DEDAN KIMATHI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
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Launch of Motorbike powered and mobile agro-processing machines in partnership with Manufacturing on Wheels Ltd



On 21st December 2020, Manufacturing on Wheels Ltd, an integrated agro-processing and trading start-up, and Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (DeKUT) launched a drive system that taps Motorbike's power to drive a manual coffee pulper. The pulper can process up to 400kgs of cherry per hour. The technology was rolled out in an 'Uber' format.

Manufacturing on Wheels Ltd will recruit boda-boda operators to acquire the drive system and coffee pulpers to offer the pulping service at a fixed fee per kg to coffee farmers at home. The service will also include post-processing training and management, grading, pricing and sales coordination.

To get the pulping service, the farmers will register and book the service when they are harvesting their coffee. They will pay fifty per cent deposit on the estimated weight of their coffee in kgs and the balance after completion. The operators and farmers will also be trained in coffee processing and post-processing management by DeKUT's coffee technology program. Once the coffee is dry, the firm's extension team will grade and price the coffee and then assist the farmer in selling the parchment directly from the farm. The operators will grade the cherries before and after pulping to ensure farmers earn optimal prices.

This Motorbike driven pulpers' innovation commenced on September when Manufacturing on Wheels Ltd.'s founder, Mr. Githuku Mwangi, approached the Vice-Chancellor with a proposal to utilize the University's engineering talent to tap the engine power of motorcycles to create a network of hundreds of microprocessors. The Vice-Chancellor assembled a team of young mechanical engineers and quality experts to design, prototype and test the drive system. The team modified a manual coffee pulper from Coffee Agri works Ltd to be run by the motorbike engine. Manufacturing on Wheels and DeKUT have filed a joint patent for the innovation.

This innovation is expected to revolutionize the coffee sub-sector by enabling the farmers to sell parchment or green beans at farm-gate, and receive cash before their produce is picked by buyers. Currently, coffee farmers, especially small-holders deposit their produce with cooperatives at no declared value and wait between 4-6 months before they receive whatever amount remains after all the agents pay themselves. Commercialization will kick off in 2021.

Swearing in of the DeKUTSO Council 2020/2021



DeKUT also gives chances to students to become leaders based on certain criteria's such as leadership ability and relevant experience, cumulative average grade of B and above, regional balance, one third gender rule and diversity of representation of schools from the applicants. Following the successful DeKUTSO elections that were held on 27th November 2020 and sworn in on 3rd December 2020 at Tabor Hill, Nyahururu, the following students were elected as DeKUTSO Council 2020/2021.

1. Brian Gakere Nyingi- Chairperson
2. Janet Chepkurui - Vice-Chairperson
3. Festus Kipengetich- Secretary-General

4. Maureen Kagwiria-Gender & Disability Mainstreaming Secretary
5. Newton Mwende- Sports, Entertainment and Security Secretary
6. Wathiri Sharon- Treasurer
7. Christopher Nalondo- Campus Secretary

Congratulations to Mr. Karanja Julius Mwangi for Head of State Commendation (HSC) award



The president issued the State commendations – orders, decorations, and medals – in recognition of outstanding or distinguished services rendered to the nation in various capacities and responsibilities. The Chief of the Order of the Golden Heart (C.G.H) is the highest honor in Kenya followed by the Elder of the Order of the Golden Heart of Kenya (E.G.H.) then the Moran of the Order of the Golden Heart of Kenya (M.G.H.).

They are followed by the Uhodari Medal, Chief of the Order of the Burning Spear (C.B.S.), Elder of the Order of the Burning Spear (E.B.S.), Moran of the Order of the Burning Spear (M.B.S.), the Order of the Grand Warrior of Kenya, the Distinguished Conduct Order, the Distinguished Service Medal, the Silver Star of Kenya and the Head of State's Commendation (Military Division and Civilian Division).

The awards are made by the president upon the advice of a National Honors and Awards Committee in the president's office. Individuals are nominated for the awards by district committees, government ministries, religious organizations, non-governmental organizations, individuals and others.

Congratulations to our very own staff member, Mr. Karanja Julius Mwangi for Head of State Commendation (HSC) award, Civilian Division. .

DeKUT Film, Animation & Gaming Hub Auditions



On 16th December 2020, DeKUT Film, Animation & Gaming Hub carried out various auditions for film actors among our students.

DeKUT Film, Animation and Gaming Hub aims to provide a platform where young people and interested parties in creative art can use technology in film making and participate in the production of digital media products that can be marketed widely. It is an industry that can provide employment to a lot of young people and where you can achieve a lot with very little investment.

It is prudent to develop the capacity of those going to use the facilities and therefore an important aspect to scale the Human resource and get more people involved in the project.The university will aid in the provision of capacity development support for the interested parties as the commission's main objective is to provide a vibrant film industry in Kenya. This creative industry is open to students, staff, and members of the public who are animators or film makers.

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