



MMUST NEWS

A Weekly Digital Publication of Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology

Post

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The Quest Edition





Editor's Den



Hi there!

Welcome to this second issue of the MMUST **NewsPost**.

This week we welcomed new additions to the MMUST family; the 2018 fresh men and women. The excitement of starting a new journey was palpable as the University received the new students. Much appreciation goes to the Office of the Registrar (AA) for meticulous organisation and execution of the whole process.

Over the course of the last two weeks, the name of the University has been flying high through representation by members of staff and students in various fora. The name of the University has been mentioned in Germany, South Africa, Nairobi and soon in Tunisia. We cover some of them in this issue..

As always, we invite you to share with us events, functions and moments in your divisions and sections. We will be privileged to have you appear on subsequent issues of the MMUST *NewsPost*.

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A Step into the University of Choice

The 2017 KCSE cohort that got admission to the University reported on Monday 24th September, 2018 for the 2018/2019 Academic Year. Parents and guardians accompanied students on this sunny day that was filled with a lot of activities and you could tell that they were excited about joining the institution.

Some of the parents commented about the good services they received on that day, from the time they set foot at the University to the time they left. The registration process was smooth with queues moving fast.

MMUST was proud to receive its ten (10) pioneer students for the School of Medicine that was recently approved by the Kenya Medical Practitioners and Dentists Board.

The students have embarked on a one week orientation process that started on 25th September, 2018 to enable them integrate with the University's intellectual, cultural, social and personal opportunities.

The climax of the 2018 orientations shall be the Vice Chancellor's Address that takes place on Tuesday, 2nd October, 2018.

(More photos on the pictorial >>>)



MMUST team at Brandenburg University of Applied Sciences, Germany

The week from 23rd September, 2018, saw members of staff from four schools travel to Brandenburg University of Applied Sciences, Germany for a workshop on Practical Oriented University Education, courtesy of the Pro Uni Edu-Wek project funded by DAAD.



Dr. Gladys Mengich and Dr. Bernendette Sabuni in Germany

- WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS FROM MASINDE MULIRO UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (KENYA)**
- School of Engineering and the Built Environment (SEBE)**
 - Prof C. Ndiema
 - Dr. Eng. B. Sabuni
 - Mr. E. Ebinga
 - School of Agriculture, Veterinary Sciences and Technology (SAVET)**
 - Dr. V. Ogema
 - Dr. A. C. Ndiema
 - School of Public Health Biomedical Sciences and Technology (SPHBS&T)**
 - Dr. G. Mengich
 - Dr. E. Okenwa
 - Ms. Mary Wambui
 - Mr. W. Yego
 - School of Natural Sciences (SONAS)**
 - Dr. F. Omoto
 - Dr. M. Kollenberg
 - Dr. J. Muoma
 - Dr. P. Okoth
 - Mr. G. Mutua

MLS Represented at the 18th Annual HuQAS Scientific Conference

The 18th HuQAS Scientific Conference was held on 20th -21st September 2018 at the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD). HuQAS (Human Quality Assessment Services) is a Kenyan registered Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) that has been offering Proficiency Testing services to public and private medical laboratories since the year 2000. It is a body accredited to ISO/IEC 17043:2010 by the Kenya Accreditation Service (KENAS) which demonstrates the Organization's technical competence to provide EQA services.

The Conference which was graced by the H.E Prof. Kivutha Kibwana, Governor, Makeni County as the Chief Guest, was organized under the theme "Quality Laboratory Diagnosis in Achieving Universal Healthcare". The aim of the NGO is to help medical laboratories produce accurate, reliable and comparable results at all time, while at the same time working towards improving and standardizing medical laboratory testing.

The University was represented by Mr. James Wakungwi Sakwa from the Department of Medical Laboratory Sciences who was one of the moderators and Mr. Nahashon Ouko, a former student of pioneer Medical Laboratory Sciences class who presented a paper on "Reducing Viral Load Tat in Serem Health Centre, Hamisi County".

