



# MKSU CONNECT



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## Huawei ICT Competition Roadshow at Machakos University

Machakos University, in collaboration with Huawei Kenya, hosted the Huawei ICT Competition Roadshow on Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> September 2025, at the Luban Workshop. The event attracted students, lecturers, and ICT enthusiasts from Machakos University for an interactive session designed to recruit participants for the 2025–2026 edition of the global competition.

The roadshow offered participants valuable insights into the competition's structure, benefits, and opportunities. Students were encouraged to register and showcase their ICT skills, with the chance to win prizes, gain international exposure, and secure an internship or career opportunities with Huawei and other leading technology companies.

Speaking during the session, Huawei facilitators emphasized the company's commitment to nurturing ICT talent in Kenya and across Africa, equipping young innovators with the knowledge and practical skills necessary to thrive in the fast-evolving digital economy.

Machakos University expressed pride in being part of this nationwide initiative and reaffirmed its dedication to empowering students to compete and excel at both regional and international levels.

Students are encouraged to register for the competition through the following link:  
🔗 [https://e.huawei.com/en/talent/#/ict-academy/ict-competition/regional-competitionzoneCode=025899&zoneId=98269656&compId=85132004&divisionName=Southern%20Africa&type=C001&isCollectGender=N&enrollmentDeadline=undefined&compTotalApplicantCount=4402https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1NibSvlqsJ0bTjow\\_yWuyjnHENUfAdP21](https://e.huawei.com/en/talent/#/ict-academy/ict-competition/regional-competitionzoneCode=025899&zoneId=98269656&compId=85132004&divisionName=Southern%20Africa&type=C001&isCollectGender=N&enrollmentDeadline=undefined&compTotalApplicantCount=4402https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1NibSvlqsJ0bTjow_yWuyjnHENUfAdP21)



From Left Mr. William Orondo, Mr. Joseph Katumo Mr. Peter Mutevu and Mr. Stephen Kibet touring the Hotel facilities

## Egerton University Benchmarks at Machakos University on E-Procurement and Technical Management

Machakos University hosted a delegation from Egerton University on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September, 2025, for a benchmarking session on Technical Management and E-Procurement Services. The meeting, held at the staff lounge, reinforced MkSU's reputation as a frontrunner in modern procurement systems and institutional resource management.

A delegation from Egerton University, led by Mr. Peter Mutevu, Head of Procurement, and Mr. Stephen Kibet, Head of Management Hotel, paid a visit to Machakos University.

They were warmly received by their counterparts Ms. Alice Njeri, Head of Procurement Mr. Joseph Katumo, Administrator – APF, and Mr. William Orondo, Hotel Manager. The teams, exchanged insights on technology-driven efficiency, transparency, and cost-effectiveness.

Key outcomes included a planned follow-up technical visit, formation of a joint committee on implementation strategies, and development of a benchmarking report to support Egerton University's modernization efforts. Both universities affirmed their commitment to collaboration and knowledge sharing for institutional growth.



Mr. Frankline Mutisia taking the team through registration



*Dr. Patricia Muendo, PhD Dean – School of Pure & Applied Sciences*

### **Spotlight on the School of Pure and Applied Sciences (SPAS) Advancing Quality Education, Research, and Innovation**

The School of Pure and Applied Sciences (SPAS) at Machakos University is committed to making a lasting impact by offering high-quality academic programs tailored to meet market and societal needs. Through a strong emphasis on research, innovation, and enhancing student experience, the school continues to nurture competent graduates ready to contribute meaningfully to national and global development.

SPAS is comprised of three departments:

- Department of Physical Sciences
- Department of Biological Sciences
- Department of Mathematics and Statistics

These departments work collaboratively to fulfill the school's mission of academic excellence, innovation, and service to the community.

In addition, the school hosts the STEM centre, which is the 3<sup>rd</sup> STEM centre in Kenya established in partnership with STEMpower. The advanced facility boasts a Computer Lab, an Electronics Lab, a 3D printer, robotics equipment, and a soil testing kit. The primary objective is to provide students with a comprehensive curriculum that prepares them for higher education, research, and STEM-engineering focused careers.

