Rwanda Minister graces historic 5th Graduation

Rwanda Minister for Local Government Hon. James Musoni was the chief guest during the fifth graduation ceremony last December. It was held at the Happy Valley Grounds in Thika, Kenya, the site of the upcoming Mount Kenya University Science and Technology Centre. Themed “Setting trends in higher education, research, innovation, job creation and leadership for scaling the heights of education towards Vision 2030,” the event saw 395 Rwandese students graduate in various certificates. Among these were 322 MBAs, nine Masters of Public Health students and 64 undergraduates. The graduands’ contribution to Rwanda’s growing economy—and indeed the entire East African region’s—will be invaluable. In total, the University graduated over 10,000 students in an event that underlined its reputation as a centre of academic excellence.

Continued Page...
This publication covers events of interest to Mount Kenya University fraternity and the stakeholders. The Editor welcomes original news articles, features, expert opinion and general interest articles from the staff and students for consideration. Please forward your original pictures and articles to vc@mku.ac.ke.

**EDITORIAL TEAM**

- **Prof. Stanley Waudo, Vice Chancellor**
  - He is a senior member of the regional academic caste, with an unparalleled eye for detail.

- **Henry Musisi PR & Marketing manager**
  - A versatile man who measures his words and actions carefully.

- **Wilson Mbugua, Head, MMM**
  - Passionate, creative, humourous.

- **John Mwebale Photographer**
  - He will go to any length to get a good photo.

- **Prof. Musa Nyakora Principal**
  - As the Principal, the vision of MKU Kigali Campus runs in his veins.

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**Talk to us...**

- @mountkenyauni
- mountkenyauniversity
- http://www.youtube.com/mountkenyauni
- P.O. Box 5826 Kigali
- rwanda@mku.ac.ke

**Chartered and ISO 9001: 2008 Certified**
NEW APPOINTMENTS

Pro-Chancellor

We have a new Pro Chancellor. His name is Prof Chacha Nyaig-otti Chacha. He replaces Prof George Eshiwani. As the holder of this ceremonial office, Prof Chacha will stand in for the Chancellor when circumstances demand.

Prof Chacha is a renowned academic and playwright of many years. He is currently a Research Professor at the Catholic University of East Africa. He previously served as the Secretary to the Inter-University Council of East Africa and as the first CEO of Higher Education Loans Board. Prior to that, he was a professor at Egerton University where he also held several senior positions.

SENIOR VARSITY OFFICIALS

2014 MKUSA officials

PRESIDENT

Eddy Mwerekande

VICE-PRESIDENT

Apophia Umutoni

SEC. GENERAL

Tesi Ester

MIN: SPORTS

Baraka Patrice

MIN: EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Gloria Iraoke

MIN: SOCIAL WELFARE

Dusabe Irene

MIN: HEALTH

Mugume James

MIN: FINANCE

Mugisha Julius

MIN: ACADEMIC

Emmanuel Murenzi

Simon Gicharu, CBS
Chairman, Board of Trustees

Prof Grace Njoroge
Chair, University Council

Prof Victoria Wulsin
Chancellor

Prof Stanley Waudo
Vice-Chancellor
MKU ranks high in varsity rankings

Mount Kenya University has been ranked among the top universities in Kenya. The 2014 University Web Rankings, by 4 International Colleges & Universities ranks the University as among the top three private universities out of a survey of 44. Strathmore University and United States International University are the only other private universities in the top 10 ranking, 4 International Colleges & Universities is an international higher education search engine and directory. It reviews accredited Universities and Colleges in the world. Recently, MKU won several awards for embracing the use of Information Technology. (See separate story)

The University has won several prestigious awards for adoption of information and communication technology. The Information and Communication Association of Kenya recently awarded the University prestigious awards for “Best Use of ICT in Education”, and “Best Use of ICT in Counties”. Joseph Mworia, Director-ICT at the University was also named the “ICT Manager of the Year”. The awards sought to recognise and celebrate excellence in ICT in Kenya, particularly at a time when the country is celebrating 50 years of independence. These awards are among the most notable in East Africa. They hailed MKU’s efforts in application of ICT at various fronts. Besides online learning through the MKU Virtual Campus, students at all Campuses have access to a wireless internet network, thus enabling them to study and research. Vice Chancellor Prof Stanley Waudo said the awards reflected the commitment the University has in providing adequate learning facilities. Mr Mworia promised continuous support to all students and staff.

Kigali Campus hosts Kenyan Members of Parliament

Mount Kenya University Kigali Campus hosted a group of Members of Parliament (MPs) from Kenya last year. The three-day education tour also saw the unofficial launch of the Kigali arm of the Institute of Capacity Building (ICB), which is sponsored by Mount Kenya University. The MPs visited two primary schools in Rwanda to understand the country’s hugely successful One Laptop Per Child project. About 400 schools in Rwanda have received 210,000 of the distinct green plastic laptops. Kenya intends to roll out a laptop project for primary schools in this year. “ICB is eager to be at the forefront of the requisite human capacity development to aid the successful implementation of the laptop project, said Dr. Jane Njuru, the director. “We wish to thank the Rwanda government for the exposure.”
**NEWS BRIEF**

**MKU teams up with the best universities in the USA**

*Varsity signs partnership agreements with Xavier University and University of Cincinnati, which will serve as a springboard for dual accreditation*

Mount Kenya University has sought accreditation in the United States of America in a bid to get international exposure for its students and faculty. The university, which is fully accredited in East Africa has an existing partnership agreement with University of Cincinnati. It has also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Xavier University, another top University in USA. Board of Trustees Chairman Simon Gicharu signed the MoU on behalf of MKU while Dr Scott A. Chadwick, the Provost and Chief Academic Officer at Xavier University signed on behalf of his University. The MoU will open the gates for the two institutions to collaborate in student exchange and immersion programmes; the development and advancement of online and distance education for students of both universities; the creation and advancement of academic programmes in entrepreneurship and innovation. The other areas of collaboration will include:

- Joint research and training programs.
- Faculty and student exchange.
- Preparation of joint proposals for external funding.
- Joint programs of consulting and evaluation.
- Joint sponsorship of conferences.
- Joint publication.
- Exchange of materials, articles and other publications.

