



# MksU Connect

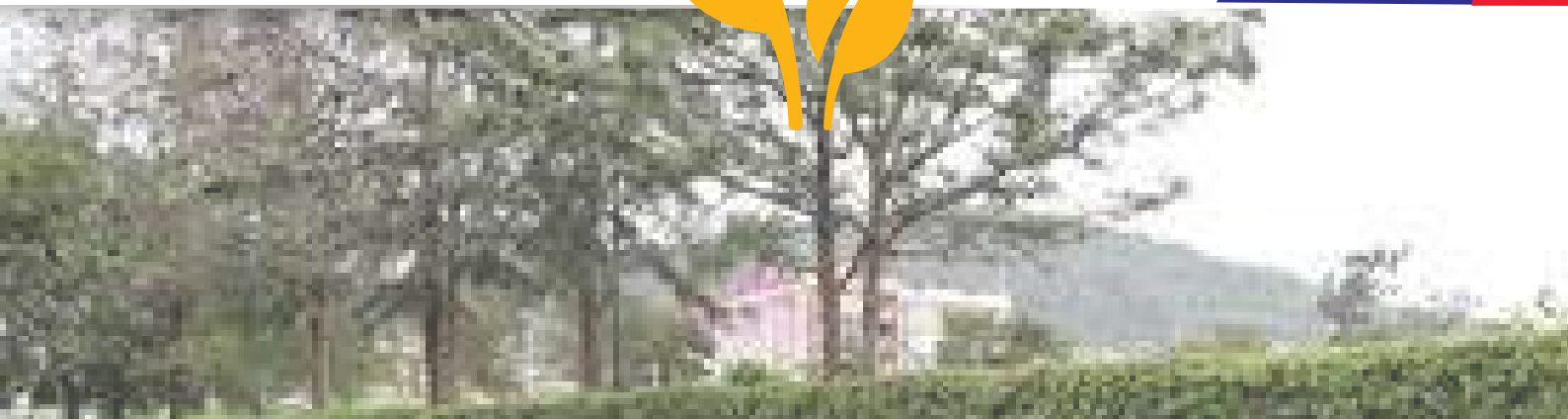
Newletter 2026



This  
weeks  
Highlights




Website  
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# Editorial

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# Machakos University Strengthens International Ties with Norwegian University Collaboration

Machakos University has taken a significant step towards global academic integration following a high-level engagement with Professor Razak Seidu, a distinguished scholar in Water and Environmental Engineering, during his visit to the University on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

Professor Razak was formally received by the Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs (DVC-ASA), Prof. James Muola, on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor. The meeting was attended by key university officials, including Prof. David Mulwa, Registrar, Research, Innovation and Linkages (RIL); Eng. Dr Charles Mwaniki, Dean of the School of Engineering and Technology; Dr. Michael Musembi, Coordinator, Collaborations and Linkages; and Ms. Caroline Athman, Chair of the Department, Building and Civil.



The discussions during the visit focused on establishing a strong academic exchange program between MksU and Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU). The proposed collaboration is envisioned as a comprehensive partnership that extends beyond existing initiatives such as the Water Essence project.

The initial phase of the partnership will focus on Bachelor's degree programmes, with the following core objectives:

- ✓ Student Exchange
- ✓ Research Collaboration
- ✓ Curriculum and Staff Development
- ✓ Flexible Staff Exchange

A key strategic motivation for MksU is the ongoing review and enhancement of its academic programs to align with the Washington Accord. This alignment is aimed at ensuring that MksU engineering graduates meet internationally recognized standards, thereby enhancing their global competitiveness and mobility

To operationalize the collaboration both institutions agreed to establish a Joint Working Group to guide the implementation and develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to formalize the partnership framework.