According to the Conference sponsor, HuQAS has dedicated resources and facilities to enable seamless operations of its core functions and these include an administrative office, ultramodern research and development laboratory, a training center, storage facilities, a nerve centre for technical support and above all a well trained and

experienced staff including a mix of technical experts. Accreditation to ISO/IEC 17043:2010 has enabled the Organization establish a robust quality management system; build a culture of excellence, fault proofing mechanisms and focus on the customer as the epicenter of its activities.

"Accreditation to ISO/IEC 17043:2010 has enabled the Organization establish a robust quality management system; build a culture of excellence, fault proofing mechanisms and focus on the customer as the epicenter of its activities"

Mr. James Sakwa

MMUST, County Government Collaborate for a Healthy Society

The University, in conjunction with the Kakamega County Government, the First Lady, JHIPIEGO-AFP, FHOK, Aphia Halisi, Maendeleo ya Wanawake, GLUK, ESHE, Bukura Institute, MTCs among others met on 27th September 2018 for a stakeholders meeting held at Golf Hotel. The partners met to discuss the sensitization of the public about the School of Health Sciences programmes (SONMAPS, SOM, SPH&BST) in order to increase enrolment of students and on reproductive health activities amongst adolescents in Kakamega County. This comes after the accreditation and subsequent admission of the pioneer students into the new School of Medicine on 24th September 2018.

Speaking during the meeting, the Acting Vice Chancellor, Prof John Okoth, said that the School of Medicine is a big asset to Kakamega County and that MMUST is working in conjunction with the community towards the realization of the Big Four Agenda. He further emphasized on the important role vocational training institutions play in empowering youth with meaningful skills to enable them earn a living.

Dr. Patrick Wanguche, the University Medical Officer encouraged partnerships and collaborations in order to improve health services in the County. Dr. Teresa Okoth, the Director, Centre for Career Development and Placement, reiterated on the importance of short courses in offering meaningful skills.

MMUST and the partners present agreed that activities such as free medical camps, health education, basic life skills training, social media campaigns, cancer, STI screening, HTS (HIV Testing and Service), amongst others, will go a long way in the sensitization process. These activities are set to commence in October 2018.



“The School of Medicine is a big asset to Kakamega County and that MMUST is working in conjunction with the community towards the realization of the Big Four Agenda.”

Prof John Okoth

MMUST Represented at International Symposium in South Africa

Mr. Edwin K. Kanda of the Department of Civil and Structural Engineering participated in a Conference jointly organized by the Pan African Society of Agricultural Engineering (PASAE) and the South African Institute of Agricultural Engineers (SAIAE) held in Salt Rock Hotel, Durban North, South Africa. The event was held on **17th – 20th September 2018**. It brought together engineers, scientists and practitioners in the field of agriculture from various regions such as Europe, East Africa, West Africa, North Africa and Southern Africa.

The challenges facing the African continent were addressed by the various speakers as covered by the Conference themes such as soil and water engineering, environmental engineering, food processing and farm mechanization.

Among the papers presented was one by Mr. Kanda on *'Yield Response of Cowpea to Varying Water Regimes under Moistube Irrigation'*.

Moistube irrigation is a new technology which can revolutionize agriculture in Africa. It does not require pumping and, therefore, reduces on the energy requirements. Besides energy savings, it saves on

water too. This comes in light of the current cost of energy and the new VAT on petroleum products.

"In a water stressed country like Kenya and a bulging population (approaching 50 Million), producing more yields per unit volume of water should be a priority. The bottom line is the adoption of efficient irrigation technologies to save water and feed more people," said Mr. Kanda.

Irrigation by smallholder farmers has the potential of increasing food production three times that of large-scale irrigation schemes.