**Letter from America**

Board of Trustees Chairman, Simon Gicharu traded his fine linen suits for a warm, woollen overcoat and plunged right into the biting US winter cold to establish linkages between American institutions and Mount Kenya University. He visited universities in Iowa, Atlanta, Cleveland and Kentucky in a benchmarking exercise in technology, medicine and nursing. One of the highlights of the three-week tour was an attendance of International Education Week at University of Cincinnati between November 11 and 15.

Mr Gicharu made a presentation, *Sub-Saharan Africa: Educational Opportunities and Challenges at* the Robert J. Werner Recital Hall, University of Cincinnati. The tour stamped MKU’s reputation as an international university with global credentials. “Interestingly, some of the students and faculty members at University of Cincinnati, Drakes University and Kent State University already knew a lot about us through our website,” said Chairman. “They were eager on how we can work together.” Chairman invited students from US universities to consider taking their courses at any of the MKU Campuses for only a fraction of the fees. His presentation at the Robert J. Werner Recital Hall of University of Cincinnati received a standing ovation.

*He invited students from US universities to consider taking their courses at any of the MKU Campuses for only a fraction of the fees.*
Boost for MKU School of Medicine

The University of Cincinnati has pledged support to help MKU to develop its School of Medicine which is set to admit the first batch of students in 2014.

Mr Gicharu met and held discussions with the President of the University of Cincinnati, Dr Santa Ono and agreed how the two institutions will work together in a wide-range of academic initiatives. The University of Cincinnati which signed an MoU with MKU in 2012, has a Teaching Hospital, a Veterans Hospital and Children's Hospital, rated among the best in USA. The university also has colleges of Pharmacy and Nursing that will closely work with MKU in faculty and student exchange programmes.

Mr Gicharu was praised for the rare decision he took by founding MKU which the University of Cincinnati President said “had become the epitome of philanthropy in Africa.”

While addressing African students and faculty at UC, Mr Gicharu challenged them not to forget the continent. “When you complete your studies here, kindly return to Africa to help uplift the standard of education and level of research.”

He urged the Western media to stop depicting the continent in negative light yet things are not as bad as they are reported. “For instance Kenya is a very safe country. Terrorism is an international war that transcends national boundaries. It is therefore unfair to single out Kenya and allege the country is unsafe and issue travel advisories which affect the economy,” said Gicharu.

During the tour, he was accompanied by the Director of Publications, Dr Ken Ramani who also presented papers on Freedom of Press in Kenya and the War on International Terrorism.

"Support education in Africa"
- Chairman challenges diaspora

Time has come for Africans living in the diaspora to support tertiary education in their mother country.

The founder and Chairman of Mount Kenya University, Mr Simon Gicharu made the remarks when he addressed hundreds of Kenyans living in Des Moines, USA during a luncheon hosted in his honour. “It is a social responsibility for all of us to give back to society. Kenya gave you the foundation and now it is your turn to support education back home to uplift the living standards of your compatriots. That is how we all can be happy and proud of any achievement we may make in life,” said Gicharu.

Chairman (extreme right) attends a dinner hosted in his honour by Kenyans living in Des Moines, Iowa. He was feted for providing education opportunities to East Africans.
Once a Leader, twice a Chairman

MKU Chairman will also chair Geothermal Development Company board of directors

He created a wellspring of knowledge that is Mount Kenya University. And now, he will oversee the management of our wellsprings of electric power. Simon N. Gicharu, CBS, is the new Chairman of Geothermal Development Company (GDC). Mr Gicharu, whose achievements are legendary, was appointed by Kenya’s President His Excellency Uhuru Kenyatta in December last year through a Kenya Gazette Notice No. 15731. “I’m humbled at the opportunity to serve Kenyans,” said Mr Gicharu. “Access to affordable electricity touches all and sundry.” He took over the role on January 10. The appointment came hot on the heels of Chief of Burning Spear title accorded to him by Kenya’s third President H.E Mwai Kibaki in 2012. Both Presidential recognitions salute Mr Gicharu’s prowess, and acknowledge the historical role he has played in transforming communities through MKU. MKU has distinguished itself by making quality higher education accessible to more people throughout East Africa. Recently, Rwanda Minister of Infrastructure Prof Silas Lwakabamba invited GDC scientists to carry out geothermal exploration surveys in Rwanda. The country has started drilling on the slopes of Mt. Karisimbi. The country has a potential to produce 700MW of electricity this way.

Mr Gicharu, the new Chairman of Geothermal Development Company, meets some of the board members in Nairobi.

What are the roles of GDC Chairman?

Mr Gicharu’s role at Geothermal Development Company is aligned with the institution’s vision. He is tasked with, amongst others:

1. Chairing the Board meetings
2. Working closely with the GDC management to ensure the country produces 5,000MW as envisioned in Kenya’s Vision 2030.
3. Ensure drilling of 1,400 steam wells.
The Mount Kenya University fifth Graduation Ceremony was held on December 6, 2013 at the new Happy Valley Grounds in Thika, Kenya. Over 10,000 students from throughout Africa received certification for various Degrees, Diplomas and Certificate courses. The ceremony, attended by more than 50,000 people (mostly parents, guardians, friends and relatives of the graduates) also marked the official groundbreaking for commencement of construction of an ultra-modern Science at Technology Academic Centre at the 100-acre piece of land. Rwanda Minister for Local Government Hon. James Musoni was the chief guest at the ceremony. There was an over 100% increase in the number of students from Kigali Campus who graduated last year, compared to the previous year. “This underscores our success in continuously boosting Rwanda’s human resource capital as the country marches forth with the Vision 2020,” said MKU Vice Chancellor Prof Stanley Waudo.

