commercialization and stronger industry collaborations

The scope of the targeted course: Introduction to entrepreneurship leadership, In-depth discussion on Entrepreneurial university and maturity framework.

While in India, the team visited two high ranking Institutes of Technology at IIT-Hydrabad and IIT- Madras in Chennai. The objective of the visit was to benchmark with entrepreneurial universities that have succeeded in commercializing innovations. The programme was supported by the British Council and the Kenya National Innovation Agency (KENIA).



Vice-Chancellor, Prof. P. Aloo-Obudho signing the MOU with the Indian Institute of Technology at Hyderabad. Looking on are Dr. Tony Omwansa, CEO KENIA and the President of the Institute

The experience from visiting the two institutes of Technology demonstrated to the team the key features of an entrepreneurial university. Some of the key things that we observed included but not limited to the following:

- A culture of innovation among staff and student (Both undergraduate and postgraduate students)
- Well-equipped Innovation Hubs'
- Professors carry out research that develop technologies which have impact on the society
- Strong Technology Transfer Offices
- Close working relationship between the university and the industry

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- Common course on Entrepreneurship for all undergraduate students
- Strong support for regular student start-ups
- Establishment of Innovation Clubs among students
- Strong alumni support towards innovation

At the end of the visit, the two institutions agreed to work with a consortium of the interested Kenyan universities. At both institutions, memoranda of understanding were signed between the Kenyan Universities and the technology institutions. It was also agreed that KENIA will coordinate the formation of

groups of universities with common interests towards the implementation of the two MOUs. The Vice-Chancellors are expected to use the knowledge gathered to propel their universities to become reputable entrepreneurial universities.



Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peninah Oloo-Obudho (Center), Dr. Tony Omwansa, CEO KENIA (Right) and the President of the Indian Institute of Technology at Hyderabad (Left) after the signing of the MOU



The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. P. Aloo-Obudho listening to a student explaining their start-up project at IIT- Madras

Graduation

During the Kenya Innovation week 2024, African Edition at the Edge Convention Centre held from 25th - 29th November, 2024, the VC was among the Vice chancellors of 14 Universities who graduated with a Certificate of Recognition in “Entrepreneurial Leaders Training Program” With this knowledge, she will drive the University to transition from the ordinary University into an Entrepreneurial University.



The graduation of VC-Chancellors on ELTP by KeNia during the KIW 2024



Certificate of Recognition awarded to Prof. Peninah Oloo-Obudho for successfully concluding the Entrepreneurial Leaders Training Program

Further, the Vice chancellor also signed the University Innovation Masterplan document on behalf of the

Maasai Mara University Community which cements her commitment in supporting innovations matters at the University. The masterplan outlines the innovation activities to be undertaken by the University in coming years as it develops its innovation ecosystem.



Vice-Chancellor receives the Masterplan after its signing by the CEO of KeNia

INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURIAL INCUBATION CENTER

Dr. Ing. Jared Ombiro Gwaro

The Innovation and Entrepreneurial Incubation Center was established in June this year 2024 to support innovation activities in the University and the community at large. The center is under the Directorate of Research, Innovation and Outreach and is headed by the Dr. Ing Jared Ombiro Gwaro.

The centre's role is to support the University innovation ideas from initial stages to the development of the final product which should be taken to the market. The centre provides the following key services to its customers, which includes innovation sensitization, innovation and commercialization training, intellectual property training and registrations, pitch deck trainings, proposal development support, hackathon and competition motivation, and industrial linkages of the innovations to industry for our students and staff innovators. Since its inception the centre is supporting the University innovators in the following ways:

1) Innovation Hackathon and Competitions

Since its inception the centre has boasted to support our students' innovators to participate in the recently held Hackathon within the university and in the country. The first competition was on **healthcare waste Management targeting Nairobi County** and was organized by Africa One Health University Network (AFROHUN). The Partners supporting the competition included MSH International offering technical assistance to

the teams, JHPEGO working on IPPC infection prevention practices & control, USAID, University of California, Nairobi City Council, KEMRI, FHI International among others. Maasai Mara University was represented in the competition by The EcoMed Solutions Innovators which is a Team of Nursing students in their third year of study. The Team members included: Vincanagris Gakenia, Christine Wambui, Diana Nafula, Rael Norah, Nicholas Abele Otiemo, Bramuel Simiyu, Otiemo Edwin Otiende, and Dr. Simon Macharia - Patron. There were seven competitors;

- 1) Ecomed Solution Innovators from Maasai Mara University
- 2) Afyataka innovators from Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology (JOUST)
- 3) Medwaste pioneers from Kenyatta University
- 4) Technophiles hub i-lid from University of Kabanga
- 5) Waste warriors from University of Nairobi
- 6) Darubini ya Afya from Mount Kenya University
- 7) Smart waste pioneers from Moi University in collaboration with Kabarak University.

The ranking of the innovations was as follows:

- 1) 2nd runners up – Smart waste pioneers (Moi and Kabarak University). The team received 750 USD, certificates and a trophy
- 2) 1st runners up – Ecomed innovators from Maasai Mara University. The team received 1000 USD, certificates and a trophy

- 3) Winners – Darubini ya Afya Innovators from Mount Kenya University. The team received 1500 USD, certificates and a trophy.



