



2026 MksU Connect NEWSLETTER

stories, strategies, and shifts you can't ignore

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MksU hosts dialogue forum on Electoral Integrity.



Machakos University proudly hosted the Youth Dialogue Forum organized by the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) in collaboration with the Centre for Multiparty Democracy – Kenya, on Monday, 23rd February 2026.

The forum was graced by Commissioner Ann Nderitu, CBS (IEBC), alongside Prof. Joyce Agalo, VC of Machakos University, whose leadership continues to position the University as a hub for civic engagement and youth empowerment. .

Also present were Commissioner Dr. Alutalala Mukhwana (VEPC & SE Committee Chairperson), Moses Sunkuli, OGW – Ag. CEO (IEBC), and Frankline Mukhwanja, Executive Director (CMD–Kenya), among other distinguished officials

Machakos University remains committed to empowering young voices, strengthening democratic values, and fostering informed participation - *your vote is your power, and your future is your responsibility.*



MksU hosts a courtesy call from the Counsellors and Psychologists Board



Deputy Vice-Chancellor -Academic and Student Affairs, Prof James Muola (m), the Registrar- Academic and Student Affairs, Mr. Patrick Okemba (3rd l), the Chair- Department of Social Sciences, Dr. Justin Kyalo(5th l), among other members of the Department, while from the MoH, Counselling and Psychologists Board, Mr. Victor Osoo (5th r)- Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Specialist led the team accompanied by Mr. David Mahinda.(4th r)

Machakos University hosted officials from the Counsellors and Psychologists Board, under the Ministry of Health, who paid a courtesy visit and held a consultative meeting with members of the Department of Social Sciences, led by the Chair of the Department, to discuss the commencement of indexing for students pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Counselling Psychology on Monday, 23rd February 2026

The Vice-Chancellor was represented at the meeting by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor -Academic and Student Affairs, Prof James Muola, the Registrar- Academic and Student Affairs, Mr. Patrick Okemba, the Chair-Department of Social Sciences, Dr. Justin Kyalo, among other members of the Department, while from the MoH, Counselling and Psychologists Board, Mr. Victor Osoo - Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Specialist led the team accompanied by Mr. David Mahinda.

Machakos University remains committed to strengthening partnerships that enhance academic excellence, professional compliance, and the quality of graduates entering the health and counselling professions.

MksU participates in the 28th Nairobi International Education Career Fair



Ms. Doreen Kinyua and Ms. Zipporah Mwalimu are attending to a participant

Machakos University proudly participated in the Work Skills Conference 2026 from 20th to 22nd February, 2026, held in Sarit Expo Centre, Westlands – Nairobi. The Conference whose theme was “*Aligning Skills with Industry needs: The key to Tackling Youth Unemployment,*” commenced with a dynamic and thoughtful welcoming remarks from the CEO, Dr. Alice Kande and other scholars who gave students insights on the future of work, followed by teachings on AI advantage then student’s interactions with exhibitors where they were taught on career exploration and structured pathways for young people navigating education- to- employment transitions bringing together key stakeholders to address pressing issues surrounding youth unemployment and pathways to decent work.

University News & Updates

Machakos University, Directorate of TVET

Department of Institutional Management

The Department of Institutional Management, under the TVET Directorate at Machakos University, continues to strengthen its role in building skills that drive national growth.

We offer specialized programs designed to meet industry needs:

- Diploma in Catering and Accommodation Management
- Diploma in Food and Beverage Management
- Diploma in Fashion Design and Clothing Technology



Entry Requirements

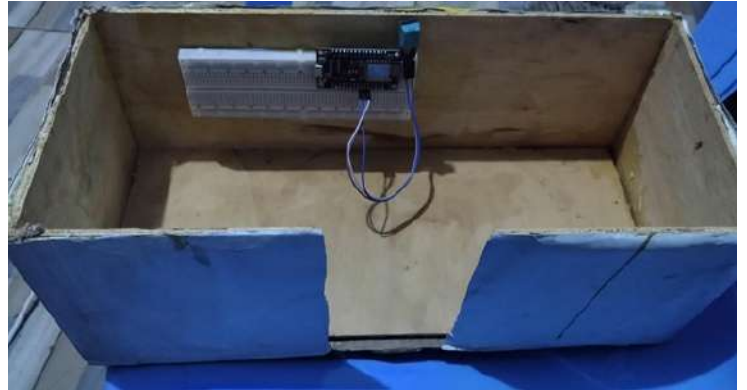
The minimum entry requirements for the new students are KCSE Certificate, a Mean Grade of C- (Minus) or its equivalent in Craft Certificate having excelled in Module 1 and Module 2 KNEC Examinations.

