

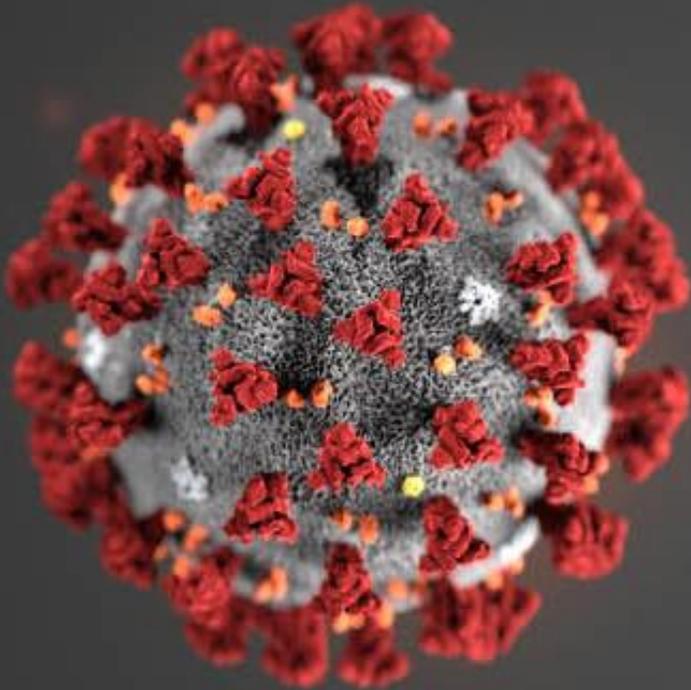


# MMUST NEWS

A Digital Publication of Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology

*Post*

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## MMUST COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM INTENSIFIES COVID-19 TRAINING

### **Inside;**

- **AWSE in Fight for Women**
- **Public Service Week Celebrations**

MMUST COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE HOTLINE-0794653300

MMUST NewsPost



## Editor's Pen

Dear MMUST Community,

We are delighted to bring you the latest issue of MMUST NewsPost. With the current national Covid-19 pandemic, our University management and re-opening taskforce underwent training ahead of Universities' reopening in September.

We also highlight a tree planting exercise in conjunction with the national and Bungoma County, marking Public Service Week Celebrations.

Our women scholars also continue to soar high. We celebrate African Women in Science and Engineering (AWSE)-Western-MMUST Chapter milestone at the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Future of Education 2019, in Bangkok Thailand.

We hope you enjoy this read.



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# MMUST INTENSIFIES COVID-19 TRAINING FOR MANAGEMENT AND RE-OPENING TASK FORCE AHEAD OF PROPOSED UNIVERSITIES RE-OPENING IN SEPTEMBER

By Awuor Sandra Dorcas ([sdorcas@mmust.ac.ke](mailto:sdorcas@mmust.ac.ke))



*A section of University officers listening to a presentation by Ms. Connie (a member of MMUST Covid-19 emergency response team).*

Following Education Cabinet Secretary Prof. George Magoha's call on universities to come up with reopening plans for their institutions, Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology has already set up a Re-opening Taskforce to deliberate on the directive from the Ministry of Education.

The Re-opening Taskforce, together with the University Management, Deans and Directors went through an extensive training on Covid-19 on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 23, 2020 at the University. The training was facilitated by MMUST Covid-19 Emergency response team, which comprises of experts from the School of Nursing, Midwifery and Paramedical Sciences, led by its Dean, Prof. JM Okoth and the Chairperson of the Department of Paramedical Sciences, Dr. Tecla Sum.

Present was Eng. (Dr) Bernadette Sabuni, the Acting DVC(ASA) who said that the training was timely because it is important for University officers to have more information about Covid-19.

She added that the University's Re-opening Taskforce will use the training deliberations to chart the way forward for the University's reopening.



**Ag.DVC (ASA) Dr. Bernadette Sabuni and Prof. John Shiundu (Front row) together with other University Officers during the training.**

In her presentation, Ms. Connie, a member of MMUST Covid-19 emergency response team, emphasized on the need to come up with a communication policy to ensure that students, staff and clients get access to factual, reliable and frequent communication on Covid-19 once the University is re-opened. She advised that lecturers should share and discuss Covid-19 concerns with their students before starting their classes.

“All of us have a role to disseminate Covid-19 messages,” she said.

The emergency response team has established a 24/7 communication channel through the number 0794653300, to enable faster response in case of any Covid-19 related emergency by the students, staff or the surrounding community.

Prof. Okoth said that the University is on the right track in terms of preparedness but with the imminent reopening of Universities in September, more needs to be done in order to cater for the large population of students, staff and clients. In his capacity as the Dean, School of Nursing, Midwifery and Paramedical Sciences, he said that MMUST has the capability of manufacturing face masks for students and staff. He added that there is need for more hand washing stations, thermoguns and PPE such as masks and gloves.

“Our emergency response team will provide advice regarding measures that staff need to take to reduce the risk of transmission and perform risk assessment for all exposures that may occur in a workplace”, said the Prof. Okoth

Dr. Tecla Sum reiterated Prof.Okoth's remarks saying that more thermoguns are needed to prevent over usage of one or two guns and, therefore, producing more accurate temperature results at screening points in the University. She said that the thermoguns sometimes produce unrealistically low or high readings depending on the surrounding environment or when a person is tested from inside a hot car.



