



MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY

Co-Creating Sustainable Futures

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CONSULTATIVE SITE MEETING FOR MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY'S PROPOSED ADMINISTRATION AND TUITION BLOCK

A consultative site meeting was recently held to inspect the ongoing construction of Machakos University Proposed Administration and Tuition Block. The inspection was led by, Dr. (Eng.) K. Githinji, the Project Manager representative from the State Department for Public Works, alongside other stakeholders to review the current status of the project and address emerging issues on how the project can be completed.

Project Overview

Present at the meeting were representatives from Machakos University Management, led by the University Vice Chancellor, Prof. Joyce Agalo; Contractors, led by the Main Contractor, M/s. Vaghjivani Enterprises; and the Consultants team, led by Dr (Eng). K. Githinji.

The construction of the Administration and Tuition Block commenced on 20th July 2017, with a scheduled completion timeline of three (3) years. The project is critical to the University's infrastructure development, as it will provide Lecture halls, administrative offices, conference rooms, dry and wet laboratories, theater halls, and other essential facilities for the institution's smooth operation. The anticipated completion and handover of the administration wing is expected to transform the operational efficiency of Machakos University.

Despite the steady progress, the project has encountered several challenges including inconsistency in the allocation of funds which has slowed down the pace of construction.

Technological Advancements over the years has resulted on review of items, equipment, and systems, necessary to align with modern technological advancements, impacting the project's original designs.

During the meeting, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Joyce Agalo acknowledged that the project was initially set for completion in 20th July, 2020. However, harsh economic conditions and financial constraints delayed the completion process. She re-affirmed that the University Management is committed to mobilize and source for necessary funds to ensure completion of the building.



The Vice-Chancellor (Center) together with representatives from Machakos University Management, Contractors and the Consultant team

The Vice Chancellor expressed optimism that by early next year, the first phase of staff will be relocated and begin operations in the new Administration block. A partial handover of the building is expected to take place in December 2024, with the immediate focus on completing the administration wing.

The administration block is a significant development for the University, and its completion will enhance the institution's ability to serve its growing student population and staff more efficiently.

ACADEMIC WRITING AND MENTORSHIP WORKSHOP

From October 2nd to 4th 2024, students pursuing PhD in African Literature and a Master of Arts in Literature at Machakos University participated in a three-day Academic Writing and Mentorship Workshop. Held in the DVC (ASA) Boardroom, the workshop focused on enhancing students' writing, peer-review, and editing skills for publishing in prestigious journals.

Convened by Dr. Charles Kebaya, the workshop is part of the ongoing African Literature Metadata (ALMEDA) research project, funded by the European Union and based at Uppsala University, Sweden. Prof. Nicklaus Hallen, a key member of the ALMEDA team, served as the principal facilitator, providing invaluable insights and guidance throughout the sessions.

Dr. Kebaya, who coordinates ALMEDA activities at Machakos University, emphasized the importance of research, academic writing training, and mentorship workshops in fostering scholarly development. As a result of their participation in the workshop, students have been included as co-authors in a collaborative book project, which is a significant deliverable of the ALMEDA initiative.

This workshop represents a crucial step in supporting the next generation of scholars in African literature, equipping them with the skills necessary for successful academic publishing.




Dr. Kebaya giving a Presentation

COURTESY CALL BY SPORTS CONNECT AFRICA TO THE VICE CHANCELLOR

On 16th October 2024, a delegation from Betika Sports Kenya, led by Ms. Cynthia Mumbo, Founder & CEO of Sports Connect Africa and recognized Under 40 Leader in Sport, paid a courtesy visit to the Vice Chancellor of Machakos University, Prof. Joyce Agalo. The purpose of the visit was to donate a variety of sports gear, including men's and women's football kits, goalkeeper kits, and training socks, aimed at supporting the university's sports initiatives.



