



Inspiring Innovation and Leadership

KARATINA UNIVERSITY

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KARATINA UNIVERSITY ORGANIZES A NATIONAL DIALOGUE ON ECONOMIC PRIORITIES: MAXIMIZING VALUE FOR KENYA'S DEVELOPMENT

On 28th May Leaders and experts gathered at Safari Park Hotel for a pivotal public lecture themed 'Setting National Priorities – More Money or More Value for Money,' organized by Karatina University in collaboration with State Department for Economic Planning and the Copenhagen Consensus Centre. The event aimed to chart a course towards smarter, more impactful investments in Kenya's economic future. The successful event was organized by the Research Mobilization and International Programs Director, Prof. Kellen Kiambati alongside other members of Karatina University.



The distinguished guests during the event

highlighting the university's readiness to undertake comprehensive research initiatives that align with Kenya's developmental aspirations. His address underscored the importance of bridging the gap between policy formulation and implementation to ensure tangible socio-economic benefits for all Kenyans.



Ag. Council Chairman Eng. David Okeyo addressing the audience during the Public Lecture

The Economic Planning Secretary, Mr. Timothy Gakuu, represented the Principal Secretary, Mr. James Muhati, from the State Department for Economic Planning. In his speech, Mr. Gakuu elaborated on Kenya's strategic objectives under the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA). He outlined the government's commitment to prioritizing investments in key sectors such as agriculture, healthcare, and infrastructure to foster inclusive growth and economic resilience.



The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Linus Gitonga, opened the proceedings with a stirring call for collaborative national planning aimed at sustainable development. He emphasized the university's commitment to research-driven policy formulation and its pivotal role in supporting Kenya's journey towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Eng. David Okeyo, Acting Chairman of Council at Karatina University, followed with remarks

The Economic Planning Secretary Mr. Timothy Gakuu addressing the audience on behalf of the Principal Secretary State Department for Economic Planning.

The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Bjorn Lomborg, President of the Copenhagen Consensus Centre and renowned author of 'The Best Things First.' Dr. Lomborg framed the discussion around prioritizing policies that deliver maximum social and economic returns, such as education and maternal healthcare. "Kenya Priorities First," he emphasized, urging stakeholders to identify and invest in initiatives that promise efficiency and sustainability.



Dr. Bjorn Lomborg, President Copenhagen Consensus Centre addressing the audience

Looking ahead, the Ag. DVC PFA Prof. Richard Kiai pointed towards a concerted effort to prioritize impactful development initiatives, ensuring that policies are not only well-conceived but effectively implemented to maximize societal benefits. Karatina University, backed by its research capabilities and academic leadership, stands ready to play a pivotal role in advancing these objectives, particularly in aligning research outcomes with the SDGs.



In closing, Dr. Beatrice Inyangala, Principal Secretary of the State Department for Higher Education and Research, delivered remarks that resonated with the audience. She reiterated the significance of evidence-based policymaking in steering Kenya towards its development goals. "Today's discussions have underscored the critical importance of evidence-based policymaking in driving our national development agenda forward," she affirmed. Dr. Inyangala committed her ministry to supporting rigorous research and evaluation efforts discussed during the lecture, emphasizing the need for stakeholder engagement and robust economic analyses.



From left Economic Planning Secretary Mr. Timothy Gakuu, President Copenhagen Consensus Centre Dr. Bjorn Lomborg, the VC Prof. Linus M. Gitonga, PS State Department for Higher Education Dr. Beatrice Inyangal and the VC Embu University Prof. Mugendi pose for a photo

With Vice Chancellors from Machakos University, Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University, Embu University, and Karatina University in attendance, alongside council members from Karatina University and other distinguished guests, the event fostered robust dialogue and collaboration across academic, governmental, and private sectors.

In conclusion, Dr. Inyangala extended gratitude to all stakeholders and partners, including the Copenhagen Consensus Centre, Karatina University, and KIPPRA, for their contributions to the success of the public lecture. "Your dedication and hard work are truly commendable," she concluded warmly.

With the conclusion of this landmark event, stakeholders are poised to move forward with renewed commitment and strategic clarity, navigating towards a future where Kenya's developmental priorities are met with efficiency, effectiveness, and foresight.



The distinguished guests and delegates pose for a group photo after the successful Public Lecture

MADARAKA DAY CELEBRATION AT KARATINA UNIVERSITY

Karatina University recently hosted a vibrant Madaraka Day celebration at the Graduation Square, attended by distinguished guests and members of the university community. The event was graced by the Vice Chancellor, the Deputy Vice Chancellor for Planning, Finance and Administration (DVC PFA), the Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic, Research and Student Affairs (DVC ARSA), several staff members, and community members. Additionally, students from neighboring primary and secondary schools were present. The university choir, along with these students, entertained the audience with various performances, adding to the festive atmosphere of the day. Prominent local leaders, including Area MCA Hon. Jackson Kabingu, Karatina MCA Hon. Watson Weru, Konyu MCA Hon. Kamiri, Area Chiefs, and MauMau veterans, among others, also attended. The Acting County Commissioner honored the occasion by reading the President's Madaraka Day speech. During the celebration, the leaders emphasized the opportunities available within universities, the value of community, and the importance of serving one another. They also addressed critical issues such as security, underscoring the need for collective responsibility in maintaining a safe environment.

MauMau veteran Mr. Nyoike shared poignant stories of the struggles for independence, reminding

everyone of the sacrifices made for the nation's freedom. His reflections provided a powerful reminder of the resilience and determination that shaped the country's history.



MauMau Veteran Mr. Nyoike sharing his reflections of the struggle for independence.



The Vice Chancellor, Deputy Vice Chancellors, local chiefs, area MCAs, and distinguished guests come together after a successful Madaraka Day celebration.