Our mandate is to build learner capacity and ensure training remains responsive to the dynamic demands of industry and society. Updated modules now reflect emerging trends, preparing graduates to lead and manage organizations effectively. Trainers also provide mentorship, bridging the gap between classroom learning and realworld practice.

In June 2026, the department will proudly participate in the Machakos Agricultural National Show. This event will provide opportunities for collaboration, learning, and recognition of excellence.

As a department, we remain committed to advancing excellence in leadership. By fostering innovation, collaboration, and accountability, the department remains steadfast in its commitment to building resilient institutions that empower learners and extend meaningful impact to the wider community.

MksU Student Innovation Spotlight



Bridging the Gap Between Code and Climate.

At Machakos University, we are committed to our mission of providing scholarly education through research and innovation for socio-economic transformation. This week, we shine a spotlight on Reney Bitonga Mogeni, from Nakuru county, a brilliant 2nd-year student pursuing a BSc. in Computer Science (Cloud Computing), who is turning classroom theory into tangible technology.

The Innovation

Reney Bitonga has developed a prototype for a Smart Environmental Monitoring System. Housed in a custom-built wooden enclosure, the device utilizes a NodeMCU (ESP8266) microcontroller paired with a DHT11 sensor to capture real-time temperature and humidity data.

As a Cloud Computing student, Reney isn't just collecting data locally; the project is designed to transmit this environmental metrics to a cloud platform. This allows for remote monitoring and data analytics, which are crucial for modern solutions in Smart Agriculture and Warehouse Management.

Technical Breakdown

- The Brain: A NodeMCU (ESP8266) module which provides both processing power and Wi-Fi connectivity.
- The Senses: A DHT11 sensor (the blue component seen in the photos) that measures ambient temperature and humidity levels.
- The Build: A breadboard-mounted circuit for rapid prototyping, encased in a structured wooden box designed to simulate a controlled environment or a miniature smart-home model

Relevance

In line with the government's Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda (BeTA), such innovations address critical sectors like Agriculture and Food Security. By monitoring micro-climates, farmers can optimize crop conditions, while industrial sectors can ensure sensitive goods are stored at optimal levels.

Reney plans to further integrate the device with a mobile application and scale the sensor array to include soil moisture and CO2 monitoring.

Machakos University Explores How Languages Shape Students' Success



Dr. Larry Ndivo and Ms. Virginia Mwathi overseeing students during a practical drawing session.

We are proud to announce an exciting collaborative research project at Machakos University, in partnership with the University of Strathclyde (UK) and the University of Dar es Salaam (Tanzania).

The study, *“Language(s), Capabilities and Humanisation in Higher Education,”* isn't just about words—it's about access. Our team, led by Dr. Larry Ndivo, who is the Lead investigator in Kenya & the Dean – School of Humanities & Social Sciences, Department of Linguistics and Languages at Machakos University, is diving deep into how the languages we use in lecture halls either open doors or create barriers for our students.

From collaborative stakeholder workshops to the ‘River of Life’ drawings where students mapped their academic journeys, this research is flowing toward a deeper understanding of the student experience. By visualizing their paths as rivers, our students are showing us where the currents of language have helped them glide and where they’ve hit the rocks. We are exploring how linguistic practices shape the way our students contribute to society. After all, education should speak everyone’s language!

Department of Environmental Sciences

Commissions Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer (AAS)



Prof. Charles Ombuki (second right) and Prof. Peter Koech (first right) during a demonstration of the newly commissioned AAS

The Department of Environmental Sciences marked a significant milestone with the official commissioning of a newly acquired Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer (AAS), a state-of-the-art analytical instrument set to strengthen teaching, research, postgraduate training, and consultancy services.

The commissioning ceremony was officiated by Prof. Charles Ombuki, standing in for the Vice Chancellor, who formally commissioned the equipment on behalf of the University Management. The event was graced by Prof. Peter Koech (Director- ODeL) represented in the capacity as DVC ASA, Ms. Alice Njeri, Head of Procurement, Dr. Julias Nzeve, Dean of SAEHS, together with other top management officials and students.

