



Inspiring Innovation and Leadership

KARATINA UNIVERSITY

Weekly Dispatch 7, 2024

Monday 12th May- 19th May, 2024

KARATINA UNIVERSITY TO PARTNER WITH NEMA TO RESTORE WETLANDS AT THE FOOTHILLS OF MT. KENYA

On 17th May 2024, Karatina University held a consultative meeting with the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) officials at the University Boardroom. In attendance was NEMA Board Member Prof. Charles Ngome, who represented the CEO of the Environmental Authority, the Vice Chancellor Prof. Linus Gitonga, the acting Deputy Vice Chancellors among others.

In a significant move towards achieving 15 billion national tree growing initiative, ecosystem restoration and combating climate change, the University will partner with NEMA and other stakeholders. In the partnership, the University will adopt and restore a number of wetlands within its catchment. This collaboration marks a critical step in our commitment to Kenya's Wetlands Restoration even as we mark the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.



From left Dr. Flora Namu the Dean SNRES, the Ag. DVC PFA Prof. Richard Kiai, the VC Prof. Linus M. Gitonga, Prof. Charles Ngome Board Member NEMA, the Ag. DVC ARSA Prof. Hellen Kamiri and the Ag. Registrar P&A Mr. Daniel Murage.

During the productive meeting, representatives from both the University and NEMA discussed the importance of wetlands and the vital role they play in maintaining ecological balance and livelihoods. Recognizing the shared goals and values, both parties agreed to work together to implement effective strategies for wetland conservation and restoration.

The parties agreed on the need to anchor the partnership within a framework of collaboration between Karatina University and NEMA, detailing specific projects and initiatives aimed at protecting and rehabilitating wetland ecosystems.



The VC Prof. Linus M. Gitonga poses for a photo with Prof. Charles Ngome the Board Member NEMA

Speaking during the meeting Prof. Charles Ngome, encouraged the University to engage partners in conservation in order to get necessary resources and support for the wetland restoration initiative. The VC Karatina University Prof Linus Gitonga emphasized the importance of community engagement and education to ensure the long-term success of the initiative. Prof. Gitonga indicated that the local communities are the best custodians of the resources, and if supported and guided on how to restore the wetlands, it will be a milestone towards building community resilience to climate change. The VC further stated that the wetland restoration initiative will not only benefit the local community but also provide valuable learning opportunities for students and faculty, fostering a culture of environmental responsibility.

In an effort to enhance operational efficiency and effectiveness, our institution recently conducted a comprehensive Business Process Reengineering (BPR) workshop. The event brought together members from various sections and departments, each identifying key processes they aimed to reengineer to improve performance and streamline operations. In attendance were the Acting DVC ARSA Prof. Hellen Kamiri, Heads of Sections, and members of the ICT directorate. The workshop was launched by the Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic Research and Students Affairs Prof. Hellen Kamiri on behalf of the Vice Chancellor Prof. Linus M. Gitonga. She urged the members present to be keen and to take note of what they would be trained on .



The Ag. Deputy Vice Chancellor ARSA Prof. Hellen Kamiri during BPR training

The Facilitators of the workshop were Dr. Daniel Otuoma and Mr. Kinyua from the State Department of Public Service. They took the staff through Public Sector Reforms and Results Based Management to ensure that the University delivers services efficiently to its clients. The workshop commenced with an introduction to the principles and objectives of BPR, emphasizing the importance of radical redesign in achieving significant improvements in critical measures of performance such as cost, quality, service, and speed.

Dr. Otuoma provided an overview of the methodologies involved, setting the stage for an in-depth exploration of current ("as-is") and future ("to-be") processes. He insisted that for a university to excel in the Business Process Re-engineering it must have a strategic plan in place.



The team poses for a photo in one of the wetlands for the restoration initiative adopted by the institution.

Karatina University is proud to join hands with NE-MA and other stakeholders to restore Kenyas' Wetlands. By working together, the University aim to make a meaningful contribution to the health and resilience of the environment and the local community. The partnership demonstrates the University unwavering commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainable practices, setting a positive example for the community and beyond.

