



MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY

Co-Creating Sustainable Futures

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MINISTRY OF HEALTH COUNTY SENSITIZATION ON DRUG AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE CONTROL PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN AND COURTESY CALL TO THE VICE CHANCELLOR OF MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY

The Ministry of Health, through the State Department for Public Health and Professional Standards, has launched a series of workshops aimed at addressing drug and substance abuse in all counties. The inaugural three-day workshop was held in Machakos County and concluded on November 20th, 2024, with a highly attended public awareness event at the Machakos University Hotel and Grounds. The event, the first of ten planned nationwide, attracted over 1,000 participants, underscoring its significance and the public's commitment to combatting this critical issue.

Key stakeholders including healthcare workers, community health promoters, enforcement officers, and members of the public participated in the workshop. The sessions focused on sensitizing attendees to the pressing need for collective action against drug and substance abuse while equipping them with tools to address the challenge effectively.

On the final day, officials from the Ministry of Health paid a courtesy visit to the Vice Chancellor of Machakos University. During the meeting, critical aspects of the County Sensitization on Drug and Substance Abuse Control program, were discussed including:

1. Strategies to address drug and substance abuse effectively.
2. Rationale for Drugs and Substance Control
3. Legislative measures for combating drug and substance abuse.
4. Approaches to support affected individuals.
5. Collaborative efforts to strengthen interventions.
6. Tobacco Control: Including rationale, legislative frameworks, and emerging tobacco products (NENTPs).
7. Promoting unity among key players in the fight against substance abuse.

A key highlight of the discussions was the Ministry's proposal to collaborate with Machakos University in creating and rolling out short courses on drug abuse awareness, prevention, and counseling. The program will aim to train and certify healthcare workers, community health promoters, and the public in Machakos County and its neighboring regions.

The workshop was a significant step toward fostering a multisectoral approach to tackling drug and substance abuse. Machakos University remains committed to supporting initiatives that promote public health and empower local communities.



MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY LEADS THE WAY: MASINDE MULIRO UNIVERSITY BENCHMARKS STUDENT WELFARE SERVICES.

Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology (MMUST), Department of Student Affairs, recently identified Machakos University as an exemplary institution for benchmarking on student welfare given its renowned systems and innovative approaches to addressing student needs. The benchmarking exercise took place on 20th November 2024, focusing on a range of areas critical to student welfare and governance.

The MMUST team was led by Dr. Bernadette Abwao, the Dean of Students, accompanied by ten student leaders representing various facets of the student body. The team was warmly received at Machakos University by a multidisciplinary team comprising professionals and student representatives.

The Machakos University delegation included:

- **Dr. Alex Kamwaria**, Dean of Students, who provided overall coordination and insights into the university's welfare systems.
- The **Patron of the Travelling Theatre**, who shared experiences on fostering creative expression and cultural identity among students.
- The **Housekeeper**, who detailed the operational strategies behind maintaining student accommodation facilities.
- The **Cateress**, who highlighted the university's approach to delivering nutritious and affordable meals.
- The **University Counsellor**, who elaborated on mental health initiatives and the counselling framework.
- The **Choir Patron**, who emphasized the importance of nurturing talent and fostering unity through music.
- The **Games and Sports Coordinator**, who shared insights into the development of robust sports programs and competitive teams.
- A Representative from the **Alumni Office**, who discussed how the university leverages its alumni network for student empowerment and institutional growth.
- Members of the **Student Governing Council**, who shared their experiences in leadership and collaboration.

The MMUST delegation sought insights from Machakos University in the following key areas:

- **Schemes to Support Needy Students:** Mechanisms for identifying and assisting students with financial challenges.
- **Income-Generating Activities by Student Organizations:** Initiatives and projects spearheaded by student bodies to foster financial independence and sustainability.
- **Student Council Projects:** Development and execution of impactful projects by student leaders to benefit the university community.

