



# LAIKIPIA UNIVERSITY



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EDITION**

# LU InfoPoint

## *The Bulletin*

*A Monthly Publication of Laikipia University*



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Laikipia University-KE

**VISION:**

*A University for valued transformation of society*

**MISSION:**

*To serve students and society through research, education, scholarship, training, innovation, outreach and consultancy*

**CORE VALUES:**

*Quality, Integrity, Respect*

**MOTTO:**

*'Seed of Wisdom'*

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6. Mr. Cornellius Sitonik - Designer and Photographer

## Laikipia University Mental Health Campaign week 2023

The Laikipia University Students' Affairs Department, Counselling Services Section through the Office of the Dean of Students, organized a Mental Health Awareness Campaign Week 2023 on 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

The week's daily topical discussion revolved around Depression, Suicide, Stress and Stress Management. The climax was on 6<sup>th</sup> October, 2023 with a Mental Health Sensitization Walk.

The theme for this year's Mental Health Campaign was **Making Mental Health a Global Priority**. Other supporting themes were *Your Story Matters and It's Okay Not to Be Okay*.

The walk was officially graced and flagged off by the Dean of Students on behalf of Ag. Deputy Vice Chancellor – Academic, Research and Students Affairs Prof. Jacinta Ndambuki. The event was also attended by Staff from the Counselling Department, Peer Counselors, Student Leaders, and Students.

The procession started at the University Pavilion Grounds up to Karuga Centre and the students turned up in good numbers. The University Security Department engaged the traffic police during the walk on the highway. The students were reminded to be on the lookout for mental health issues

among themselves and refer cases to the student counselors. Those who are undergoing any challenges in their life and academics were also advised to seek help.

The event ended at 1pm after which the participants shared lunch before dispersing.

## Ngorika Secondary School Students Mentorship Forum

On 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2023 the University through the Directorate of TVET, Career Placement, Alumni and External Linkages hosted a group of students from Ngorika Secondary School who had visited the University for a Career Mentorship Forum.

The mentorship was conducted by Ms. Martha Ng'ang'a from the Directorate of Research, Mr. Richard Lentnyoni, Mr. Achila and Mr. Cornellius Sitonik. The topics of discussion ranged from the Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Service (KUCCPS) criteria of student placement to University, Requirements for courses offered by the University to Proper Study Techniques more so to the form fours and also those in lower forms for adequate early preparations for academic success.

In addition the students briefly attended the Ajira Digital Programme forum

that was going on at Mandela where they were informed that it is possible to work online so long as there is proper guidelines on how to go about it. They visited lecture halls in the New Administration/Library Block, University Weather Station, Farm and Library Departments consecutively. The students were really thrilled to have had the chance to visit the University and said they were inspired to put more effort in their studies.

The Directorate of TVET, Career Placement, Alumni and External Linkages has been conducting Career and Academic Mentorships to Primary and Secondary Students all year round.

### **Public Finance Training at Laikipia University**

Institute of Public Finance (IPF) held a Public Finance Training at Laikipia University. The two-day training, held from 11<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2023 at Mandela Hall was well attended by the student representatives from the four schools in the University.

The forum was organized by Directorate of TVET, Career Placement, Alumni and External Linkages and was officially graced by Dr. Naftali Nyang'ara – the Director TVET, Career Placement, Alumni and External Linkages. Also in Attendance

were Dr. Clement Achimba Okirigiti and Ms. Hellen Wambugu both from the Directorate. Facilitators from IPF were Mr. Mohamed Salat and Mr. Felix Masikonte.

The training was attended by the student representatives from the four Schools i.e. School of Business and Economics, Science and Applied Technology, School of Education and the School of Humanities and Development Studies. The aim of the training is to strengthen the capacity of students in the University, Public Finance Management in Kenya with regard to budget process, analyzing budget documents and understanding budget decisions.

Registrar Academic Affairs Prof. Robert Mwebi closed the forum while thanking the IPF officials for coming to the University to offer the training. He further urged the students to take the training seriously as it will enable their seamless transition to job markets while connecting the theory with practical aspects of their careers.

### **LU-CIAT Environmental and Social Safeguard Sensitization Exercise**

Laikipia University and The Alliance for Biodiversity –CIAT conducted an Environmental and Social Safeguard Sensitization Exercise at the University farm on 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2023

which is one of their Community Outreach Objective.