Mr. Kanda is a MMUST staff pursuing PhD (Bioresources Engineering) at KwaZulu-Natal University in South Africa. His research focuses on the response of cowpea to water availability under Moistube irrigation. It is the first study of its kind in Africa. This technology is being tried in China and United Arab Emirates and the results are so far impressive in terms of crop performance and water savings. Mr. Kanda hopes to implement this technology in Kenya.

"Moistube irrigation is a new technology which can revolutionize agriculture in Africa. It does not require pumping and, therefore, reduces on the energy requirements. Besides energy savings, it saves on water too. This comes in light of the current cost of energy and the new VAT on petroleum products."

"Edwin Kanda" >>>



TIMOTHY MMASI : A Story of Resilience for an 18 year old as he joins the National 7s Rugby Team

The National Call-up for a two-day trials in Nairobi was to be an indicator of big things to come for an 18-year old MMUST RFC's Timothy Mmasi. News that he had succeeded and joined the training team for the upcoming African Sevens Cup in Tunisia sent a lot of excitement to the University community and the rugby fraternity at large.

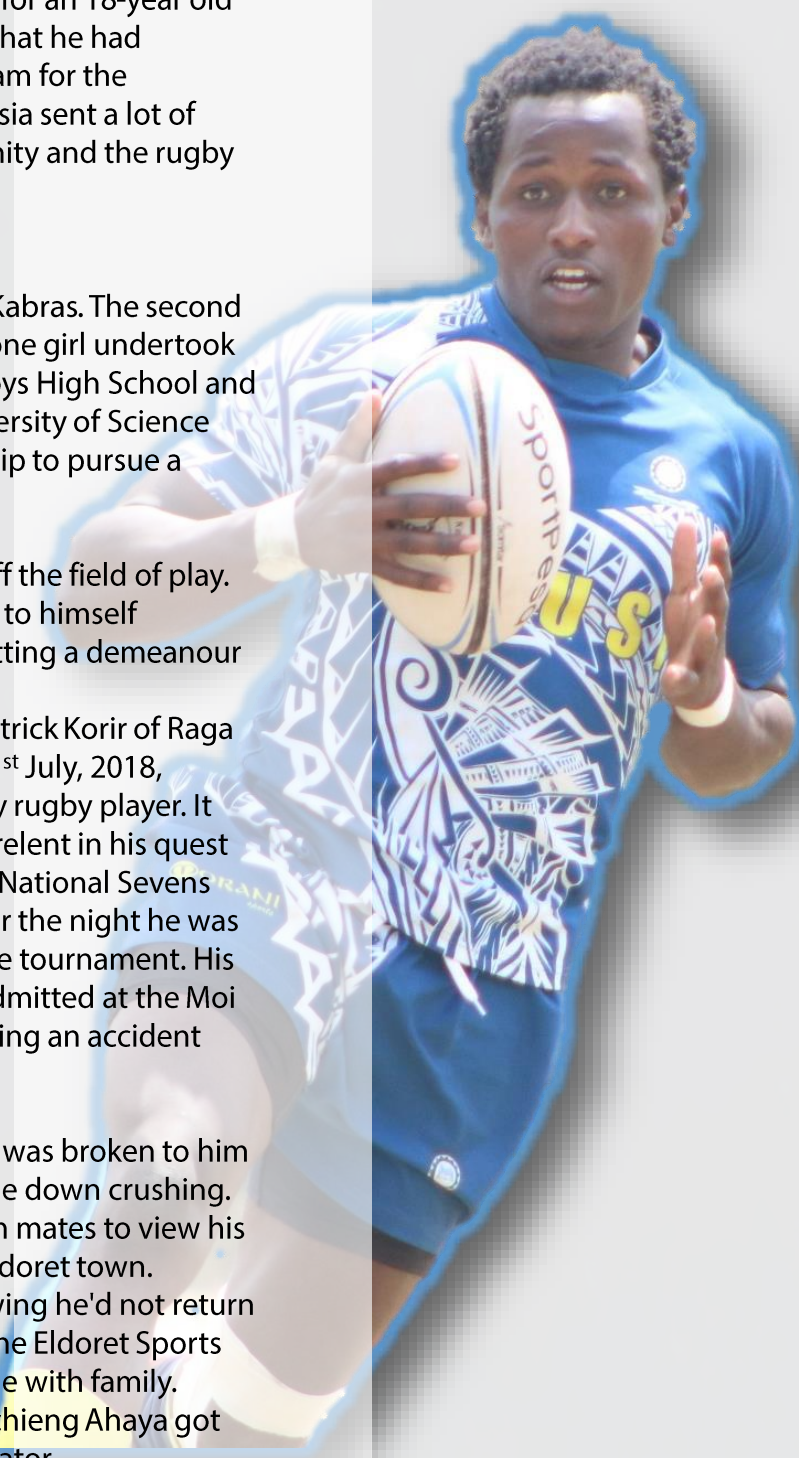
Who is Timothy Mmasi?

