



# THE OASIS NEWSLETTER

A Publication from the Office of the Vice-Chancellor



*JOOUST thespians celebrate one of their trophies in the Freedom Hall at DeKUT*

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## JOOUST FLEXES ITS THEATRICAL MUSCLES AGAIN!



*JOOUST's Kennedy Muthoka aka Tito presenting a mime at DeKUT.*

Since the birth of Kenya Universities Performing Arts and Film Association (KUPAA) five years ago, Kenyan university students annually converge to showcase their talents and skills in theatre at the national stage after competing in their various regions. This year's KUPAA National Festival was hosted by Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (DeKUT) between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of November, 2023 with JOOUST posting exemplary performances amid fierce competition. JOOUST's brigade comprised of sixty students led by Lewish Ontita and Grace Adonai, Dr. Violet Baraza from the Dean of Students office,

Dr. Odhiambo – the patron, and the assistant trainer Mr. David Akunga. Thirty five Kenyan public and private Kenyan Universities attended and presented an array of Stage, Film, Visual, Radio Theatre and Beauty Pageantry items.

Majority of the items presented by JOOUST students earned various accolades despite the heavily crowded and talented field of thespians drawn from theatre university powerhouses such as Kenyatta, Moi, Maseno and Multimedia to name but a few.

Residing in the exquisite Legacy Hotel in the middle of Nyeri town, team JOOUST got a shot in the arm after being offered a hall by the hotel management, free of charge, for their evening rehearsals. Cashing in on this rare opportunity and relishing Gikuyu cuisine of mokimo, minji minji, githeri among

other finger licking delicacies, JOOUST crew had no option but to perform well.

Even the freezing weather conditions in Nyeri County could not dampen the spirits of JOOUST's contingent who successfully defended the legislative play trophy they won last year when they hosted the fourth KUPAA national festival. This time round, however, the trophy came home with a bonus award for the best play on environmental conservation.

Taking the audience on an introspective journey around the contours of



*Christine, Dan Juma and Ian taking a pose with the radio theatre winners trophy 2023 at DeKUT*



the high cost of living in Kenya, our very own wordsmith – Grace Adonai – petrified the audience with her spoken piece, Our Dear New Government, winning a trophy and an award for the best spoken word item on human rights and governance.

Ibrahim Otieno wowed the audience with his tragicomic one person play “Everything is a lie.” The play, recounting the plight of a journalist whose domestic front is in shambles, emerged second overall thereby scooping another trophy for JOOUST.

JOOUST was second to none in radio theatre on the effects of drugs and substance abuse category courtesy of Dan Juma aka Kukulikuntu who received the glittering trophy amid deafening cheers from the audience.

In Cultural and Creative Dance, JOOUST bagged two awards. While Joshua Onyango received the overall Adjudicator’s award in this category, Rowell Amanda put the icing on the cake by winning the best soloist first runners up award. The high altitude around

Mount Kenya however left a number of JOOUST students indisposed though prompt medical attention ensured these conditions didn’t deter their mission.

JOOUST Theatre community is humbled by the overwhelming support accorded to them by the Vice Chancellor and the University Management Board and can only promise to better their best come next year.



*From left William, Ontita (Kapet), Dr. Odhiambo, Grace (The Bishop) and Ibrahim taking a walk around DeKUT.*



## JOOUST SIGNS A MOU WITH RED CROSS SOCIETY KENYA



*Ms. Annette Msabeni, the Deputy Secretary General, Programmes, Kenya Red Cross Society (right) hands membership certificate to Vice Chancellor Prof. Emily Achieng' Akuno*

**J**aramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology, through the School of Health Sciences has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS). The MoU seeks to establish research collaboration between the two parties, by using the available institutional, field infrastructure and the facilities available. Furthermore, the partnership is set to enhance human capacity building, joint grant applications and research activities.

Accompanied by her team, The Deputy Secretary General Programmes, Kenya Red Cross Society, Ms. Annette Msabeni paid a courtesy call to the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Emily Achieng' Akuno at JOOUST Kisumu Campus. The aim of the visit was to set pace on the planned activities starting with youth membership and research.

