



LAIKIPIA UNIVERSITY

NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2024 EDITION

The Establishment of the Directorate of Corporate Affairs

The Directorate of Corporate Affairs was established in August 2024. The directorate is mandated with the strengthening of the university's external relationship and reputation as well as driving strategic initiatives and collaborations that align with its Vision and Mission. It will be interacting with all departments in order to enhance the university's visibility, boost its corporate image and market its brand to its internal and external stakeholders. In addition, the directorate will among others be managing media relations and coverage of all university functions, organising and coordinating university exhibitions and marketing activities, disseminating corporate publicity information materials, coordinating resolution of public complaints, providing access to information in the university, and developing and maintaining the university newsletter, web and social media presence.



Prof. Felicia Arudo Yieke.

The Directorate will be headed by **Prof. Felicia Arudo Yieke**. Prof. Yieke is a Professor of Applied Linguistics and has over 30 years of experience. Prior to her appointment as the Director Corporate Affairs, Prof. Yieke had served in different leadership positions at Laikipia University. She was appointed acting Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic, Research and Student Affairs in January 2022 where she served for one year. She was the Director Graduate School from August 2019 to November 2023.

Earlier, she was the Founding Dean of the School of Humanities and Development Studies (HDS) in 2008; a position she held for eight years. Prof. Yieke has undertaken many projects at the university including teaching, research, supervision of postgraduate students, community outreach, publications, publishing and editing, training particularly on Human Rights, and either being chair or member of various university committees and boards. She also teaches Human Rights, Communication in Leadership and Management, Corporate Communication, Managerial Communication, Communication and Ethics as well as Research Methods at all levels in the University.

She holds a PhD in Applied Linguistics from the University of Vienna (Austria); a Master of Philosophy degree in English from Moi University; and a Bachelor of Education (Arts) degree from Kenyatta University.

Laikipia University congratulates and wishes her success in the new role. You may read more of her tremendous achievements through her extended bio: <https://laikipia.ac.ke/prof-felicia-yieke-profile>

New Departmental Appointments



Dr. Emily Cheshari

Ag. Chairperson, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry



Dr. Evelyn Mahero

Ag. Chairperson, Department of Literary and Communication Studies

Laikipia University's 2024/2025 First-Years Admission

Laikipia University's 2024/2025 First Years admission commenced successfully on 12th August, 2024 at the University's Vision 2030 hall. Prof. Robert Mwebi, the Registrar Academic Affairs welcomed prospective students, their parents and guardians on behalf of the Vice Chancellor.

In his address, Prof. Mwebi congratulated the prospective students and wished them well as they headed for confirmation as bonafide Laikipia University students through admission. The admission process required seven (7) critical documents:

1. Letter of Offer/Admission Letter
2. Personal Details Form
3. Student Bond of Good Conduct
4. National ID/Birth Certificate
5. KCSE Result Slip
6. Form Four Leaving Certificate
7. First Year Student Registration Form

He advised students to apply for loans and scholarships through the Higher Education Financing (<https://www.hef.co.ke/>) portal. The New Funding Model (NFM) is student-centred since loans and scholarships are issued based on the students' levels of need and programme fees.

Households are also expected to contribute towards education funding (fees payment) on a graduated scale as determined by the Means Testing Instrument (MTI) reviewed from time to time. The Means Testing Instrument (MTI) is a scientific method of determining the student's level of need. Therefore, households will be contributing between 5 percent to 40 percent towards their children's University or TVET education.

The University anticipates enrolling the over 2700 students placed at the institution by the Kenya Universities and Colleges Placement Service (KUCCPS) by closure of the exercise.

The Vice Chancellor visited the admission venue to assess the smoothness of the process.