**KARIBU IWACU TURAKWAKIRIYE:** Chief guest Hon. James Musoni is welcomed at the Graduation Pavilion by Eunice Gathoni, Assistant Registrar, PR&Marketing as VC Prof. Stanley Waudo looks on.

**LAP OF EXCELLENCE:** Chancellor Prof Victoria Wulsin, (second in line), Pro Chancellor Prof Chacha N. Chacha and Vice Chancellor Prof Stanley Waudo join the academic procession.

**THE IMMORTAL ACTIONS OF PRESIDENT THEODORE ROOSEVELT IN REFERENCE TO THE WRIGHTS BROTHERS (WHO INVENTED THE AIRCRAFT) APPEAL REFLECT THE APPROACH WE HAVE TAKEN AT MKU.**

- Chairman, Simon Gicharu in his speech.
**STUDENT Awardees:** Students Abigail Ndinda and Joseph Karimoni receive the Vice Chancellor's Award from Chancellor Prof Victoria Wulsin and DVC-Academic Affairs Prof Chegge Mungai.

**SING A SONG:** A brass band was in hand to entertain the hundreds of guests, graduands, guardians and parents who attended the ceremony.

**HONORARY DOCTORATE:** Chancellor Prof Victoria Wulsin awards a Honorary Doctorate to David Bett, Executive Chairman, DL Group of Companies. Mr Bett received the honour for his exemplary entrepreneurial skills and community service, which embody the qualities MKU seeks to impart in its students.

**ACADEMIC CASTE:** Prof Evans Kerosi, Deputy Vice Chancellor-Campuses & Centres (right), Prof John Nderitu, DVC-Research & Development and Peter Waweru, DVC-Finance & Administration follow proceedings.

**ACADEMIC RAIMENT:** Pro Chancellor Prof Chacha N. Chacha and Chancellor Prof Victoria Wulsin well kitted for the occasion.

**Chief guest Hon. James Musoni and Chairman, Simon Gicharu share a light moment.**
NEWS BRIEF

“......What they said .........”

“In 2014, we will begin construction of an ultra-modern Science and Technology Centre in Kigali, Rwanda.”

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
CHAIRMAN Simon Gicharu

“MKU has sustainably remained the most preferred University and a premier institution of higher learning in East Africa.”

CHAIR, UNIVERSITY COUNCIL,
Prof Grace Njoroge

“The globalization of MKU will enhance the education of students through research, service-learning, and foreign exchanges.”

CHANCELLOR, Prof Victoria Wulisin

“This is an opportune time to reflect on our successes and the role we are playing in responding to the needs of higher education in the region.”

PRO CHANCELLOR,
Prof Chacha N. Chacha

“With these certificates, you hold the key to the doors of your future professional success.”

VICE CHANCELLOR, Prof Stanley Waudo

5th Graduation, 5 points

Chief guest Hon. James Musoni wows graduands with glowing, befitting accolades for MKU

1. MKU continues to make cornerstone steps in the spirit of East African Community integration.

2. The university plays a broader, fundamental role in the attraction and generation of talent.

3. MKU was the first private university to initiate Masters of Business Administration (MBA) programme in Rwanda.

4. MKU supports several initiatives in Rwanda, among them; support for orphaned children as a result of genocide, and offering scholarships to deserving students.

5. From the collaborations with the University of Cincinnati and Xavier University, (both in the USA) the Republic of Rwanda will benefit through MKU Campus in Kigali.
Meet the 2013 Awardees

AWARD: Honorary Doctorate
NAME: Dr David Bett Langat
SUMMARY: He is one of East Africa’s most prominent entrepreneurs, running a multi-million dollar conglomerate known as DL Group of Companies. Born into a disadvantaged family, Bett literally raised himself through his bootstraps. His unwavering can-do attitude, philanthropy and service to community embody the virtues MKU seeks to cultivate in its students.

AWARD: Vice Chancellor’s
NAME: Abigail Ndinda (Thika Main Campus)
SUMMARY: She loves trees. So much so that she has vowed to reverse desertification in the and Makueni County from where she hails. Last year, she won $10,000 in the inaugural edition of the prestigious Wangari Maathai Scholarship Fund.

AWARD: Vice Chancellor’s
NAME: Joseph K. Maina (Nairobi Campus)
SUMMARY: He calls himself an “amateur photographer”. But his shots are as professional as they come infusing creativity, lighting and excellent composition. Amnesty International-Kenya thinks so too and last year, awarded him top prize in a national Poverty and Human Rights photography competition.

Rwanda students dance troupe shines at 5th Graduation

Once again, the dance troupe from MKU Kigali Campus did not disappoint. The unique dances, which celebrate Rwanda’s rich culture, have become a permanent entertainment feature in all high profile MKU events. Last year, they set the 5th Graduation ceremony alight with rhythmic dancing and drumming to Umushagiriro, Ikinyemera, Ikinimba and Intore. The troupe is made up of 20 students. Any student from the Campus can join the troupe.

Snapshots from last year’s graduation party

The Graduation party was held on 9th February, 2013 at Noblezar Hotel. Ninety seven MBA graduands received their certificates in the event graced by Mr Vincent Mugisha, Director, Policy Research and Planning, Higher Education Council, Rwanda. The event which was presided over by Chairman, MKU Board of Trustees Simon Gicharu also saw the official launch of the Kigali Campus Alumni Association. The best performing MBA graduands received certificates of merit and ipads.

