

KARATINA UNIVERSITY RECEIVES BOOK DONATION WORTH KSHS 505,895/- FROM HUAWEI ICT ACADEMY

Members of the International Women's Day Committee, on Thursday, 29th June 2023, presented an assortment of books and journals to the Acting Vice Chancellor, Prof. Linus Muthuri Gitonga. Led by their Chairperson, Prof. Juliet Macharia, the Committee presented books majorly from the Huawei ICT Academy and from her personal library. The Academy donated a total of sixty (60) books worth Kshs 505, 895/-. These are forty (40) books on Construction, Operation and Maintenance of Network System at a total cost of Kshs 337, 263/- and twenty (20) books on Artificial Intelligence Technology at a total cost of Kshs 168,632/-. They are a 2023 publication by Springer which is a leading global scientific, technical and medical portfolio, providing researchers in academia, scientific institutions and corporate R&D departments with quality content through innovative information, products and services. (www.springer.com). Other books and journals received are in the area of communication.

Prof. Macharia noted that the donation from Huawei ICT Academy was as a result of a partnership between the University and Huawei Technologies during the celebration of the International Day of Girls and Women in Science (IDGWS) which was held on Saturday, 11th February 2023 at St. Faustina Kerugoya Girls High School. The University has also partnered with the Academy to offer short courses to students.

The Ag. VC stated that the goodwill to donate the books and journals to the University was noticed and appreciated noting that no contribution was too small. He further noted that



The Acting Vice Chancellor (in red tie), together with members of the International Women's Day Committee, displaying some of the books that were donated.

the University will pursue signing an MoU with Huawei Technologies in order to open up more areas of possible collaborations. He urged the International Women's Day Committee to continue fulfilling the tenets of its mandate by doing even greater things. He pledged his support to the Committee in what it needed to propel its agenda to the highest level.

While emphasizing on the need to create an efficient and work-friendly environment at the University, the Ag. VC articulated his vision of establishing a one-stop shop/centre where all matters pertaining to research and publishing will be domiciled. Adopting the 'Huduma Centre' model of operation, the Centre will have representatives from Finance, Audit, Procurement and other relevant sections in order to ensure that all matters associated with research and publishing are sorted out within a day.

Establishing a 'Mentorship in Mathematics' programme is also another project that the Ag. VC is looking forward to having at Karatina University. This Programme would entail reaching out to schools and mentoring

their students in Mathematics. This is in line with his clarion call for each department/section to take part in community outreach activities. He applauded the University Library Services which has committed, in its Performance Contract, to reach out to schools within the area and mentor them in line with their jurisdiction. He noted that there are many other areas the University can impact the community including having writing or debating clubs for students interested in journalism.



The Acting Vice Chancellor, Prof. Linus Muthuri Gitonga, handing over the books to the Acting Head of Library Services, Mr. Vincent Bob Kiilu.

Members of staff were challenged to source for more books and resources for the University. Each one was encouraged to bring their networks to the University. This would, in turn, positively brand Karatina University in the international arena and enhance its visibility.

“Our affinity to Karatina University as our University should lead us to front its name to local and international organizations. Seeing its growth will cause us to feel like we belong. This will also lead to personal growth” the Ag. VC concluded.

ACTING VICE CHANCELLOR ATTENDS THE LAUNCH OF THE 2023 CA CYBERSECURITY BOOTCAMP AND HACKATHON SERIES



Acting Vice Chancellor (second row, grey tie) together with other participants

The Acting Vice Chancellor, Prof. Linus Muthuri Gitonga, attended the launch of the 2023 CA Cybersecurity Bootcamp and Hackathon Series on Monday, 26th June, 2023 at Weston Hotel, Nairobi. According to the Director General/CEO of the Communications Authority of Kenya, Ezra Chiloba, cybersecurity is the cornerstone of a thriving digital economy and is critical for the security and sustainability of the gains that Kenya has, so far, made in ICTs. However, inadequate cybersecurity capacity remains a major challenge in effective cybersecurity management.



Acting Vice Chancellor sharing a moment with the Director General/CEO of the Communications Authority of Kenya, Ezra Chiloba

It is against this background that the Authority launched the CA Cybersecurity Bootcamp and Hackathon series, now in its third year, with the objective of building local cybersecurity capacity to power a digital economy. This initiative, which is held in collaboration with local and international partners, has been an important avenue of engaging and supporting academia in the development of relevant cybersecurity capabilities to bridge the current cybersecurity gaps.

This year, the 2023 CA Bootcamp and Hackathon Series will include activities in Eldoret, Kisumu, Nairobi, Nyeri and Mombasa under the Theme 'The Paradox of Progress: Securing a Digital Nation'.

This is a partnership between Communications Authority of Kenya, Huawei and Kenya Cyber Security and Forensic Associations.

ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE UNDERGO NTSA TRAINING

The Karatina University Road Safety Mainstreaming Committee attended a Road Safety Training Workshop at the Kenya School of Government, Embu this week. The training was conducted by the National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA) staff led by the Regional Manager Mr. Bora Guyo and the Inspection Officer, Mr. Chris Otieno.



The areas of training covered include NTSA role in MDAs, responsibilities of Road Safety Committees and University Management in road safety, safety policy areas and policy implementation and drafting of Road Safety Policy.

Karatina University continues to play its community outreach role as it hosts a two day Farmers Training on Maximizing Agricultural Productivity on Small Holder Farms: Farming as a Business. In response to the challenge by the Acting Vice Chancellor, Prof. Linus Muthuri Gitonga, to every department/section of the University to engage in community outreach activities, the School of Agriculture and Biotechnology, in partnership with the ABSA Bank (Karatina Branch) is sensitizing farmers on indigenous vegetables production from Thursday 29th to Friday, 30th June 2023.



A section of farmers following proceedings of the training

The Dean of the School, Dr. Grace Kamotho, said that the training is one among a series of trainings the School has organized especially before the COVID-19 pandemic period. She stated that the training is aimed at teaching farmers new agricultural technologies. Dr. Kamotho challenged the farmers to acquire seedlings from reputable sources where the seedlings have been well taken care of. She cited the Karatina University fruit tree nursery as one source where farmers can get avocado seedlings.

On her part, the Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic, Research and Student Affairs), Dr. Hellen Kamiri, stated that it was important for farmers to attend such trainings in order to sharpen their skills in line with modern technologies. In view of the fact that the focus of the training is on avocado, a crop that is gaining international popularity, Dr. Kamiri encouraged the farmers to grow a variety of avocados that are selling on the international market. Particularly, she emphasised on growing the Hass avocado. According to reports, Nyeri County is said to be grappling with increasing cases of non-communicable diseases like high blood pressure. For this reason, it is important that farmers diversify their production and grow crops which can benefit families especially in having balanced diets. Emphasis has been on indigenous vegetables which are nutritious, medicinal and are easy to grow.

Among the topics to be covered include: Farming as a Business, Gross Margin Analysis, Avocado-Planting-site selection, hole presentation, source of seedlings, Agronomy of Avocado- identification of various types of avocado, fertilizer application, pruning, control of pests and dis-



Mr. Kenneth Gakuru from ABSA Bank, Karatina Branch speaking on financial management

eases, harvesting, postharvest and marketing channels, Assorted indigenous vegetables production, Financial Management and demonstrations on indigenous vegetables.

A total of fifty six (56) farmers, mostly from Mathira East constituency, attended the first day of the training.