



THE CO-OPERATIVE UNIVERSITY OF KENYA

April 30, 2025

THE BULLETIN



H.E. Hon. William Samoei Ruto confirms Dr. Bernard William Chitunga (kneeling) as the Chancellor of The Co-operative University of Kenya, flanked by Council Chairperson Dr. Jeremy Bundi (right), Vice Chancellor Prof. Kamau Ngamau, Deputy Vice-Chancellor—Academic, Co-operative Development, Research, and Innovation Prof. Isaac K. Nyamongo, Deputy Vice-Chancellor—Finance, Planning, and Administration Prof. Esther Gicheru, Council Members, and University Management Board during the Chancellor's installation ceremony on April 30, 2025, at The Co-operative University of Kenya, Main Campus, Karen-Nairobi.

Second Chancellor's Installation By Meshack M. Ngangi | April 30, 2025

In the golden light of April, the 30th day of the month, Karen Nairobi Campus thrummed with anticipation as The Co-operative University of Kenya (CUK) welcomed a new chapter in its storied history. H.E. Hon. William Samoei Ruto, Ph.D., C.G.H., President of the Republic of Kenya and Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Forces, arrived fresh from a landmark state visit to China—one that he described as “for the next generation”—and was greeted by the resonant harmonies of the University Choir and the vibrant colors of academic regalia.

His first act of the day was to officially open the long-awaited Lecture Theatre III Annex, a state-of-the-art complex fitted with interactive teaching mechanisms and

hybrid-learning capability.

Following the ribbon-cutting, President Ruto joined the to-be-installed Chancellor, Dr. Benard William Chitunga, the University Council, the Management Board, faculty, students and guests in a stately procession across the sunlit campus quad. The University Band's rhythmic drums and the choir's stirring blend of Swahili anthems and creative composition melodies set a tone of solemn celebration.



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CUK Electoral Commission Chairperson Dr. Michael Ngala (Centre) announces the election results for the Student Governing Council Elections in the Nordic Hall on April 3, 2025, at The Co-operative University of Kenya, Main Campus, Karen-Nairobi.

Delegate and SGC Elections 2025

By Meshack M. Ngangi | April 3, 2025

Three weeks preceding April 3, 2025, at The Co-operative University of Kenya featured a spirited display of student democracy unfolded as candidates across every faculty and the Institute of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (I-TVET) campaigned vigorously for seats in both the Delegate and the Student Governing Council elections.

Beginning in mid-March, hopefuls submitted their nomination forms—each backed by a substantial number of nominees—before taking to posters, digital forums, and lively town-hall debates to present their manifestos for the coming era. By April 3, the electorate had turned out in droves to cast their ballots for departmental delegates who would then participate in electing the executive arm, the SGC of campus governance.

The CUKSU Electoral Commission, led by Dr. Michael Ngala, undertook rigorous vetting in close coordination with the Dean of Students' Office. Candidates for President, Vice President, Secretary-General, Treasurer, Social Welfare and Co-Curricular Activities, Gender and Special Needs, and Campus Representative from the

two competing parties, The Radical Alliance (TRA) and Comrades Inject Alliance (CIA), laid out detailed manifestos in campaign trails.