Sports Connect Africa Donates Football Kits to Machakos University



During the event, Ms. Mumbo expressed Sports Connect Africa's commitment to inspiring, supporting, and rewarding sporting talent across the region. She highlighted the importance of fostering sports culture in institutions of higher learning, as it plays a pivotal role in holistic student development. The donation is expected to enhance the university's sports programs and encourage greater participation in competitive sports.

Machakos University had the privilege of hosting Sports Connect Africa's event from 14th to 18th October 2024, further solidifying the University's dedication to nurturing sporting talent and promoting active student engagement in extracurricular activities.

In attendance were the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Joyce Agalo; the DVC APF, Prof. Mugendi M'Rithaa; the DVC ASA, Prof. James Muola; the Games and Sports Coordination team led by Mr. Joseph Ndiku; the President of the Student Association, Mr. Emanuel Yogo; and the Games and Sports Representative, Mr. Biko.

This collaboration between Machakos University and Sports Connect Africa marks a significant step in providing students with opportunities to excel in sports, both locally and internationally.

EMBRACING INCLUSIVITY: MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY'S HEARTFELT OUTREACH TO MASAKU SCHOOL FOR THE PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED

On Friday, October 18, 2024, Machakos University embarked on a heartwarming community outreach initiative at Masaku School for the Physically Challenged. This annual event, organized by the University Academic Staff Union (UASU), focused on fostering connections and uplifting the spirits of students with disabilities.

During their visit, the university staff engaged in various activities with the pupils, including sharing meals and dancing together. The vibrant atmosphere was filled with laughter and joy, as everyone participated in the celebrations, highlighting the importance of inclusivity and compassion.

The outreach not only aimed to bring smiles to the faces of the children but also emphasized the university's commitment to supporting underprivileged communities. Gifts were shared, symbolizing solidarity and care, reinforcing the idea that every child deserves love and support.

This initiative, led by the UASU chapter officials and the support of the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Joyce Agalo, exemplifies the institution's dedication to social responsibility. The collaborative effort of academic staff and the officials, played a crucial role in making this event a success, showcasing the university's commitment to making a positive impact in the community.



Machakos University UASU Officials & Staff presenting their gifts

As the day concluded, participants left with cherished memories and a renewed sense of purpose, reminding everyone of the power of kindness and community. Machakos University continues to inspire hope and joy, and we extend our heartfelt gratitude to all those that were involved in this meaningful outreach. May their efforts be blessed as they strive to create a more inclusive and compassionate world.

OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE CLIMATE AND AIR MONITORING EQUIPMENT AT MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY

Machakos University proudly launched a cutting-edge Climate and Air Monitoring Equipment, marking a significant milestone in the University's commitment to advancing research in environmental sciences on 24th October 2024. The project is a result of a fruitful collaboration facilitated by the University's Division of Research, Innovation, and Linkages through the Dean School of Engineering and Technology Dean School of Agriculture, Environment and Health Sciences.

The event was graced by members of the University Council, led by the Chairman, Dr. Christopher Gatama Gakahu, and the University Management, headed by the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Joyce Agalo. Also in attendance were, Senate members and undergraduate students pursuing Bachelor of Environmental

Science, Bachelor of Environmental Studies and Community Development, Bachelor of Environmental Studies (Environmental Resource Conservation) and Bachelor of Science in Public Health.

The guest of honour, Dr. Richard Damoah, Assistant Professor in the Climate Science Division at Morgan State University (MSU), delivered an insightful remarks on the importance of climate research and air quality monitoring system. Dr. Damoah has more than 15 years of experience in chemistry climate modeling, radiative transfer modeling, trajectory modeling, pollution measurement and data analysis with strong programming skills. His activities over the years have included using climate model to investigate the interaction between air pollution and climate.



Dr. Richard Damoah addressing members during the launch

The instruments are equipped with advanced features designed to monitor a wide range of air pollutants, enabling comprehensive evaluation of atmospheric conditions in comparison to clean air standards and historical data. Additionally, they measure climate variables and other environmental parameters contributing to sustainable development and environmental conservation efforts in the region.



