



Inspiring Innovation and Leadership

KARATINA UNIVERSITY

Weekly Dispatch 8, 2024

Monday 20th May- 26th May, 2024

PRODUCTIVITY MAINSTREAMING WORKSHOP ENHANCES EFFICIENCY AMONG ACADEMIC STAFF

Our institution recently hosted an impactful productivity mainstreaming workshop aimed at enhancing efficiency and effectiveness among academic staff members, heads of departments, sections, and the productivity champions. The event took place at RCH 6 and featured expert facilitators Mr. Miano Kariuki and Engineer Titus Wekesa from the State Department of Labour at the National Productivity and Competitiveness Centre.

Speaking during the launch of the workshop, the Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor Prof. Richard Kiai encouraged the members to work together as a team and understand what's expected of them as individuals. He further went ahead and stated that productivity is important to the institution and urged everyone to have targets that communicate to the system and be productive.

The 3 day workshop covered a range of crucial topics designed to equip participants with the necessary skills and knowledge to drive productivity improvements within their respective areas. Key areas of focus included:

- **Productivity Management:** Participants learned about best practices and strategic approaches for managing productivity effectively in an academic environment.
- **Productivity Metrics:** The facilitators introduced various productivity metrics, helping attendees understand how to measure and analyze performance accurately.

Development of Productivity Metrics by Faculties/ Departments: The workshop provided guidance

on creating specific, tailored metrics for different faculties and departments, ensuring relevant and meaningful measurements.

Weighing of Metrics: Attendees were taught how to prioritize and balance different productivity metrics to optimize overall outcomes.

Data Quality and Data Collection Tools: Emphasis was placed on the importance of high-quality data and the use of effective data collection tools to support accurate productivity analysis.

The event was highly interactive, engaging participants in practical activities and group exercises. This hands-on approach allowed attendees to apply the concepts discussed in real-time, fostering a collaborative and dynamic learning environment.

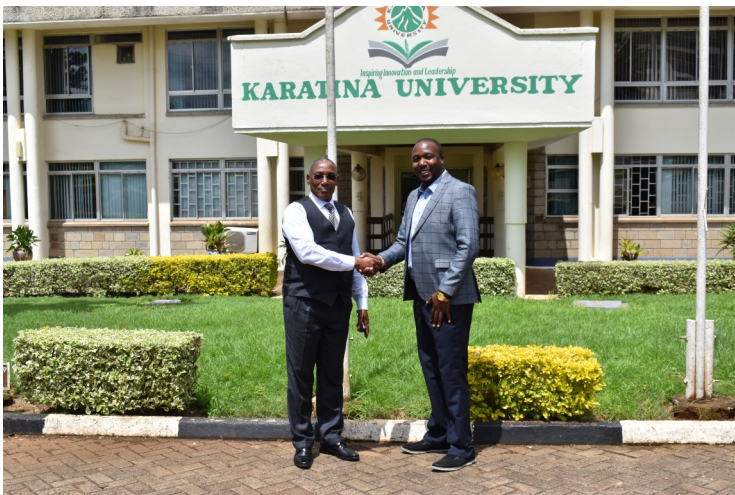


Members of staff during the productivity mainstreaming workshop.

Mr. Kariuki and Engineer Wekesa provided expert guidance throughout the workshop, encouraging active participation and facilitating discussions that led to the development of actionable productivity strategies. The practical nature of the workshop ensured that all participants could relate the learning to their daily responsibilities, making the experience both relevant and impactful .

The Vice Chancellor, who later joined the workshop, urged the staff to embrace productivity, emphasizing that each individual's contribution is crucial to collective success. He encouraged everyone to strive towards achieving set targets to enhance operational efficiency.

Accompanying the Vice Chancellor was Dr. Nahashon Langat, CEO of the National Productivity and Competitiveness Centre, who commended the university management for integrating productivity initiatives. Dr. Langat also encouraged workshop participants to prioritize productivity in their roles.