Timothy hails from Samitsi Village in Kabras. The second last born in a family of five boys and one girl undertook his secondary education at Malava Boys High School and was later to join Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology on a Talent scholarship to pursue a course in Business Management.

Little is known about Mmasi's story off the field of play. Mmasi is a shy young man that keeps to himself meditating-(you would imagine) befitting a demeanour of an ordinary campus boy!

However, in a media story done by Patrick Korir of Raga House digital platform on Tuesday, 31st July, 2018, Timothy comes out as not an ordinary rugby player. It paints a picture of soldier who won't relent in his quest to fight for a course. During the 2018 National Sevens Circuit in Eldoret, Mmasi lost his father the night he was preparing to play in the first day of the tournament. His father Aggrey Mmasi, 56, had been admitted at the Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital following an accident earlier in the week.

When the news of his father's demise was broken to him late on Saturday 28 July, Timothy came down crushing. Broken and downcast, he left his team mates to view his fathers remains at a hospital within Eldoret town. The mourning Mmasi junior left knowing he'd not return for day two activities at Sepetuka at the Eldoret Sports Club as he needed to stay and condole with family. But persuasions from his coach Dr. Ochieng Ahaya got him back for Sunday, albeit as a spectator.



Our Feature Story

"The coach talked to me and told me the best way to deal with the unfortunate situation was to come and play. As much as I said yes my thoughts were I was only coming to watch, not play,"

"But my teammates cheered me up and urged me to take up my position and I agreed," said the first year Business Studies Diploma student at MMUST.

"I was quite low in the first game (against Mwamba that they lost 12-10 during final play) but I was back to my usual self thereafter. Returning to the game turned the sadness around and got me going." admitted the ex Malava Boys student. He was to push his team to the fifth place finals after taking out a fancied Impala Saracens in the semis.

Captain Samuel Mbeche talked of Mmasi's immense contribution despite being troubled by his father's hospitalization and passing on after.

"He knew his father was in hospital admitted but that only seemed to spur him especially on day one where he was simply outstanding for the team,"

"We mourned with him when the news of his father's death came through. We chose to be strong about it and play for him and we were more than glad that he even agreed to return and play on day two. He showed character and as a team we supported him on as well as off the field,"

Ultimately Mmasi's strength of character was duly rewarded as it earned him a place in the best of the best list after being named in the all-star seven at the close of Sepetuka Sevens alongside other six stars from other top National clubs.

Mmasi Junior would play for the Kabeberi, Driftwood in Machakos and Mombasa respectively but fell out of Dala Sevens in Kisumu as he fought a Typhoid infection. He came back again for the National Sevens Final Leg of the Christie Sevens in Nairobi and spurred his team to lifting the much coveted Trophy in Nairobi.

"To be recognized has given me great hope. This will make me work even harder in upcoming tournaments,"

"I now have the belief that with added energy I can reach my ultimate goal which is to turn out for Kenya Sevens." Summed Mmasi

His dream will later come true with the National Team Selection!



Our Pictorial