The second one was on **Inter-University Hackathon in 15th November 2024**. The theme for this year's Hackathon was Harnessing AI for Real-World Applications. Our university prepared two teams who participated in the hackathon. The hackathon was funded by the following organizations: Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS), Microsoft Foundation, Kenya, Bill & Melinda Gates, Red Bull and Microsoft Garage. A steering committee comprising of at least 15 Universities were involved in preparations for the hackathon. The hackathon attracted 300+ initial submissions of AI-based innovations from 28 universities in Kenya. After two rounds of shortlisting, 42 teams from 22 Universities in Kenya participated in the physical hackathon competition. There was a team of 12 judges drawn from KAPS, KNBS and Microsoft foundation. There were two teams from Maasai Mara University as follows;

- 1) **Team Eco-diary** (Supervisors Dr. Bii Joash and Mr. Gurvir Singh)
Team members: Victor Wilfred, Precious Wafula, Christa Marianne, Cynthia Chege, Stanislaus Karanja, Alloys Kennedy
- 2) **Team Wind Energy Analysis Software**

(Supervisor – Dr. Ing Jared Ombiro)

Team members; Steve Okoth, Aisha Malesi, Sankara Aluko, Mercy Amondi, Reinford Nyachio.

The Different AI categories produced a winner as follows:

- AI for Education and Learning Management – Maseno University
- AI for Autonomous Systems – Strathmore University
- AI for Entrepreneurial Firms (Business, Agriculture and Social Innovations) – Machakos University
- AI for Cybersecurity – Strathmore University
- AI for Environmental Impact (Urban Management, Transportation, e-mobility, Disaster Management) – Dedan Kimathi University of Technology
- **AI for Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security – Maasai Mara University (Eco-diary team)**
- AI in Health – Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology
- AI for Sustainability – Kisii University

The 9 winners from each of the categories were then requested to pitch again for 5 minutes each to determine the first three winners.

After the pitching session, the following innovators emerged the winners;

1. Position 1 – The listening ear innovation by JKUAT
2. Position 2 – The automated risk market and bonds investment innovation by Strathmore University.

3. Position 3 – The Eco-diary innovation by Maasai Mara University

All the nine (9) winners for each of the categories were awarded with a trophy and a medal. Additionally, the first three winners were awarded as follows:

- 1) Position 1 – Laptops to all team members
- 2) Position 2 – Tablets to all team members
- 3) Position 3 – Smart phones to all team members

The first three winners were invited to pitch to potential investors during the World Statistics Day Celebrations organized by KAPS and KNBS on Monday, 18th November, 2024 at Strathmore University, Nairobi.



Maasai Mara University team receiving their wards

2. Capacity Building and Training

The centre in collaboration with Directorate of Research, Innovation and Outreach, hosted the sensitization trainings on Research to Commercialization (R2C) and innovation matters to management, faculty and students which was offered by Victoria Ventures, a lead consortium in innovation training in the region. From

that training students managed to form a WhatsApp group in which they share innovation matters as well as encourage each other to participate in any upcoming innovation competitions. The students have formed small teams amongst the different disciplines and are actively engaging the centre in sharpening their ideas.



Management and senate members during sensitization on R2C by Viktoria Ventures CEO Ken Gugu and Madam Phillis.



Students training by Viktoria ventures grouped in different groups for group work exercises during the R2C training

3. Kenya Innovation Week Exhibitions

A group of 5 teams of Student innovators from Maasai Mara University were chosen to participate in the Kenya Innovation week 2024, African Edition at the Edge Convention Centre held from 25th to 29th November, 2024. The Vice -chancellor support for the innovation at the University which was evident by her dedication to support the students and innovators to represent the University at this year's Innovation Week exhibition.



Vice-chancellor arrival to the MMARAU Innovation exhibition booth with Visitors

The University Incubation Center is committed towards establishing viable innovations that can impact the society positively and solve some of the societal challenges as well as make the University visible in the world map as a competitor in technological advancement through the support it giving the innovators. The centre seeks potential partners and

collaborators to sponsor its activities which are going to impact the youths of this Nation and the region at large.

Feel free to reach the coordinator for any support for the centre through the email: gwaomb@mmarau.ac.ke

MR. MARJAN KHAMIS

ABDALLA, A MEMBER OF THE INSTITUTIONAL INNOVATION WORKING GROUP PARTICIPATED IN THE PRESTIGIOUS WIPO-KENIA EXECUTIVE TRAINING PROGRAMME



Mr. Victor Owade (L), Councilor, Academic Institutions and Executive Program, WIPO Academy, and Dr. Tony Omwansa(R), CEO KeNIA congratulating Mr. Marjan Khamis for achievement during the closing ceremony

The WIPO Academy, in collaboration with the Kenya National Innovation Agency (KeNIA), hosted an Executive Training Program in Nairobi from September 16th -20th, 2024. It aimed to enhance IP

management skills for 40 participants, focusing on integrating intellectual property into business models, innovation processes, and commercialization strategies. Mr. Marjan Khamis attended the WIPO-KeNIA Executive

Training Program in Nairobi, Kenya, as a scholarship recipient. The program, aimed at enhancing intellectual property (IP) management skills, included 40 participants from various innovation sectors.



