



Vol 1 Issue 26

January 9<sup>th</sup>

# MksU Connect

## NEWSLETTER



*Welcome*

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**2026**

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2026

# Setting the Pace for 2026: Maximizing the New Year Academically and Beyond



**Ruth Walya Munene**  
Coordinator – Office of Career Services

As we step into 2026, it is the perfect time to reflect, set new goals, and prepare for a year of growth and achievement. Whether you are a student striving for academic excellence or a staff member dedicated to fostering a supportive environment, the journey toward a successful year starts with co-creating our shared future. Here is how we can all maximize the opportunities of this year and contribute to our collective success

## **1. Set Clear, Actionable Goals**

Start the year with a vision. Whether academic, professional, or personal, setting specific and achievable goals helps provide direction. Break larger objectives into smaller, actionable steps and revisit them regularly to stay focused. Clear goals keep us on track and aligned with our purpose.

## **2. Embrace a Growth Mindset**

Challenges are inevitable, but they are also opportunities for growth. Adopt a mindset that sees setbacks as stepping stones to improvement. Whether it's overcoming academic difficulties or adjusting to new responsibilities, learning from these experiences helps us grow stronger and more capable.

## **3. Master Time Management**

Time is one of our most valuable resources. Create a balanced schedule that accommodates responsibilities, study time, collaboration, and personal well-being. Prioritize tasks, stay organized, and avoid procrastination. A well-managed schedule not only supports productivity but also fosters well-being and reduces stress.

## **4. Foster Collaboration and Networking**

Our success is enhanced when we collaborate and learn from one another. Students and staff alike should engage in campus activities, group projects, and interdisciplinary initiatives that help build stronger connections. Networking, both formally and informally, opens doors to new ideas, opportunities, and support.



## **5. Prioritize Well-Being: Mind, Body, and Spirit**

Success in 2026 is rooted in balance. Nurture your physical health through regular exercise, proper nutrition, and adequate sleep. Equally important is mental well-being—take time for relaxation, reflection, and stress management. Spiritual well-being, through mindfulness, meditation, or faith practices, can help ground us and provide clarity amid the busyness of life. When we care for ourselves, we can better contribute to others.

## **6. Adapt to Change**

In a world of rapid change, adaptability is key. Embrace new technologies, teaching methods, and learning platforms that are transforming our academic and professional landscapes. Being open to innovation and flexible in our approach helps us stay relevant, resilient, and responsive to emerging opportunities.

## **7. Commit to Continuous Learning**

Education doesn't stop at graduation or the end of a semester—it's a lifelong journey. Whether through formal learning, workshops, research, or self-directed exploration, staying curious and committed to continuous growth is essential. This mindset not only enriches our personal development but also contributes to our shared goal of co-creating sustainable futures.

## **8. Celebrate Small Wins**

Success is a journey, and every small victory is worth celebrating. Whether it's completing a challenging project, making progress on a personal goal, or collaborating effectively, take a moment to acknowledge these milestones. Celebrating wins, big or small, fuels motivation and fosters a positive environment for everyone.

Maximizing the potential of 2026 is about setting purposeful goals, nurturing well-being, and embracing opportunities for growth; both individually and collectively. As we move forward, we are not just striving for personal success but working together to co-create sustainable futures. By focusing on adaptability, collaboration, and continuous learning, we can build a year of achievement, resilience, and shared purpose.

On behalf of the Office of Career Services, we wish you all a Happy New Year filled with growth, success, and fulfillment. Let's make 2026 a year of collective success, where each of us plays a role in shaping the future.

# Smart Greenhouse Container System: Student Innovation Driving Precision Farming



**Mr. Dennis Kyule Mule**

A team of four students from Machakos University have developed an innovative Smart Greenhouse Container System aimed at advancing precision farming in Kenya. The project is led by Dennis Kyule Mule, a fourth-year Bachelor of Science student pursuing a BSc. in Electrical and Electronics Engineering, alongside team members Ochieng Felix, Robinson Nyaga, and Arnold Mutugi Njeru.

Dennis Mule will be showcasing this innovation at the 28<sup>th</sup> edition of Nairobi international education & career fair 2026, to be held from 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2026.

The system is designed to support the cultivation of high value crops such as tomatoes, capsicum, cucumbers, strawberries, and flowers by enabling farmers to closely monitor critical environmental conditions. Equipped with integrated sensors, the smart planting units track soil moisture, temperature, soil pH, and, where required, light intensity. The data is processed using a microcontroller and transmitted in real time to farmers via SMS alerts or a simple mobile application, allowing timely and informed farm management decisions.