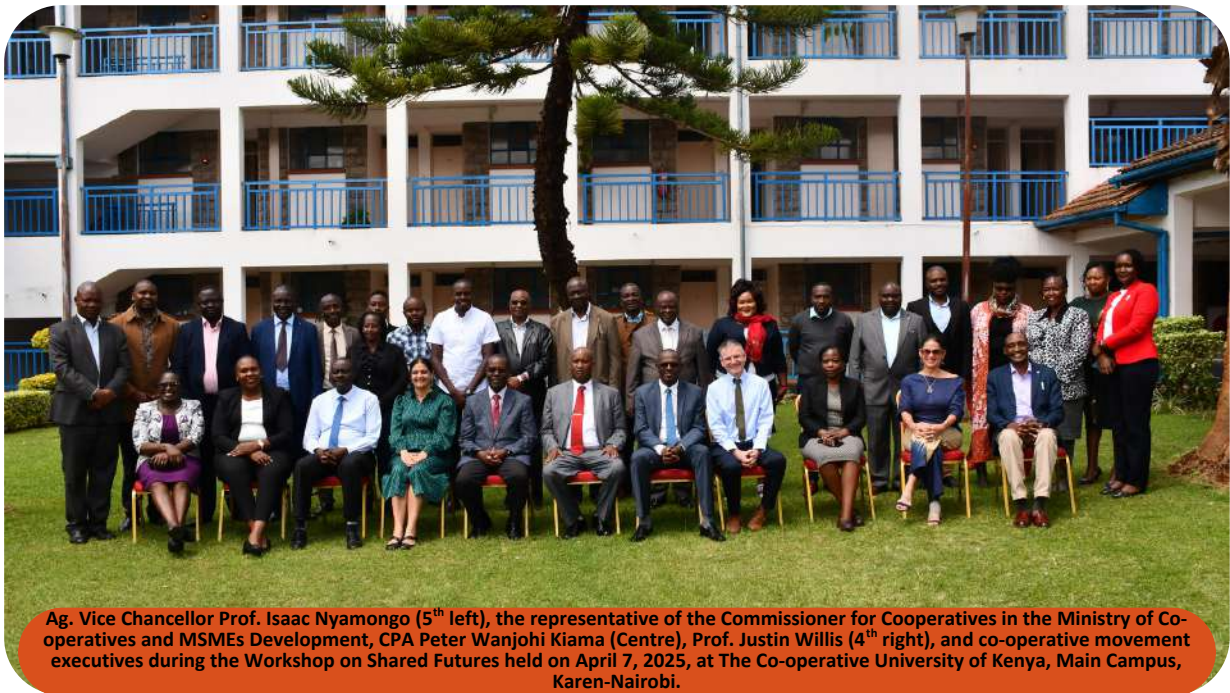
After the Delegate Elections, there followed SGC polls that saw the following leaders elected: Peter Okinda as Chairperson, Njagi Winrose Kinya as Vice-Chairperson, Chacha Benson Mwita as Secretary-General, and Vincent Ochieng as Finance Secretary. Samuel Owino was elected Social Welfare and



Co-Curricular Activities Secretary, Belinda Wanjiru became the Gender and Special Needs Secretary, and Elias Girbo was chosen as Campus Representative. *"I am honoured by the trust placed in me and I look forward to holding monthly town halls so every student can make their voice heard,"* Chairperson-elect Peter Okinda told cheering supporters.



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Ag. Vice Chancellor Prof. Isaac Nyamongo (5th left), the representative of the Commissioner for Cooperatives in the Ministry of Co-operatives and MSMEs Development, CPA Peter Wanjohi Kiama (Centre), Prof. Justin Willis (4th right), and co-operative movement executives during the Workshop on Shared Futures held on April 7, 2025, at The Co-operative University of Kenya, Main Campus, Karen-Nairobi.

Shared Futures: Trust, Money, and the Power of Togetherness in Kenya

In Kenya, money has never been just about numbers. It's been about people pulling together when life gets hard, lifting each other when opportunities come knocking, and dreams that are bigger than what one person can carry alone. This resonates with why, long before formal banks were established in rural towns or mobile money transfers came to be, Kenyans were already saving, lending, and building futures together. Whether in small village circles or urban estates, the culture of *"tuungane tushirikiane"* was already shaping how we handled money.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the one-day workshop on Shared Futures: Reciprocity, Savings, and Credit in Kenya, the Ag. Vice Chancellor, Prof. Isaac Nyamongo, noted that the Chamas and SACCOs are solidarity economy entities with shared futures within reciprocity, savings, and credit provision. At the heart of this culture lie two homegrown financial pillars: chamas and Saccos.

They are more than systems—they are social institutions, born out of necessity, guided by trust, and now evolving into powerful engines for wealth creation. Their pasts are rich, their present is dynamic, and their future is just beginning to unfold. Prof. Justin Willis, a Professor of History at Durham University, delivered a presentation on the past, present, and the future of Saccos and Chamas: an agenda for historical research during



the Workshop, noting that the earliest forms of banking happened around kitchen tables and under trees. People came together to save, lend, and help each other pay school fees, buy seeds, build homes, or get through illness. This wasn't just charity; it was reciprocity—the unspoken understanding that "today it's you, tomorrow it's me."



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Prof. Isaac Nyamongo (4th left) and the CUK Innovation Week winners pose for a photo after the award session and the official closing ceremony of the CUK Innovation Week 2025 at The Co-operative University of Kenya's Nordic Hall on April 16, 2025, Main Campus, Karen-Nairobi.

CUK Innovation Week 2025

By Meshack M. Ngangi | April 16, 2025

Prof. Isaac Nyamongo, the Ag. Vice-Chancellor officially opened the 5th CUK Innovation Week 2025 on Tuesday, April 15, 2025, with a stirring call to action that the University celebrates the transformative power of student-led innovations. Time and again, our Student innovators have demonstrated that when fresh ideas receive the right support, they can reshape how we live, work, and build resilient communities. Yet, such transformation does not occur in isolation. It demands a concerted effort—an ecosystem in which the University, industry, and government unite to provide not only resources but also mentorship, policy frameworks, and market access.

