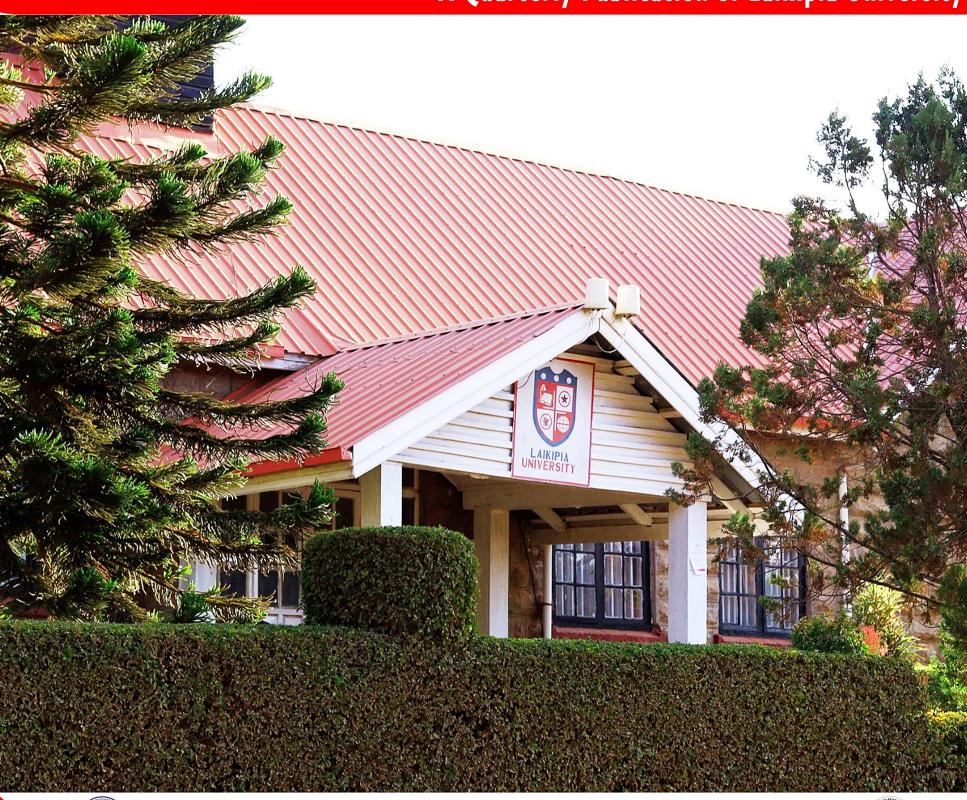


InfoPoint



A Quarterly Publication of Laikipia University









Editor's Note

Dear Reader

We are delighted to welcome you to this edition of LU InfoPoint. We intend to bring you a quarterly publication of the Newsletter and a monthly publication of the Bulletin. This Edition features important events that have been undertaken in the University in the last three months.



Editorial Team

- I. Prof. Felicia Yieke Chief Editor
- 2. Ms. Fancy Sitonik Corporate Communnication Officer
- 3. Dr. John Wahome Content Editor
- 4. Ms. Irene Odhiambo- Content Editor
- 5. Mr. Josiah Mokaya Content Editor
- 6. Mr. Cornellius Sitonik Designer and Photographer

Why you should consider Laikipia University

Location: Laikipia University is located in a beautiful serene environment with excellent environment which is conducive for learning, research and sporting activities.

Quality Education: Laikipia University offers a wide range of programmes, quality education and training as well as research which places our students on the world map.

Laikipia University gives you the opportunity to explore and nurture your talents.

Programmes offered are highly marketable and give you the opportunity to expand your horizons in both the national and the international spheres. We assure you of timely completion of your studies.