This visit marks a pivotal milestone for Machakos University as it continues to strengthen international linkages, upgrade its academic offerings, and provide students and staff with exposure to global best practices particularly in the critical and high-impact field of water and environmental engineering



The Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs Prof. James Muola, (m) representing the Vice-Chancellor, Pose for a group Photo with Professor Razak Seidu alongside (r) Prof. David Mulwa, Dr. Michael Musembi, Mr. Shadrack Muvea ,(l) Eng. Dr Charles Mwaniki and Ms. Caroline Athman

# Department of Health Sciences

The Department of Health Sciences stands as a hub of excellence in training, research, and community engagement, offering dynamic programs in Public Health and Nutrition and Dietetics, with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing set to be launched soon. The department is dedicated to producing skilled, compassionate, and innovative health professionals equipped to respond to evolving health needs.

Our department is staffed with a team of highly qualified and experienced professionals from diverse health backgrounds, ensuring quality instruction that blends theory with practice. To enhance hands-on training, the department has recently modernized and fully equipped its laboratories, creating a strong foundation for competency-based learning and professional skills development.



Students at the Machakos Showground



Our students proudly showcasing their creativity and skills at the Machakos Show.

Students during an academic visit to Mbagathi Hospital



Learning extends beyond the classroom through active participation in university-wide health initiatives and collaborative engagements with county health departments. These partnerships provide students with real-world exposure while contributing meaningfully to community health promotion and disease prevention.

With a strong commitment to academic excellence, practical training, and societal impact, the Department of Health Sciences continues to position itself as a leading center for health sciences education, preparing the next generation of health professionals to serve, lead, and transform healthcare systems.

# MksU Hosts High-Level Forum on Human Resource Reforms in Public Universities

The Inter-Public Universities Councils Consultative Forum (IPUCCF) of the Federation of Kenya Employers (FKE), in collaboration with the Public Service Commission (PSC), has convened a high-level consultative meeting to deliberate on the draft Generic Human Resource Management Instruments for Public Universities and Constituent University Colleges.

The two-day forum is being hosted at the Machakos University Hotel and Conference Centre under the leadership of the Machakos University Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Joyce Agalo. It has brought together key stakeholders in Kenya's higher education sector, including the Principal Secretary for the State Department for Higher Education, Dr. Beatrice Muganda Inyangala, several Commissioners, and Vice-Chancellors from public universities across the country.



3rd Left Dr. Beatrice Muganda Inyangala, Principal Secretary for the State Department for Higher Education, in a group photo with stakeholders.

This consultative forum is part of the State Department for Higher Education's broader reform agenda to strengthen governance, enhance staff mobility, and improve operational efficiency across public universities. The discussions focus on aligning human resource practices with national public service standards while addressing the unique needs of higher education institutions.

Speaking during the meeting on 29th January 2026, Dr. Inyangala emphasized that the proposed Generic Human Resource Instruments are the result of extensive stakeholder engagement. Their development involved public universities, the Public Service Commission, university councils, human resource professionals, and trade unions, ensuring that diverse perspectives were incorporated into the reform process.



Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Joyce Agalo, making her contribution during the meeting.

The proposed reforms seek to harmonize organizational structures across public universities, rationalize grading systems, align the academic retirement age with existing Collective Bargaining Agreements, and recognize institutional diversity while firmly safeguarding universities' autonomy. These measures are intended to promote fairness, consistency, and transparency in the management of human resources across the sector.

Ultimately, the reforms aim to build a functional, equitable, and future-ready higher education system. By streamlining human resource frameworks, the initiative seeks to free academic staff to focus more fully on their core mandates of teaching, research, and innovation—thereby strengthening the contribution of public universities to national development.



Participants come together for a memorable group photo.

## Machakos University Participates in the Inaugural KUCCPS 2026 National Career Conference and Exhibition

Machakos University successfully participated in the inaugural KUCCPS National Career Conference and Exhibition held at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre (KICC) from 27–29th January 2026, under the theme “*Informed Career Choices: A Skilled and Competitive Workforce.*” The event attracted a large turnout of students and parents and provided a vital platform for career guidance and informed decision-making.