The CEO NPCC Dr. Nahashon Langat poses for a photo with the VC



The CEO NPCC Dr. Nahashon Langat addressing the audience

By prioritizing continuous improvement and efficiency, our institution is committed to achieving excellence in all its operations and fostering a culture of productivity and innovation.



The members of academic staff, heads of departments/sections pose for a group photo with the Vice Chancellor and the facilitators

The productivity mainstreaming workshop was a resounding success, leaving attendees equipped with valuable insights and tools to enhance productivity within their departments. The institution looks forward to implementing the strategies discussed and seeing the positive impact on overall performance and competitiveness.

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SENSITIZATION WORKSHOP BY ETHICS AND ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION (EACC)

Our institution recently hosted a crucial sensitization workshop conducted by the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC). The event aimed to educate staff members on the roles and responsibilities related to anti-corruption efforts within the public sector. In attendance was the Vice Chancellor, the Deputy Vice Chancellor's and the members of staff. The VC Prof. Linus M. Gitonga launched the sensitization and emphasized on integrity. He urged the members to embrace integrity throughout.

The EACC delegation was led by the Deputy Regional Manager Ms. Grace Omweri, who, in the absence of the Regional Manager, delivered a comprehensive speech on behalf of the Regional Manager. Accompanying the Deputy Regional Manager was the Programs Coordinator, Mr. Ali Khalif both of whom played pivotal roles in the session.



Ms. Grace Omweri the Deputy Regional Manager EACC and the Programs Coordinator Mr. Ali Khalif during the sensitization workshop

During the workshop, the EACC team provided an in-depth overview of the commission's mandate, highlighting its core responsibilities in combating and preventing corruption. Staff members were informed about their obligations as public officers, emphasizing the importance of integrity and accountability in public service.

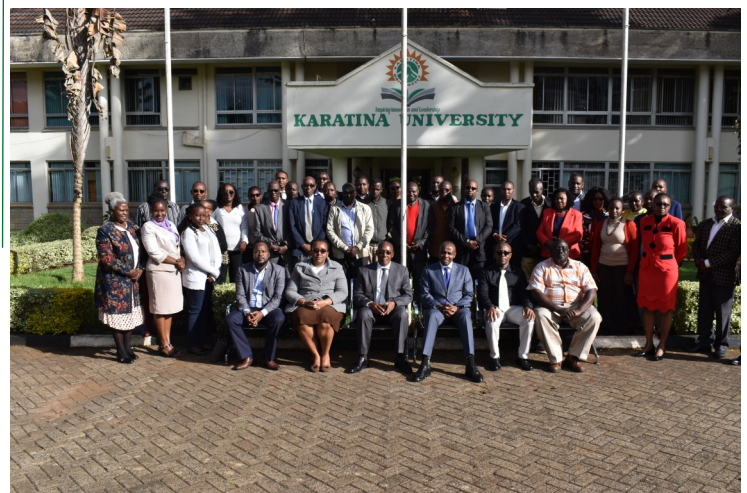
The session also covered various corruption prevention tools and strategies. These included practical measures and best practices that public officers can implement to mitigate corruption risks and promote ethical conduct in their daily operations.



Members of staff during the Sensitization workshop

The workshop was highly informative and interactive, with attendees actively engaging in discussions and seeking clarifications on various topics. The insights provided by the EACC team are expected to significantly enhance our institution's efforts in fostering a culture of transparency and integrity.

This sensitization effort marks a significant step towards strengthening our commitment to ethical practices and corruption prevention. We look forward to continued collaboration with the EACC to further these objectives.



The team poses for a group photo with the facilitators after the workshop

EMPOWERED WOMEN, EMPOWERED COMMUNITIES: KARATINA UNIVERSITY MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Karatina University's Career Services and University-Industry Linkage Directorate in collaboration with the Department of Business and Economics (BEC) recently hosted a transformative two-day program focused on empowering women entrepreneurs with leadership, financial and entrepreneurship skills and knowledge under the theme *'Empowerment and Leadership'*. The event, held from Thursday, May 23rd to Friday, May 24th, 2024 at the university's Conference Hall, welcomed attendees from the Gakuyu United Women's Group and the Kinyukia Self-Help Group.