To mark the occasion, the guests participated in a tree-planting exercise, symbolizing growth and sustainability for future generations. The event was a testament to the university's commitment to honoring national heritage and fostering a sense of community and shared purpose among its members and the surrounding region.



The VC Prof. Linus M. Gitonga, Area MCA Hon. Kabingu and Ag. County Commissioner during the tree planting exercise

KARATINA UNIVERSITY COLLABORATES WITH COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS TO PREPARE FOR INCREASED STUDENT INTAKE

Karatina University's commitment to fostering community engagement was on full display on May 29th, when Vice Chancellor Prof. Linus Gitonga orchestrated a cooperative session with key stakeholders and community leaders. The event, held at the university's conference hall, aimed to plan for the upcoming increase in students in the surrounding hostels. In attendance were; Hostel owners, church leaders, Nyumba Kumi elders, areas chief, and representatives from the university administration who all participated in the productive dialogue.

The Dean of Students Dr. Peter Ngugi expressed his gratitude to the attendees for honoring the invite. Speaking during the engagement the Vice Chancellor Prof. Linus M. Gitonga appreciated the community for always engaging with the university. He further presented statistics highlighting Karatina University's positive impact on the community. He emphasized the school's contribution to the town's economic growth, particularly through the increased demand for housing.

The Vice Chancellor underscored the importance of providing quality and affordable accommodation for students. He stressed that a supportive living environment is essential for the academic success and well-being of students. He urged hostel owners to maintain high standards in their facilities and to work closely with the university administration to address any issues that may arise.



Hostel owners during the stakeholder engagement

In a significant announcement, the Vice Chancellor promised to send five representatives to Koitalel Samoei University College to benchmark best practices in student-community interaction. He also committed to making Karatina University renowned for educational excellence by the end of his tenure.

The forum enabled open dialogue between the university and local stakeholders, focusing on the challenges and solutions for accommodating the growing number of students. Mr. Ole Nyirai, the Acting DCC, promised collaboration with the local administration to ensure a safe environment for the community and the student population. Church leaders and Nyumba Kumi elders emphasized creating a supportive community for the students. Mr. Mugeni of Rent Tribunals Kenya provided valuable insights into the legal framework concerning rentals, emphasizing the importance of protecting both students and hostel owners.

The event concluded with a renewed sense of partnership between the university and community members, ensuring a nurturing environment for its student body.



The team poses for a group photo after the end of the fruitful engagements.

KARATINA UNIVERSITY HOSTS 3RD IAESTE KENYA AGM

Karatina University's Directorate of Career Services and University Linkages recently hosted the esteemed 3rd International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience Kenya (IAESTE) Annual General Meeting. The AGM was held on 31st May at the Senate Chambers, The event saw active participation from several universities across Kenya. In attendance was the from our institution was the Vice Chancellor, Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor ARSA, Director Career Services and University Industry Linkages and some members of staff.

Among the universities that graced the event were Murang'a University of Technology, Meru University of Science and Technology, Kibabii University, Dedan Kimathi University of Technology, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Egerton University, alongside the host, Karatina University. Dean of students from Masai Mara University among other notable guests.



The Chair IAESTE Prof. Viviene Addressing the audience

During the event, IAESTE President Prof. Viviene Watiru encouraged attendees to work hard and create opportunities for themselves. She also emphasized the importance of learning foreign languages and expressed her gratitude to the institution for hosting the 3rd AGM.

Acting DVC ARSA, Prof. Hellen Kamiri, encouraged members to embark on the journey of internationalization together. Speaking at the event, the Vice-Chancellor Prof. Linus Gitonga warmly welcomed the attendees and highlighted the importance of cross-sector partnerships with IAESTE and participating institutions.

He urged members to collaborate for mutual benefit, aiming to enrich students' experiences and enhance academic opportunities.



Members keenly following through the presentations

Throughout the AGM, participants participated in interactive sessions covering topics such as mentorship programs, updates on the progress of participating institutions, strategies to increase accessibility, fundraising initiatives, and plans for expanding local and global intern exchanges.

Former IAESTE alumnus Mr. Brian Orina shared his first-hand experiences and successes inspiring the current students. He stressed the impact of collaborative efforts on student exchange programs, highlighting both personal and professional development.

The 3rd IAESTE Kenya AGM at Karatina University stands as a testament to the power of collaboration. By working together, these institutions are paving the way for increased opportunities and success for students nationwide.



The members pose for a group during the IAESTE 3RD AGM

KARATINA UNIVERSITY STAFF TAKE PART IN A TREE PLANTING EXERCISE AT IHWAGI PRIMARY SCHOOL

On Friday 31st May, the Centre for Climate Change, Mountain Studies and Green Concept organized a tree planting exercise at Ihwagi Primary School. The event kicked off with a warm welcome extended to the team by the Headteacher, setting a positive tone for the day's activities. In attendance was the Vice Chancellor, Ag. Deputy Vice Chancellor ARSA and some staff members.



The team from Karatina University poses for a photo with the students at Ihwagi Primary School.

The Vice Chancellor Prof. Linus M. Gitonga graced the occasion, sharing insightful words with the pupils about the crucial role that trees play in our environment. He emphasized the significance of environmental conservation and the responsibility that the younger generation holds in nurturing and preserving the ecosystem for future generations. The event saw an impressive turnout of 600 trees being planted, symbolizing a significant step towards sustainable environmental practices. The collaboration between Karatina University and Ihwagi Primary School exemplifies the shared commitment to environmental stewardship and community engagement. The exercise was a resounding success.

The VC Prof. Linus M. Gitonga and Ag. DVC ARSA Prof. Hellen Kamiri plant a tree at Ihwagi Primary during the tree planting exercise