INSTITUTION CONDUCTS BUSINESS PROCESS REENGINEERING WORKSHOP

The University's strategic plan should go hand in hand with its Service Delivery Charter. He added that the University's Performance Contract should be a commitment of achieving the University's annual deliverable plans.



Dr. Daniel Otuoma (Standing) taking the team through the BPR processes

Participants were encouraged to examine their existing workflows critically, identifying inefficiencies and bottlenecks that hinder productivity.

Each department outlined specific processes they intended to reengineer. Examples included: Administration, finance, human resource, academic affairs, IT Department among others.

Throughout the workshop, participants were guided through the "as-is" process analysis, where they mapped out current workflows and identified areas of redundancy and inefficiency. This detailed examination provided a clear understanding of the existing state of operations, forming a solid foundation for subsequent reengineering efforts.

Members of staff keenly following through the BPR training and presentations

The next phase focused on envisioning the "to-be" processes. Teams collaborated to design optimized workflows that eliminate unnecessary steps, leverage technology, and align more closely with organizational goals. This forward-thinking approach aimed to create processes that are not only more efficient but also more adaptable to future changes and challenges.

Facilitators emphasized the importance of change management and stakeholder engagement in successfully implementing the reengineered processes. Participants were encouraged to develop detailed action plans, including timelines, resource requirements, and key performance indicators to track progress and measure success. The event fostered a collaborative environment, allowing members to share insights and best practices, collective commitment to continuous improvement.



Members of ICT and heads of departments and sections pose for a group photo with the facilitators after the training.

As the institution moves forward with these reengineering initiatives, it remains dedicated to fostering a culture of innovation and efficiency. The outcomes of this workshop are expected to significantly enhance operational effectiveness, positioning the institution for sustained success in an increasingly competitive environment.



KARATINA UNIVERSITY HOSTS REGIONAL AJIRA CLUBS CHAMPIONS LEADERSHIP BOOTCAMP.

Karatina University recently hosted the Ajira Digital Program which saw a convergence of students from various academic institutions within the Central region attending the workshop. This event took place on 17th May 2024 at the university's Conference Hall. The theme of the event was *'the future works online,'* with an aim to empower students with the skills and knowledge required to succeed in the ever-growing digital gig economy. The event was attended by Dr. Peter Ngugi, the Dean of Students, Ms. Vancy Kebut the school's club patron, and representatives from Ajira alongside experienced Ajira users who were invited as special guests.



Regional Coordinator Ms. Hellen Kimindiri addressing participants on the importance of Ajira.

The event kicked off with a welcoming speech from the regional coordinator Ms. Hellen followed by welcoming speeches from the school's Dean of Students and the school's club patron. They acknowledged Ajira's campaign in its pursuit in empowering young individuals to access digital job opportunities and extended a heartwarming welcome to the participating institutions that came.

Representatives from Ajira provided meaningful sessions on the importance of developing one's digital skills and encouraged joining the free training and courses offered by the platform. The students were urged to actively participate in their school clubs, with the opportunity to become an evergreen member and earn rewards.

Stephen Kinyua, shared his journey with the platform which began during his time as a campus student and the club chair. He boasts of how the platform has helped him with his online work and networking opportunities. On the hand Mr. Emiphas emphasized on the significance of the digital economy and highlighted the role of AI and encouraged the participants to embrace AI. He also encouraged the students to embrace networking, digital tools, and platforms as essential parts of their future careers in the digital economy.



The Students keenly engaging during the event

The event featured interactive sessions where students learned how to strengthen their roles within the club at their respective institutions and how to increase their earning potential. The workshop was able to promote a collaborative learning environment as evidenced by students engaging in discussions and practically navigating the online platforms.



Ajira representatives pose for a photo with the Dean Of Students

Karatina University is excited to expand on this achievement by hosting even other future collaborative events that will inspire students across the Central Region and beyond.