Group photo of the innovation academy participants

Through interactive sessions, Mr. Khamis gained insights into integrating IP into business models, innovation audits, and commercialization strategies. A visit to Anza Village provided him with hands-on experience in IP application within startups, further broadening his understanding of IP monetization and sustainable innovation practices. This training, supported by the World Intellectual Property

Organization (WIPO) and the Kenya National Innovation Agency (KeNIA), focused on promoting sustainable innovation ecosystems and IP management across Africa. The program's content included innovation cost management, IP commercialization techniques, and strategies for enhancing the role of IP in driving economic growth. Mr. Khamis' participation in the training has provided him with valuable

skills and knowledge to apply IP strategies effectively within his professional context, contributing to his career development and to broader innovation initiatives within the institution and the region. The scholarship has also enabled him to establish networks with key stakeholders in Africa's innovation ecosystem, further supporting his efforts in advancing research, technology, and business integration.



The Vice Chancellor, Prof. P. Aloo-Obudho congratulating Mr. Marjan Khamis for the great achievement while Ms. Elizabeth Ayoo, Council Member looks on

THE GREEN COVER CONCEPT AT MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY

The **Green Cover Initiative** at Maasai Mara University is a comprehensive environmental conservation effort that seeks to enhance the ecological health and sustainability of the university's surroundings and the wider Narok region. The initiative is closely aligned with the university's Niche to contribute to the global environmental agenda and the local conservation of natural resources.

The initiative's focus:

- i. Reforestation and Afforestation Efforts
- ii. Conservation of the Mara River and Syabei River Ecosystems
- iii. Campus Greening and Landscaping
- iv. Engagement with Local Communities Research and Innovation in Environmental Conservation

Long-term Vision

The Green Cover Initiative is designed to not only enhance the natural environment surrounding Maasai Mara University but also to serve as a model for sustainable environmental practices across Kenya and beyond. The initiative aligns with both the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** and Kenya's national objectives on environmental conservation and climate resilience. In the long term, it is expected to significantly contribute to the resilience of local ecosystems, mitigate the impacts of climate

change, and ensure the sustainable use

Key achievements and challenges over the past year

a) Launch of 30 Environmental Clubs in Primary Schools:

Maasai Mara University launched 30 environmental clubs in primary schools across Narok County on February 9th, 2024. The event was led by Vice-Chancellor Prof. Peninah Aloo-Obudho and featured the Director General of the National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA)-Mamo Boru Mao, as the chief guest.



Vice-Chancellor- Prof. Peninah Aloo Obudho and DG-NEMA, Mamo Boru Mao, EBS with primary students during the launch

b) Chebitet:

Led by Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peninah Aloo-Obudho, the university played a central role, donating 3,000 tree seedlings and mobilizing nearly 100 staff members. A total of 23,300 seedlings were planted, focusing on indigenous, fruit, and exotic trees, contributing to the green cover and climate resilience in the region. The event also included the distribution of relief food to 300 families affected by floods and mudslides.



Chairman of Council- Dr. Kennedy Ole Kerei with the Vice Chancellor, Maasai Mara University- Prof. P. Aloo-Obudho championing the tree planting exercise

c) The National Elimu Tree Planting Day

The event held at Emayian Primary School in Narok North on May 17th, 2024, organized by Maasai Mara University. This initiative was part of a national directive from the Ministry of Education, encouraging universities to participate in environmental conservation efforts. In total, over 600 trees were planted across different locations, including the university and other schools in the region. The report underscores Maasai Mara University's role in leading green initiatives and contributing to national environmental goals.

Members of staff at Emayian Primary School

Donation: Equity Bank pledged and donated 100,000 tree seedlings to support the tree planting initiatives of Maasai Mara University through the Green Cover concept.



The Vice-Chancellor, Prof Peninah Aloo Obudho introducing the Equity Bank team to the Model Tree Nursery where tree seedlings are being produced.



Donation of tree seedlings from Equity Team led by the Branch manager, Pius Gitau to the Vice Chancellor.

d) Engagement with County Government on International Forest

Day and World Water Day: Maasai Mara University commemorated International Forest Day on March 21st, 2024, at Aitong Primary School, with participation from 20 primary schools. The event included educational workshops on tree nursery production and management, along with a tree planting exercise involving 2,500 seedlings. Key stakeholders such as the Narok County First Lady, Agnes Ntutu, and the Kenya Forest Service were present. The event emphasized the importance of sustainable forest management and community engagement in environmental conservation. The outcomes included increased awareness,

community collaboration, and the establishment of new tree seedlings to support biodiversity.

Challenges:

The initiative faced obstacles such as:

- Limited funding as the initiative solely depended on university support
 - The extent of capacity building the communities to embrace environmental conservation is not yet realized to the effective level.
 - Drought and water scarcity in many schools hence low survival rate of planted trees
 - Uncertainty in many established partnerships to support the initiative
- e) Transport of participants and seedlings and bad terrains

CHINA-AFRICA ENVIRONMENT FORUM



The Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic and Students Affairs, Maasai Mara University-Kenya Prof. Bulitia Godrick Mathews (Right) receives an appointment letter from Prof. Li Fengting of Tongji University-China (Left), as a Guest Faculty at the UNEP-Tongji Institute for Environment and Sustainable Development for a period of three years commencing September, 2024 to September, 2027.

