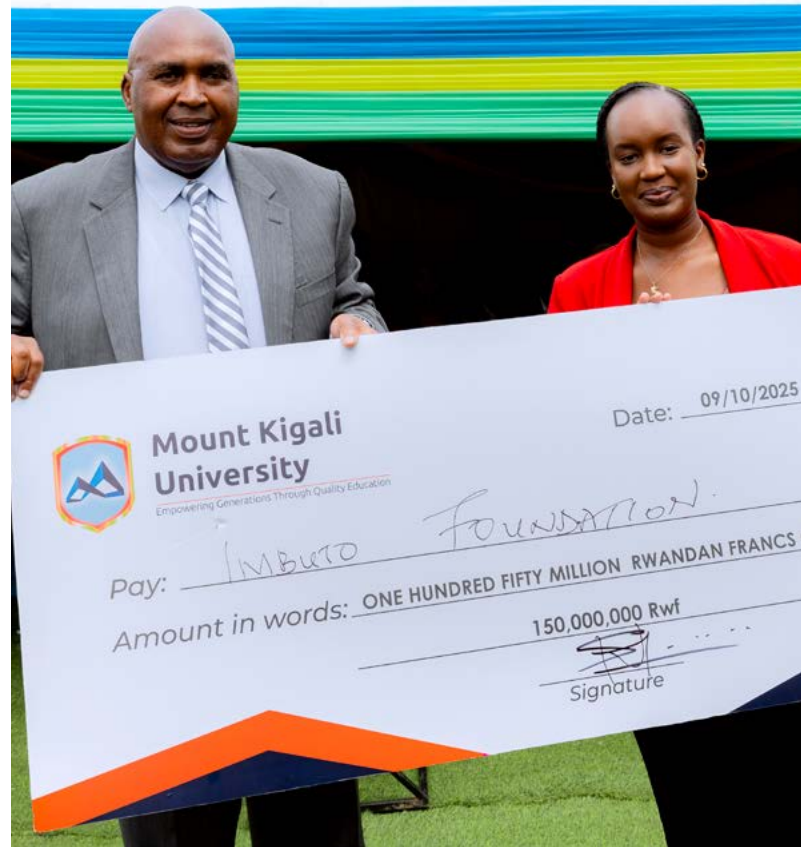




Mount Kigali University

Empowering Generations Through Quality Education

A Publication of the Office of the Vice-Chancellor



University grows
internally, and with
the community

Note from the Vice-Chancellor



Dr Martin Kimemia, Vice-Chancellor, Mount Kigali University

It gives me great pleasure to witness the release of the second edition of our Mount Kigali University Newsletter. This marks a significant step forward in strengthening both our internal and external communication efforts. I encourage all members of staff to remain engaged and actively contribute to its continued development, so that together, we can ensure our messages effectively reach the intended audience. Over the past month, we have celebrated several important milestones within our university community. Notably, we marked the inauguration of the Early Childhood Development and Family Centre (ECD) in Masaka, Kicukiro District, and laid the foundation stone for another ECD Centre in Murama Cell, Kinyinya Sector. These impactful projects, initiated in partnership with the Imbuto Foundation, reflect our joint

commitment to promoting early childhood education and strengthening family support systems.

We also had the honour of inaugurating our first Chancellor, Prof Egara Kabaji, in a memorable ceremony held at the Kigali Paramount Hotel. We are delighted to welcome someone of his calibre to our leadership team, and look forward to the invaluable contribution he will make to the advancement of this institution.

Another proud moment was the celebration of Royal FM's 10th anniversary. The station has provided our students with practical, hands-on experience, becoming an integral part of their academic journey. We commend their efforts and success.

We were especially privileged to be joined at all these events by the founder of Mount

Kigali University and Mount Kenya University, Prof Simon Gicharu. His steadfast support continues to inspire us all.

In addition, we were honoured to receive His Excellency Khalid Musa Dafalla, the Sudanese Ambassador to Rwanda, who paid us a courtesy visit. He spoke highly of the quality of education at Mount Kigali University and expressed interest in further strengthening collaboration between the Embassy of Sudan and our institution.

Importantly too, I express my heartfelt appreciation to Kicukiro District for their continued support; to our valued partners who stood with us during these key moments, and to all our staff who worked tirelessly to make each event a success.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to introducing new, market-driven programmes and investing in infrastructure to further enhance the quality of education we provide. Plans are also in motion to establish more student hostels to accommodate the increasing number of learners, particularly those coming from overseas and across the borders.

Let us remain united in purpose and steadfast in our mission to create a vibrant, inclusive, and transformative learning environment.

Prof Kabaji inaugurated as Chancellor of Mount Kigali University

Mount Kigali University marked a historic milestone on 10th October 2025 with the installation of renowned Kenyan scholar, Professor Egara Kabaji, as its first Chancellor. The grand ceremony was held at the Kigali Paramount Hotel in Kigali, Rwanda.

The milestone signifies a new era for the university, one centred on elevating its global academic standing through research, writing, and innovation.

Prof Egara Kabaji is a distinguished literary scholar, author and educationist whose career spans more than three decades. He has served as Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology (MMUST) in Kenya, and is celebrated for his contributions to African literature, communication, and higher education.

With over 52 published works and numerous scholarly articles, Prof Kabaji has become a leading voice in promoting African scholarship and the preservation of indigenous knowledge systems.

He also holds a PhD in Folk Media and Communication from the University of South Africa (UNISA), an MBA in Strategic Management from Jomo Kenyatta University of



Prof Egara Kabaji, Newly installed Mount Kigali University Chancellor

Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT), a Master of Arts in Literary Studies from Kenyatta University, and a Bachelor of Education in Literature and English from the same institution.