*'Thermoguns sometimes produce unrealistically low or high readings depending on the surrounding environment or when a person is tested from inside a hot car.'* - Dr.Tecla Sum.

Photo: MMUST team engaging with Harry Kimutai, the Principal Secretary, State Department of Livestock.



## MMUST JOINS PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, UNIVERSITY EDUCATION IN TREE PLANTING EXERCISE

By Nashilluh Brendah Kabindio ([bnashilluh@mmust.ac.ke](mailto:bnashilluh@mmust.ac.ke)) and Wilberforce Shiundu ([wshiundu@mmust.ac.ke](mailto:wshiundu@mmust.ac.ke))

Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology (MMUST), led by the Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor (Planning, Research and Innovation (PRI), Prof. Charles Mutai, on Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2020, joined national and Bungoma County leaders in a tree planting exercise at Kaberua Forest in Mt. Elgon. The event, which was part of the public service week celebration, was graced by Amb. Simon Nabukwesi, the Principal Secretary, State Department for University Education and Research and Mr. Harry Kimutai, the Principal Secretary, State Department of Livestock in the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries.

In his remarks, Amb. Nabukwesi urged the residents of Kaberua, and Mt. Elgon at large, to plant more trees and put concerted effort in conserving them. Conservation of the environment, he said, is important because it ensures that there is constant and enough food for sustainability. Mt. Elgon is known as the food basket of Bungoma County and beyond.

In his capacity as a son of Mt. Elgon and the PS in the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, Mr. Harry Kimutai implored on members of the community to support the agenda of the Government by working with the Kenya Forest Service (KFS), Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) and the Nyayo Tea Zone in taking care of the environment and wildlife.

‘It is important that we return to the community and plant trees. This community is ours and we will still need it in years to come,’ he said.

PS Kimutai also called upon KFS, KWS and the Nyayo Tea Zone to engage with the community for mutually beneficial Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programmes. The Acting DVC (PRI), Prof. Mutai, assured the dignitaries present of the University’s support in conducting relevant research and availability of human resources towards achieving this.



**The Acting DVC (PRI) Prof. Charles Mutai planting a tree**

The above sentiments were reiterated by the Kibabii University team which was led by their Vice Chancellor, Prof. Isaac Ipara, and the Kaimosi Friends University College team led by Dr. Eric Okwako, the Acting Deputy Principal (Academic and Students Affairs)

The team from MMUST also comprised of Prof. Peter Bukhala (CoD, Health Promotion and Sports Science), Ms. Brendah Kabindio (Ag. Public Relations Officer) and Mr. Wilberforce Shiundu (the University photographer).

Approximately two thousand (2000) trees were planted and two thousand (2000) facemasks distributed to the community.



**The MMUST and KAFUCO Team together with Amb. Simon Nabukwesi (in white lab coat), Principal Secretary, State Department of University Education and Research**



Dr. Rose Opiyo presents Prof. Shibairo with an award from TIIMM

## MMUST WOMEN IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TAKE FIGHT FOR GIRL-CHILD BEYOND BORDERS

By Awuor Sandra Dorcas ( [sdorcas@mmust.ac.ke](mailto:sdorcas@mmust.ac.ke) )

The African Women in Science and Engineering (AWSE) Western-MMUST Chapter is in the forefront of the fight for girl child education, full and effective participation of women and girls in all aspects of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) and representation of more women in Science and Leadership.

During a brief with the Ag. Vice Chancellor, Prof. Solomon Shibairo, yesterday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2020 in his office, emphasis was laid on the importance of women and girls' empowerment. Prof. Shibairo commended efforts by the members of AWSE-MMUST Chapter in mentoring young girls in the Western region and working with the community to address issues affecting the adolescents.

Installed as the Patron of AWSE, Prof. Shibairo expressed his willingness to take part in the girl child agenda, adding that the good course by AWSE is a way for MMUST to impact the community. With the alarming rate of rape and teenage pregnancies cases in the region, the Vice Chancellor said focus should not be on women and girls alone.

“By educating the boy-child, you protect the girl,” he said.

Speaking to Dr. Rose Opiyo of Educational Psychology department at MMUST and an avid AWSE-MMUST Chapter member, she said that AWSE has also broken barriers to ensure equal representation of professional women in matters research and outreach.

In collaboration with The International Institute of Knowledge Management (TIKM), a group of women scholars from AWSE-MMUST Chapter, attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Future of Education 2019 from 13<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> in Bangkok, Thailand. The theme of the Conference was ‘Empowering learners in a digital world.’

“The conference presented exposure and academic visibility of women scholars from MMUST and opportunity for more collaboration. I would like to thank the University management for their support towards ensuring we attended the conference. We are set to attend another research conference in Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia and we hope the University will continue to support us,” said Dr. Rose Opiyo.



*From left;Dr.Regina Nabwire,Dr.Celine Ooko,Dr.Rose Opiyo and Ag.VC Prof.Shibairo pose for a photo after a short briefing session.*

The team was awarded for their outstanding delegation. The award was presented to the Ag.VC Prof.Shibairo. The AWSE members who attended the conference were; Dr. Rose Opiyo, Dr. Celine Ooko, Dr. Annette Okoth, Dr. Mary G. Kariaga, Dr. Elizabeth Omukunda and Dr. Catherine Aurah.

For purposes of Covid-19 response, AWSE-MMUST Chapter is set to provide relief support to girls in the surrounding community and tackle issues dealing with teenage pregnancies on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2020 in Lurambi area.



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