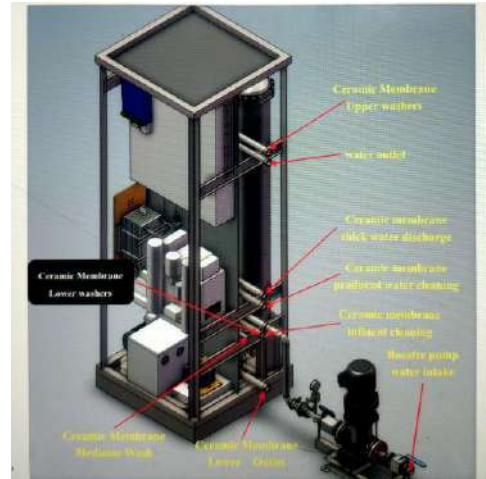


The Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic and Students Affairs, Maasai Mara University Prof. Bulitia Godrick Mathews delivers a presentation titled 'Challenges of Biodiversity in Kenya' during the 2024 China-Africa Environment Forum that was held from 9th-10th September 2024 at the Tongji University.

THEME: Innovation in Environmental Resources Management and Climate Change Mitigation for Sustainable Development



The Maasai Mara University Vice Chancellor, Prof. Peninah Aloo-Obudho (Left) artistically dresses a delegate from the People's Republic of China Shanghai Environment Group Co, LTD Group delegation after officially receiving the Ceramic Membrane Plant for Drinking Water Production equipment.



Photographic prototype of Ceramic Membrane Plant for Drinking Water Production that was donated to Maasai Mara University by the China Tianjian Water Group Co., Ltd supported by UN-Habitat and Tongji University, China.



The Maasai Mara University Vice Chancellor, Prof. Peninah Aloo-Obudho (in green suit) enjoys the company of the People's Republic of China Shanghai Environment Group Co, LTD Group delegation after officially receiving of the Ceramic Membrane Plant for Drinking Water Production equipment.



L-R: Prof. Li Fengting, Tongji University-China, the Vice Minister of Education-China, Prof. Jie Chen, Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic and Students Affairs, Maasai Mara University-Kenya Prof. Bulitia Godrick Mathews, Principal Secretary, the State Department of Higher Education and Research, Ministry of Education-Kenya Dr. Beatrice Muganda Inyangala, the Minister of Education-China Prof. Jinpeng Huai and Maasai Mara University's Endowment Fund Director Mr. Lankeu Reson.



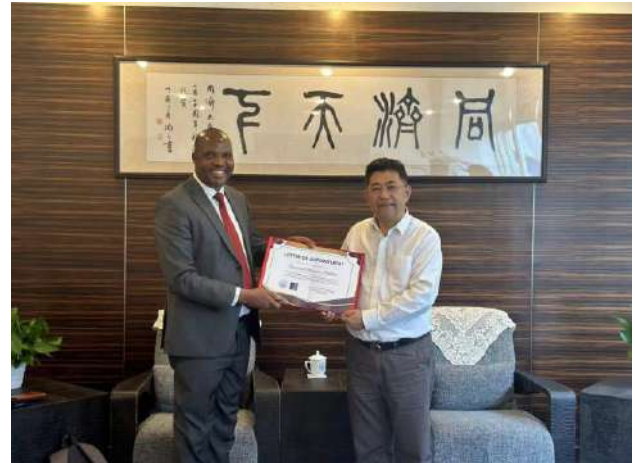
The Maasai Mara University Vice Chancellor, Prof. Peninah Aloo-Obudho (in green suit), Senators, and the People's Republic of China Shanghai Environment Group Co, LTD Group delegation during the receiving of the Ceramic Membrane Plant for Drinking Water Production equipment.



The Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic and Students Affairs, Maasai Mara University Prof. Bulitia Godrick Mathews keenly follows proceedings of the China-Africa Environment Forum that was held from 9th-10th September 2024 at the Tongji University where he delivered a presentation on the 'Challenges of Biodiversity in Kenya'.



R-L: Prof. Li Fengting of Tongji University-China, The Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic and Students Affairs, Maasai Mara University-Kenya Prof. Bulitia Godrick Mathews and Maasai Mara University's Endowment Fund Director Mr. Lankeu Reson shares light moments during the China-Africa Environment Forum that was held from 9th-10th September 2024 at the Tongji University.



The President of Tongji University, Prof. Zheng Qinghua, has conferred an appointment letter on Maasai Mara University's Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic and Students Affairs, Prof. Bulitia Godrick Mathews, to serve in the UNEP-Tongji Institute for a period of three years.

CENTRE FOR STUDENTS CAREER & PLACEMENT SERVICES.



Dr. Patrick Gudda
Coordinator, (CSC&PS).

In today's world, professional development, successful career progression, skills alignment and adaptability in the dynamic market is one of the most crucial and complex challenges the young generation faces. Young professionals are maneuvering a landscape with so many unpredictable opportunities and risks and ought to be prepared to grab these opportunities and stand these risks. The Centre for Student's Careers and Placement Services is delighted to inform all the students that it

is their mandate to fuel their successful career growth. The Centre activities are anchored on 3 pillars; Career Education, Counselling & Mentorship.