In his inaugural address, Prof Kabaji stated: “Great universities are not known merely for their size, wealth, or architectural beauty.” True greatness, he emphasized, rested in research, publications, and service to the community. “[Great universities] are known for their capacity to generate new knowledge, to ask difficult

questions, to challenge old assumptions, and to offer solutions to the pressing problems of their societies,” he pointed out.

Prof Kabaji expressed his vision for Mount Kigali University to join the ranks of institutions that “dare to dream, to think, and to produce knowledge that changes lives”.

He called on the academic community in Rwanda to strengthen a culture of research and publication, describing it as the moral and intellectual foundation of any university. “A university without a culture

of publication is like a lamp without oil. Its light is dim and fleeting,” he stressed.

Dr Innocent Mugisha, Chairman of the University Governing Body, described the installation as a defining milestone in the evolution of Mount Kigali University. He praised Prof Kabaji’s distinguished record in scholarship, mentorship, and leadership, stating that it uniquely positions him to guide the university into a new era of intellectual excellence.

Dr Mugisha reaffirmed the Governing Body’s commitment to providing strategic oversight, ensuring accountability and upholding academic freedom as “the driving force of creativity and intellectual exploration.”

Prof Simon Gicharu, Founder and Chairman of the Board of Directors of both Mount Kigali University and Mount

Kenya University, described the ceremony as a milestone in the history of Mount Kigali University – one that confirms the institution is not merely growing, but transforming lives.

“This is not an ordinary event,” he said. “Prof Egara Kabaji is a renowned scholar, celebrated author, and respected academic leader. His appointment as Chancellor speaks volumes about the university’s confidence in character, capacity, and wide contribution to academia. His influence has extended beyond borders, into classrooms, leadership forums, literary circles, and academic realms across the continent and beyond.”

Prof Gicharu added that Prof Kabaji’s presence at Mount Kigali University reflects the words of Kwame Nkrumah, that “We face neither East nor West. We face forward”.

He commended the theme of the ceremony – “Promoting Scholarly Writing for University Posterity”, as both timely and necessary, especially as African universities seek to decolonise curricula and assert intellectual sovereignty.

“Within the context of university education, the Chancellor is more than a leader. He is the embodiment of rich academic values, the guardian of the institution’s vision, the torchbearer of academic integrity, and the moral conscience of the university,” he said, adding:

“Prof Kabaji’s passion for writing, publishing, and academic mentoring gives our university a definite compass and a mission that is second to none. This aligns with our belief in a faculty that does not just teach, but also engages with the community and creates knowledge. Prof Kabaji is the perfect match for us.”



From left: Mount Kigali University Governing Council members Dr Martin Kimemia Gathiru, Prof Deogratius Jaganyi, Ms Mary Munyiva Olubayi, Dr Innocent Sebasaza Mugisha, Dr Marie Christine Gasingirwa, and Dr John Gacinya pose for a photo during the installation of Prof Egara Kabaji as the university’s first Chancellor.

Mount Kigali University continues to support early childhood education projects in Rwanda



Prof Simon Gicharu, founder, Mount Kigali University and Ms Elodie Shami, Director General, Imbuto Foundation lay a foundation stone for the upcoming Murama Early Childhood Development Centre.

The Founder of Mount Kigali University, Prof Simon Gicharu, joined the Imbuto Foundation, Gasabo District, and the Kinyinya community on Thursday, October 9, 2025, to lay the foundation stone for the upcoming Murama Early Childhood Development Centre (ECD) in Kinyinya Sector, Gasabo District.

The new centre, established in partnership with the Imbuto Foundation, aims to provide a nurturing and stimulating learning environment for children aged not more than six years, in line with Rwanda's commitment to holistic early childhood development.

As a demonstration of his continued dedication to this cause, Prof Gicharu presented a cheque to Imbuto Foundation's Director General, Ms Elodie Shami, to support the construction of the Murama ECD Centre.

"Our partnership with Imbuto Foundation is built on a shared dream to give every Rwandan child a fair and equitable start in life," said Prof Gicharu. "By investing in quality early childhood development and family empowerment, we are investing in the future of Rwanda."

Official launch of Masaka Early Childhood Development and Family Centre

Earlier in the day, the delegation comprising Prof Gicharu, Imbuto Foundation's Director General Elodie Shami, and the District Executive Administrator of Kicukiro, Mr Antoine Mutsinzi, also officiated the inauguration of the Masaka Early Childhood Development and Family (ECD&F) Centre in Masaka Sector, Kicukiro District.

The Masaka ECD&F Centre stands as a flagship project of the partnership between Mount Kigali University and Imbuto Foundation, aimed

at ensuring children not only survive, but thrive in their formative years. The facility features modern classrooms that can accommodate 40 students each, a kitchen, and a spacious assembly area. Beyond physical infrastructure, the centre will provide essential services in early learning, nutrition, healthcare, hygiene, child protection, and parenting education.

In his address, Prof Gicharu highlighted that Mount Kigali University had so far invested Rwf150 million in constructing and operationalising the Masaka ECD&F Centre, and reaffirmed the institution's pledge to continue supporting early childhood initiatives nationwide.

"When I look around this facility, I see children learning, playing, and thriving in an environment that is safe and inclusive," he said. "At Mount Kigali University, we are not just builders of structures; we are builders of people and communities."

He further announced that Mount Kigali University, through its training hotel – Kigali Paramount Hotel – will offer full tuition scholarships to beneficiaries selected by Imbuto Foundation, to pursue short courses in hospitality-related fields such as culinary arts, event management, food and beverage service, restaurant operations, and housekeeping. This initiative aims to empower young people with practical skills essential for Rwanda's growing hospitality industry.

Speaking at the event, Elodie Shami, the Director General of Imbuto Foundation, described the day as a celebration of partnership, purpose, and shared vision.