Best female graduand Clemence Nkulikiyinka receives her award from Chairman, Mr Gicharu, and Campus Principal Prof Nyakora.
NEWS FEATURE

MKU ROYAL FM, broadcasting on the 107.9 FM has notched up a loyal following in Kigali, after only a few weeks in operation. Its unique programming, blending news, news features and music, continues to appeal to the young and young-at-heart in Rwanda. Its team of young, jovial, lively presenters is the talk of Kigali. The radio is owned and sponsored by Mount Kenya University-Kigali Campus. Besides keeping Kigali entertained and informed, writes WILSON MBUGUA (Pictured), head of Multi Media Department, MKU Royal FM also offers hands-on training to students from the University.

107.9 FM The Heartbeat of Kigali
Meet the faces behind the mic

Lunch time show

Bonifils Munezero
He has a Bachelors degree in Mass Communication. Previously worked as a news anchor at Isongo Star FM.

Drive show

Niwemusigi R. Wardah
She has a Bachelors degree in Mass Communication. Previously worked as a program presenter at Inshuti ya bose.

Morning show

Bonifils Munezero
He has a Bachelors degree in Mass Communication. Previously worked as a news anchor at Isongo Star FM.

Drive show

Niwemusigi R. Wardah
She has a Bachelors degree in Mass Communication. Previously worked as a program presenter at Inshuti ya bose.

Morning show

Neza Shemsa
She is a student at MKU, pursuing a Bachelors degree in Mass Communication and mass media.

Drive Show

Nkubiri Gerald
He has a Bachelors degree in Mass Communication. Previously worked as a radio presenter at Radio Flash and Contact FM.

Morning show

Rurangwa Gaston A.K.A. Skizzy
Previously worked at Radio Flash FM as a Journalist and presenter. He is also an actor.
### Programming Schedule

#### WEEKDAYS

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</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
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#### WEEKENDS

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<td>English news</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Music</td>
<td>Music</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Music</td>
<td>Music</td>
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<td>English news</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Friday fire</td>
<td>Music</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Late Evening Show</td>
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### Station manager has rich experience

Willie Michael Mwangi, the Royal FM Station Manager has over 30 years experience in the media. He started his career in 1983 with Voice of Kenya (now Kenya Broadcasting Corporation), as a news editor and translator. He has two prestigious awards under his belt - Best Broadcaster of the Year, which he won in 1985, and the Kiswahili Television News- Anchor First Class, two years later.

In the course of his career, Mr Mwangi has also visited several countries, on assignment. These include Zimbabwe for the commonwealth heads of state and Government meeting in 1991, Croatia for the Sector South Peace-keeping mission in 1993, 1994 and 1995, and in Iran, when he accompanied former Kenyan President H.E Daniel Toroitich Arap Moi on a state visit.

Some of his career highlights include:

- **June 1999 - May 2001:** Citizen Radio and TV as a translator, newsreader and presenter
- **June 2001 - Oct., 2001:** Kameme FM as a program presenter
- **2001 - February 2002:** Iqra FM as a newsreader cum trainer
- **Feb 2002 - May 2004:** Citizen Radio and TV as a translator/newsreader
- **May 2004 - July 2006:** Classic 105FM as a translator, newsreader
- **Aug 2006 - March 2008:** Ministry of information and Communication as a consultant on visual and audio productions
- **April 2008:** Milele FM as head of translation and current affairs
When MKU Kigali Campus and the Institute of Capacity Building hosted 20 Members of Parliament from Kenya last October, it was a four-day marathon run that blended business with pleasure. There were 101 activities in the itinerary.

A bouquet from Kigali Campus students was a befitting welcome for Yusuf Chanzu, MP for Vihiga, and his 20 contemporaries.

BOT representative Sam Ng’ang’a (in suit, standing) flanked by Kenyan MPs and a teacher from Gahini Primary School learn some laptop tips at the school.

A bouquet from Kigali Campus students was a befitting welcome for Yusuf Chanzu, MP for Vihiga, and his 20 contemporaries.

The convoy hit the winding roads of Nyagatare on an 80-kilometre round journey to Gahini Primary, one of the school beneficiaries of the One Laptop Per Child.

Botte}

Rwanda has one of the best investment climates in the world. MKU Kigali Campus backs this up with top-notch business courses; the MPs visited an investor in the soya bean industry.

Quick facts about Rwanda & the OLPC

- **210,000 laptops** have been issued in the last **3 years**
- The project has cost **$50 million** and it’s hoped will be replicated throughout the country.
- The OLPC project has helped improved the literacy and completion rates by up to **75%**.
- Rwanda has a population of **11.2 million** (UN, 2012).
- The major languages are Kinyarwanda, English, French and Swahili.
- The country’s major exports are coffee, tea, hides and tin ore.

**Colour codes………**

- **Day 1**
- **Day 2**
- **Day 3**
- **Day 4**

Rwanda Minister for Education Dr Vincent Biruta flanked by Vice Chair of the Kenyan Parliamentary Committee on Education Julius Melly. The MPs paid a courtesy call on the minister in his office.
MKU-KIGALI CAMPUS Newsletter • 2014

DAY 3
Peace lessons

A visit to the genocide museum in Kigali brought the MPs into terms with the cruel realities of ethnic hatred. The 1994 genocide against Tutsis in Rwanda cost over 800,000 lives.

02:00 GMT
Nature’s gold

The MPs, accompanied by MKU Board of Trustees Chairman Simon Gicharu attended a session at the Rwandan Parliament.