The CSC & PS is focused towards contributing to Africa Union's agenda - the 1 billion people 1 billion opportunities through Education, Entrepreneurship & Transforming knowledge & attitudes towards career development.

This office emphasizes skilling and training the young people with industry focus and entrepreneurship skills for business prosperity and employment and deepen the linkage between industry, public sector and learning institutions. We provide immediate assistance to students to ensure that they maximize their capacity.

The CSC & PS ensures enhancement of mentees' capacities through addressing some of the most critical

challenges that students face in seeking employment/successful business operations which include:

- Skills mismatch.
- Barriers to work entry - many years of work experience.
- Ease of transition from university to work.
- Little leverage of tech and digital platforms.

Our clarion call, the 3B's Believe, Begin Become, captures the essence of the original phrase, emphasizing the idea of starting anew (begin), evolving and growing (become), and maintaining confidence and conviction (believe). The phrase is concise, memorable, and inspiring, making it suitable for a variety of contexts, from Entrepreneurship, to personal development, motivation and transforming knowledge and attitudes towards addressing emerging challenges in the dynamic business and work environment

THEME: Innovation in Environmental Resources Management and Climate Change Mitigation for Sustainable Development

Our mission is to bridge the gap between education and unemployment by ensuring that every student has access to valuable opportunities, personalized guidance, and the resources needed to launch a successful career/business. Through workshops, internships, job shadowing, job placements, and career counseling, we strive to foster a

culture of ambition, confidence, and lifelong learning, helping students navigate the transition from academia to the workforce with clarity and purpose.

Generally, we believe that every student should be well equipped with knowledge to fit in the work life such as; communication skills, problem solving skills, decision making

skills, creativity, Innovation, critical thinking, teamwork, collaboration, adaptability, pro-activeness

During this 12th convocation, on behalf of the CSC & PS, I would like to congratulate the 2024 graduating class and encourage them to register as volunteer mentors at the CSC & PS office.

ALUMNI

MESSAGES FROM ALUMNI COORDINATOR,



Dr. Augustine Kara
Coordinator, Alumni

It is with great satisfaction and admiration that I join Maasai Mara University fraternity in congratulating you, our 2024 graduands. As you celebrate this momentous occasion, be thankful and grateful to God, your parents, guardians, siblings, the University, mentors and peers who have supported you through this journey. Today is a day of victory as a result of your perseverance and determination. I am certain that during your studies, you acquired desirable graduate attributes that will facilitate seamless transition from learning to earning during the unfolding 4th industrial revolution powered by evolving technologies.

As the years unfold, you will truly appreciate your time and

experiences at Maasai Mara University. You will remember the comradeship shared, the spirit of “Masomoni Harambee”, your favourite lecturers and units, your preferred sitting position in the lecture halls among other nostalgic moments. You will acknowledge that indeed, on your graduation day, you tied a lifetime knot with the University. You are now alumni of Maasai Mara University. On behalf of the Alumni, I take this opportunity to heartily welcome you as a registered member of Maasai Mara University Alumni Association (MMUAA). The **Vision** of MMUAA is to be a model association that promotes transformational leadership, connects with the community and fosters the development and interaction between alumni, students and industry both at national and international levels. Its **Mission** is to promote the welfare and vision of the University through the use of talents and resources of its members, alumni and friends of the University committed to academic excellence for sustainable development and seeking international visibility

in pursuit of quality teaching, research and community service.

Take your time and familiarize yourself with the objectives of the Association which include:

1. To build relationships, interactions and a sense of camaraderie among students and alumni.
2. Reinforce the collaborative and partnership relationship between students, alumni and industry and help increase placement for students during training and boost graduate employability.
3. To promote a healthy group spirit and effective/efficient business networking process among the alumni.
4. To promote efficient interaction and networking between Maasai Mara University and the alumni and showcase the association as an essential development partner of the University.
5. To act as a stimulating body in promoting the development of the

- Association, advancing the interests and promoting the welfare of its members.
6. To participate in the growth and development of the University among others:
 - i. Resource mobilization to support development programmes of the University,
 - ii. Soliciting for scholarships and bursaries for students, and
 - iii. To assist the University to initiate, organize and sustain programmes and awards such as:
 - a. The Outstanding Achievement Award.
 - b. The Distinguished Service Award (Alumnus/Alumna who has contributed most to the community/country).
 - c. The Distinguished Service of Senior Alumnus/Alumna Award (Alumni/Alumnae over 40 years of age who have remarkable great achievements).
 - d. The Distinguished Service of Youth

Alumnus/Alumna Award (Alumni/alumnae under the age of 40 Years who have great achievements).

7. To make presentations to the University Council and make recommendations of those who can play leadership roles at the University.
8. To participate in national and international development activities that are beneficial to the University, and to project a positive image of the University.
9. To establish collaborative and partnership links with other alumni bodies and organizations in and outside Kenya.

You are now a key stakeholder whom we cannot replace in the history of the University. Join the Association in building a solid relationship that endures through good and bad times. An engagement that can be nurtured and managed to provide long-term mutual benefits for you and the University. Continue marketing the University as

your preferred university education service provider of all times! I wish to thank the Association members for your participation in the successful installation of the University Chancellor, Mr. Vimal Shah. We are highly indebted to the members' continued engagement with our students as mentors and also supporting sports and recreation activities in the University.

