



THE OASIS NEWSLETTER

A Publication from the Office of the Vice-Chancellor



Ms. Keziah Ogada, the Corporate Communications Officer, shares evidence with the Performance Contract evaluation team

Inside

- » *Accolades for JOOUST in the 19th cycle performance contracting evaluation and monitoring*
- » *Positions galore for JOOUST staff in the new Bondo municipal board*
- » *Learners encouraged to pursue science-based courses*
- » *It is yet another cyber security awareness month!*

ACCOLADES FOR JOOUST IN THE 19TH CYCLE PERFORMANCE CONTRACTING EVALUATION AND MONITORING

Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology (JOOUST) performed exceedingly well in the 2022/2023 Performance Contract (PC) Year. The day-long evaluation exercise took place at the East Africa Community Integrated Institute board room (EACII)

Speaking during the Performance Contracting Evaluation exercise, Prof. Shem Wandiga, JOOUST Chair of Council, observed that the University was very keen to deliver on its mandate of teaching, research and community outreach. Also speaking during the opening ceremony, the Chair of the Technical, Academic, Research and Project Sub-committee of the Council, Mr. Isaac Chebon appreciated the display

of teamwork and confidence by the JOOUST team noting that they were up to the task ahead.

The Vice-Chancellor Prof. Emily Achieng' Akuno exuded

confidence saying that the evidence presented to the Performance Contracting Evaluation Unit was sufficient to convince them about the work that was put in the process. The Performance Contract Unit undertaking the annual target moderation was led by Mr Peter Kariuki from the State Department of Performance and Delivery Management under the Ministry of Public Service and Delivery Management now housed under the Office of the Prime Cabinet Secretary. He was assisted

by Ms Mary Okoroh from the Vision 2030 Secretariat. Mr. Kariuki noted that the team will rely on the evidence from the final Performance



Rev. Dr. Walter Akuno (Centre) share the PC evidence with the Performance Contract evaluation team.

Contract, self-evaluation matrix documented evidence and scores for specialized agencies. He pointed out that certificates or evidence from collaborating institutions like the Commission for Administrative Justice (CAJ), the National Council for Persons with Disabilities, and the National Aids Control Council (NACC) would be used as part of the evaluation exercise. Kenyan universities submit various quarterly reports to those institutions on how well they are managing the various performance contract indicators.

Also present during the evaluation was the Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Planning, Administration and Finance (PAF) Prof. Aggrey Thuo and the Ag. Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Academics, Student Affairs and Research,



The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Emily Achieng' Akuno (left) and Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academics, Student Affairs and Research, Prof. Aggrey Thuo (right) during the opening of the Performance Contracting Evaluation.

Prof. Dennis Ochuodho.

JOOUST was evaluated on key Indicators that included; Financial Stewardship, Service Delivery, increasing enrollment in STEM programmes, project completion rates, implementation of presidential directives, access to government procurement opportunities, road safety mainstreaming, corruption prevention, National Values and Principles of Governance among others.

Performance contracting in the government of Kenya is now in its 20th year of continuous implementation. Over time, the performance contract has evolved into a robust tool employed by the government for measuring the performance of ministries, departments and agencies. The performance contracting exercise has also been critical in enabling the government to identify, collect, collate and analyse vital information connected with the performance of public agencies. The overall result is that government decision-making has become increasingly evidence-based, and public officers have become increasingly aware of their accountability for actions and omissions,

achievements and mistakes.

The government through H.E President Dr William Samoei Ruto resolved to enhance the overall performance management framework and to leverage its tremendous potential by incorporating the actualization of the BETA plan the government performance contracting and delivery mechanism. Our objective is to achieve the highest levels of efficiency and effectiveness in the delivery of public services, ensure accountability in the utilization of public resources, improve the mechanisms of service delivery, re-align public agencies with their core mandates and accelerate the completion of programmes and projects.

The president reaffirmed his government's resolve to implement its commitments, serve Kenyans and do so in a highly systematic manner. The

2023 / 24 ministry, department and agency have aligned their programmes and policies with the Forth Medium-Term Plan, - of the Kenya National Vision 2030 - which now incorporates key government priorities under the 5 BETA pillars. It is now a fundamental duty of cabinet secretaries, principal secretaries, chief executive officers of state corporations and the principals of tertiary education institutions, to implement obligations under their performance contracts by taking every measure to execute key government priorities on time, and within the allocated resources.

The performance contracts have been perfected through a rigorous process of vetting key priorities and ring-fencing their funding through the National Treasury.



Departmental heads assemble for the Performance Contract Evaluation process.

POSITIONS GALORE FOR JOOUST STAFF IN THE NEW BONDO MUNICIPAL BOARD



Bondo Municipal Board Members after Swearing in Ceremony

Bondo Town in Siaya County has attained a new status of a municipality, upgrading from a County Council that has been in existence for decades. This new development has called for a more elaborate structure of management in form of a Municipal Board that requires personnel of stature with enough experience and know how to spearhead the management.

It is from this background that JOOUST staff have been elected in key positions through a competitive election process, to provide expertise needed in

developing Bondo town to greater heights. Dr. Joshua Agolla, a Senior Lecturer in the School of Informatics and Innovative Systems, who doubles as a Head of Department in the same School has been elected to be the inaugural chair of the Bondo Municipal Board. Dr. Beatrice Awino, Senior Administrator in the department of Quality Assurance and Enhancement also clinched the position of the deputy chairperson of the same board. The duo, who are permanent employees of Jaramogi Oginga Odinga, are believed to have what it takes to steer the new

Municipality to another level.

