



MMUST NEWS

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

Post

Vol. 2 Issue 1: 13th January-19th January 2019

Change of Leadership at Varsity



Inside: Feature Story on University Departments

UPCOMING

EVENTS



- Career Week
- National Youth Summit- February 2019



Editorial



Happy New Year MMUST Community,

Welcome to the Volume Two, Issue One of the MMUST NewsPost. We thank you, most sincerely, for walking with us during the last twelve editions of MMUST NewsPost. We hope to continue in this walk with you.

In this edition, we bring you the 2019 Message to staff and students from the Acting Vice Chancellor as well as the handing over that took place.

In this edition and subsequent ones, we have started a feature on University Departments highlighting their efforts in research, teaching, and community service among others. We welcome you to furnish us with information so that the University and other stakeholders will know what is happening in your sections.

We wish you a peaceful 2019.

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“...indeed, MMUST is a financially healthy institution.”
Prof. Joseph Bosire



Change of Guard at the University of Choice

On Monday, 14th January 2019, the immediate former Vice Chancellor of MMUST, Prof. Fredrick Otieno, officially handed over the rein of leadership to the Acting Vice Chancellor, Prof. Joseph Bosire. The event, which took place in the Vice Chancellor's Office, was attended by the three Deputy Vice Chancellors, the Registrars, the Finance Officer and other members of the University Management Board.

In his remarks, Prof. Otieno mentioned that he was handing over a financially sound University with qualified staff and a strong teaching and research culture. He urged the Acting Vice Chancellor to continue with the culture of excellence in order to continue building MMUST to be a world class student-centered University.

In response, Prof. Bosire thanked the outgoing VC for his availability when called upon. He attested to the fact that, indeed,

MMUST was a financially healthy institution as per the observations he had made so far. He called upon members of the Management Board and all staff to work together in unity for a progressive institution.

The handing over report entailed, among other things, status of capital developments, MMUST Bank accounts operations, reports from divisions and various sections including the Council, Senate, University Management Board, administration and finance, students and academic affairs, planning, research and innovation, legal office, human resources, procurement, University health services among others.

Prof. Joseph Bosire was appointed as the Acting Vice Chancellor by the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education, on 30th November 2018 after the expiry of term of Prof. Fredrick Otieno as the Vice Chancellor.

Ag. Vice Chancellor's 2019 Message to Staff and Students



“There is Strength in Diversity”

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Dear MMUST Community,

I take this opportunity to welcome you all to 2019. I commend all staff and students for the great strides we have concertedly made and which have enabled us uphold our vision of being the premier University in science, technology and innovation. Let us keep pushing and striving towards excellence bearing in mind that our collective efforts will definitely yield good results.

As I mentioned during the 13th Graduation Ceremony in December 2018, I am grateful to the Ministry of Education, and to Council, for giving me this opportunity to serve as the Acting Vice Chancellor of this great University. I offer myself to provide exemplary, humane, humble, honest, skilful, diligent and fair but firm leadership. I, therefore, urge you all to join me in our resolve to move on a new trajectory that will raise the image of the University and make us relevant to the society that invests so much in us. Let us strive to understand our differences/diversities and optimize the strength that comes with them. That is the essence of a University.

As we start off 2019, you may be aware that, in the 2018 Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE), only 13.77% candidates met the university minimum academic entry requirement of a mean grade of C+. This is likely to have a direct effect on enrollments in all universities, both public and private. While the KCSE results pose a significant challenge to our student recruitment efforts, they present an opportunity to sharpen and position MMUST to attract the best students. As such, let us endeavor to offer the best education so that when students join the University, they know that they will receive services that are second to none. Even as we do this, it is important that we deliver on the core mandate without compromising on quality. We need to maximize our gains and make inroads into areas that will further boost our efforts at achieving our mandate and ensuring excellence in providing quality education.

**Continues on
Pg. 5 >>>**

Ag. Vice Chancellor's 2019 Message to Staff and Students

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**Continues from
Pg. 6**

Just as the quality of our education provision will be measured in 2019, so will our research quality. The excellence and diversity of our research across all disciplines mean that, in addition to our achievements in fundamental research, we should continue to make significant contributions to innovation that will help drive growth that is vital to Kenya and to the society. What will mark us out as a great University are the advances we make in our borderless core mandate of teaching, research and community service. We should work hard towards an inventive and productive University. Therefore, let us commit ourselves to strengthen the research, innovation and development agenda in line with the Presidential Big Four Agenda. We urge our academic staff to bid competitively in research funding to the National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI) and other entities in order for the University to positively contribute to building Kenya in to a middle income economy.