Prof. Robert Bisonga Mwebi, Registrar Academic Affairs briefing the Vice Chancellor on the admission process



First-Years being admitted to different programmes

The 2024/2025 First Years Orientation

Orientation of the 2024/2025 First Years began on 19th August, 2024 at the Vision 2030 Hall. The week-long exercise ran up to 23rd August, 2024. Prof. Robert Mwebi, the Registrar Academic Affairs welcomed the newly enrolled students and congratulated them for joining Laikipia University.

He also brought them to speed on the structure of the institution's leadership. Further, he reiterated that a university is a place of self-drive and no one would be following up on anyone, thus personal discipline must be essential in order to graduate on time within the stipulated four years for an undergraduate programme.

All the academic programmes offered at Laikipia University are recognized locally, regionally, and internationally and thus students were urged to take their studies seriously.

He also implored upon students to be finance-conscious in their expenditures so as not to end up putting their academic and social lives in jeopardy. Prof. Mwebi further stressed that failure to remain vigilant with their money would lead them to a state of 'kuinama', which is characterised by hunger and starvation among students due to lack of upkeep money.

First years' orientation is a vital process where newly admitted students are acquainted with the culture of Laikipia University, the precautions to take while around, and the general well-being of their affairs while around. The orientation process also gives the clubs and societies of the university an opportunity to market themselves for new members.

The orientation was also attended by Ms. Beatrice Yogo, Dean of Students, Deans of Schools, Rev. Fr. Dr. Peterson Kabugi, Laikipia University Chaplain, Dr. Isaac Gitogo, Coordinator of Open Distance and e-Learning (ODEL), Ms. Winfrida Ojwang, Chief Catering Officer; Mr. Josiah Sekoyo, Head of Security; and Laikipia University Students' Association (LUSA) officials.



Prof. Robert Bisonga Mwebi, Registrar Academic Affairs addressing First-Years during orientation



First-Years during orientation

Laikipia University Participates in the Kenya National Research Festival, 2024

Laikipia University participated in the Kenya National Research Festival organised by the National Research Fund (NRF). The week-long forum took place at The Edge Convention Centre, Nairobi from 19th August to 23rd August, 2024. This year's theme was: **Research Partnerships and Collaborations for Socio-Economic Transformation.**

The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Kibett Rotich, visited the Laikipia University Stand to experience the institution's innovative ideas as showcased to the world.

Prof. John Kanjogu, Director of Research, Human Rights and Gender led a team from Laikipia University to showcase the different innovations by the institution at the festival. The university was pleased to publicise its impressive innovations which were as follows:

| S/NO | Innovation | Innovator/Researcher |
|------|--|---|
| 1 | Molecular Characterization of Doddlee Weed (<i>Cuscuta..Sp</i>) Circulating in Laikipia County. | Dr. Daniel Pande, PhD |
| 2 | Leveraging on Social Capital for Sustainability and Growth for Small Scale Fisheries by Women in Blue Space. | Mr. Patrick Okanga |
| 3 | Market Surveys of Medicinal Plant Trade, Use and Sustainability in Maralal Town: Samburu County, Kenya. | Ms. Lucy Muthui |
| 4 | Vehicle Overload Solution. | Mr. James Njuguna |
| 5 | Smart Parking System. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Job Mbugua Mr. Hannington Omondi Mr. Joel Muya. |

The Kenya National Research Festival 2024 was strategically designed to raise awareness about the different spectrums of research activities both locally and internationally. It aimed at encouraging domestic and international collaboration. The festival was geared towards acting as a catalyst for research driven socio-economic development. It predominantly focused on interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary research which incorporates current and future solutions towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Researchers, innovators and entrepreneurs showcased their innovative solutions to societal needs, where each one of them underscored their significant contributions to the progress of the nation.

Laikipia University is committed to its mission: 'To Contribute to the world through Education, Research, Training, Consultancy, Innovation, Outreach and Collaboration'.



The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Joseph Kibett Rotich signing the Laikipia University's visitors book during the Kenya National Research Festival, Nairobi



Laikipia University's researchers and innovators at the Kenya National Research Festival, Nairobi