03:00 GMT
Future plans

MKU Chairman Simon Gicharu (right) shares the Kigali Campus expansion blue print with Ken Okoth, MP, Kibra Constituency.

MKU Kigali Campus

Quick facts about MKU Kigali Campus

- Was established in 2010 in response to Rwanda’s bulging demand for quality human resource capital.
- Operates at 3 locations, MKU Plaza in town, the Science Centre in Kicukiro and Camp Kigali.
- Is one of the University’s 14 Campuses and adheres to strict quality standards as outlined in the Universities Charter and ISO 9001: 2008 certification.
- Is about to break ground in construction of a multi-million dollar educational complex in Kagarama.
- Promises to continue working arm-in-arm with the Rwandan people and government to ensure the country realises Vision 2020.

10:00 GMT
Museum tour

Committee chairperson Sabina Chege plants a commemorative tree at Kagarama, where MKU Kigali Campus intends to construct a new ultra-modern educational wing.

MKU-KIGALI CAMPUS with its international programmes is commendable.
Hon. Julius Melly, Vice Chairperson of the Committee.

There are many lessons East Africa can learn from MKU Kigali Campus, especially on the educational front.
Hon. David Ngugi, MP, Gatundu South.

1:00 GMT
Parliament tour

MKU Chairman Simon Gicharu (right) shares the Kigali Campus expansion blue print with Ken Okoth, MP, Kibra Constituency.

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Promises to continue working arm-in-arm with the Rwandan people and government to ensure the country realises Vision 2020.

What the MPs said

“Rwanda and the transformation it has gone through in an incredibly short time is simply amazing. We hope MKU Kigali Campus will continue making the indispensable role it is playing.”
Hon. Sabina Chege, Chairperson of Kenya’s Parliamentary Committee on education, science and technology. She was the head of the delegation.

The MPs depart Kigali Airport upon completion of the tour.

“MKU Kigali Campus with its international programmes is commendable.”
Hon. Julius Melly, Vice Chairperson of the Committee.

“There are many lessons East Africa can learn from MKU Kigali Campus, especially on the educational front.”
Hon. David Ngugi, MP, Gatundu South.

03:00 GMT
Kicukiro Science Centre

Coordinator, School of Nursing, Kigali Campus Dr Connie Mureithi checks the blood pressure of Julius Melly, vice chair of the Education Committee at MKU Kigali Campus Science Centre at Kicukiro.

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Chartered and ISO 9001: 2008 Certified
KINDLES light up learning in Kigali

Aline Imanishimwe, a librarian at Town Centre Campus shows the dichotomy between the old and the new

Learning and research at the MKU Kigali Campus has been aided with the acquisition of Kindles. University librarian Victoria Munyao says the Kindles combine low-key technology and a monochrome screen to enable prolonged display of books and online articles. "We encourage all our students to make maximum use of these Kindles," says Ms. Munyao. "We are working hard to increase their number so as more students can access more books electronically."

"Reading widely opens up your mind, try it"

Working at the well-stocked MKU Kigali Campus library is turning out to be one of the best things that has happened in Imanishimwe Aline's career. "I'm constantly reading since I have access to a wide variety of books," says the jovial 25-year-old who studied Librarianship at the Kicukiro wing of MKU. "I read two books a week." She has a bias for electronic journals notably Emerald, Hinari and Agora. She also reads pop fiction and relishes a well-crafted whodunit. Aline is the only other librarian at the town centre. Kicukiro centre and Camp Kigali also have two librarians each. Her intention is to enrol for a degree course in records management, in order to further her career.

MKU hosts Genocide Prevention Lecture

Mount Kenya University hosted the genocide prevention public lecture held at kicukiro center on Friday 6th December, 2013. The event was organized by the National Commission for the Fight against Genocide (CNLG) in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and the National Human Rights Commission. It was held in all Universities and institutions of higher learning. Participants were educated on the various measures put in place by the government of Rwanda to avoid discrimination as a way of preventing a repeat of the genocide. They were also encouraged to stand up for human rights, the rule of law and dignity for all. Kigali Campus students were asked to work hard for a better future.

Polite Notice:
Dr. Abdallah Baguma, a representative from the National Commission for the Fight against Genocide gives a talk during the public lecture. (See another photo Page 27)

Samsung hosts Boot IT training at MKU Camp Kigali

It was three days of intense training at MKU Camp Kigali "Samsung Boot Camp 2013". Students of BBICT and BSICT were exposed to a wide range of technologies and applications offered by Samsung, the global electronics giant. The boot camp also explored opportunities for future partnerships between MKU students and Samsung.
Young Entrepreneur’s National Debate Championship 2013

A debate competition was organised by Rwanda Inspiration Back up Ltd was held at Kigali Institute of Science and Technology on Saturday 14th September, 2013. The theme was “Entrepreneurship is the only way to develop the Health sector”.

The event attracted several universities in Rwanda, both Government and privately-owned. Mount Kenya University on a proposing side topped all private Universities in the Fourth position and qualified for the second round.

Umutoni Gael a student of Tours and Travel Management stresses a point during the debate.

License to serve

A workshop to orient staff on professional aspects of customer care/ front office was held at Town Campus last July. Staff gained knowledge on the key aspects of customer service including confidence, handling enquiries, complaints, and communication.

Rutagengwa Sandra, a receptionist and Pendo Opiyo, who is in charge of customer care pose for a photograph during the workshop. The attendants wore special customer care gear to signify successful completion of the workshop.