In his remarks, Prof. Ombuki noted that the acquisition of the AAS underscores the University's commitment to investing in modern research infrastructure that responds to contemporary environmental challenges. He emphasized that the equipment will significantly enhance the Department's capacity for high-precision environmental analysis, including the detection of heavy metals and trace elements in water, soil, and biological samples—key areas in environmental monitoring, public health, and sustainable resource management.

Beyond laboratory research, the Department of Environmental Sciences continues to integrate theory with practice through its vibrant tree nursery. The nursery supports hands-on training for students, promotes biodiversity conservation, enhances campus greening, and advances community afforestation initiatives in the surrounding regions. This practical engagement complements the analytical capabilities introduced by the new AAS, reinforcing a holistic approach to environmental education.

Through innovative academic programmes, modern research facilities, and strong community partnerships, the Department remains steadfast in its mission to contribute meaningfully to environmental sustainability and sustainable development. The commissioning of the Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer stands as a clear demonstration of this commitment, strengthening the Department's impact at both local and national levels.



Medal moments! 🏆🥇🥈🥉 The MksU Karate Team showcasing their hard-earned medals at Kabarak University.

It's been a thrilling week for Machakos University sportsmen and women, filled with medals, dominant victories, and a busy schedule of upcoming fixtures. From the national stage to local friendlies, the Warriors are flying the flag high!

KUSF PLAY-OFFS: MEDAL HAUL IN NAKURU

Our teams travelled to Kabarak University last weekend for the Kenya Universities Sports Federation (KUSF) Play offs 'A' games, and they put on a show of strength and skill.

The Karatekas were the standout performers, bringing home serious hardware!

Women's Karate: Our ladies fought with incredible spirit, securing 2 Silver medals and propelling the team to an impressive 3rd place overall.

Men's Karate: The men's squad matched that energy, battling their way to 5 Bronze medals, also clinching 3rd place overall. While our Badminton (W), Darts (W), and Table Tennis (M) teams fought hard but were eliminated at the group stage, their participation and experience at this national level are invaluable for future competitions.



RUGBY TEAM STORMS TO VICTORY

The MksU Rugby 15s team delivered a statement performance over the weekend at Nairobi's Impala Club. Facing Kabete Polytechnic, the Warriors were in complete control, running in tries and shutting down the opposition to secure a commanding 27-07 victory. It was a clear margin of victory that signals our intent for the season ahead.

⚡ **UP NEXT: MARK YOUR CALENDARS!** ⚡

The action doesn't stop! Here's what's on the horizon:

🏉 **RUGBY 15s – THE CROSS-TOWN CLASH!**

Get ready for a massive showdown as MksU takes on the UoN Mean Machine!

Date: Saturday, 28th February 2026

Venue: Machakos Showground

Come out in numbers, paint the town MksU blue, and be the 16th man for our boys!

🏀 **NaSoKUSF CONFERENCE LEAGUE**

Our conference league campaign continues this weekend.

Date: Saturday, 28th February & Sunday, 1st March 2026

Venue: CUEA and JKUAT - Karen campus.

Ongoing Events

SAMU

Voter Registration

Venue: ODeL Lab

Upcoming Events

YEMAYA Webinar Series.

Date: Wednesday, March 11, 2026,

Time: 3:00 p.m.,

Venue: Machakos University

Theme: The Golden Standard for Clean Water

Sub-theme: *Nature-Based Solutions for Fluoride and Arsenic Removal in Gold Mine Waters*

8th Innovation & Exhibition Week

Date: 12th -13th March,2026

Venue: MksU Sports Ground



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A Message of Reflection and Renewal

As we move through this season, we recognize that colleagues, students, friends, and community members are observing two significant spiritual periods: **the holy month of Ramadan and the season of Lent.**

For those observing Lent, we wish you a peaceful journey of reflection, sacrifice, and spiritual growth as you prepare for the joy of Easter.

For those observing Ramadan, we extend our warmest wishes for a blessed month. We hope your days of fasting are meaningful and your evenings of prayer and community are filled with peace. Ramadan Mubarak.

May this time be one of compassion, generosity, and inner peace for all who observe.

The 3 Pillars of **Lent**



Prayer

Reorient the heart.



Fasting

Detach to refocus.



Almsgiving

Love in action.



Ramadhan
Kareem



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