Consequently, the duo has made plans for resource mobilization for trainee workshops and conferences, as well as institutional

development collaboration on the shared research sites between JOOUST and the Kenya Red Cross Society.

The Kenya Red Cross Society which has been in operation since 1965, is among the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement societies. Through the generous contribution and support of well-wishers, The Society has been able to run a variety of projects including keeping the members of public abreast with emerging health related issues. KRCS offers specialized services on



disaster management and emergencies, education, famine, blood donation, first aid projects, among others.

In a bid to strengthen its health and research capacity, JOOUST has also fostered collaborations with Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI). The School of Health Sciences, headed by Prof. George Ayodo, is involved in a myriad of health projects in partnership with other universities. The Nerve-Dog Project, currently in its third year was funded by Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine (RUSVM). The project is a clinical trial, looking into rabies and non-rabies vaccine in dogs.

Additionally, The School has an European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP), a public-public partnership between countries in Europe and sub-Saharan Africa. The program is currently sponsoring Masters Students pursuing Epidemiology and Biostatistics. The Program has been funded by AMREF International, having AMREF International University (AMIU) and African Population and

Health Research Center (APHRC) as research partners. These tremendous efforts made by the School of Health Sciences demonstrate its outstanding commitment to providing

a holistic approach to health services to humanity mediated by sciences and technology.



*The Kenya Red Cross team sitted across the JOOUST team during the courtesy call at JOOUST Kisumu Campus*



*The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Emily Achieng' Akuno poses for a group photo with the team.*



## A GREEN INITIATIVE FOR KENYA'S FIRST NATIONAL TREE PLANTING DAY

In a bold step toward environmental stewardship, Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology (JOOUST) embraced Kenya's inaugural National Tree Planting Day with fervor. Led by the esteemed Registrar of Academic, Student Affairs, and Research (ASAR), Rev. Dr. Walter Akuno, the university collaborated with various campus organizations, including the JOOUST Environmental Club, International Tourism of JOOUST, Charity Club, Planners Association of JOOUST, and the JOOUST Red Cross Chapter.

The Registrar, braced in a spirit of environmental advocacy addressed the gathering, expressing the



*The Acting Registrar, Planning and Administration Mr. Benard Ohanga plants a tree.*

university's commitment to the nationwide initiative. "We join the rest of Kenya on this very important day in the county's calendar, the first of its kind. It is envisaged that by 2032, we will have planted 15 billion trees. As a university, we are part of that great call," remarked Rev. Dr. Walter

Akuno.

Highlighting the pressing climate challenges affecting the world, the Registrar emphasized the need to combat these issues and cultivate a culture of environmental preservation. "This initiative aims to curb climate challenges and promote a healthy culture in preserving our ecosystem," he declared.

The planting event was graced by the presence of Prof. Anthony Rodriguez, the Director of the Directorate of ICT at JOOUST among other members of staff in solidarity towards this noble cause.

Not confining their efforts within the university



*The Registrar, Academic, Student Affairs and Research, Rev. Dr. Walter Akuno leads the delegation to the tree planting site.*



grounds, the initiative transcended campus boundaries. After planting trees within JOOUST, the green brigade proceeded to Nyakasumbi Primary School, where they continued their mission. Gunda Sigomre Primary School, Uloma Primary School, ACK Masita, and

the JOOUST Chaplaincy also witnessed the nurturing of new life as the team planted trees in these diverse locations.

The endeavor reflected JOOUST's awareness of its role as a responsible and active participant in addressing global challenges.

This collaborative effort pledged to make this a practice in the University calendar, extending this very programme to the neighboring communities as part of a broader community outreach initiative.



*The tree planting delegation pose for a group photo.*



# *The Oasis*

**A Newsletter of Jaramogi Oginga Odinga  
University of Science and Technology**

**A publication from the Office of the Vice-Chancellor**



*The University Administration block at a glance*

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