The University was represented by a multidisciplinary team from the Admissions Office, Career Office, Directorate of TVET, and the Corporate Affairs and Public Relations Office, who professionally engaged students, addressed their queries, and guided them on courses, career pathways, and placement opportunities. On Day Three, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Joyce Agalo, visited the Machakos University exhibition stand and interacted with participants, reaffirming the conference’s focus on graduate employability.



Deputy Vice-Chancellor (ASA), Prof. James Muola at our stand



Participants during one of the sessions

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (ASA), Prof. James Muola, together with the Ag. Registrar (ASA), Mr. Patrick Okemba, attended the KUCCPS National Career Conference and Exhibition closing ceremony, where discussions centred on policy, planning, career pathways, and aligning education and training with labour market needs, after which they interacted with students at the MksU booth and responded to their queries.

Key highlights included a keynote address by the Chief Guest, Dr. Julius Ogamba, EBS, Cabinet Secretary for Education; remarks by Dr. Beatrice Inyangala, Principal Secretary, State Department for Higher Education; and a panel discussion led by Dr. Agnes Mercy Wahome, CEO, KUCCPS, on trends, milestones, and opportunities in tertiary education. The conference also addressed youth empowerment, career guidance, student financing, professional certification, and strengthening the link between education, industry standards, and employability.



# ShambaSmart: Turning African Farming into Precision Agriculture

ShambaSmart is an innovative smart farming platform transforming agriculture through real-time data, artificial intelligence, and inclusive digital technology. The project is designed to address African farming and climate conditions, which will empower both smallholder and large-scale farmers to make informed, data-driven decisions that enhance productivity and promote sustainability.

ShambaSmart will provide timely insights on irrigation, fertilization, and crop management by integrating Internet of Things (IoT) sensors, AI-powered analytics, and SMS-based alerts. Farmers will receive practical recommendations that assist optimise inputs, reduce waste, and respond quickly to changing environmental conditions.



**Brian Albert**

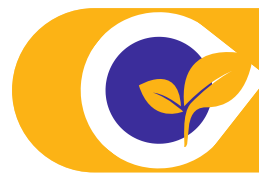
**School of Engineering and Technology  
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Mombasa, County  
Team leader**



A key strength of the ShambaSmart project is its accessibility. The platform is designed to function even without continuous internet connectivity, using SMS technology to ensure farmers in remote areas are able to use the platform.

This inclusive approach bridges the digital divide while supporting modern, technology-enabled farming.

The impact will be transformative: higher crop yields, lower production costs, efficient use of water and fertilizers, and greater resilience to climate variability. By replacing guesswork with precision, ShambaSmart will assist shape a smarter, more sustainable future for agriculture across Africa.