VISION:

A University for valued transformation of society

MISSION:

To serve students and society through research, education, scholarship, training, innovation, outreach and consultancy

CORE VALUES:

Quality, Integrity, Respect

MOTTO:

'Seed of Wisdom'

Teaching and Learning Kicks Off for the Second Semester of 2022/2023 Academic Year



The following is the schedule of activities for the semester:

- 1. Teaching and Learning Monday, 9th January, 2023 to Friday, 7th April, 2023.
- 2. Activation/Online Reporting Monday, 2nd January, to Friday, 27th January, 2023.
- 3. Course/Unit Registration Monday, 2nd January, to Friday, 27th January, 2023.
- 4. Examination approval/printing of examination cards and 100 percent payment of fees Monday, 13th March, to Friday, 24th March, 2023.
- 5. End of Semester 2 Examinations Monday, 10th April, 2023 to Friday, 25th April, 2023.

Reporting and Deployment of New Interns

Successful applicants who had applied for internship positions reported were deployed to the following departments:

- I. Office of the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration, Finance and Planning).
- 2. Dean of Students.
- 3. Farm.
- 4. Legal.
- 5. Resource Mobilization.
- 6. Corporate Communication Office.



New Appointments

he following changes were made in the various Divisions and Departments in the University between January – March 2023:

- I. Prof. Jacinta Ndambuki Ag. Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academic Research and Student Affairs.
- 2. Prof. Nicholas Kamau Ag. Deputy Vice Chancellor, Administration, Finance and Planning.
- 3. Prof. Felicia Yieke Director, Graduate School.
- 4. Prof. James Ogola Ag. Director, Research, Human Rights and Gender.
- 5. Dr. Alexander Mbeke Coordinator, Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET).
- 6. Dr. Daniel Pande COD, Biological and Biomedical Sciences Department
- 7. Prof. Robert Mwebi Registrar, Academic Affairs
- 8. Dr. Charity Chemnjor Director of Quality Assurance and Standards.
- 9. Dr. Alex Kibet Ag. Chair of Department, Computing and Informatics.



From Left.: Dr. Poti, Dr. Mbeke and Dr. Pande during the Biological and Bio Medical Sciences Department handing over 15th February, 2023 at Biological Sciences Department.

Bioinformatics Workshop

The Biological and Biomedical Sciences Department held a one-week Bioinformatics Workshop at the Laikipia University Main campus, Mandela Hall from Monday, 23rd January, 2023 to Friday, 27th January, 2023. The Workshop targeted mainly second year students taking Biomedical Science and Technology course. It was attended by members of the Biological and Biomedical Science Department and officially opened by the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academic Research and Student Affairs (ARSA) Prof. Jacinta Ndambuki. The one-week event was successful and recorded full participation from the students who attended in-person at the Hall and also virtually. The workshop went on smoothly as the students downloaded and installed some of the software they normally use such as Git bash and R-Studio. With the assistance of their facilitators, Laikipia University BMED Alumnus Mr. Nehemiah Ongeso and Mr. Winfred Gatua from Briston University, they learnt more of topics such as: Introduction to Git, Introduction to Shell, Git and Git Hub, R and R-Studio and Bioinformatics.



Courtesy Call from Nyandarua National Polytechnic Official

The University through the office of Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration, Finance and Planning), hosted officials from Nyandarua National Polytechnic who paid a courtesy call to discuss possible partnership in the infrastructural improvement on Ngarenarok Hostel, ablution blocks and the upcoming University Business Centre project outside the University gate. The meeting which was held at the Humanities and Development Studies Boardroom was also attended by the University Finance Officer, the Directorate of Resource Mobilization and Investments, and the Procurement Officer.



Ag. Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Administration, Finance and Planning Prof. Nicholas Kamau (second-right), Members of the University Management Board and Nyandarua National Polytechnic officials during the site visit outside the University gate on 30th January, 2023.

Laikipia University Alumni Association AGM and Fun Day

Laikipia University Alumni Association held its Annual General Meeting and Fun Day on Saturday 4th February, 2023 at the University's Mandela Hall. The meeting was attended by the Alumni Association members and students. The Chief Guest of the day was the Laikipia County Deputy Governor Hon. Reuben Kamuri. During the meeting, there were also exhibitions from members who have ventured into entrepreneurship and individual businesses. At the end, the members had various team building activities and shared a meal.