"What we inaugurate today is more than a building. It is a

dream brought to life; a living symbol of what happens when vision meets action," she said. "Since 2013, Imbuto Foundation has been committed to early childhood development because we believe that investing in the first years of life is investing in Rwanda's future."

Shami further expressed gratitude to Mount Kigali University for its steadfast partnership and confirmed that the new Murama ECD Centre in Kinyinya will be completed and inaugurated next year.

Mr Antoine Mutsinzi, the District Executive Administrator of Kicukiro, commended the partnership for its tangible impact on the community.

"Masaka is one of the sectors within Kicukiro District, and it is among the most populated areas," he said. "Over the past decade, the population has almost doubled, which has greatly increased the need for essential infrastructure, including the Early Childhood Development and Family Centre we are inaugurating today."

Mr Mutsinzi went on: "This new facility represents a major upgrade from the previous structure, which had only two small rooms. The number of children enrolled has grown from 25 to over 125, showing the demand and impact of such projects. We sincerely thank Mount Kigali University and Imbuto Foundation for their continued collaboration and support, not only for the infrastructure, but also for providing vital learning equipment and resources."

He added: "This centre is also a space for parents. It will help mothers and fathers learn how to continue supporting their children's development at home.

The model we are launching here is one we aim to replicate across other sectors of the district."

Parents' representatives also shared their appreciation for the new centre. Beline Nirangira, the Vice-President of Parents at Masaka ECD&F, highlighted the centre's positive impact on both children and families:

"We started here with only 23 children, and it was difficult because some had to walk long distances to other ECD centres. Today, we are very grateful for this expansion. My child could not speak or interact with others when they first joined, but now they communicate confidently and play well with other children. As parents, we are committed to supporting the centre, contributing to programmes and ensuring it continues to grow and improve," said Nirangira.

The collaboration between Imbuto Foundation and Mount Kigali University, which began in 2018, has already yielded significant impact. Together, the institutions have supported 200 girl-child students across Rwanda to pursue secondary education and have embarked on the construction of two model ECD&F Centres in Masaka (Kicukiro) and Kinyinya (Gasabo).

These ECD initiatives align with Rwanda's Vision 2050 and the National Early Childhood Development Policy, both of which emphasise that national prosperity begins with investing in the wellbeing and education of children.

Law students gain early practical exposure to judicial system and other forms of legal practice

Students from Mount Kigali University School of Law embarked on an academic trip to the Nyanza High Court Chamber for International Crimes, to strengthen their practical understanding of Rwanda's legal system while learning directly from key judicial institutions.

The students, led by the Dean of the School of Law, Prof Fructose Bigirimana, were received by judicial staff of the court led by Justice Antoine Muhima, President of the High Court Chamber for International Crimes, in Nyanza town.

In addition to the High Court, the students paid a courtesy call to other significant legal landmarks in Nyanza District, most notably the Institute of Legal Practice and Development (ILPD), which plays a crucial role in providing hands-on training to legal professionals across Rwanda.

As part of their experience, the group attended live court proceedings, observing the judicial process first-hand. This gave them a deeper appreciation of courtroom dynamics, evidence presentation, and the responsibilities of judges and

lawyers in international crimes-related cases.

In an interactive exchange with the students, Justice Muhima urged them to adapt to new trends shaping the practice of law. "The law is constantly evolving, and the future belongs to lawyers who are able to adjust to change. You must learn from past generations, but also work to fill the gaps they left behind," he stressed.

Justice Muhima further emphasised the value of academic trips for students at the early stage of their studies,



The Dean of the School of Law, Prof Fructose Bigirimana (3rd from right) and Justice Antoine Muhima (2nd from Right) pose for a photo with the judicial staff of the court and law students, after an interactive session.

noting that such exposure provides them with a strong foundation for their future careers in law.

Prof Bigirimana, on his part, highlighted the purpose of these academic trips in shaping the next generation of legal minds. “These trips are not just about visiting institutions; they are about immersing our students in the realities of legal practice. Our Bachelor of Laws (LLB) and Master of Law in International Commercial and Investment Laws (LLM) programmes are designed to blend academic knowledge with practical exposure so that our graduates emerge as competent, ethical, and globally competitive legal professionals,” he said. “Through such engagements, we want students to build critical thinking skills, confidence, and an appreciation of their role as future custodians of justice.”

The Nyanza trip follows an earlier academic tour to Kenya by the first cohort of law students at the university. The students toured Mount Kenya University’s main campus in Thika before proceeding to Kenya’s National Assembly, where they were hosted by South Mugirango MP and Majority Whip, Silvanus Osoro.

At Parliament, they learned about the law-making process,



Law students listen keenly during an interactive session.

the distinct roles of the National Assembly and Senate, and the impact of devolution through mechanisms such as the Constituency Development Fund (CDF).

The students also visited the Supreme Court of Kenya, where Lady Justice Njoki Ndung’u gave a lecture on the jurisdiction, roles, and landmark jurisprudence of the country’s highest court. To enrich their historical perspective, they toured the Judiciary Museum of Kenya, which showcases the evolution of the judiciary through preserved artefacts and documents.

Through these local and regional academic trips, Mount Kigali University is positioning its School of Law as a hub of practical legal training and comparative legal studies in Rwanda, ensuring students not only learn the theory of law but also engage with its practice across borders.

The university was accredited to offer the Bachelor of Law in October 2024, and shortly after, in December 2024, it also received approval to launch the Master of Law programme. The pioneer group of Bachelor of Law students was admitted in January 2025.

A warm welcome to newest students



Lucie Uwimana warmly welcomed new learners, to the university's vibrant community



Dr John Nyiligira, expressed the university's commitment to nurturing talent and preparing students to thrive in a competitive world.



University Librarian, Muthee Lucy Wangechi encouraged new students to develop a reading and writing culture.

Mount Kigali University has officially welcomed its newest cohort of students following the September intake, marking a beginning of their academic journey at the institution.