Members of staff of Tigo Rwanda, show off their certificates at a function to congratulate them after completing an eight-month Executive training at Kigali Campus Institute of Capacity Building on 18th July 2013 at Serena Hotel. During the function, the Principal, Prof Musa Nyakora urged the private sector and institutions to collaborate to ensure Rwanda’s human resource acquires the necessary skills to drive the country towards achieving Vision 2020. Prof Nyakora added that institutional networking for corporate human resource was key to ensure colleges and universities produce skilled labour force. A total of 18 students were awarded certificates of completion. Mr Diego Camberos, the CEO of Tigo, noted the country needed to move towards becoming a knowledge-based economy rather than a labour intensive one.

Tigo taps talent at MKU

Tigo, one of the largest mobile telephony service providers in the region conducted a Management Trainee Program last year. The purpose of the program was to equip young Masters graduates from Mount Kenya University-Kigali Campus with the required skills to become future leaders in business or the country. It also sought to support them in their career development. Participants were called upon to send their Curriculum Vitae to trainee@tigo.co.rw or hand deliver them at Tigo offices in Muhima.

✴✴✴
**BST students tour Akagera**

Students pursuing Bachelor of Science in Tourism and Travel Management visited Akagera National Park last October. They saw different animals and birds species. They were also taught rules governing the Park and tent pitching, amongst others. The students were led by Lear Mariga, coordinator of the program. Tourism is one of Rwanda’s biggest foreign exchange earners.

**Institute of Capacity Building launched in Rwanda**

Institute of Capacity Building-Kigali Campus set off on a high note last year by organising two high profile events: The visit by Members of Parliament from Kenya, and the Executive training for members of staff from Tigo, one of East Africa’s largest mobile telephony service providers. Sponsored by Mount Kenya University, ICB offers short courses both in the campuses and outside, using problem-based learning methods to provide the needed skills. ICB-Rwanda is headed by Jack Hodari. He has over eight years experience as a trainer of trainers. He holds a Masters degree in Commerce from Annamalai University in India and a Bachelors Degree from Goldenstate University in Wyoming-USA.

**Girls Leaders Forum**

On 4th November, 2013, a Girls’ Leaders Forum was launched at Mount Kenya University – Kicukiro Campus. It is aimed at steering leadership spirit among girls in Rwanda. Ruburika Antoine the Director in charge of good governance promotion from Rwanda Governance Board underscored the magnitude of promoting such an opportunity to bring together female university students so to raise effective leadership skills. Newly elected leader of the forum were sworn in during the event.

**Facts about Akagera National Park**
- Founded in 1934
- Located in the Eastern part of Rwanda, along the Tanzanian border.
- Covers 1,200 km-square.
- Named after the Kagera river that flows along its Eastern boundary.
- It consists of three eco-regions: Savannah, mountain and swamp.

**SOURCE: Wikipedia**

Campus Principal Prof Musa Nyakora with participants of the Girls’ Leaders Forum cut a cake to celebrate the swearing in exercise.

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Lear Mariga inspects the comfort of the students inside a pitched tent. Campers at Akagera have the option to camp alongside the picturesque lakes, or atop Muyumbu ridge overlooking Tanzania in a distance.

The park has giraffes, chimpanzees, and snakes amongst other species of wildlife.

The students admire a snake in a jar during the tour. Akagera is described as “a diverse landscape of tangled acacia woodland interspersed with open grassland.”
**DIPLOMACY TIPS:** First Secretary at the Kenya High Commission Julius Mutava flanked by MKU students and staff during a visit to the embassy. The students, who are pursuing international diplomacy courses, gained practical skills on various aspects of diplomacy. The students routinely visit embassies, Rwanda Parliament and interact with the Presidential Press to gain more exposure.

Kigali Campus staff and students took part in 9th annual Kwita Izina Ceremony last June. Hosted by Rwanda Development Board, the ceremony is held to mark the naming on baby Mountain Gorillas. It attracts visitors from all over the world.

**INGANDO CEREMONY**

The word Ingando comes, from the verb ‘kugandika’, which means going to stay in a place far from one’s home, often with a group, for a specific reason. Ingando is a compulsory ceremony for students. It runs for three weeks after the national exams, to gauge their mastery of the content learnt. The youngsters study a variety of issues including meditation, and sharing of ideas on how to solve problems affecting their communities or the nation.

**BOT MEETS BURUNDI MINISTER**

Isaac Muturi of Marketing Department at the Ingando ceremony hosted at EFOTEC Kanombe Secondary School, Kigali. Over 1,000 students who finished their Senior Six 2013 national exams received career guidance from MKU staff.

**Varsity signs MoU with PAJER-RWANDA**

Kigali Campus has signed an MoU with PAJER-RWANDA, the country’s youth parliament. The MoU, which commenced on 18th July, 2013 will be valid for three years. It paved the way for establishment of a joint consultancy team, and joint development of professional programmes. Others are shared research activities, and short term visits and of organisation workshops and seminars.

BOT representative Sam Ng’ang’a (extreme right) shows the Burundi Minister of Higher Education & Scientific Research Hon. Dr. Julien Nimubona the variety of courses offered at the Campus, as other government officials look on.

Campus Principal Prof Musa Nyakora (left) exchanges the signed documents with Mr Patrick Karangwa Director of PAJER-RWANDA.
The journey from MKU Kigali Campus to MKU Thika Main Campus transverses two boarder crossings. It is over 1,226 kilometres of treacherous tarmac and traffic, through undulating hills, sprawling grasslands, and dense forests. By bus, it is a 26-hour marathon fraught with risks, nay, adventure that is fodder for any discerning travel writer. In September last year, 24 students took the journey for a Kabarak rendezvous to celebrate the birthday of Kenya’s second President, His Excellency Daniel T. Arap Moi. GLORIA IRAKOZE, the face of the MKU Kigali Campus traditional dance troupe, and CLAUDETTE KAYIBANZA, a student in Social Sciences who also moonlights at the reception desk of MKU Plaza, relive the experience.