From right: Prof. Charles Nguta, Laikipia County Deputy Governor Hon. Reuben Kamuri, and some officials of Laikipia University Alumni Association at Millenium Restaurant on 4th February, 2023 after the meeting.

KUDHEIHA/KUSU/UASU Personal Finance Training

Personal Finance training targeting Grade I-16 University staff was conducted on 6th and 7th February, 2023. The groups involved were the Kenya Union of Domestic Hotels, Educational Institutions, Hospitals & Allied Workers (KUDHEIHA), Kenya Universities Staff Union (KUSU) and the Universities Academic Staff Union (UASU). The training topic focused on Pre-retirement, Personal Finance Management and Sensitization on Citizen Service Delivery and Excellent Customer Service Culture.



A section of staff during the Personal Finance Training held at Mandela Hall from 6th - 7th February, 2023 involving Grade I-16 University Staff.

CAK Programming Code Brief to Media Students

On 8th February, 2023 there was a briefing from the Communication Authority of Kenya (CAK) officials on Programming Code to Media Students at Mandela Hall. The forum was organized by the Literary and Communication Studies Department and Laikipia University Radio. The briefing agenda revolved around CAK's objectives and values, laws, policies, licenses and license revocation.



Media students keenly following the proceedings during the Communication Authority of Kenya briefing at Mandela Hall on 8th February, 2023.

MOU between Laikipia University and Nyandarua National Polytechnic

 \mathbf{A} managerial meeting was held on 7^{th} February, 2023 to appoint a committee to draft a Memorandum of Understanding between Laikipia University and Nyandarua National Polytechnic. The meeting was chaired by Ag. Deputy Vice Chancellor Prof. Nicholas Kamau and was attended by member representatives from both institutions. Key points of mutual interests discussed were; Research, Science, Technology and Innovation, Education and Capacity development, Industrial Attachment, Information Sharing, and Resource Mobilization. Following the understanding of the two parties, on 14th February 2023, a consultative meeting between Laikipia University Vice Chancellor Prof. Kibett Rotich and Nyandarua National Polytechnic Chief Principal Mr. Felix Mungatu was held. The main agenda of the meeting was on collaborations between the Research, Construction, Exchange Programmes, two institutions on Development Programmes, Hospitality Industry, and Infrastructural Development.



Front Row: Laikipia University Vice Chancellor Prof. Kibett Rotich(4th Right), Nyandarua National Polytechnic Chief Principal Mr. Felix Mungatu(3rd Left) and other Members of the Committee outside the Administration Block after the Consultative Meeting held on 14th February, 2023.

LUSA Elections

Laikipia University Students Association Elections for the 2022/2023 Academic Year for Electoral College were held on Thursday 16th February 202 while the Executive Council election on Friday 17th February, 2023. This was after successful preparations were done, which included vetting and swearing in of Electoral Commissioners. The elected team shall serve for a period of one year as per the requirements of the LUSA Constitution The ceremony to swear in the newly elected Student Government was held on 23rd February, 2023 at the University Mandela Hall grounds. The ceremony was presided over by the Ag. Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Administration, Finance, and Planning, Prof Nicholas Kamau who represented the Vice-Chancellor. The event was also graced by the Ag. Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic, Research and Student Affairs, Prof. Jacinta Ndambuki, Deans, Directors, the Office of the Dean of Students, former and current LUSA Officials, and students.