The orientation ceremony brought together students eager to embark on their higher education experience and senior university leaders who assured them of support throughout their studies.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Finance and Administration,

Dr John Nyiligira, expressed the university's commitment to nurturing talent and preparing students to thrive in a competitive world. He encouraged the freshers to embrace hard work, discipline, and innovation as they settle into campus life.

Lucie Uwimana, Dean of Students, warmly welcomed the learners, stating: "We are delighted to have you join our vibrant community. This is the start of an exciting journey where you will not only gain knowledge but also develop

life skills that will shape your future. Remember, your attitude and dedication will define your success here."

Francis Mwangi, the Academic Registrar, added: "Our team is here to ensure a smooth transition into university life. From registration to academic guidance, we are committed to supporting you at every step. Take advantage of the resources available and engage actively in your learning experience."

Mount Kigali University and Spiro partner to drive electric mobility in Rwanda



Dr. Martin Kimemia and Kaushik Burman signing MoU that aims to drive electric mobility in Rwanda.

Mount Kigali University and Africa Green Mobility Solutions Ltd (Spiro) have signed a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to advance sustainable mobility, research, and innovation in Rwanda.

The agreement, signed at the university's campus, underscores a shared commitment to supporting Rwanda's clean transport agenda and contributing to national climate goals.

As part of the partnership, Spiro donated five electric motorcycles to Mount Kigali University for training, demonstration, and awareness campaigns.

The collaboration will also see the installation of a battery-swap station at the university, providing students and researchers with hands-on experience in the adoption of Electric Vehicles (EVs) and sustainable transport solutions.

The MoU outlines a wide scope of collaboration,

including joint research and innovation, capacity building, student internships, and public awareness initiatives. Students will benefit from internship placements at Spiro, access to technical training, and exposure to real-world applications of EV technology. The two institutions will also co-develop academic content, host public lectures, and establish platforms to promote knowledge-sharing on sustainable mobility.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Dr Martin Kimemia,



As part of the partnership, Spiro donated five electric motorcycles to Mount Kigali University for training, demonstration and awareness campaigns.

Vice-Chancellor of Mount Kigali University, thanked Spiro for the initiative and emphasised the transformative potential of the partnership.

“Today marks an important milestone for Mount Kigali University as we formalise this collaboration with Spiro. The donation of these electric motorcycles is not only a generous gesture but also a practical tool that will allow our students to engage directly with sustainable technologies,” Dr Kimemia said.

He added that the event symbolises the university’s vision of linking academic excellence with industry needs, stating: “As institutions of higher learning, we must remain at the forefront of innovation. This MoU gives our students and faculty an edge in research, training, and technology, while aligning with

Spiro’s mission of sustainable mobility. Together, we aim to contribute to Rwanda’s economic transformation and environmental goals.”

Kaushik Burman, Chief Executive Officer of Spiro, highlighted the broader vision of the partnership, linking it to global and national priorities.

“Spiro’s vision is nation building. As all of you are aware, the world faces a climate crisis, and electric mobility is one of the ways to tackle it. This MoU reflects our commitment to working with Rwandan institutions like Mount Kigali University to invest in environmental sustainability. Today is just the beginning, and I look forward to building this partnership further,” Burman said.

The partnership is part of a much wider national effort. Rwanda has set an ambitious

target to become a carbon-neutral nation by 2050, and the transport sector is a key focus. To accelerate the shift to EVs, the government has introduced a range of incentives, including tax exemptions on such vehicles, as well as on batteries and the charging station equipment.

The country is also working on developing a National Sustainable Mobility Policy and is seeing other companies, such as Ampersand and Volkswagen, contributing to the growth of the EV ecosystem.

Both parties committed to co-applying for research and innovation grants, developing quality assurance standards for EV adoption, and exploring commercialisation opportunities for innovations that emerge from the collaboration.

How childhood memories are shaping student's path to authorship

Childhood memories often linger quietly in the background of our lives, but for Olive Mutuyeyezu, they have become the driving force behind her journey as an author.

A Rwandan writer, mother, construction worker, and student of Business Management at Mount Kigali University, Olive has transformed her personal struggles into powerful stories that inspire strength and resilience.

Her path to writing began as a deeply personal endeavour. What started as journaling – an attempt to preserve memories and make sense of difficult childhood experiences – soon evolved into something greater.

“I realised that writing was not just personal therapy. It was a gift I could use to reach others, to inspire resilience, and to show that even painful beginnings could be turned into meaningful stories,” she reflects.

For Olive, writing became both a means of healing and a way of empowering others. Her debut book, *Kadi's Hands: A Strange Heavy Day*, captures the weight of silent burdens many children carry. While inspired by painful realities, it is written not to depress but to uplift, encouraging readers to find strength in hardship.

On another front, her second book, *The Richest Broke Man*, ventures into fiction, telling the story of a man who time-travels from present-day struggles into a futuristic world. Olive's curiosity sparked the novel: What if life



Olive Mutuyeyezu

suddenly gave us a second chance in a different time? Despite their various settings, both books share a unifying message: Hope for tomorrow.

Olive has written two main books so far, each as part of a series. She has already published the first instalments and is now working simultaneously on their sequels, which she plans to release before the year ends. Her goal is to continue using storytelling to turn heavy themes into messages of courage and perseverance.

Olive's growth as a writer has also been impacted by a strong community support. At Mount Kigali University, the reading club has played a significant role in encouraging her creativity.

“The reading club creates a space where our voices can be heard and our work appreciated,” Olive says. “It’s not just about reading. It’s about sharing ideas, growing together, and building confidence as young authors.” Through such initiatives, the university accelerates its efforts to nurture creativity alongside academic success.