TRAVELLING BAG: What’s inside?

1. iPod loaded with hundreds of tracks
   “RnB to soothe nerves”

2. Sunglasses
   “To look cool...and hide tired eyes”

3. Water
   “Hydration is important on long journeys”

4. Chewing gum
   “To keep conversations fresh”

5. Apples
   “An apple a day.........”

6. Warm clothing
   “They said Nairobi would very cold”

7. Books for leisure reading
   “Ben Carson is one of my favourite authors”

8. Biscuits
   Crunchy and munchy

Driver Emmanuel Dusengimana prepares for the long journey ahead.
"A beautiful town with historical tales to tell, but smelly toilets at a stop over spoilt our appetites. Matooke and crane was off-menu."

“About 900 kilometres into our journey, we took a detour and got lost on the way to Kitale. We were tired, nerves turning raw, the commute quotidian. Our arrival at Kitale Campus had an almost gratifying effect as the Israelites upon the Promised Land.”

“Imagine Akagera National Park in the middle of Kigali! That’s Nairobi National Park, Safari Walk, and Animal Orphanage for you. We had to see it to believe! News that Nairobi would be very cold turned out false. It was stiflingly hot.”
Meet the face of Kigali Campus dance troupe

Multi-talented Social Work and Administration student Gloria Irakoze wears many hats. When she is not gyrating to the traditional beats of Kinyemera, Umushagiriro and Intwatwa, she is rubbing shoulders with the who is who in the country, as the Gender Representative in the National Youth Council of Rwanda. She shares more.

Tell us a little about yourself
I’m a Semester Seven (or final year) student in Social Work and Administration. I’m also the External Affairs Minister- Mount Kenya University Students Association (MKUSA)-Kigali Campus. In addition, I’m the Public Relations Officer of Girls Leaders Forum, a network of lady students in institutions of higher learning in Rwanda. I’m also the Gender Representative in the National Youth Council of Rwanda. Matters family, I’m the first born among six.

When did you start dancing?
I picked the art from my grandmother, Annonciata Batamuliza. She was nicknamed “Kamaliza” because of the allure of her songs. My focus is on Rwanda traditional dances which celebrate our culture, and also help keep it alive.

Tell us more
Besides the University dance group, I also have my own, Impinyuza Cultural Troupe. “Impinyuza” means “culture” in Kinyarwanda. We are 48 members who include singers, dancers and drummers. I’m also a member of the Rwanda National Dance Troupe, Urukerereza.

In which notable ceremonies have you performed?
I have danced for two Presidents; Rwandan President His Excellency. Paul Kagame during the RPF Anniversary on December 20, 2012 and for Kenya’s retired H.E. Daniel Arap Moi during his birthday on September 22, 2012.

What are the titles of some of these dances and what’s the message?
We have Kinyemera, Umushagiriro and Intwatwa. These dances celebrate Rwanda’s beautiful landscape, you know... the rolling hills, beautiful girls and magnificent food.

Is it commercially rewarding?
Yes, certainly. I actually use the money I earn from Impinyuza and Urukerereza to pay my school fees. As a troupe, we earn about 600,000RWF per show.

Future plans?
I will continue dancing till the sun sets. I plan to introduce a Girls Leaders Forum chapter in MKU Kigali Campus. We have already rolled out the programme in three universities in Rwanda and as the association’s PRO, I will ensure MKU is next.
Imagine starting a children’s home and you have zero sponsors and zero money. Ruzindana Egide, a Social Work and Administration student at MKU Kigali Campus had nothing but sheer faith when he started Love for Hope Children Home in Gihogere village, Remera in 2008. Five years later, he is positively transforming the lives of more than 20 ex-street children, training them in various forms of art - painting, singing, acrobatics - to enable them map a promising future for themselves. “Most of these children are either orphans or come from families with single parent,” says the soft-spoken Ruzindana, 34, the second born in a family of eight. “I choose to focus on teenagers since they are at the most uncertain stage of their lives.” He chose to study this particular degree course because he has an innate love for working with children and marginalised communities. “We also have a soccer programme, music, drama and English classes.” Love for Hope Children Home is accommodated in a five-bedroom rental house, whose 250,000RFW monthly rental is too steep for student Ruzindana. “But I get a lot of assistance from well wishers, my church, friends and MKU Kigali Campus through its Corporate Social Responsibility.” The children, who are aged between 13 and 18 years also attend school. From the artistic skills learnt, the teenagers are able to get contractual entertainment jobs and earn a living. Valens Nshimiriyimana, 17, sells his paintings for up to US$300 a piece. “I started by doing small cards,” he says. “Then I worked on improving my talent to what you can see now.”

Ruzindana Egide, a Social Work and Administration student loves children. So much so that he started a children’s home, Love for Hope, to give the desolate a promising path to the future.
Inspired by personal tragedy

In 2012, Social Work and Administration student Teta Kananga lost a close friend to brain cancer. Chris had always encouraged her to pursue her singing dream relentlessly. She plucked the courage to participate in a music talent search competition dubbed Dundastar Talent Search winning the pole position.

Tell us about yourself
I’m a 22-year-old student at MKU Kigali Campus, passionate about singing and the arts in general. Though I’m Rwandese, I consider myself to be a citizen of the world. I was born and raised in California, United States and have lived in Canada.

Your singing background
I started as a back up singer with my uncle’s band in Canada. I also used to sing in church, and for my friends, just for fun. and as backup for my uncle’s band. I used to play the clarinet while in primary school. With time, I gained confidence and my stage fright has decreased gradually with each performance.

What’s your genre?
I’ve a soft spot for R&B, Gospel, Soul and Afro-beat. My favourite singer is the late Aaliyah.