The following are the elected LUSA elected officials 2022/2023



Dennis Kipkemoi Tuikong **Chairperson**



Faith Kerubo Ndubi V/Chairperson



Emmanuel Mogunde
Secretary General



Samuel Nzau Katuva Treasurer



Bundotich J. Ruth **Director Academics**



Nicky Chivatsi Ngala Director Welfare



Sharon Chelangat

Director

Special Interest



Vincent Ingosi
Representative
School of HDS



Paul Okoth Ochola
Representative
School of Science



Benard Kiprotich
Representative
School of Education



John Nyamai Rep. School of Business & Economics



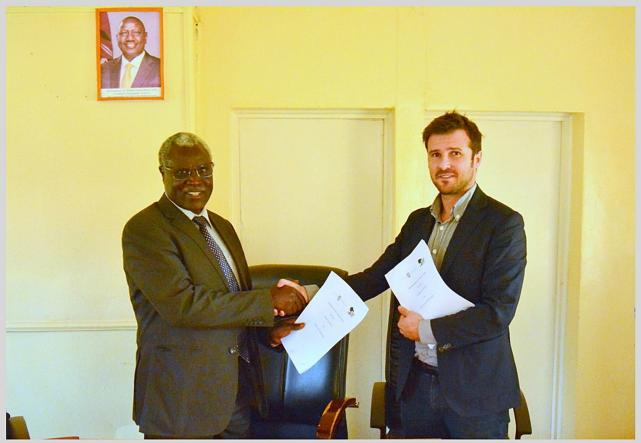
Peter Gathoni **Speaker**



Glory Ntinyari **Deputy Speaker**

Courtesy Call from Africa Digna Foundation Director

The University Management hosted Africa Digna Foundation Director Mr. Alejandro Lucena Mir on 16th February, 2023 to discuss collaboration between the two institutions on scholarship assistance to needy students in the University. The Director thereafter together with the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Kibett Rotich signed an MOU on the same. The Foundation offers financial assistance to needy students and so far two students have benefitted in Laikipia University. The number of beneficiaries is expected to increase in the future.



Laikipia University Vice Chancellor Prof. Kibett Rotich (Left) and Africa Digna Foundation Director Mr. Alejandro Lucena Mir (Right) displaying their signed MOU at the University Boardroom on 16th February, 2023.

Hostel Owners' Meeting

he University through the Initiative of the Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic, Research and Student Affairs office, Office of the Registrar Academic Affairs, and Office of the Dean of Students held a meeting with hostel owners on Tuesday 21st February, 2023 at Mandela Hall. It was also attended by OCS Losogwa Ward and the University Security Officer. The meeting was to address challenges facing the university students and the hostel owners. It also aimed to address their key responsibilities in serving the student community and to find the way forward concerning the challenges facing them. After a three-hour discussion and cooperation in finding solutions, several proposals were made. These included an expected inspection and accreditation of hostels during

May-August 2023 holidays. It is expected that the University and hostel owners will come up with formulated rules and regulations to guide their activities thus the need for collaboration between the University, Laikipia University Student Association and Hostel Owners.



One of the Hostel Owners giving her remarks during the Hostel Owners meeting held on 21st February, 2023 at Mandela Hall.

Signing of Performance Contract

The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Kibett Rotich, on 21st February, 2023 presided over the Laikipia University FY 2022/2023 Departmental Performance Contracts signing ceremony at the University Boardroom. In his remarks, the Vice Chancellor requested Heads of Departments to ensure the implementation of targeted activities. He stated that Performance Contracting was an important tool geared towards the realization of the University's Strategic Objectives. He emphasized that proper evidence for implementing the PC activities needed to be kept in preparation for evaluation at the end of the contract period.



From Left: Registrar-Academic Affairs Prof. Robert Mwebi, Ag. DVC-ARSA Prof. Jacinta Ndambuki, VC Prof. Kibett Rotich, Ag. DVC-AFP Prof. Nicholas Kamau, Registrar-Administration and Human Capital Dr. Hezron Nyagaka and The Finance Officer Mr. Geofrey Langat displaying their signed contracts at the University Boadroom on 21st February, 2023.

ECDE Students' Career Mentorship Forum

Through the School of Education and the Directorate of TVET, Career Placement, Alumni, and External Linkages, the University organized a career Mentorship Forum for students taking Bachelor of Education - Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) course from Laikipia University and Karlstad University, Sweden. The Karlstad University students were in the University on an Exchange Programme for a month. The forum was held on the 21st February, 2023 at Mandela Hall. The group of six from Karlstad University attended the forum. They have been to primary schools within Laikipia and Nyandarua counties. The students shared more about course requirements in their own countries; experiences in schools in matters such as number of students per class; student punishments; and the nature of student-teacher interactions. They also talked about application of class-room skills in real life situations and student motivational factors in both countries. By the end of the session, the students from Laikipia University wereinformed that with proper guidelines and regulations, one can get a scholarship to study in Sweden.