Built as a modular, plug and play solution, the Smart Greenhouse Container System is easy to install and well suited for greenhouses and small farming spaces. Its use of affordable, Arduino-based technology, rechargeable batteries, and optional solar power ensures accessibility for small and medium scale farmers. The solution is particularly relevant for vegetable and flower farmers in regions such as Naivasha and Kiambu, where precision control of growing conditions is essential.

By making advanced agricultural monitoring affordable and scalable, this student led innovation demonstrates Machakos University's commitment to practical research and innovation. The project holds significant potential to reduce resource waste, improve crop yields and quality, and contribute to sustainable agriculture and food security in Kenya.



**The sensor unit**

# Machakos University and SCOPE-Kenya Forge a Strategic Partnership to Advance Agroecology and Sustainable Community Development.

Machakos University entered into a strategic partnership with the Schools and Colleges Permaculture Programme (SCOPE-Kenya) following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in May 2025. SCOPE-Kenya is a national network organization bringing together civil society and non-governmental organizations that work with communities to empower young people and restore degraded land into productive food forests through agroecology and permaculture practices

The collaboration provides a framework for joint engagement in academic programmes, research, training, information dissemination, and the development of mutually beneficial projects. Through this partnership, the two institutions aim to strengthen sustainable agriculture practices while contributing to community development and environmental conservation.

Under the MoU, Machakos University is partnering with SCOPE-Kenya to implement a project titled “Strengthening Agroecology-based School and College Food Procurement Programs in East and Southern Africa.” The 36 month project seeks to enhance school and college feeding programmes by integrating sustainable, agroecology-based food procurement systems. Guided by Participatory Action Research (PAR) and a Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) approach, the project will assess existing food procurement models, co-design and pilot improved systems with stakeholders, and scale successful practices through policy advocacy and awareness creation.



Left Dr. Julius Nzeve, Dean SAEHS with Mr. Sebastian Wambugu, Board Treasurer, SCOPE-Kenya



**MksU team together with SCOPE-Kenya team**

The project is led by the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA) and implemented in Kenya, Uganda, and Malawi, with financial support of 1.02 million Canadian Dollars (approximately KSh 95 million) from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC). Other implementing partners include SCOPE-Malawi, Kyambogo University (Uganda), and Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (Malawi).

An inception workshop and capacity-building training are scheduled to take place in Lilongwe, Malawi, from 17<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2026. The workshop will bring together project partners and key stakeholders to align on project objectives, implementation strategies, roles, coordination mechanisms, and learning frameworks. This will be followed by specialized trainings from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> January 2026 focusing on PAR, Outcome Harvesting, GESI, and Participatory Integrated Climate Services for Agriculture (PICSA). Dr. Elijah Muange, Chairperson of the Department of Agricultural Sciences, will represent the School and the University at the inception workshop.

Project activities will be implemented in selected counties, including Turkana, Bungoma, Siaya, Nairobi, Kiambu, Murang'a and Machakos, among others. The School of Agriculture, Environment and Health Sciences has expressed appreciation to Ms. Phidelis K. Kitela from the Finance Department for introducing SCOPE-Kenya to the University and for her continued support in ensuring the successful signing of the MoU.



# NOTICES

## Resumption of Classes

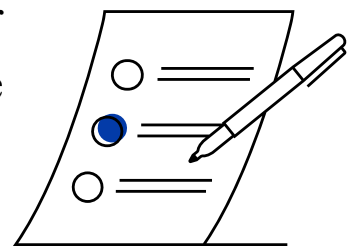


All students are reminded that classes resumed on **5<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 7:00 AM** following the Christmas recess. Students are required to attend all scheduled classes promptly.