Let us also make extra effort to enhance partnerships with various institutions and organizations. The County Government of Kakamega has been a particularly formidable partner in the growth of the University over the years. In 2019, we look forward to more successful collaborative ventures not only with Kakamega County but other counties as well.

To our students, I urge you to be law abiding, more studious and less adventurous. With love, diligence and respect for one another, and the rule of law, a great university is possible, and our best will certainly come, even sooner. It is important that we all work collectively while exhibiting professionalism in our various duty stations, to deliver on the academic, operational and service excellence expected of the premier university that we are.

Finally, I humbly submit to the Good Lord and pray that He grants us the strength, humility and wisdom to project the image of the University to higher standards as we endeavor to make the University of Choice a better place for us all. I call upon you to join me in prayer for a prosperous 2019; a year of new hope and expectations as well as a committed resolve for dedication to our duties and service throughout the year.

**Prof. Joseph Bosire
Acting Vice Chancellor**

Feature Story: University Departments

F Focus on University Departments is a series of articles mainly dedicated to giving Departments at the University a platform and a voice to tell of their story and what they are doing to impact the society. We invite Departments to send to us their articles, accompanied with photos, in order to be featured in subsequent issues. Alternatively, the Editorial Team is available to visit your Departments for a comprehensive and guided take on your operations. Feel free to contact us via pr@mmust.ac.ke.



HEALTH PROMOTION & SPORTS SCIENCE; PROMOTING HEALTHY LIVING



Dr. Peter Bukhala,
Chairman of Department,
Health Promotion and Sports
Science

Our first Story shall feature The Department of Health Promotion and Sports Science housed in the School of Public Health, Biomedical Sciences and Technology. Despite the fact that the Department has been operating with limited facilities, this is set to change with the soon to open thirty (30) million shilling fully fledged gymnasium. The gymnasium, a joint venture with Body Flex, a private investor, is expected to open doors in March 2019 to MMUST staff, students and community fitness enthusiasts while serving as a teaching laboratory for Sports Science students. The Chairman of Department, Dr. Peter Bukhala, says that the gym will be a state of the art facility in the region with modern equipment that has already arrived from the USA. The opening of the gym will coincide with the Department's celebration of its seven (7) years of existence. In December 2018, the Department graduated its fourth cohort of sixteen (16) Bachelor of Science in Health Promotion and Sports Science students and the first Masters class of two students.

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Feature Story: Health Promotion and Sports Science

“Today, we recall the first undergraduate trio of students who made us exist by sticking to the programme when the odds were against them. This team of three completed their undergraduate studies in 2016 and two returned to start the graduate class. I am glad to report that one of them graduated in this year’s class,” said Dr. Bukhala.

Micky Olutende Oloo was a first class honors graduate of 2016 who graduated with an MSC degree in 2018 after only two years of study. His Thesis on ‘Health Service Providers Prescription of Exercise to Patients’ has already attracted interest in view of the fact that this is a burning topic in health especially with the rising cases of lifestyle diseases affecting people in modern days. Ms. Ednah Sabiri, a Fitness Instructor in the Department, also graduated with a Masters degree focusing on issues of sports for people with disabilities. Both have published from their work a number of articles in refereed journals.

Gym Equipment arriving from the USA



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Feature Story: Health Promotion and Sports Science

Student statistics

Over the last 8 years, the number of students enrolled in the Health Promotion and Sports Science Department has been rising steadily from the initial three (3) students to the current two hundred (200) students. Many of those who have graduated in the past have secured jobs in their various fields of study.

Year	Number graduated	Places absorbed
2015	3	2 Pursuing Masters studies 1 Gym manager
2016	7	2 Pursuing Masters studies 1 NGO 1 Red Cross
2017	16	2 2 Sports officers 3 Gym instructors 1 PE teacher 4 NGO 1 Ministry of Health
2018	15	-
TOTAL	41	20

Staff

The Department, though thinly staffed, has developed innovative ways to solve challenges facing it. With the hiring of Professor Edwin K. Wamukoya, a seasoned university administrator and sports curriculum developer, the Department is ready to take on new challenges and strengthen the already strong foundation. The Department has been able to admit more graduate students recently with a focus on cutting edge research in physical activities, health promotion, sports nutrition, sport skill development and talent identification.