Finally, I invite all the Maasai Mara University graduates out there to register with the Alumni Association so as to tap into the benefits of interaction, bonding, collaboration, networking, partnerships and shared values amongst the members. Indeed, membership recruitment remains a fundamental agenda for the Alumni Association. Follow the Maasai Mara University Alumni Association Facebook page or send an email to alumni@mmarau.ac.ke. Once again, congratulations to the Alumni Class of 2024!

MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (MMUAA)



**Mr. Daniel Nkoitoi Kipilosh,
Interim Chairman, MMUAA**

I am a Maa Cultural Chief, Secretary General for 29 Maa speaking communities in East Africa, Chairman, Maasai Mara University Alumni Association and a member of Independent Ethics Review Committee, Maasai Mara University. I graduated from Maasai Mara University, School of Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences and Creative Industries in 2019 with a

Bachelor of Arts Degree in Social Work, Second Class Honors, Upper Division.

I have worked in the NGO space for over 15 years now, starting as a volunteer to field officer, middle level staff and top-level management positions in transformational development and social welfare programs in both local, national and international organizations

like World Concern International, World food Program, UNDP, Christian Aid, FHI360 and USAID among others.

I wish to take opportunity to thank Maasai Mara University administration for giving me this opportunity to represent the MMUAA in this auspicious graduation ceremony of 2024.

MMUAA is a young but fast growing association which has received big support from our Vice Chancellor, Prof. Peninah Aloo-Obudho. On behalf of Maasai Mara University Alumni, I would like to thank the VC for the commitment to ignite and grow the Alumni Association. Thank you for including the Alumni leadership in the University management structures. This creative act will create a conducive environment for its growth. In collaboration with the Coordinator, Alumni Services, I support the forthcoming plans to develop the Alumni Strategic Plan and the grand launch of the

MMUAA activities in the University.

We envision to be a leading world class Alumni Association that will continuously support her mother University in achieving its vision and mission. Our primary objectives are pegged around the 5Ms and University Strategic Plan, 2024-2029. Our key roles include marketing, resource mobilization/fundraising, social networks, building relationships for partnership, mentorship and scholarship to encourage our young professionals to make positive impacts as key drivers in transforming their own societies and feeding the world economy in innovation and wealth creation.

To the graduating class of 2024, the four years of hardwork and determination is coming to end. There is a famous Nigerian proverb that says, "It takes a village to raise a child", meaning throughout your academic ladder, you have exhibited

resilience to succeed with support from various stakeholder such as your parents, guardians, faculty, staff, sponsors and colleagues. Despite challenges you faced in your academic journey, be comforted by the fact that there is always power in finishing and no man is limited. Today you are given powers to shape your own destiny and aspirations, embrace it with both hands.

On behalf of MMUAA, I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate The Class of 2024 and officially welcome you to join our alumni fraternity as we pioneer a unique space in building the Maasai Mara University we want.

"Light a candle of hope instead of cursing darkness"

I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, 2025 and all your endeavors

Ashe Olenq! (Maasai for: Thank you)



Obushe Dennis Omuse
Tutorial Fellow, Department of Humanities and Public Administration

BA. Political Science and Public Administration-First Class Honours (Maasai Mara University)

MA. Public Policy and Administration (Maasai Mara University)
Currently Pursuing PhD in Leadership and Governance.
Tutorial Fellow and Examination Officer, Department of Humanities and Public Administration.

Dear 2024 graduands!
Today marks the culmination of years of hard work, dedication, and resilience. As you step into the world beyond campus, carry with you the knowledge and

skills you have gained at Maasai Mara University. The challenges and opportunities ahead are valuable stepping stones to your continued growth. Embrace them with confidence, creativity, and determination. Remember, you are the ambassadors of this great institution, and your success is a testament to its excellence. Wishing you all the best in your careers and future endeavors. May your dreams lead you to remarkable achievements!



Kelvin Kiarie N'gethe.

Program; Bachelors in hotel and hospitality management.
Year of Graduation; 2018
Currently Doing; Jnr Sous Chef Pastry in Pierre Herme Paris Qatar and Baking and Pastry Trainer at Imperial Management Consultancy.

First and foremost, I join the Maasai Mara University fraternity in congratulating the graduating class of 2024. Your determination, discipline, and relentless pursuit of excellence have brought you this far, and today is a testament to the hard work you have put into achieving this milestone. As you step into the next chapter of your lives, remember that your journey is only beginning. Continue to strive for greatness, and let your achievements inspire others.

I stand before you today as a product of Maasai Mara University, where my passion for hospitality was nurtured and shaped into a successful career. From my humble beginnings as a student, I have had the privilege of advancing to my current role as **Junior Sous Chef Pastry at Pierre Herme Paris in Qatar**, as well as serving as a **Baking and Pastry Trainer at Imperial Management Consultancy**.

Looking back, I realize that the institution instilled in me some invaluable virtues—honesty, fairness, creative thinking, selflessness, consistency, and, most importantly, hard work. These

are the principles that guided me through the ups and downs of my career.

During my time at Maasai Mara University, I had the honor of serving as the **Chairman of the Maasai Mara University Hospitality Association**. In this role, I mentored my peers, promoted professionalism within the hospitality industry, and worked to ensure that we, as students, were prepared to face the demands of the industry.