End of Semester Examinations will take place between **19th and 30th January 2026.**

## University Bursary Application

Machakos University invites **needy students** to apply for the University Bursary Fund. Applications must be submitted **online by 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 5:00 PM**



*Only students who have been assessed by the University Students' Counsellor will be considered.*

## Call for Applications: SAMU Electoral Commissioners

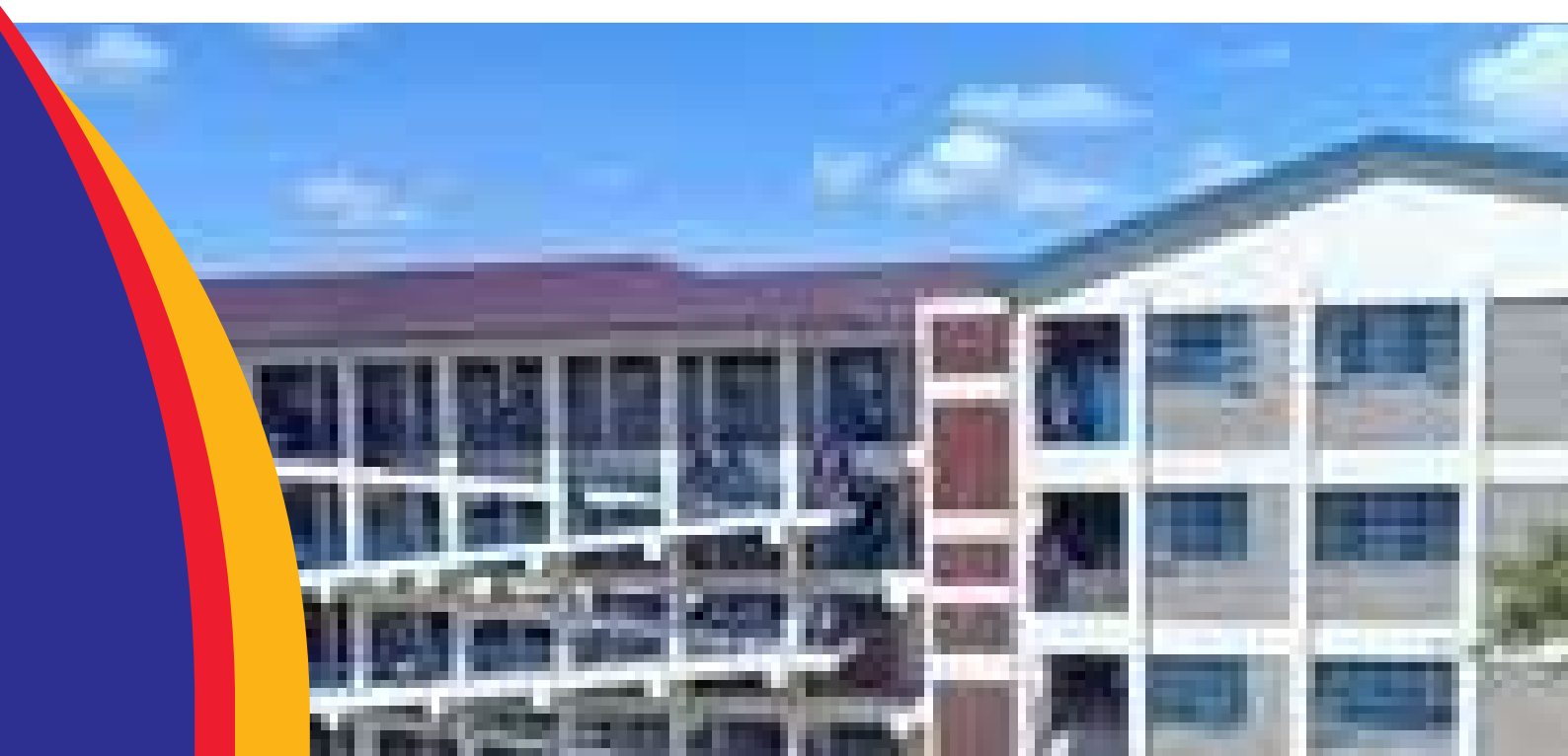


The Office of the Dean of Students invites eligible students to apply for the position of **SAMU Electoral Commissioner**. Applicants must meet the stated academic and disciplinary requirements.

*Applications should be submitted online by 11<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 5:00 PM.*



# MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY



**Machakos University**, a preferred University of excellence in Scholarship and Service delivery, invites applications for various **Postgraduate programmes** and **TVET Diploma courses** in the following Schools:

- School of Business, Economics, Hospitality and Tourism Management
- School of Pure & Applied Sciences
- School of Education
- School of Agriculture, Environment & Health Sciences
- School of Humanities & Social Sciences
- School of Engineering & Technology

**Short Professional Programmes** are also available.

**JANUARY & MAY 2026 INTAKE IS  
ONGOING!**



**For more information**



**Customer Service: 0735247939**

**Admissions Office: 0739184442**



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# CONTACT US

2026



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