The climate and air monitoring equipment

The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Joyce Agalo highlighted the potential impact of the project on both the University and the surrounding community stating that the project will not only serve the Machakos community through its research and recommendations, but it

will also open up new avenues for further research in environmental science and the health sector. The Vice Chancellor reiterated the University's efforts to promoting impactful research that addresses both local and global environmental challenges.

The Chairman of the University Council, Dr. Christopher Gakahu, echoed the Vice Chancellor's sentiments by emphasizing the importance of collaboration in driving research efforts. Dr. Gakahu noted that the collaboration has created opportunities for both local and international partnerships, including student and staff exchange programme that would further enhance the research capacity of Machakos University.



Dr. Christopher Gakahu, Chairman of the Council, shares insightful remarks

The official launch was marked by a ribbon-cutting ceremony, officiated by the Chairman of the University Council, Dr. Christopher Gatama Gakahu, the Vice Chancellor Prof. Joyce Agalo, and the Guest of Honour, Dr. Richard Damoah.



Ribbon-cutting ceremony and official launch of the new equipment

The launch of this equipment sets the stage for Machakos University to become a hub for environmental research, further positioning it as a leader in climate and air quality studies in the region. The university looks forward to collaborating with various stakeholders, both locally and globally, to harness the power of data for positive environmental change.

LAND SURVEY FOR THE NEW SPORTS ANNEX, HOSTELS, AND PRACTICAL TRAINING FACILITIES

In a significant step towards advancing student experience and academic excellence, Machakos University Vice Chancellor, Prof. Joyce Agalo accompanied by The Deputy Vice Chancellor Administration, Planning and Finance Prof. Mugendi M'Rithaa, the Registrar Administration and Planning Dr. Humphrey Omondi, Dean School of Agriculture, Environment and Health Sciences Dr. Julius Nzeve, Head of Planning and Maintenance Mr. Richard Nzwili, Coordinator internal security Ms. Christine Mwondi, and Coordinator Environment Section in the Planning department Mr. Fredrick Kathili, conducted an on-site survey of the allocated land parcels at Mua ward designated for Machakos University's upcoming developments. The allocated area will support the construction of a sports annex, student hostels, and practical training facilities for students from the School of Agriculture, Environment, and Health Sciences.

overall student experience by addressing critical areas such as accommodation, sports, and hands-on learning opportunities. The sports annex will serve as a vibrant hub for physical wellness, fostering a holistic approach to student health and fitness. Additionally, the practical training areas will provide students enrolled for Agriculture, Environment, and Health Sciences programmes with dedicated spaces to apply theoretical knowledge, preparing them to be skilled professionals.

This development aligns with Machakos University's commitment to co-creating sustainable futures and elevating itself as a center of excellence. By investing in infrastructure that directly impacts service delivery and student engagement, the University is paving a way for an enriched learning experience and future growth. The physical survey marks the beginning of this transformative project, with more updates to follow as construction progresses.

These new facilities are set to enhance the



The Allocated Land at Mua Ward



The Vice Chancellor Prof. Joyce Agalo and the Dean, School of Agriculture, Environment and Health Sciences, Dr. Julius Nzeve during the site inspection



Members of the University touring the site, led by the Vice Chancellor

HIGHLIGHTS FROM MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY 9TH GRADUATION CEREMONY









STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY THROUGH FAITH: MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY'S QUARTERLY INTERDENOMINATIONAL PRAYER MEETING



Machakos University held the second Interdenominational Prayer Meeting on Friday, October 18, 2024, a gathering that underscored the institution's commitment to fostering a holistic spiritual community.

The event was opened by the University Vice Chancellor Prof. Joyce Agalo. The Vice Chancellor highlighted the importance of the event as essential not only for spiritual growth but also for nurturing a sense of unity among the university community. "Incorporating prayer into our university life is not merely a tradition; it is an integral part of our journey together," Prof. Agalo stated, urging all attendees to embrace this initiative as a way to strengthen faith, bonds, and support for one another in the academic and personal endeavors.