Through dedication and commitment, I have achieved milestones that I once thought were beyond reach. I became the first hospitality student to be featured in the **East Africa Chef Magazine in 2021**. In **2020**, I had the opportunity to speak at the **Praphuly la Chandra Institute of Hospitality Management (PCIHM) in India**, sharing my knowledge and experiences with aspiring professionals.

In Doha, Qatar, I have created my own brand, **Chef Kiarie**, specializing in event cakes, which has allowed me to connect with clients and showcase my skills on an international platform. None of this would have been possible without the mentorship and guidance of outstanding individuals, like my **Executive Pastry Chef, Christian Boudard, at Pierre Herme Paris Qatar**. His unwavering support has pushed me to strive for excellence and continuously improve.

To the graduates here today, I want to remind you that everything is possible if you believe in yourself. The path you take may not always be easy, but hard work,

consistency, and dedication will open doors to endless opportunities. Be confident in your abilities, trust in your vision, and never stop learning and growing.

Before I conclude, I will leave you with two principles that I hold close to my heart:

"Believe in yourself enough to be different and do something unique."

"Success is not final, failure isn't fatal; it's the courage to continue that counts."

Congratulations once again to the Class of 2024. Your future is bright, and I am excited to see the great things you will accomplish.

Thank you.





Simo Baba.
Tutorial Fellow and DETO,
DESGAP.

Hello graduands.
Firstly, I would like to take this golden opportunity to thank the Almighty God for this far he has brought us. Secondly, allow me to extend my hands in joining the Maasai Mara University fraternity in congratulating the graduating class of 2024. Congratulations comrades!

For this far, it has taken your determination and discipline in attending many and long lectures, fighting with the deadlines for the takeaway cats and assignment submissions, the field trips, and the laboratory work which have moulded you towards achieving this degree. Today, the 9th of December 2024 comes with tears of joy as you are now being given powers to read and do all that appertains to your degree.

I am Simo Raphael, a former Maasai Mara University Student, and a Graduate with First class Honours in BSc. Environmental Studies (Biology and Health) the class of 2020. On the other hand, I was the first MMUSA chairman (Students Union President), a position I held from the year 2018 to 2020.

also graduated with Distinction in an International Joint Master's Degree Programme in Limnology and Wetland Management. This programme was offered by Four different countries and institutions i.e., Austria (BOKU University), The Netherlands (IHE Delft), France and Kenya (Egerton University). This programme equips learners with the structure and functioning of aquatic and wetland ecosystems for their sustainable use and management, together with skills on how to interact with stakeholders, managers, and policy makers for the development of best practices.

I, therefore, take this opportunity to encourage our comrades who are graduating today that everything is possible when you believe and work hard towards what you believe in. The sky should be the minimum. The thirst to conquer should continue burning and you should work towards quenching this thirst. Keep your eyes focussed towards achieving more dreams beyond your today's celebration. This has just formed the base of your academic career, there are more to be achieved and more gowns to be put. Keep the speed!

I strongly believe that Maasai Mara University gave you the best and you are strong and ready to conquer the world. Go out and manifest.

WE ARE GOING THERE. WE SHALL CONQUER.
Once more, Congratulations!



Nutrients Extraction from the soil



Greenhouse gas analysis using GC analyzer in Wondo Genet, Ethiopia.



Greenhouse gas sampling from springs in Ethiopia.



Discharge measurements in Ethiopian rivers

PROGRAMMES

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for admission into the following programmes offered at the Maasai Mara University.

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Ph.D Programmes

- Ph.D in Educational Administration
- Ph.D in Educational Curriculum Instruction and Media
- Ph.D in Educational Psychology
- Ph.D in Guidance and Counseling
- Ph.D in Early Childhood Development Education
- Ph.D in Educational Curriculum Studies

Master's Degree Programmes

- Master of Education (Guidance & Counseling)
- Master of Education (Educational Administration)
- Master of Education (Early Childhood Development)
- Master of Education (Special Needs Education)
- Master of Education (Educational Psychology)
- Master of Education (Curriculum Instruction & Media)

Undergraduate Degree Programmes

- Bachelor of Education (Arts)
- Bachelor of Education (Science)
- Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood Development Education)
- Bachelor of Education (Arts/Science) with Special Needs Education
- Bachelor of Education (Arts/Science) with Guidance and Counselling

SCHOOL OF PURE AND APPLIED SCIENCES

Ph.D Programmes

- Ph.D in Chemistry
- Ph.D in Pure Mathematics
- Ph.D in Physics
- Ph.D in Applied Mathematics
- Ph.D in Applied Statistics

Master's Degree Programmes

- Master of Science in Chemistry
- Master of Science in Pure Mathematics
- Master of Science in Physics
- Master of Science in Applied Statistics
- Master of Science in Applied Mathematics
- Master of Science in Information Science
- Master of Science in Computer Science
- Master of Science in Applied Entomology

Undergraduate Degree Programmes

- Bachelor of Science in Computer Science
- Bachelor of Science in Information Science
- Bachelor of Science in Applied Statistics with Computing
- Bachelor of Science in Botany

- Bachelor of Science in Chemistry
- Bachelor of Science in Zoology
- Bachelor of Science in Physics
- Bachelor of Science in Mathematics
- Bachelor of Science in Nursing
- Bachelor of Science in Microbiology