After the successful election process, the newly elected board members were taken through an oath taking ceremony witnessed by the Siaya Governor Sc. James Bob Aggrey Orengo. The governor exuded confidence in the team saying that the 'Top cream of Siaya' is now on the steering wheel.

Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology has been actively playing a major role in the development of Siaya County by offering advisory services

to the County Government in matters education, Agriculture, and Cultural Heritage among others. Through the School of Spatial Planning and Natural Resource Management, the university has influenced, through her experts, the planning of major towns and mapping of essential

natural resources within Siaya County. It's location in the heart of the Bondo town has also offered ready market for a number of locally available goods and services ranging from residential houses to food products hence boosting the economy in the region.



Bondo Municipal Board Members

LEARNERS ENCOURAGED TO PURSUE SCIENCE-BASED COURSES



JOOUST Chemistry Lab Technician, Mr. Dan takes the pupils through an experiment

The Kenya Chemical Society in collaboration with the Pan African Chemistry Network, the Royal Society of Chemistry and Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology organized a motivational talk for the less privileged pupils from Junior Secondary Schools in Bondo Sub-county, last weekend.

The purpose of the event was to encourage young scientists to pursue sciences in their future careers. During his opening remarks, the Kenya Chemical Society secretary, Dr Solomon Omwoma, thanked the participants for attending and emphasized on how

Chemistry and other science subjects can be used to transform lives for the better in society through research and innovation. Furthermore, Dr. Angeline Ochung' regretfully noted that not many females are in the field of Science and encouraged the female pupils present to work harder and be ambassadors of the girl child so as to ensure that more of them pursue science careers.

Other speakers included Prof. Francis Orata from Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology who delivered a Chemistry motivational talk, Mr. Aggrey Ochieng from Muhoroni Sugar Company who gave an Industry motivational talk,

Mr. Alwala Joseck with Laboratory Safety, Mr. Kiema Francis advising on career and expectation and Prof. Kengara Fredrick who tackled performance in Sciences.

The speakers discussed the challenges faced by teachers and pupils including the lack of science laboratories and equipment and shortage of teaching personnel. It was noted that although the pupils are willing to learn, most of the classes are largely theoretical rather than practical. The organizers saw the need to present the shared grievances to the Government, with the hope that something will be done to help these schools.

Apart from being ferried from their rural schools to the prestigious university environment, each pupil was provided with a pen, a pencil, a rubber, an A4 200-page book, a geometrical set, and a ruler. Each school was provided with one (1) football, ten (10) skipping ropes, five (5) scientific visual aids, one (1) board ruler, one (1) board protractor, and one (1) board compass.

The 300 pupils and 60 teachers present also had the privilege of touring the various labs in the University, where they interacted with lab technicians who gave them brief lectures on how different apparatus work and what is expected of them when they visit a Science laboratory.



JOOUST Chemistry Lab Technician, Mr Dan takes the pupils through an experiment



The Pupils snacks outside the Assembly Hall

This was JOOUST's second time to host such an event, with a similar one having been held in October 2022.



Kenya Chemical Society Secretary, Dr. Solomon Omwoma makes his opening remarks



The pupils pose for a group photo alongside JOOUST lab technicians

IT IS YET ANOTHER CYBER SECURITY AWARENESS MONTH!



Students from School of Informatics and Innovative Systems (SIIS) in their element safeguarding protocols at the computer laboratory.

The month of October marks our moment of reflection on cyber security awareness when we not only assess the hits and misses but also the emerging challenges in the fluidy cyberspace. As a university built on the foundation of Science and Technology, JOOUST often ventures in various scientific competitions. The school of Informatics and Innovative Systems (SIIS) leads the way. We thank Communications Authority of Kenya (CAK) in partnership with Huawei Kenya, National Kenya Computer Incident Response Team and Kenya Cybersecurity for organizing various bootcamps and hackathons that our talented students regularly take part in. this year, the week-long Nyanza region hackathon was held mid last month at Ciala resort, Kisumu. Students

gathered from all universities across the region to showcase their technological skills acquired from their classes.

Our students, against all odds, emerged among the top students in the tackling of real-life problems facing internet users in the modern world during the hackathon nights where ‘online thieves’ thrive the most. The Vice President of KCSFA, in his remarks, emphasized that “Hackathons are not about learning alone but are also leadership forums where the spirit of resilience by coding in those late-night hours burning the midnight oils can be nurtured.” We equally appreciate all those students who took part in the largely successful event. They are

Ethen, Alice, Alex and I. we also thank the school for exposing students to such events whenever opportunities present themselves.

As we mark the month of Cybersecurity Awareness, we encourage all individuals owning electronic gadgets to be cybersmart and embrace the spirit of innovation. Train yourself to be using strong passwords, avoid sharing of passwords and avoid clicking any random links on the internet. Join us as we dive into these important discussions throughout the month. We challenge our students to take part in these quizzes, CTFs and coding challenges to increase their practical skills. As Oktoberfest kicks, I wish you all a cybersecure month full of growth.



JOOUST students pose for a photo after the cybersecurity hackathon with Communications Authority of Kenya (CAK), National Kenya computer Incident Response Team (Ke-Cirt), Kenya Cybersecurity and forensics association (KCSF).

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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