The forum was organized by the Department of Earth Science lead by Dr. Barnabas Kurgat, Dr. Poti Owili, Dr. Pande and staff from the School of Science in conjunction with Alliance for Biodiversity - CIAT. Lead person from CIAT was Ms. Ivy Kinyua and the facilitator was Mr. Alex Nderi.

The exercise involved farmers from Ndaragwa Sub County, Laikipia University Farm Technical Staff and students undertaking Agricultural Education and Extension Course. The exercise was one of the planned activities for all the institutions receiving grants through Accelerating Impacts of CGIAR Climate Research for Africa (AICCRA) Project. The purpose of the exercise is to create awareness on material measures and actions so that the activities of the farm demonstrate units are in accordance with the Environmental and Social Standards (ESS).

The farmers were taken through Proper Environmental Measures When Disposing Agricultural Chemicals, Storage, How to put on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), Payments to Farm Labourers and Involvement of People Living With Disabilities in Farm Activities to Uplift their Economic Livelihoods.

After the session the farmers received PPE kits.

## **Directorate of Planning Assessment**

The Public Service Performance Management Monitoring Unit (PSPMMU) conducted performance evaluation for the 2022/2023 Financial Year on Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at the University Management Boardroom. The PSPMMU team was led by Principal Economist Mr. Peter Kariuki.

The Laikipia University team in the evaluation comprised of Ms. Sereya Maitoyo (Independent Council Member), members of the University Management Board led by the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Kibett Rotich, Deputy Vice Chancellor – Administration, Finance and Planning, Director Planning and Performance Management and other Heads of Departments. Mr. Kariuki lauded the University for the Well Documented Evidences on implementation of Performance Contract (PC) targets. The University attained a rating of "Very Good" with the final evaluation scores expected to be released in November 2023.

## **Risk Insurance Survey Exercise**

A Risk Insurance Survey Exercise was conducted at the University on 25<sup>th</sup> October, 2023 by Liaison Group.

The exercise was spearheaded by the Laikipia University Ag. Deputy Vice Chancellor Prof. Nicholas Kamau, Ms. Faith Koki and Mr. Nelson Mwangi from Liaison Group.

The forum, which was conducted at Mandela Hall, was preceded by an official courtesy call paid to the Office of the Vice Chancellor by the officials from the Insurance Company. It started with a desktop meeting which was also attended by head representatives from departments of Procurement, Audit, Medical, Security, Asset, and Estate among others. They accessed several areas with regard to risk mitigation and prevention.

After the meeting, there was a physical assessment of the institution's resources at Electronic Media Studio, Examination Department, University Parking lot, Estate Department and the Oxidation Ponds. The officials from Liaison Group noted that risks are emerging and changing every time and matters of mitigation requires continuous improvement. The exercise ended with recommendations and a wash-up with the Insurance representative

## **Laikipia University Participates in the 2023 University and TVET Africa Innovation and Entrepreneurship OSCARS Olympiad**

25 students from Laikipia University participated in the 2023 University and TVET Africa Innovation and Entrepreneurship OSCARS Olympiad. The two day boot camp was held on 27<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> October, 2023 from 8am to 5pm at the University and was attended by students who were shortlisted.

The event was organized by I Choose Life- Africa (ICL) in collaboration with the University's Directorate of TVET, Career Placement, Alumni and External Linkages after identifying gaps in the education system that there is need for product development and enhanced entrepreneurial skills. It was preceded by an inception meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> October, 2023 for both shortlisted students and faculty staff to ensure all were aware of what was expected of them.

The training was aimed at equipping students with skills on Enterprise Development, Product Development, Business Model Canvas, and Financial Literacy among others. The training also incorporated essential leadership skills such as planning, communication, and team building, empowering them to lead more effectively within their universities and TVETs. This year's Olympiad had a total of one hundred and fifty University and TVET students comprising of six counties: Nairobi, Bomet, Machakos, Uasin Gishu,

Laikipia and Turkana.

The winners of Olympiad will represent Kenya in the Africa OSCARS Olympiad and announced during the prestigious Kenya Innovative Week: Commonwealth Edition on 1<sup>st</sup>

Commonwealth Edition on 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2023 under the distinguished patronage of H.E President of the Republic of Kenya, Dr. William S. Ruto.



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