Participants from Laikipia University and Karlstad University during the Mentorship Forum held on 21st February, 2023 at Mandela Hall.

Laikipia University-KE shines in the 2022/2023 Huawei ICT Competition

Laikipia University students and their instructor were given awards after excellent performance during the 2022/2023 Huawei ICT Competition held at the Serena Hotel in Nairobi on 24th February, 2023. Dr. Alex Kibet was awarded with the Prestigious Excellent Instructor Award while Brian Kiprotich Rutto was the top student countrywide in the cloud Track while Dan Kipchirchir Ronoh was the second best in that category. Dennis Fundi Ndunda was the second best student countrywide in the Network Track. We wish the team all the best as they proceed to the Regional Finals.



Laikipia University Participates in the Skills for Prosperity Kenya Programme

On 24th January, 2023 during the S4PKe Learning Event, the University participated in the graduation ceremony of S4PK Digital Education Champions Class of 2023. The University was represented by Prof. Vicky Khasandi Telewa. There were 168 participants who graduated out of a total of 350. The remaining are finishing up their courses when the programme ends on 31st March, 2023. The University had two graduands who had completed their course; Dr. Alex Kibet and Mr. Eric Yullu, who were presented with their certificates by the Ag. Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration, Finance and Planning), Prof. Nicholas Kamau, on behalf of the Vice Chancellor. We would like to congratulate them on successfully completing their course and we look forward to having the remaining participants graduate in the next graduation ceremony.





Dr. Alex Kibet (First Photo) and Mr. Eric Yullu (Second Photo) being presented with their certificates by Ag. DVC-AFP Prof. Nicholas Kamau and Prof. Vicky Khasandi Telewa outside University Administration Block on 27th February, 2023.

Third Photo: Prof. Vicky Khasandi Telewa receiving her certificate from Ag. DVC-AFP Prof. Nicholas Kamau.

Career Placement High School Students Mentorship Forum

The Directorate of TVET, Career Placement, Alumni and External Linkages held a Mentorship Forum with students from Matindiri and Rumuruti Day Secondary Schools on the month of March 2023. The students had a chance to interact with Peer Mentor members from I Choose Life (ICL) - Africa, which is a partner with the directorate in carrying out mentorships in schools within Laikipia County and beyond. Students were taken around the University, visiting the library and lecture rooms. They had a one-onone forum with Dr. Alexander Mbeke who is the Coordinator-TVET, Peer Mentors and the Career Placement representative Ms. Hellen Wambugu at the Mandela Hall. Topics covered were included Time Management, Subject Selection in preparation for a career to pursue after secondary school, Personal Planning among others. The Directorate mentored 218 secondary school students this semester and is

planning to hold more mentorship forums next semester which is expected to involve several secondary schools.

Member representatives from Laikipia University, I Choose Life-Africa Peer Mentors, Teachers and Students from Matindiri Secondary School outside Directorate of TVET, Career Placement, Alumni and External Linkages after the Mentorship Forum on 2nd - 3rd February, 2023.





Ms. Hellen Wambugu addressing students from Rumuruti Day Secondary School at Mandela Hall during the Mentorship Forum on 31st March, 2023.