# Machakos University Week Spotlights Professional Innovation and Emerging Talent in Back-to-Back Exhibitions

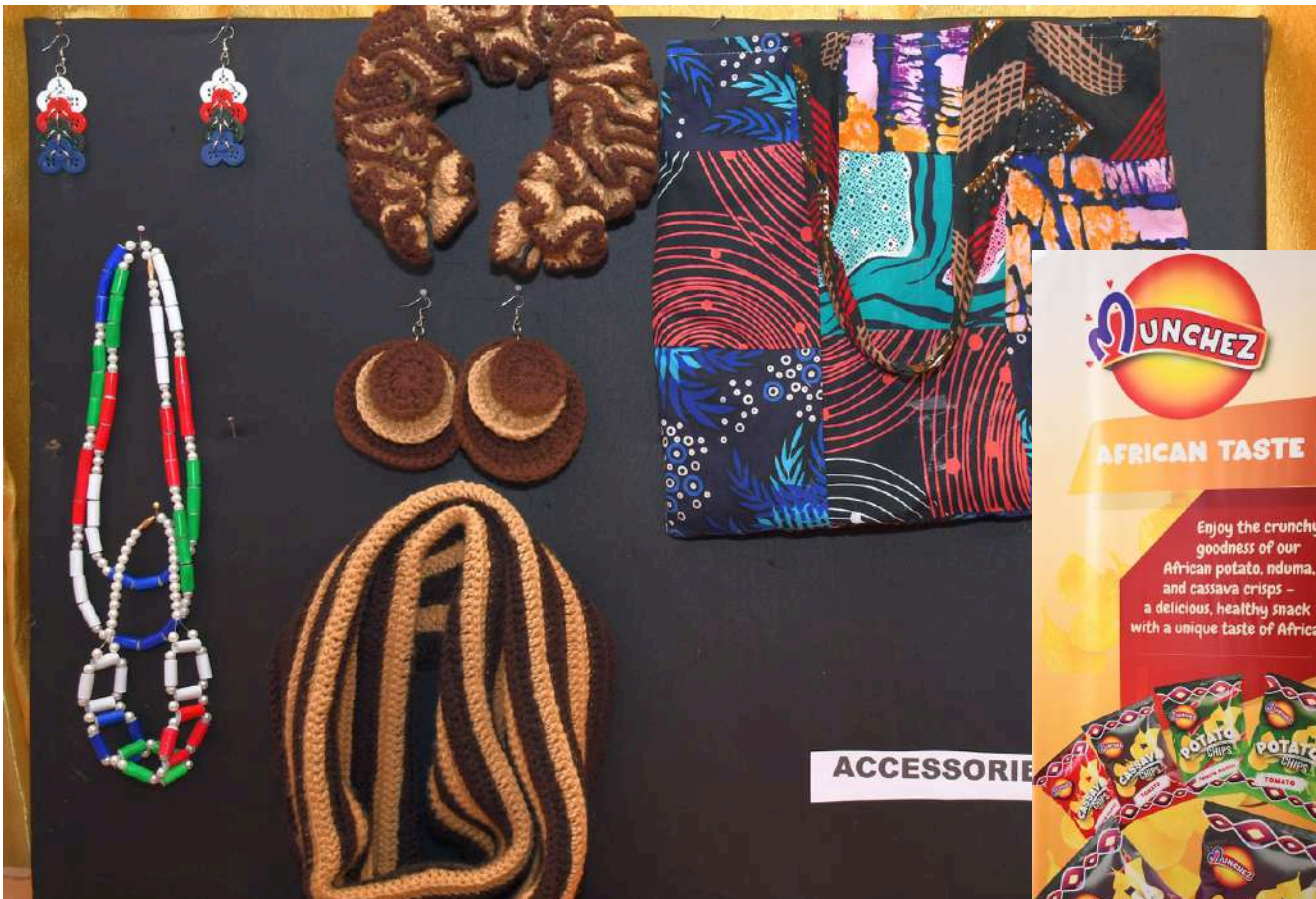
The heart of Machakos University was a buzz last week as two major exhibitions broke out into a celebration of creativity, from established mastery to the raw potential of tomorrow's innovators. The Master's Design showcase, held from January 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>, was swiftly followed by the Fourth Year Design Exhibition on 27<sup>th</sup>, 2026, creating a powerful narrative of the past, present and future of design.

Held at the room 10 venue, the Master's Design showcased served as a professional networking and trend forecasting. The consecutive schedule offered a unique opportunity for industry leaders and design enthusiasts to witness the full spectrum of creative thought, drawing clear connections between professional trends and academic explorations.

In a stark contrast yet perfect succession, the Fourth Year Exhibition on January 27<sup>th</sup> transformed the counseling workshop into a vibrant launchpad for emerging talent. Both exhibitions presented the culminating work of students; there was a sprawling display of ambition across disciplines, including fashion design, graphic design, and product design. The work on display represented research, experimentation and technical skill development, often tackling contemporary themes like cultural identity, ecological issues and social impact.

The success of this concentrated design week underscores Machakos University's role in the global design conversation. The direct pipeline from academic exhibition to professional exposition demonstrates a healthy ecosystem dedicated to nurturing and advancing design excellence.