### **Three members of Staff in the School of Pure and Applied Sciences Win Machakos University Internal grant.**

The School of Pure and Applied Sciences (SPAS) is proud to celebrate the success of its faculty members who secured internal research grants under the 8th Machakos University Call for Internal Research Grants (2024/2025 cycle). These awards highlight the school's commitment to advancing impactful, locally relevant, and interdisciplinary research.

From the Department of Physical Sciences, Dr. Okello and Dr. Elizabeth Ndunda, together with Ms. Consolate Akoth from the Department of Public Health, received funding for their research aimed at addressing the persistent challenge of fluoride contamination in drinking water. Their project seeks to develop a Molecularly Imprinted Polymer (MIP)-based electrochemical sensor for efficient and accurate detection of fluoride levels. This innovation promises a practical solution to public health concerns associated with fluoride exposure, advancing both scientific knowledge and community well-being.

In addition, Dr. Patricia Muendo (Department of Biological Sciences), Dr. Elizabeth Ndunda (Department of Physical Sciences), and Dr. Elijah Muange (Department of Agricultural Sciences) were awarded a grant for their project titled "Hybrid Hydrogels for Sustainable Agriculture." The study will focus on creating an advanced hydrogel material capable of retaining moisture in dryland soils to support plant growth. With the potential to enhance water conservation and agricultural productivity in arid and semi-arid regions, this research aligns with global calls for sustainable agricultural practices. Machakos University congratulates these outstanding researchers for their dedication, innovation, and collaboration in tackling pressing challenges in public health and sustainable agriculture. Their achievements reflect the University's mission to foster cutting-edge research with real-world impact.



*Vice Chancellor Prof. Joyce Agalo center (in green) with Professor Yang Min and a high-level delegation from the Research Center for Eco-Environmental Sciences (RCEES) and Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS)*

**The Department of Biological Sciences, Machakos University, Explores International Collaboration on Sustainable Water Management with Research Center for Eco-Environmental Sciences (RCEES), Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS)**

Dr. Patricia Muendo and Dr. Tindih Heshborne from the Department of Biological Sciences, together with the Machakos University Management, held a collaborative meeting with Professor Yang Min, a renowned expert in water pollution management. The engagement explored avenues of mutual interest in sustainable development and academic collaboration.

The discussions centered on joint solutions for sustainable water management, control of cyanobacteria, and capacity building through the joint supervision of postgraduate students, as well as staff and student exchange programs.

As part of this partnership, the Department of Biological Sciences is set to send at least five students, including a PhD candidate, to the Research Center for Eco-Environmental Sciences in 2026. This initiative will not only provide valuable hands-on research experience but also foster international exposure for Machakos University students.

These collaborative efforts are designed to strengthen academic networks, boost research capacity, and enhance the global competitiveness of Machakos University through impactful international partnerships and experiential learning opportunities.

**Research and Training facilities**

The department through its researchers are involved in solving problems spanning Fish farming (aquaculture), Neglected tropical parasites (i.e Trypanosomes, Leishmaniasis), the use of bacteriophage in managing antimicrobial drug resistance, Cancer research, Corona viruses and development of viral based vaccines. Through these research initiatives, the department has managed to attract international funds which has allowed the department to acquire cutting edge laboratory machines and equipment's which includes: ELISA machine, Kjeldahl for protein digestion and quantitation and PCR machine. The Department is in the process of establishing a marine museum at the department of biological science laboratory. This has made the department to be able to train student and equip them with competent skills that are geared toward meeting the industrial need. It's no doubt that the Department is in the right path of producing the right skills for the market be it in the human medical fields, in the agricultural field and in the livestock industry.

Collaborative research and access to advanced training facilities are being achieved through the established working relationship with the Kenya Institute of primate Research (Karen-Kenya), Kenya Medical Research Institute, The Kenya Museum, Karura Forest, Kenyatta University Teaching Referral and Research Hospital (KUTRRH), Sterling University (UK), International Centre on Genetic engineering and Biotechnology (Italy), Chinese Academy of Science (CAS).