Drug Free Campaign Walk

he University Alcohol and Drug Abuse (ADA) Committee held a week-long Campaign, dubbed the 'Drug Free Campaign Week' on 7th March, 2023 to 10th March, 2023. During the week, the committee organized various activities which included a Sensitization Forum which was held on Tuesday 7th March, 2023 at Mandela Hall and a Talk Show on Drugs which was aired in the Laikipia University Radio on 8th and 9th March, 2023. Members also participated in a walk from the University to Karuga Centre to mark the climax of the event on Friday, 10th March, 2023. The walk which started at 10am at the University parking lot was flagged off by the member representatives of ADA Committee, Anti-Drugs Club and the Counselling Department of the University. Peer counsellors and students also attended the walk. Along the way, the team displayed a banner, posters and also informed the students within and outside the Uni-

versity to refrain from drugs. The Security Department engaged Traffic Police to control the traffic along the road and ensured the success of the walk which ended at 2pm.



Member representatives of ADA Committee, Anti – Drugs Club and Counselling Department, Peer Counsellors and students during the Drug Free Campaign walk outside the University on 10th March, 2023.

Laikipia University International Women's Day (IWD) Celebrations 2023

Laikipia University through the Directorate of Research, Human Rights and Gender held celebrations to mark the International Women's Day 2023. The colourful event was held on Friday, 10th March, 2023 at the university pavilion grounds and was officiated by Prof. Charles Nguta on behalf of the Vice Chancellor. It was attended by members of the University, which included staff and students. During the engaging event, the issues tackled revolved around: the History of IWD, Self-Awareness, and Inclusion of Women in Technological Advancements more so in terms of Learning and Education, Financial Management as a woman, Gender Help Zones, Stress Management and Reiteration of creation of policies that support inclusion of women in the societal activities and projects. After the speeches and presentations, the event ended with fun activities like aerobics, sack racing among many others.



A section of the participants following the proceedings during the International Women's Day Celebration held at Pavillion Grounds on 10th March, 2023.

Fire Mock Drill & Sensitization

Laikipia University Security Department organized a Fire Mock Drill and Sensitization Training. The event was led by Josiah Sekoyo - Head of Security Department. It was held on 16th March, 2023 at the pavilion grounds and was attended by staff and students. Kenya Red Cross Laikipia University Chapter members also took part in the event. The facilitator of the event was Mr. Julius Ochieng' a Security Personnel at the University. The following topics were covered: Disasters; types of disasters; history, types, causes, importance and classes of fire; types of fire extinguishers to use in putting out fire of different types of classes; fire plan action; and first aid tips in case of fire injuries.



Mr. Julius Ochieng explaining different types of fire fighting gears to participants during the Fire Mock Drill and Sensitization Training held at Pavillion Grounds on 16th March, 2023.

Laikipia University President's Award Induction

Laikipia University President's Award was privileged to hold a two-day induction process for leaders and participants on 18th and 19th March, 2023. The induction was facilitated by Rift Valley Regional Managers Ms. Wangari Kaburi alongside Mr. Kipyego Serem, Ms. Rose Poka (emerging leader Africa representative and a volunteer as the award unit leader) and Mr. Alex Mukaisi who is the Laikipia University President Award Coordinator. This equipped the youth with the aspect of global competitiveness through empowering them to find their purpose, passion and a place in the world. Laikipia University is proud to have incredible and committed students who are well equipped for global market through having skills required for the 21st century earned through the President's Award which is a global framework for non-formal education.









Participants during the Laikipia University President's Award two-day induction process held at Mandela Hall on 18th - 19th March, 2023.

Tree Planting to Mark International Day of Forests

he University took part in the tree planting exercise to mark the International Day of Forests (IDF) 2023 on 20th March, 2023. The event, which took place at the New Administration Block Grounds, was officiated by the Ag. Deputy Vice Chancellor Administration, Finance and Planning (AFP), Prof. Nicholas Kamau on behalf of the Vice Chancellor. Also in attendance were Conservator Laikipia County, Sub County Forest Conservator, Department of Environment County Government of Laikipia, Sub County Intelligence Officer Nyahururu, and members of the University Management Board. They planted different types of tree species on the place at the grounds.



Members of the Laikipia University Management Board and the Guests during the tree planting exercise to mark International Day of Forests outside New Administration Block Grounds on 20th March, 2023.