Feature Story: Health Promotion and Sports Science

“Through networks developed, we are now able to work with other academics from other Departments in the University and elsewhere in the country and abroad to guide graduate students appropriately. Presently, we have active linkages with the French International Research for Development (IRD), American College of Sports Medicine, International Paralympics Sports Science Committee and Kenya Society for Sports Science,” says Dr. Bukhala.

Through these linkages the Department has organized workshops, trainings and collaborated to carry out joint research.

Publications

In the last two years, staff and students have published over twenty (23) papers in refereed journals and book chapters in the ***Kenya and Ethiopian Athletics: Towards an Alternative Scientific Approach***, a book that discusses the rise and dominance of Kenya and Ethiopian athletics. The book is published by the French Institute for Research for development with whom the department has signed an MOU.

Conferences and workshops

Members of the Department continue to attend and disseminate their research work in national and international conferences. In 2017/2018, five staff members; Dr. Peter Bukhala, Issah Kweyu, Ednah Sabiri, Roselyne Odiango and Micky Olutende attended the Pan Africa International Research Conference (PAIRC) and presented a total of six (6) papers. In addition, the Department held a successful international workshop in conjunction with the American College of Sports Medicine on Management of Sports Injuries. The Workshop attracted over 100 participants from Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Zambia and South Africa. As a follow up to the Workshop, the Kenya Society for Sports Medicine (KSSM) was launched to bring together all health allied professionals working to support sports in Kenya. During the launch, Dr. Peter Bukhala was appointed the Vice Chairman of the Society.

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Feature Story: Health Promotion and Sports Science

Training

In the year 2017/2018, the Department held two trainings. The first one was on research capacity building for staff and graduate students in the Department. This Workshop was facilitated by Prof. Abel Toriola, the Department's External Examiner from Tshwane University of Technology, South Africa. The two day workshop focused on examination moderation and research output reporting. During the Workshop, Prof. Toriola donated books to the Department. The second training, facilitated by two professors from the University of Miguel Hernandez, Spain was on teaching and coaching the game of Boccia- a sport for persons with severe disabilities. This course was supported by the Gender and Disability Unit at MMUST. In attendance, were sports science lecturers and students, teachers from special units and schools in the County of Kakamega.



Professor Toriola presenting books to the department



Professor Toriola visiting students on attachment

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Feature Story: Health Promotion and Sports Science

Community Outreach

The Department has been actively involved with the community of MMUST and the general population by dissemination of information on healthy lifestyles. The Department runs an outdoor aerobics class at Star Annex for students, staff and the community. In addition, physical rehabilitation and counseling services are offered to MMUST staff whenever referrals are made from the University Medical Officer. The Department engages in research focusing on community health needs. Currently, three critical researches have been conducted on ergonomics and computer users in MMUST, effects of carrying heavy bags on the development of pupils in the Municipality of Kakamega and the latest was assessment of nutritional status and physical activity among faculty members. All these studies are carried out as fourth year student research project work. The members are also involved in community activities through capacity building initiatives. Such activity is the Ikolomani CDF football tournament where Dr. Bukhala serves as the Chairman of the Ikolomani Constituency Sports Organization. Through this link, students get a chance to practice their knowledge on event organization and management.



**Dr. Peter Bukhala at
Ku Leuven with
IMAPA Students
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Appointments and Promotions

Prof. Edwin Wamukoya was appointed the Chairman of the Science Park Innovation and Incubation Centre (SPIIC) Board. In addition, he has been appointed as convener of the Senate Ad hoc Committee on Student Registration and Examinations.

Issah Kweyu has also been appointed as a member of SPIIC Board and the University TVET curriculum committee.

Dr. Peter Bukhala was appointed as visiting Professor in the Department of Rehabilitation Sciences at the KU Leuven in Belgium where he facilitates a Masters course on Socio-cultural studies in the first semester of the International Masters Program in Adapted Physical Activity (IMAPA) 2018 – 2019. The task, as visiting professor, included

an introduction to the course through videoconference, ten hours of face-to-face classroom lectures and two follow-up interactions with the students through videoconference. The IMAPA program covers all expenses related to the task. KU Leuven is one of the leading research universities in Europe and the opportunity to collaborate and share research knowledge is rewarding. During the one week stay at the KU Leuven, Dr. Bukhala started initial discussions with the IMAPA programme Director on how MMUST can participate in this international collaboration. The current students in the programme are from Belgium, Netherlands, USA, Albania, France and Italy and the plan is to ensure at least one MMUST student joins the next cohort.



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