**Machakos University Hosts World Clean Up Day Machakos 2025 Celebration**

Machakos University was honored to host the World Clean Up Day 2025 celebrations on Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> September 2025, in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, the County Government of Machakos, and other partners.

The day began with a community clean-up exercise at Sokoni in Machakos Town, bringing together government officials, students, staff, and members of the public in a collective effort to promote environmental sustainability.

The celebrations later shifted to the Machakos University Amphitheatre, where activities included tree planting, exhibitions by the University's Department of Design, and interactive conversations focused on the theme: "Tackling Textile and Fashion Waste through Circular Fashion."

Representing the Vice Chancellor, Prof. James Muola welcomed guests to Machakos University, conveying appreciation to the County Government for selecting the University as the host venue. Prof. Muola indorsed the University's commitment to environmental sustainability through various community outreach initiatives, including clean-up activities and tree-planting programs.

Through the event, Machakos University once again demonstrated its role as a champion of sustainable development, engaging the community in practical solutions to environmental challenges while empowering students to take part in shaping a sustainable future.



*DVC ASA Prof. James Muola planting a tree to mark the World Clean Up Day.*



*From Right. DVC ASA Prof. James Muola, DVC APF, CPA Prof. Florence Memba, Prof. Charles Ombuki, Dr. Alice Nzioka, and the team from the School of Business, Economics, Hospitality and Tourism Management*

### **Official Launch of Machakos University Kikao Staff Canteen at Armani Restaurant**

The official launch of Kikao Staff Canteen at Armani Restaurant took place on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September, 2025 an initiative under the University’s Income Generating Unit (IGU) from the Department of Hospitality and Tourism Management. The new canteen aims to promote staff welfare while serving as a practical training hub for students enrolled in the hospitality and tourism management programmes.

The colorful event was graced by Senior Management led by Prof. James Muola, who represented Prof. Joyce Agalo, the Vice Chancellor of Machakos University, alongside members of staff, union representatives, and student leaders.

Dr. Alice Nzioka, the Chair of Department of Hospitality and Tourism Management, expressed gratitude to the University Management for their unwavering support, noting that strong leadership has enabled the department to innovate and actualize the project. She emphasized the department’s commitment to staff welfare by providing healthy, quality, and affordable meals, with delivery services to offices available at a small fee.

Dr. Nzioka further highlighted that the restaurant will serve 10 o’clock tea with a variety of snacks, a wide selection of lunch meals, and 4.00 o’clock tea and snacks. Beyond daily meals, the canteen will also provide cakes for birthdays, anniversaries, and weddings, as well as outside catering services. Importantly, the project doubles as a training ground where Hospitality Management students will gain hands-on experience by linking theory to practice. She thanked the department’s internal staff for their dedication and teamwork in bringing the project to fruition.

The Deputy Vice Chancellor Administration, Planning and Finance Prof. (CPA) Florence Memba encouraged staff to fully support the initiative and commended the department for their hard work and determination to see the project through. She also informed members that meals for University meetings will now be supplied directly from the canteen.

Representing the Vice Chancellor, Prof. James Muola, the acting Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic and Student Affairs, noted that the Vice Chancellor has consistently advocated for the establishment of a staff canteen, underscoring the importance of such facilities in promoting staff wellness and workplace morale.

The colorful ceremony featured a ribbon-cutting and cake-cutting sessions, officially marking the beginning of operations at the Kikao Staff Canteen. The canteen is expected to provide convenient, affordable, and professional catering services to the University community.

The name Kikao, which means “a meeting place”, reflects the canteen’s vision of being a warm, welcoming space where staff can meet, share meals, and strengthen professional and social bonds.

**KIKAO**

“  
a meeting place  
”



*DVC ASA Prof. James Muola, and DVC APF, CPA Prof. Florence Memba during the staff canteen launch*

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