The singing accolade
Yes, it was the Dundastar Talent Search held in Kigali in November 2012. I did a rendition of Adele’s “Somebody Like You”. It was my first time auditioning for a singing competition. My friend, Chris, who passed away from brain cancer had always inspired me to follow my dreams and work hard on my music. He believed in me, so his passing inspired me to participate in the singing competition. I won a new Blackberry, 300,000 RFW and a recording contract. This was truly a blessing and I have improved and gained so much experience from it.

There was the regional Tusker Project Fame....
I would rather not talk about it (she laughs). I just made it to the second round of the auditions.

Message to your friends who may have talent in some area?
Follow your dreams and never give up because God gave us talents to use, so work hard. In the end, it will be worth it.
Training the best MBA students

Dr Olukemi is an accomplished academic of international repute. Her position at MKU Kigali Campus reflects the emphasis the University places in recruiting the best teaching staff to offer high quality education. Born in Nigeria, educated in Spain and with a working experience that spans three countries, Dr Olukemi is perfectly suited to her position. In June last year, her department hosted the International Executive Master of Business Administration Conference in Kigali. It attracted participants from all over the world. Some of the companies which participated were Access Bank, Innotech, RwandaAir and Vision of Hope. It was themed “The Executives and Their Career Progression in the 21st Century: Challenges and Prospects.” During this conference, Dr Olukemi said, “the IEMBA programme is designed for executives who had risen through the ranks in their careers without additional academic qualifications or executives who run their private enterprises.” The lectures are offered in IEMBA Hall, situated in Kicukiro Campus. The department started in October 2011 with only 25 students. “There is a paucity of human resource skills in line with what the Government of Rwanda envisions in its development blueprint, Vision 2020,” she says. Dr Olukemi says she would however like to see an improvement in the venue of the Masters classes, to match the high profile of the students. “The Masters students hold high profile jobs and most of them actually drive. Sometimes, the parking lot is inadequate.” Board of Trustees Chairman Simon Gicharu assured the students that he would address this issue. He reiterated his commitment to increase the teaching staff so as to continuously provide the best.

From the horse’s mouth........

PATRICK KARANGWA, Chairman, International Executive MBA 2011-2012, shares his experience on this world-class program

Career advancement, flexibility and better prospects were the primary motivators for our team to register and take up the program in full spirit.

A cross-cultural environment, like the one at MKU is the best ground in which to develop international thinking.

MKU and IEMBA in particular is mosaic of cultures, where diversity in terms of nationality, gender, and most importantly, different outlooks on the world, is the ideal environment for training international professionals and entrepreneurs.

As IEMBA students we have become part of the architects of the global society and our beloved nations by putting emphasis on entrepreneurial thinking, discovery of new business opportunities, and reinventing the world’s institutions.

We have been equipped with relevant micro and macroeconomic data analysis skills from a regional perspective.

Our organizations have grown, businesses prospered and we have given our best to the community by advising those who have worked hard but failed to realize their dreams.
Kigali Campus takes its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) seriously. This is in line with Mount Kenya University’s core missions, which are teaching, research and reaching out to communities in which it operates. The Kigali Campus staff and students undertook several CSR activities last year. The pictures below highlight some of these events. They include:

1. **Electricity installation at 25 houses belonging to genocide survivors in Nyagasambu.**
2. **Donation of clothes, bedsheets and food stuffs to Children homes.**
3. **Donation of clothes and blankets to refugees at Kirehe Refugee Camp, Nyamugari sector, Eastern province.**
4. **Contribution of two million Rwandan Francs to genocide survivors through FAGER.**
5. **Participated in Umuganda, a community cleaning exercise at Kimirinko on Saturday 28th September, 2013.**
6. **Tree planting exercises.**
7. **Sponsoring Kenyan MPs trip to Kigali to learn from the Rwanda experience on laptops for schools**
8. **Sponsoring the marathon in support of genocide survivors.**

Kigali Campus students and staff extended a hand to Love for Hope Association Rwanda by providing bed sheets, sugar, cooking oil and other items to the children. It was part of Umuganda, a mandatory community service day from 8:00am to 11:00am, on the last Saturday of each month. Umuganda means community cleaning service. The day is intended to build community involvement and strengthen cohesion between people of different backgrounds.
Campus staff and students pose for a photo with CNLG Representative Dr. Abdallah Baguma (second right) after a public lecture on genocide prevention, at the Campus.

Residents of Kigali town get free medical check-up during the Jamfest Cultural Festival. Kigali Campus sponsored the event.

Campus Principal Prof Musa Nyakora (middle) hands over a cheque of 2,000,000 RFW to Komuzusenge Daniel, President, FAGER. The University donated the money to assist genocide survivors in the Southern Province to construct houses.

Prof Musa Nyakora, Principal, Kigali Campus (second right), Martin Masaba Principal, Lycee de Kigali Secondary School and students from the school admire a success card from Mount Kenya University wishing the candidates success in their 2013 final examinations. As part of its CSR, the Campus undertakes career counselling to Senior 6 secondary school students in Kigali and its environs.

MKU staff, students and members of the public at the starting line of the 2013 edition of MKU Marathon, at Amahoro stadium. The event was meant to raise funds for genocide survivors.

Campus staff and students during a visit at Kirehe Refugee Camp last year. The University donated clothing and blankets to the hundreds of refugees living at the camp.

Residents of Kigali town get free medical check-up during the Jamfest Cultural Festival. Kigali Campus sponsored the event.

Campus staff and students during a visit at Kirehe Refugee Camp last year. The University donated clothing and blankets to the hundreds of refugees living at the camp.

Run, raise money

MKU staff, students and members of the public at the starting line of the 2013 edition of MKU Marathon, at Amahoro stadium. The event was meant to raise funds for genocide survivors.