The Dean, School of Business, Dr. Kabethi Miano opened this event and applauded BEC members for starting such an impactful community outreach initiative. He requested the Department to reach out to more women investment groups in Mathira East Sub-County. He thanked the CS & U-IL Directorate in connecting BEC with Stanbic Bank-Nanyuki Branch, Britam Insurance Limited and Uwezo Fund Mathira East Sub-County office in making the event a success. Stanbic Bank partly sponsored the empowerment event. Dr. John Karuitha, Ag.Head of Department for BEC was happy that his department is starting to work with neighbouring community investment groups in changing their business approaches.



The audience keenly participating and engaging in the empowerment session

Over the two days, attendees participated in interactive sessions covering a range of critical business related topics. Financial literacy and entrepreneurship were the key training areas. Stanbic Bank Branch Manager, Ms.Wambugu highlighted their DADA programme, an inclusive platform for women entrepreneurs. They provided valuable insights into effective financial planning, investment opportunities, and the importance of insurance coverage under this unique programme. Britam Insurance Limited Representative, Mrs Kiboi, emphasized how insurance can protect one's future, while Dr. Teresia Kyalo and Dr. Jane Kinya (BEC Faculty members) led discussions on marketing, branding and entrepreneurship.

As the event drew to a close, representatives from the 2 local self-help groups (29 participants) in Mathira East Sub-County shared their reflections. Mrs. Sabina Mumbi, Chairlady of the Gakuyu United group, expressed her gratitude to the university and the various facilitators for organizing the empowerment program and training them on financial management among other topics. They now understood why it is important to be serious with book keeping. Marketing, branding and the concept of entrepreneurship was new to them and the Chair Lady requested BEC members to organize another training workshop just to discuss these three areas.



The VC Prof. Linus M. Gitonga briefly addressing the women entrepreneurs

In a show of solidarity and support, Vice Chancellor Prof. Linus Gitonga joined the group for a photo session and highlighted the university's unwavering commitment to empowering women in the community. The event concluded with a pledge to offer ongoing support and promote continued collaboration. Participants left with renewed energy and practical business ideas to lead and make a positive impact in their communities.



The women group entrepreneurs pose for a group photo with the facilitators of the event and the Vice Chancellor Prof. Linus M. Gitonga

Hongera BEC and CS & U-IL Directorate.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF KENYA REPRESENTATIVES VISIT KARATINA UNIVERSITY TO BENCHMARK MEDICAL SCHEME

Karatina University recently welcomed representatives from the National Museum of Kenya for a benchmarking visit focused on the institution's innovative medical scheme. The visit, which aimed to explore best practices and gain insights into the university's healthcare provisions, highlighted Karatina University's commitment to comprehensive employee welfare.

The team from the National Museum of Kenya included key officials from their human resources and administration departments. They were warmly received by Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor Prof. Richard Kiai on behalf of the Vice Chancellor.



The Ag. DVC PFA during the benchmarking visit

The visit commenced with an introductory session where Ms. Anne Ngochi the Acting Medical Officer, provided an overview of the university's healthcare initiatives. She emphasized the importance of a robust medical scheme in promoting employee well-being and productivity. The presentation outlined the structure, benefits, and administration of the medical scheme, showcasing its comprehensive coverage and accessibility for staff members and their families. The visiting team participated in a detailed walkthrough of the medical scheme's operations.

The benchmarking visit also featured interactive sessions where representatives from both institutions exchanged ideas and experiences. This dialogue provided an opportunity for the National Museum of Kenya team to ask questions, share their current practices, and discuss potential areas of improvement inspired by Karatina University's model. In the concluding remarks, the NMK representatives expressed their appreciation for the warm hospitality and the wealth of information shared. They highlighted the effectiveness and comprehensiveness of Karatina University's medical scheme as a benchmark for their own institution.

Prof. Richard Kiai reiterated the university's commitment to fostering partnerships and sharing knowledge with other institutions.



The team from the National Museums of Kenya, pose for a group photo with the Karatina University team after the benchmarking sessions.