Balancing motherhood, studies, construction work, and writing, is no small feat, but Olive approaches it with determination and purpose. By transforming her childhood memories into compelling narratives, she is not only finding her own healing but also offering readers the gift of hope. Her journey shows that even the heaviest beginnings can lead to stories that shine light into the lives of others.

Mount Kigali University enhances hospitality training with new practical equipment

Mount Kigali University has upgraded its hospitality training with new practical training equipment designed to strengthen hands-on learning for students preparing for careers in the hospitality industry.

The items were handed over by the Vice Chancellor Dr. Martin Kimemia, to the faculty led by the dean of the School of Hospitality, Travel and tourism Management, Dr Paul Okumu. The school which is Regional Centre of Excellence in Hospitality & Tourism training aims to produce highly skilled manpower for both local and international market.

The new facilities will give students access to modern tools that mirror real-world industry standards, allowing them to refine skills in preparation, presentation, and service.

Dr. Paul Okumu, Dean of the School, highlighted that the investment aligns with the university's vision of producing

highly skilled graduates who are internationally competitive.

“Our goal is to enhance practical training for our hospitality students. With this equipment, we are positioning ourselves to be a regional center of excellence. We want to produce graduates who are fully equipped and capable of shining anywhere in the international market,” Dr. Okumu said.

Dr. Martin Kimemia reiterated that the initiative reflects the university's broader commitment to excellence and innovation in higher education.

“This is what we endeavor to achieve as the university—equipping our students with the right skills, the right exposure, and the confidence to meet both local and international standards,” Dr. Kimemia stated.

He further extended appreciation to the University Board for its strategic vision and support,

noting that such investments are only possible because of its commitment to advancing quality education in Rwanda and beyond.

The School of Hospitality, Travel, and Tourism Management currently offers a wide range of academic programmes tailored to meet industry needs. These include a Master of Science in Tourism Management, Master of Science in Hospitality Management, Bachelor of Science in Travel & Tourism Management, and Bachelor of Science in Hospitality Management.

As Rwanda continues to expand its hospitality and tourism sector, Mount Kigali University's investment is seen as a timely contribution to building a skilled workforce. By integrating practical training with academic learning, the university aims to nurture professionals who can lead in diverse hospitality environments across the region and beyond.



Dr. Martin Kimemia hands over the new hospitality practical equipment to Dr. Paul Okumu. Looking on are the staff from the School of Hospitality, Travel and Tourism Management.

68 students begin internship at Kigali Paramount Hotel



Hospitality students in a cheerful mood as they are welcomed at Kigali Paramount Hotel.

A new cohort of students from Mount Kigali University's Department of Hospitality have begun their industrial attachment at Kigali Paramount Hotel.

The group of 68 students will undergo practical training through involvement in the hotel's daily operations. This hands-on approach is designed to equip them with essential skills in customer care, service delivery, and hotel management, preparing them for careers in the hospitality industry.

Speaking during the welcoming session on 18th September, 2025, Dean of the School of Hospitality, Travel and Tourism Management Dr Paul Okumu, encouraged the students to take the attachment seriously, highlighting it as an opportunity to showcase their capabilities even as they learn. "Be respectful and respect the people who are in charge. You only have one chance to impress the customer and the supervisors who will be seeing your potential.

This will open doors for your career in the industry," he advised.

Acting General Manager of Kigali Paramount Hotel, Maureen Ekhubi Oteng'o, expressed readiness to support the students throughout the programme, noting that such collaborations not only benefit the learners but also contribute to building a skilled workforce that strengthens the country's tourism and hospitality industry.

"You came here to learn. Make sure you learn. Do your best for personal growth," she advised the students, adding that communication and professionalism were essential for success in the industry.

During their attachment, the students will gain practical exposure by participating in the hotel's daily operations. The programme is designed to equip them with vital skills in customer care, service delivery, and hotel management – preparing them for worldwide careers in the hospitality sector. One of the trainees, Mary Nyambura,

referred to the attachment is a perfect opportunity. "This is my chance to put theory into practice. I am looking forward to learning more about customer service and improving my confidence in real work situations," she said.

Another student, Vianney Serugo, shared similar sentiments, saying: "Working in a professional hotel environment like Kigali Paramount gives us exposure to industry standards. I want to make the most of this opportunity and prepare myself to be competitive in the job market."

Kigali Paramount Hotel was established as a result of the university's growing commitment to bridging academic knowledge with real-world hospitality industry practices. For many students, this attachment marks a crucial step in their professional journey, offering direct exposure to the standards and expectations of Rwanda's fast-growing hospitality sector.

Prof John Struthers pays courtesy call on Mount Kigali University Vice-Chancellor



Prof. John Struthers, Chancellor, Mount Kenya University, plant a tree at the campus. He is joined by Dr. Martin Kimemia, DVC Academics, Dr. Ruth Thinguri, Prof Kabaji and the Human Resource Director, Donator Nderitu.

Mount Kigali University was honoured to host Prof John Struthers, Chancellor of Mount Kenya University, during his courtesy visit to the university's campus in Kicukiro district on 11th August, 2025.

The visit included engagements with the university management, a symbolic tree-planting ceremony, and a welcome for the newly appointed Chancellor of Mount Kigali University, Prof Egara Kabaji.

Prof Struthers brings with him over 40 years of distinguished experience in academia and leadership. He is a Professor of Economics, formerly at the University of the West of Scotland, where he held senior

roles, including Dean of the Faculty of Business, Head of Economics and Enterprise, and founding Head of the Graduate School.

Over his career, Prof Struthers has also taught in Nigeria and Sierra Leone, conducted research in several African countries, and published extensively on development economics, particularly on commodities such as coffee and cocoa.

Beyond academia, Prof Struthers has served in leadership positions within the private and public sectors, including as a director of the Scottish Chamber of Commerce, board member of Waterwatch

Scotland, and adviser to the Scottish Government, on international development issues.

