DEDAN KIMATHI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
MONTHLY NEWS BULLETIN

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Unveiling Ceremony of Muringato Primary School



Last year, Dedan Kimathi University of Technology and NG-CDF Nyeri Town Constituency signed a Memorandum of Understanding to support Muringato Primary School's further development by constructing new classrooms. The construction was preceded by assessing the school's physical facilities and establishing its infrastructural needs since the previous structures no longer supported the students' educational needs and failed to meet a modern primary school's current standards.

Muringato Primary School started as a school for the coffee plantation workers. Later, in 2006, the school was moved to the handball fields. However, the site was not conducive for the school and in 2009 when the University was established, it was moved to its current location. This location was picked because it had an ideal learning environment and better road access..

As the Cancer Centre and Science and Technology Park (STP) grow, we envision that the school will cater to the children's educational needs of the people working in these institutions. These children will transition from Kindergarten to primary school through to secondary school then to University.

On 5th January this year, the newly eight constructed classrooms and a solar-powered borehole were launched during the unveiling ceremony at the school.

Visit by the Commission for University Education (CUE)



As part of the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative, the Commission for University Education (CUE), donated reflector jackets to enhance security personnel's safety. They also distributed umbrellas to be placed at students' recreational facilities.

The Commission for University Education (CUE) has been visiting various universities to distribute reflector jackets to enhance the safety of security personnel, staff and motorbike riders, who ferry students to and from the institutions. CUE has also been distributing outdoor umbrellas to support the Ministry of Health's COVID-19 safety and social distancing guidelines.

74th IAESTE Annual General Conference

This year, we were privileged to participate in the 74th IAESTE Annual General Conference that happened from 22nd to 28th January 2021 virtually. Every year, around 250 participants from over 80 countries worldwide gather in one place to exchange



internships and share knowledge.



With so many bright people in one place, the Annual Conference is also an ideal moment for knowledge sharing and inspiration. During the Global Forum sessions, all attendees were invited to share their viewpoints on IAESTE related topics.

One of the IAESTE Annual Conference's main aims is to ensure that the core IAESTE activity of providing students with practical experience occurs. It's the time to exchange offers and meet exchange partners. It is the biggest and most important event in the IAESTE calendar.

A student making waves in Mental Health Advocacy



""Anything human is mentionable, and Anything mentionable can be more manageable. When we can talk about our feelings, they become less overwhelming, less upsetting, and less scary." — Fred Rogers. Happiness Ndanu, a fourth-year student from the Institute of Food and Bioresource Technology, Mental Health Advocate and Kijana Jasiri Founder explains her journey to fight with depression.

"What inspired me to start Kijana Jasiri Foundation was my childhood life. During my teenage years, I underwent body-shaming since I was born with a rare condition known as Hemihypertrophy, which mostly projects on my body's left side. Due to criticisms and stigmatization, I developed issues accepting myself and started developing mental problems such as anxiety and depression. Until my third year in high school, I then decided to speak out what I was going through to my parents and a few professionals who helped boost my self-esteem.

When I joined Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (DeKUT), and after interacting with several people struggling with mental issues, I decided to create a platform where people could air their feelings without being judged. Kijana Jasiri Foundation was born in 2019 in Kiambu county but is currently based in Nyeri County. Liaising with other professionals, we reach out to teenagers struggling with mental health issues and offer them mentorship programs and training to reduce the stigma and create awareness. We have managed to reach out to approximately 1000 youths struggling with mental health issues.

Through Kijana Jasiri Foundation, I was nominated for the Scream Award 2020 for the Initiative of the year, later on for the Kotex Shecan Award 2020 where I managed to win the award and got an opportunity through Kotex to mentor other youths. My advice to people struggling with mental health issues is that the first step to recovery is speaking about it and reaching out to a professional. It's never too late to seek help."- Happiness Ndanu.

Courtesy visit by the CEO, ICT Authority, Dr. Katherine Getao



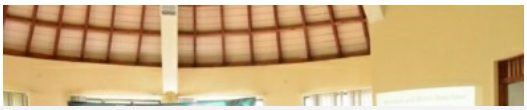
On 22nd January 2021, The Chief Executive Officer ICT Authority, Dr. Katherine Getao, paid a courtesy visit at the DeKUT Film, Animation and Gaming Hub.

The CEO said that through the Team, the ICT Authority and academia will come up with a homegrown digital learning concept appropriate for the Kenyan environment and amenable to the new landscape post the COVID-Pandemic. The CEO also added that the current technology is inaccessible to the majority of learners countrywide, especially in the far remote areas hence the need for the team to develop an affordable device which can be bought by a large number of Kenyans considering the income levels in households.

She encouraged the team to develop a device that is robust, energy efficient and environmentally friendly. This device should also address the challenges faced during the implementation of the Digital Literacy Programme (DLP) Phase I where, it was realized that, harsh climatic conditions like humidity and high temperatures have impacted batteries.

Training on Alcohol and Drug Abuse

DeKUT not only focuses on academics but also on providing quality and holistic education to produce relevant leaders and human resources to contribute to the attainment national



development goals. In line with this, we took an initiative to educate our students on Alcohol and Drug abuse through the ADA Committee, which organized three-day training for 60 peer educators from 26th to 28th January 2021.



This was to facilitate students with knowledge about the effects of drug abuse and how it can quickly ruin their campus lives. This comes in situations where a student cannot complete their studies due to drug abuse which results to loss of concentration in class and in return may lead to failing in their studies or even completely quitting the studies**. #saynotodrugs**

Chemistry Department Coffee Hour Sessions

The Chemistry Department 1st and 3rd year students held coffee hour sessions on 26th and 28th January respectively. During these sessions, students got to interact with their lecturers and technologists. Some of the staff members involved were; Dr. Ollengo, Dr. Tanui, Dr. Sang, Dr. Rose Tanui and the University's Outdoor Instructor Mr. Mwai among other staff members.



The main objective of these sessions is to help the students learn different life skills aside from classwork and help in bonding among themselves and with their lecturers. Through these sessions, students are also educated on handling stress without indulging in drugs and working together as a team.

These activities help students develop problem-solving, reasoning, critical thinking, creative thinking, communication, and collaborative abilities. These activities are also beneficial for students' physical fitness and mental health. They are relieved from academic stress and are good for improving students' learning experience at school, improving their attendance and presence and increasing students' participation rate in co-curricular activities.

2020 Intake 1st Gown Lecture

DeKUT runs a gown lecture program as part of first years' orientation. The main reason why the University started these lectures is to enhance the one week of induction/orientation of the First Years, which ends with the matriculation Ceremony. That week of orientation was found to be too short for a first-year to know and understand the Vision, Mission, Core Values and Philosophy of DeKUT and the value of University Education.

Gown lectures are extended versions of the matriculation ceremony where academic staff members share their stories with the students. The lectures purpose is to motivate the first-year students to mould their attitude and enhance focus towards their academic achievement.

Gown lectures help students to start seeing that the journey they're travelling is the same journey taken years before by the lecturers or the university administrators and serves to encourage and inspire them.



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