# GALLERY



# University

## News & Updates

### Notice to Continuing Students

The Office of the Registrar (Academic & Student Affairs) wishes to inform all continuing students that the January–April 2026 semester will officially begin on Monday, 2nd February 2026. Lectures will commence immediately upon opening.

**All students are required to:**

Report in the system promptly

Pay the requisite fees

Register their units within the first five (5) weeks of the semester

Students who are unable to pay the required fees within this period are advised to apply for deferment within the first five weeks. Please note that deferment applications submitted after the fifth week will not be approved.

Students are encouraged to comply with these timelines to ensure a smooth academic semester.

Registrar – Academic & Student Affairs

## Comrades for Change: Student Leaders Drive Voter Registration at Machakos University

In a powerful display of civic duty and "Youth for Youth" empowerment, Machakos University student leaders have successfully bridged the gap between the classroom and the ballot box.

Starting Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> January 2026, the campus became a hub for democratic engagement as a dedicated student-led initiative brought the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) directly to the student body for voter registration in anticipation of the upcoming Student Association of Machakos University (SAMU) elections.



Students lining up for voter registration

Unlike traditional top-down directives, this mobilization was born entirely from the initiative of student leadership. Lead organizer Johnson noted that the process began with a formal request to the local IEBC office to deploy officials specifically for the university population.

*"This activity is not about politics; it is about civic duty,"* Johnson emphasized, highlighting the non-political nature of the drive.

The organizers utilized a high-traffic location near the main gate to capture the attention of students moving between classes. To make the experience even more welcoming, student leaders pooled resources to donate Kes. 3,000 daily. These funds provided a refreshing incentive: a crate of soda for those who completed their registration

While the IEBC deployed three clerks to manage the registration, student leaders suggested that increasing the staff by just two more officials would make the process even more seamless for the high volume of students.

By bringing the IEBC to the campus gate, Machakos University students are proving that when it comes to the future of the nation, the youth are not just waiting for an invitation they are leading the way.

# Sports Highlights & Updates



## MksU Records Impressive Victory in University-wide Rugby League

Machakos University (MksU) posted a commanding performance in the University-wide Rugby League after defeating Mukti Madha University 18–0 in a match played on Saturday, 24th January 2026.

The emphatic win showcased MksU's defensive solidity and attacking discipline, as the team kept a clean sheet while dominating play throughout the encounter. This victory marks a strong start for MksU in the league and reflects the growing strength of the University's rugby program. Congratulations to the players, technical bench, and supporters for the well-deserved win. 🏉👏



## MksU Records Back-to-Back Victories in Football and Handball Competitions

Machakos University (MksU) showcased determination and skill as both its staff and students' football teams secured impressive victories over their respective opponents in a tightly contested set of matches.

MksU celebrated a double victory on the pitch. The Staff FC edged Matuu Legends 1-0, showing resilience and composure, while the students' team dominated KEMU 3-0 with clinical teamwork. Strong performances from both sides highlighted MksU's growing football prowess.

Our handball team triumphed over MMU with a 23–18 win in the ongoing Nairobi South Kenya University Sports Federation (NASOKUSF) League



Congratulations to all teams for their outstanding performances and continued representation of Machakos University with pride. ⚽👏



# Upcoming Events

## Rugby

### University-wide League Match

**Date:** Saturday, 31st January 2026

**Match:** MKSU vs AP (Administration Police Nairobi)

**Venue:** Machakos Show Ground

## NASOKUSF League

### NASOKUSF Conference League – Week 2

**Date:** Saturday 31st Jan & Sunday 1st February 2026

#### Venues & Matches:

**Basketball** -Strathrathmore University

**Football**-MMU and Cooperative Universities

CUEA and JKUAT Karen

**Volleyball& Handball**- JKUAT Karen

## KUSF Cross Country

### AK Universities Championship

**Dates:** Saturday 31st Jan & Sunday 1st February 2026

**Venues:** SEKU University, Kitui

**Let's come together to support our teams! Your encouragement drives their spirit**



# Get in

# Touch with us



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**Along Machakos Wote Road**



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