During his Rwanda visit, Prof Struthers met with Prof Egara Kabaji alongside members of the university's management. Discussions centred on governance, innovation, and strategies to enhance MKU's contribution to Rwanda's higher education landscape.

The highlight of the visit was a tree-planting ceremony, symbolising growth, sustainability, and the enduring partnership between Mount Kenya University and Mount Kigali University.

Mount Kigali University eyes first PhD programmes and new courses after HEC engagement

Mount Kigali University has set its sights on becoming one of Rwanda's leading centres of higher education, and has embarked on plans to introduce its first PhD programmes.

On 19 August 2025, the Director General of Higher Education Council (HEC) Dr Edward Kadozi, held discussions with the university's management on two newly submitted doctoral programmes: Nursing and Business Administration. The talks focused on the university's readiness to deliver them, and involved assessing the quality of teaching staff, resources, and infrastructure, against national and international standards.

The meeting formed part of a wider institutional audit conducted on 18-22 August 2025 to review the university's preparedness to expand into doctoral-level training.

Vice-Chancellor, Dr Martin Kimemia, described the move as a "transformational milestone" for the university.

"Introducing PhD programmes in Nursing and in Business Administration will strengthen our academic profile and contribute to Rwanda's knowledge economy," Dr Kimemia said. "We are committed to producing graduates with skills that directly support national development."

If approved, the programmes would position Mount Kigali University among a small group of peers in Rwanda offering doctoral training, with Nursing marking a particularly rare and specialised field.

But the university's ambitions do not end there. Alongside the proposed PhDs, it has also submitted a slate of new programmes for accreditation. These are Bachelor in Data Science and Artificial Intelligence, Master of Arts in Counselling Psychology, and Master of Arts in International Relations and Diplomacy. In addition, the university has applied to mount a Master of Education Sciences with specialisations in Biology, Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics.

The expansion reflects both the university's growth strategy and the national drive for stronger human capital development, a core pillar of Rwanda's Vision 2050. Dr Kadozi underscored this during his engagement with the university.

"A skilled nation is a prosperous nation," he said. "What we want to see is institutions moving from paperwork to purpose, delivering graduates who truly meet market needs."

In line with this vision, HEC has challenged universities to improve in five critical areas: Accountability in programme design, staff quality, industry linkages, workload balance, and market-driven needs assessments.

Dr Kimemia said Mount Kigali University was already aligning itself with these priorities. "We are reviewing our academic programmes, staffing, and partnerships to ensure that what we teach is directly relevant to the labour market," he explained. "This is how we intend to contribute to Rwanda's journey under Vision 2050."



Dr. Edward Kadozi, Director General, Higher Education Council, held discussions with MKU management on two newly submitted doctoral programmes in Nursing and Business Administration.

Expanding the mind through reading: Inside the Mount Kigali University Reading Club



Lucy Wangechi Muthee (4th from left), University Librarian, poses for a photo with the staff and members of the reading club after a public speaking practice session.

In a society where reading is not as widespread, especially for younger generations, Mount Kigali University has stepped up by launching initiatives that go beyond regular classwork and tap into curiosity, self-expression, and a love for continuous learning.

One such creation is the Mount Kigali University Reading Club, with the motto: “Explore the world through reading”. The club has quickly become a lively community of readers and writers dedicated to shaping their own intellectual journeys and strengthening the reading culture on campus. The club’s story began with a simple reading and writing competition that brought together students who loved books and wanted a place to share ideas.

Launched officially during the Library Week in February 2025, the club started with just 20 members. Since then, under the guidance of the University Librarian Lucy Wangechi Muthee, who is also the matron, it has grown into a hub for exploring books and ideas.

Today, the club is much more than a group of students reading together. It’s a community committed to creative writing, critical thinking, communication, networking, and sharing of ideas.

Activities that inspire

The Mount Kigali University Reading Club always has something going on. Members have participated in writing sessions that led to works like Rwanda: A Model for Africa,

which is currently being published.

The group also holds sessions where members read books on their own before meeting up for a group discussion. This offers a chance for both personal growth and learning together.

So far, the club has reviewed and discussed many influential books, including *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People* by Stephen Covey, *The Richest Man in Babylon* by George Samuel Clason, *Eat That Frog* by Brian Tracy, *Digital Minimalism* by Cal Newport, and *The Mountain Is You* by Brianna Wiest, among many others.

Beyond reading and writing, the club organises public speaking sessions, competitions, and guest

lectures. These activities build confidence, spark creativity, and help with professional growth.

Wangechi, the University Librarian, believes that the Mwalimu Peter Claver Nyombayire Library has been crucial in the club's success. "The library offers more than just space," she says. "We provide access to diverse collections, research materials and a supportive environment for discussions, as well as mentorship for aspiring creative writers. We see the Reading Club as a partner in growing a culture of learning, and we're committed to supporting them on this journey."

Voices from the club

For many students, the Reading Club is more than just an activity. Chadia Murorunkwere, a Third-Year student of education, shares her motivation: "What inspired me to join was the chance to connect with people who love books, and to improve my writing skills. I wanted to challenge myself, and this club gives me that chance." Club president Cyprian

Twagirimana emphasises its academic benefits: "The Reading Club has sharpened my critical thinking and broadened my perspective. Our discussions and writing sessions have made my communication skills stronger, and that shows directly in my schoolwork and presentations."

For Ishimwe Benedithe, the variety of activities is what stands out. "What I enjoy most are the interactive sessions, especially public speaking and debates. They push us to think fast, speak with confidence, and learn from each other." Some members also highlight the lasting impact of certain books. Joseph Kwizera says: "One book the club introduced me to that really made an impact is *The Mountain Is You*. It taught me how to turn self-sabotage into self-mastery, and not let what's going on inside affect how I react to things outside."