- **Special Interest Groups:** Support systems and activities tailored to marginalized or minority groups within the student population.
- **Catering, Health, and Accommodation Services:** Provision of quality meals, healthcare, and housing to enhance students' living and learning environments.
- **Student Leaders' Elections:** Transparent and inclusive electoral processes for student leadership.
- **Chaplaincy Services:** Spiritual and pastoral care for students across diverse faiths.
- **Co-Curricular Activities:** Sports, cultural programs, and other extracurricular opportunities that enrich students' university experience.
- **Role of Alumni:** Engagement of alumni in mentoring, funding, and career development for current students.
- **Career Fairs:** Platforms for students to connect with potential employers and explore career paths.

The visit provided a rich platform for knowledge sharing and mutual learning. Machakos University showcased its innovative programs, emphasizing sustainable and student-centered approaches. Particular highlights included the university's comprehensive support schemes for needy students and the vibrant income-generating projects run by student organizations such as the tuck shops.

The MMUST delegation expressed profound appreciation for the valuable insights gained during the visit and commended Machakos University for its unwavering commitment to student welfare, pointing out that the lessons learned would play a pivotal role in shaping future strategies to enhance student welfare at their institution. The benchmarking exercise marks the beginning of future partnerships between the two institutions, aimed at enhancing student services and fostering the adoption of best practices.



MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY STAFF CHOIR TRIUMPHS AT THE 97TH KENYA MUSIC AND CULTURAL FESTIVALS

The Machakos University Staff Choir added a glorious chapter to its journey by participating in the 97th edition of the Kenya Music and Cultural Festivals 2024. The prestigious event, held under the auspices of the Ministry of Gender, Culture, the Arts, and Heritage, took place at the Taita Taveta National Polytechnic in Voi from December 2nd to 10th, 2024. Themed “Our Culture, Our Wealth” or “Utamaduni Wetu, ni Nguzo ya Utajiri Wetu” in Kiswahili, the festival brought together diverse talents from across the country to celebrate Kenya’s rich cultural heritage.

Machakos University Staff Choir delivered stellar performances on December 5th and 6th, securing an impressive three awards in various categories:

1st Prize: Women’s Folk Song, a captivating piece traditionally performed by women during joyous occasions.

2nd Prize: Own Composition titled “Uraia Mwema” (Good Citizenship), an inspiring song promoting peace and harmony.

3rd Prize: Mixed Folk Song, an enchanting performance by men and women to welcome newlyweds into the community.

The choir’s achievements underscored its mission to foster teamwork, promote emotional well-being and work-life balance, provide an avenue for members to express their talents, and to enhance the university’s image through positive publicity.

Returning to the university, the choir was met with jubilant celebrations led by the choir director, Mr. Raphael Kioko. Vice Chancellor Prof. Joyce Agalo warmly welcomed the choir and expressed immense pride in their achievements. As she received the trophies, Prof. Agalo emphasized the importance of the choir’s role in promoting cohesion, unity, talent development, and even therapeutic benefits. She also highlighted the marketing advantage such successes bring to the university.

Prof. Agalo commended the choir’s dedication and encouraged them to maintain their zeal in pursuit of even greater heights. She affirmed the university’s unwavering support for the choir in achieving its goals.

The Machakos University Staff Choir’s triumph is a testament to the power of cultural expression and the collective spirit of its members. As they continue to soar, they serve as an inspiration to the entire university community and beyond.



MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY STAFF END THE YEAR IN STYLE

A Day of Gratitude and Joy! Yesterday, December 18, 2024, Machakos University staff and management, gathered at the University hotel grounds for a memorable end-of-year celebration. The event was a moment of thanksgiving, reflection, and shared joy, highlighting the year's achievements and fostering a sense of community. In her address, the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Joyce Agalo emphasized unity, cooperation, hard work, and the spirit of excellence as key pillars of the university's success during the year. She urged staff to reflect on the impact they aspire to make in the coming year and to remain responsible and grateful. She concluded with warm wishes for a blessed Christmas and a prosperous New Year. The celebration concluded with joyous Christmas carols performed by the university staff choir and a delicious shared meal, leaving everyone in high spirits. It was a day to remember—filled with gratitude, camaraderie, and the spirit of togetherness.





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