The event featured an uplifting sermon and prayers by members of different religions showcasing the diverse faith backgrounds of the participants. Both staff and students participated in the prayers, reflecting on the role of faith in overcoming challenges and achieving success. The atmosphere was one of hope, with participants coming together to seek guidance and blessings for Machakos university as a whole, and for their future.



EQUITY AFIA MACHAKOS CELEBRATES CUSTOMER SERVICE WEEK WITH MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY

In honor of Customer Service week, Equity Afia representatives from Machakos Branch paid a courtesy call to the Vice Chancellor of Machakos University, Prof. Joyce Agalo for a cake cutting ceremony.



Members present included the University Management Board, led by Vice-Chancellor Prof. Joyce Agalo, who warmly welcomed the Equity Afia team. Also present was the Chair of the Human Resource Subcommittee of the University Council, CS Dr. Mercy Kanyara, alongside other members of the sub-committee.

The ceremony provided an opportunity to celebrate the significance of customer-centric values within the University and its partnerships.



Members ceremoniously cutting the cake



The Vice Chancellor Prof. Joyce Agalo receiving a piece of cake from Nancy Njeri, Equity Afia Representative

MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY HOSTS THE EIGHTH PUBLIC LECTURE ON MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES, CONSEQUENCES, AND INTERVENTIONS



Machakos University welcomed students, members of staff, and distinguished guests to its 8th Public Lecture, centered on the critical topic of “Mental Health Issues, Consequences, and Interventions,” on October 16th, 2024. This significant event, held at the University Amphitheatre, featured mental health advocate Ms. Grace Joseph as the Chief Guest, offering attendees valuable insights into the complexities of mental health and strategies for meaningful intervention. Ms. Grace Joseph serves as the Director of Counselling Services at the State Department for Public Services.

The Eighth Public Lecture was officially opened by Machakos University Vice Chancellor, Prof. Joyce Agalo, who warmly welcomed participants and expressed appreciation to the distinguished guests for the participation. In her opening remarks, Prof. Agalo emphasized the critical need to address mental health challenges within academic settings and beyond, highlighting the value of increased awareness and proactive intervention.

The Vice Chancellor commended the Division of Research, Innovation, and Linkages, particularly the Directorate of Research, Innovation, and Technology Transfer, for the ongoing efforts to promote dialogue on mental health awareness and intervention. She further applauded all attendees for the engagement on the important event, affirming the University’s commitment to fostering a supportive environment that prioritizes holistic well-being.

The first speaker of the day, Ms. Grace Joseph, delivered a compelling presentation on “*Mental Health Issues, Consequences, and Interventions*.” She examined the societal implications of mental health challenges and outlined pathways for meaningful intervention, encouraging the audience to consider both individual and collective roles in mental health advocacy.

Following the keynote address, a plenary session brought together an esteemed panel, including Prof. James Muola, the Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic and a Professor of Educational Psychology, and Student Affairs at Machakos University, and Dr. Jennifer Njoki a Consultant Psychiatrist at Machakos Level 5 Hospital. Their expert insights enriched the dialogue, contributing to an engaging and thought-provoking discussion.

Machakos University remains steadfast in its commitment to promoting mental wellness and ensuring an environment that supports mental health and well-being for all students and staff for the benefit of the broader community



The Vice Chancellor Prof. Joyce Agalo delivering welcoming remarks and officially opening the 8th Public Lecture.



The Chief Guest Ms. Grace Joseph presents on 'Mental Health Issues, Consequences, and Interventions.'



Plenary Session Panelists: (Left to right) Dr. Jennifer Njoki, Ms. Grace Joseph and Prof. James Muola,

Machakos University
P.O. Box 136-90100,
Machakos, KENYA
Telephone: +254 735 247 939



www.mksu.ac.ke



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Mksu_Official



info@mksu.ac.ke