Meanwhile, Munyabugingo Daniel, an education student, praised the sense of belonging the club creates: "It's more than just reading. The club makes you feel like you are part of a family where ideas

are shared freely, and you grow not just academically, but also socially."

A culture rooted in books

Rwanda has made great progress in literacy, with nearly 76 percent of people aged 15 and above now literate. However, promoting a love for reading beyond formal education is still a challenge. A 2015 survey conducted by Save the Children, Stanford University, and the Ministry of Education, found that only nine percent of Rwandan parents had ever read a story to their child.

In response, the Ministry of Education and its partners have launched campaigns like Literacy Month, to encourage basic reading skills and a love for books from a young age. While a slight gender gap in literacy remains among adults, the trend is reversed in the younger generation (15–24 years), with females having a 91 percent literacy rate compared to 78 percent for males.

In an environment where a strong oral tradition must coexist with the digital world, Mount Kigali University's Reading Club offers a vital way to bridge the gap.

By providing a dedicated space and organised activities, the university has become a driving force in improving creative writing and reading. Through a mix of reading, writing, public speaking, and intellectual talks, the club helps students become not only better learners, but also stronger thinkers and future leaders.



New, modern, energy-efficient tuition block takes shape



An aerial view of the new tuition block under construction.

Construction is underway at Mount Kigali University of a new classroom block designed to meet the needs of a growing student population and enhance the overall learning experience.

Currently in the middle stage behind the existing structures, the new block features a distinctive L-shaped design overlooking the scenic landscape of Rwanda. Once complete, it will house spacious state-of-the-art

learning facilities that reflect the university's commitment to delivering high-quality education.

The new block is being built with sustainability and student-centred learning at its core. In addition to the use of eco-friendly materials, the contractor is putting together a design that will maximise natural light and ventilation to achieve high levels of energy-efficiency. Green spaces are also being integrated to foster

a comfortable and inspiring atmosphere for both students and faculty.

The construction of the new tuition block is part of Mount Kigali University's broader vision to expand infrastructure while aligning with Rwanda's sustainable development goals. Once complete, the building is expected to set a new benchmark for educational facilities in the country.

Study by Mount Kigali University faculty puts finger on pneumonia risks factors for Rwandan children

A recent study led by Mr Muhire Havugimana Dieudonne, a clinical Instructor at Mount Kigali University's School of Nursing and Midwifery, has shed new light on the prevalence and risk factors of pneumonia among children under five at the Rwamagana Level II Teaching Hospital.

Students and academic staff from Mount Kigali University supported Muhire in the process of this cross-sectional study conducted from October to December 2024, involving 230 parents of young children.

The findings revealed that 17.8 percent of the children were diagnosed with pneumonia, underlining the disease as a significant health challenge in Rwamagana district.

The research identified several risk factors. Children with smoking parents were over 21 times more likely to develop pneumonia. Female children were found to have higher odds of contracting the disease compared to males, while children living in rural areas faced greater vulnerability than those in urban settings.

Socio-economic factors also play a role, with families lacking home ownership or

stable conditions showing higher risks.

According to Mr Muhire, these findings emphasise the need for more targeted health education, strengthened vaccination programmes, and broader parental support to reduce pneumonia-related illness and

deaths among children.

The study also draws attention to lifestyle and environmental conditions such as the use of traditional cooking fuels that remain major contributors to respiratory diseases in Rwanda.



Mount Kigali University hosts author training workshop on Amazon publishing tools



Attendees of the training, equipped with laptops and manuscripts, engaged in live exercises to apply what they learned immediately.

Mount Kigali University today hosted a groundbreaking Author Training Workshop on Amazon Publishing Tools, bringing together faculty, researchers, and students eager to explore the digital publishing space. The five-hour hands-on session, held at the campus, was led by Mudacumura Fiston, Founder of Mudacumura Publishing House, in collaboration with Mwalimu Peter Claver Nyombayire Library.

The training focused on Amazon Author Central setup, Kindle manuscript formatting, and book uploads on Kindle Direct Publishing (KDP). Participants worked step by step on their own manuscripts, gaining practical skills to publish and promote their works independently.



Chancellor outlines vision for university



Prof Egara Kabaji is robed by Dr Innocent Mugisha, assisted by Prof. Stanley Waudo (L), member of Mount Kenya University Council.

Mount Kigali University's inaugural Chancellor, Prof Egara Kabaji, envisions an institution whose students and graduates are well-recognised on globally. And he has vowed to work closely with the university's Governing Council and the Vice-Chancellor to make this a reality.

His strategy, he said as he spoke during the university's graduation ceremony on 8 August 2025, will entail "strengthening regional engagement, fostering academic rigour, and cultivating global partnerships".

As he addressed the congregation – comprising more than 1,200 graduands, as well as faculty, staff and guests – Prof Kabaji paid tribute to Rwanda's Higher Education Council (HEC) and the Ministry of Education for nurturing the university from its establishment as a campus of Mount Kenya University based in Thika, Kenya, to a fully-fledged, autonomous institution based in Kicukiro District, Kigali. "Rwanda," Prof Kabaji said, "has demonstrated its capacity to

host and sustain world-class institutions of higher learning. Mount Kigali University is poised to live out its national calling as a university shaped by Rwanda for Rwanda, and respected around the globe."

Adding his voice to this train of thought, the university's Vice-Chancellor Dr Martin Kimemia stressed: "Excellence isn't what we aim for. It's what we expect. Degrees must be engines of innovation, not just credentials for employment."

Reflecting on the graduation theme – 'Innovation and Artificial Intelligence: Shaping the Future of Higher Education' – Dr Kimemia emphasised the need for transformation in academia. "What we teach, how we teach, and why we teach must evolve. Innovation must become the everyday language of universities. The question is no longer if we use AI, but how wisely we do."