Third Laikipia University Research and Innovation Day

Laikipia University held its 3rd Research and Innovation Day on 23rd March, 2023 at the Pavilion Grounds. Organized by the Directorate of Research, Human Rights and Gender, the event was officially opened by acting Vice Chancellor Prof. Nicholas Kamau. Also standing in for the Vice Chancellor was the Director Research, Human Rights and Gender, Prof. Onyango Ogola. The occasion was attended by other members of University Management Board, staff and students. Introductory remarks were made by the Science Technology and Innovation (ST&I) Chairperson, Dr. Tom Wafula. Exhibitors were from Njonjo Girl's Secondary School, Baraka Agricultural College, St. Martin Catholic Social Apostolate, L'arche Kenya, Catering Department, Resource Mobilization and Investments as well as Laikipia University students from all the schools. The theme for this year's Research and Innovation Day was: Innovation and Commercialization.



Ag. Vice Chancellor Prof. Nicholas Kamau (centre), Director Research Prof. Ogolla Onyango (right) and the University Chaplain (left) listening to a student explaining how his project work during the LU Research and Innovation Day event held on 23rd March, 2023.

Tour to Qwetu and Qejani Hostels at CUEA

On 24th March 2023, Laikipia University was among many institutions which took part in a tour of Qwetu and Qejani Hostels at the Catholic University of East Africa (CUEA). The event was attended by Prof. Jacinta Ndambuki and Dr. Alex Kibet. They explored and learnt a lot of an example of off-campus hostels that aim to enhance the learning environment and spaces with high-speed eduroam and secure WiFi for the global academic community. KENET as the NREN of Kenya, is the National Roaming Operator of eduroam in Kenya. KENET considers student hostels to be learning spaces to support both blended and online learning. They have therefore promised to extend eduroam to off-campus hostels just like the case of Qwetu and Qejani Hostels. The student hostel eduroam initiative aims to extend eduroam WiFi to on-campus and off-campus hostels. KENET has already piloted with a few off-campus hostels at Laikipia University. The tour to Qwetu and Qejani was also an explored example of

Private Partnership in the Development of Student Hostels that was developed by ACORN. KENET considers Student Hostels are as part of the learning environment, especially with increased blended learning. KENET has thus partnered with ACORN to extend high-speed eduroam WiFi to all Qwetu/Qejani Hostels. This is part of KNETs off-campus Internet initiative of KENET.



Prof. Jacinta Ndambuki, Dr. Alex Kibet and other participants during the Tour to Qwetu and Qejani Hostels at CUEA on 24th March, 2023.

Disability Mainstreaming Committee (DMC) Meeting

Disability Mainstreaming Committee (DMC) held a meeting with students living with disabilities at the Millennium Restaurant on 24th March, 2023. The meeting was attended by the Dean of Students, Chairperson and Members of DMC, representatives of the Library Department, TVET, LUSA Director Special Interest, and some students living with disabilities. The meeting was to find ways of creating awareness on students living with disabilities in the University. Other issues discussed were; creating an enabling environment which supports participation of students enabled differently, their access to facilities and University resources including books in the library, training and sensitization of University staff on how to handle them and ways of dealing with challenges facing such students. The committee is planning to hold regular meetings to ensure affairs of students living with disabilities are dealt with fairly.



Inter-Faith Prayer Day

hrough the Office of the Dean of Students-Chaplaincy Section, Inter-Faith Prayers were held on 29th March, 2023 at the Mandela Hall to pray for the University and ask for the guidance, protection and blessing of The Almighty God. The event was attended by Members of the University Management Board led by Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic, Research and Student Affairs) Prof. Jacinta Ndambuki, Dean of Students, Deans and Directors of different Departments, Staff, LUSA officials, different faith representatives, and students. The University Chaplain hosted other religious leaders and representatives from other institutions. The Guest Speaker was Rev. Stella Mwiti - Chaplain at St. Paul University. Inter-Faith Prayers involved the four denominations recognized by the University; Christian Union (CU), Seventh Day Adventist (SDA), Laikipia University Muslim Students Association (LUMSA) and the Catholic Action Action (CA).

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