Diploma and Certificate Programmes

- Diploma in Information Technology
- Diploma in Computer Science
- Diploma in Nutrition and Dietetics
- Certificate in Information Technology

SCHOOL OF ARTS, HUMANITIES & CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

Ph.D Programmes

- Ph.D in Kiswahili
- Ph.D in Linguistics
- Ph.D in Literature

Master's Degree Programmes

- Master of Arts (Kiswahili)
- Master of Arts (Public Policy and Administration)
- Master of Arts (Linguistics)
- Master of Arts (Literature)
- Master of Arts in Philosophy
- Master of Social Work

Undergraduate Degree Programmes

- Bachelor of Arts in Community Development
- Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Public Administration
- Bachelor of Arts in Criminology and Penology
- Bachelor of Arts in Sociology
- Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies
- Bachelor of Arts in History
- Bachelor of Arts in Social Work
- Bachelor of Arts in Language and Communication
- Bachelor of Arts in Kiswahili and Journalism
- Bachelor of Arts in Communication and Journalism
- Bachelor of Arts in Communication and Public Relations.
- Bachelor of Arts in Literature, Theatre and Film
- Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy

Diploma Programmes

- Diploma in Social Work & Community development

Certificate Programmes

- Certificate in Social Work

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS & ECONOMICS

Ph.D Programmes

- Doctor of Philosophy in Business Administration

Master's Degree Programmes

- Master of Business Administration
- Master of Philosophy in Human Resource Management
- Master of Science in Econometrics and Statistics
- Master of Science in Financial Economics
- Master of Science in Economic Policy Analysis and Management
- Master of Science in Agricultural Economics & Resource Management

Undergraduate Degree Programmes

- Bachelor of Commerce
- Bachelor of Science in Economics
- Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Economics & Resource Management
- Bachelor of Science in Agribusiness Management
- Bachelor of Science in Human Resource Management
- Bachelor of Science in Financial Economics
- Bachelor of Science in Economics and Statistics
- Bachelor of Science in Entrepreneurship
- Bachelor of Science in Project Planning and Management

Diploma Programmes

- Diploma in Business Management
- Diploma in Human Resource Management

Certificate Programmes

- Certificate in Business Management
- Certificate in Human Resource Management

SCHOOL OF NATURAL RESOURCES, TOURISM & HOSPITALITY

Ph.D Programmes

- Ph. D in Land Resource Management
- Ph.D in Environmental Planning and Management
- Ph.D in Environmental Studies

Master's Degree Programmes

- Master of Science (Environmental Studies)
- Master of Arts (Geography)
- Master of Environmental Planning and Management
- Master of Science in Land Resource Management

Undergraduate Degree Programmes

- Bachelor of Science in Wildlife Management
- Bachelor of Science in Forest Ecosystems Management
- Bachelor of Science in Animal Health & Production
- Bachelor of Arts in Geography
- Bachelor of Environmental studies (Biology and Health)
- Bachelor of Environmental studies (Earth Sciences)
- Bachelor of Urban and Regional Planning
- Bachelor of Tourism Management
- Bachelor of Science in Parks, Recreation and Leisure Management
- Bachelor of Hotel and Hospitality Management
- Bachelor of Environmental Management

Diploma Programmes

- Diploma in Wildlife & Tourism Management.
- Diploma in Hotels & Hospitality Management
- Diploma in Animal Health and Production

Certificate Programmes

- Certificate in Wildlife & Tourism Management

MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- **PhD programmes:**
A Master's degree in the relevant field from a recognized University.
- **Masters programmes:**
2nd Class Honours (Upper Division) from a recognized university OR 2nd Class Honours (Lower Division), with two years' post qualification relevant work experience.
- **Undergraduate programmes:**
*Mean Grade of C+ in KCSE
or a C/C- with a relevant Diploma*
- **Diploma programmes:**
*KCSE Mean Grade of C/C- and above
or a Mean Grade of D+ with a Certificate from a recognized institution.*
- **Diploma in Education (Secondary Option):**
KCSE Mean Grade of C+ and a C+ in two teaching subjects.
- **Diploma in Education (Primary Option):**
Mean Grade of C+ or a Mean Grade of C (plain) with a P1 certificate.
- **Certificate programmes:**
KCSE Mean Grade of D+ and above.

INTAKES

- Full time and Evening modes of study: January, May and September
- School based/Part time modes of study: April, August and December

THEME: Innovation in Environmental Resources Management and Climate Change Mitigation for Sustainable Development

HOW TO APPLY

Official application forms are available at the Admissions office or can be downloaded from our website www.mmarau.ac.ke.

Duly completed application forms should be accompanied by a non-refundable application fee of **Kshs. 500/=** for Certificate and Diploma programmes, **Kshs. 1000/=** for Undergraduate programmes and **Kshs. 2000/=** for postgraduate programmes. Payments should be deposited into any of the following University accounts: Co-operative Bank ltd, Narok Branch (**01129337192600**) or Equity Bank, Narok branch (**0360292999764**).

CONTACTS

For more information, please contact us through the addresses indicated below. You can also log on to our website www.mmarau.ac.ke

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THEME: Innovation in Environmental Resources Management and Climate Change Mitigation for Sustainable Development

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