The university is indeed investing in innovation, entrepreneurship, and digital learning, positioning itself as a

key player in Rwanda's Vision 2050 and the broader East African academic landscape. It is also expanding its postgraduate offerings, and is on a steady path to becoming a research-led hands-on institution.

Towards this, the university has been steadily expanding its practical learning infrastructure and other necessary facilities to accommodate foreseeable growth in student numbers. In addition to having established a Medical Centre, Mount Kigali University recently opened a training hotel – Kigali Paramount Hotel – to provide hands-on exposure to hospitality and tourism students.

A new academic block is under construction, and it will feature modern offices for faculty and associate staff, a students' centre, a cafeteria, and common areas designed to encourage community and collaboration. Further, plans are on to expand hostel capacity towards meeting the growing demand for on-campus student accommodation.

Sudan embassy pledges **stronger cooperation with university**

The Sudanese Ambassador to Rwanda, H.E Khalid Musa Dafalla, paid a courtesy call on the Vice-Chancellor of Mount Kigali University, Dr Martin Kimemia, to discuss ways of strengthening cooperation between the Embassy of Sudan and the university. The discussion centred on the welfare and academic progress of Sudanese students at the institution.

Ambassador Dafalla commended the university for its growing international community and expressed his satisfaction with the academic environment. He reaffirmed the embassy's commitment to a partnership with the university. "We are here to visit our students and to enhance cooperation between the embassy and the university. We are ready

to support them so that they can perform well and complete their studies successfully and on time," said Ambassador Dafalla. Dr Kimemia appreciated the ambassador's visit and his promise to ensure the Embassy strengthens the partnership, which is aimed at fostering academic excellence and cultural exchange among students.

"We are honoured to receive Ambassador Dafalla at Mount Kigali University," said Dr Kimemia. "Our doors are always open to collaboration that enhances the success and wellbeing of our international students."

The VC emphasised the university's commitment to inclusivity and global engagement, saying: "Mount

Kigali University takes pride in being a home to students from across Africa. We believe that cultural diversity enriches learning and prepares our students to become responsible global citizens," added Dr Kimemia.

Uwimana Lucie, the Dean of Students, also welcomed the ambassador's visit, highlighting the importance of student support and engagement.

"We are proud of our Sudanese students for their discipline, commitment, and contribution to campus life," she said. "The university, together with the Embassy, remains dedicated to providing a supportive environment that allows every student to thrive both academically and socially."



His Excellency Ambassador Khalid Musa Dafalla addresses Sudanese students during his visit to Mount Kigali University.

Senator commends university during anti-corruption awareness campaign



Senator Prof. Penina Uwimbabazi engages the university community with a powerful message about integrity, transparency, and accountability.

Mount Kigali University hosted an anti-corruption awareness campaign organised by the African Parliamentarians Network Against Corruption (APNAC). The campaign was led by Senator Prof. Penina Uwimbabazi, who delivered a powerful message about integrity, transparency, and accountability.

The Senator commended the university for supporting national efforts to combat corruption through education and awareness. She highlighted the importance of collective responsibility in building a society that was free from corruption, and encouraged the university community – students, faculty, and general staff – to embrace ethical behaviour in all aspects of their engagements.

The campaign featured engaging talks, interactive discussions, and messaging centred on strengthening moral values and promoting honesty in leadership. Faculty members and students participated actively, reflecting on how corruption undermined progress and how institutions of higher learning could serve as models of good governance.

Royal FM marks 10th anniversary with launch of creative hub

Rwanda's Royal FM has marked its 10th anniversary with the unveiling of a new strategy focused on empowering online content creators.

The broadcaster, founded in 2015 by Kenyan entrepreneur Prof Simon Gicharu, is charting a new course to stay ahead of the curve in the rapidly evolving media landscape, by deepening audience engagement and collaborating with digital content generators. The radio station said it had built a creative hub that would enable content creators to record, edit and produce shows.

"As we mark our 10th year, we're not just reflecting; we're building. Our audience should expect more. We also have more powerful tools for creators, deeper data insights, better monetisation options and even more ways to grow your audience. Our brand-new Voice Studio is just the beginning: an all-in-one creative hub where recording, editing, and producing shows is seamless

and intuitive," said Aissa Cyiza, the station's chief executive.

"The radio revolution is not slowing down: it's just getting started. Whether you're an aspiring podcaster, a seasoned DJ, or a business looking to connect with your audience in fresh ways, we give you everything you need to succeed," he added.

Royal FM, which is a sister company of Mount Kigali University and Kigali Paramount Hotel, has within the short 10 years emerged as a disruptive player in the country.

Prof Gicharu said the radio station was established with multiple mandates. Aside from the traditional objectives of offering news, education and entertainment to the public, the radio has also served as a training ground for journalism students at Mount Kigali University.

"Royal FM is not just a commercial entity but a place

where young and talented students have an opportunity to utilise their creative entity," said Gicharu during the anniversary celebrations on 16 October 2025.

During a luncheon held at Kigali Paramount Hotel, Prof Gicharu, emphasised purpose over profit and called for building institutions that transform society, not just generate income. He pledged personal resources to support long-term growth, unity, and quality education.

Cyiza added that Royal FM had reimagined Radio in Rwanda, making broadcasting accessible, simple, but powerful. He added that the station was going further and would now work with content creators, staying ahead of the fast-changing dynamics in the media industry. "Today, we're proud to celebrate that milestone. We are moving further in embracing new media through the launch of Voice Studio, designed to put content creators' voices at the forefront," he said.



Prof Simon Gicharu, in a jovial mood as he meets Royal FM staff during his visit to the station.



Mount Kigali University

Empowering Generations Through Quality Education



Gatenga Kicukiro District



+254 788 125 088



marketing@mkurwanda.ac.rw



www.mku.ac.ke