Prof. Nyamongo, in his opening address, urged all innovators to harness our collective strengths to nurture responsible innovation—ideas grounded in ethical practice and aimed squarely at delivering tangible value to society.

The inspirational words of the Vice Chancellor elicited a palpable energy in the audience with a blend of excitement, aspiration, and the shared conviction that

the innovations on display could indeed change the world.

The then CUKSU Chairperson, Mr. Newton Kipleting, built on this momentum by expressing heartfelt gratitude to the CUK Innovation Week Organising Committee for continuously empowering students to turn their visions into reality and share them with a multifaceted audience. His remarks underscored the university's



enduring mission of producing competent human capital through quality education, training, research, and innovation, and to empower communities through outreach for socio-economic transformation, which bridges the gap between raw ingenuity and real-world impact. Under the watchful guidance of Dr Shem Mbandu, industry partners were lauded for seeking out fresh talent and ideas.



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(Seated) Vice Chancellor Prof. Kamau Ngamau (5th left), Dean of Students Dr. Lucinda Mugaa (3rd right), Chair of the CUK Electoral Commission Dr. Michael Ngala (4th left) and the newly sworn-in SGC Leaders after the Swearing-in Ceremony held in the Nordic Hall on April 17, 2025, at The Co-operative University of Kenya, Main Campus, Karen-Nairobi.

SGC Swearing-in Ceremony

By Meshack M. Ngangi | April 17, 2025

The Co-operative University of Kenya (CUK) on Thursday, April 17, 2025, held a formal swearing-in ceremony for the newly elected members of the Student Governing Council (SGC) at its main campus in Karen, Nairobi. The event marked a pivotal moment in the university's governance calendar, underscoring the institution's commitment to fostering democratic principles and student representation in university affairs.

The ceremony was presided over by the CUK Electoral Commission and the Office of the Dean of Students, and guided by the legal office in officiating the oath-taking process. Attendees included members of the University Senate, administrative officers, student representatives, and invited stakeholders.

The sworn-in students were Chairperson Peter Okinda, Vice-Chairperson Njagi Winrose Kenya, Secretary-General Chacha Benson Mwita, and Finance Secretary Vincent Ochieng. Samuel Owino was sworn in as the Social Welfare and Co-Curricular Activities Secretary, Belinda Wanjiru took an

oath as the Gender and Special Needs Secretary, and Elias Girbo was sworn in as Campus Representative.

In delivering his official address, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Kamau Ngamau, extended his congratulations to the newly elected Student Governing Council and commended the CUK Electoral Commission for conducting a peaceful and transparent electoral process. *"As the bridge*



between the student body and the administration, you play a pivotal role in shaping university life. Maintain open, respectful dialogue with your colleagues in management, aligning your proposals with institutional policies and strategic objectives," Prof. Ngamau advised.

Mr. Peter Okinda affirmed his student council's commitment to addressing critical student matters.



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Marketing Students Association Launch

By Dr. Daniel Langat & Meshack M. Ngangi

On 22 April 2025, the Main Campus of The Cooperative University of Kenya came alive with a palpable sense of anticipation as students, faculty, and industry leaders gathered to witness the inauguration of the Marketing Student Association (MSA-CUK).

From the moment the doors opened, the air hummed with excitement: students exchanged eager greetings with marketing experts, faculty advisors offered words of encouragement, and representatives from the Marketing Association of Kenya mingled, all drawn by the promise of a new hub for Kenya's next generation of marketing professionals.

The centrepiece of the afternoon was a keynote address by Madam Zuhura Odhiambo, Chairperson of the Marketing Society of Kenya. Drawing on two decades of experience managing high-profile brands, she captivated the audience with an impassioned call to *"Maximise your roaring twenties and prepare for the turbulent thirties."* She painted a vivid picture of the 2020s as an age of digital disruption and boundless

connectivity, urging students to seize this unique window to experiment boldly, build enduring networks and hone both their analytical and creative faculties. *"Your twenties,"* she reminded them, *"are your laboratory—don't be afraid to mix things up, test new hypotheses and learn from every outcome."*

Dr Langat spoke passionately about the role of



association as a vital bridge between theory and practice, promising structured links with industry internships, mentorship programmes and live client briefs. Dr. Kimani reinforced the university's holistic vision, emphasising that academic excellence must be matched by boldness, innovation and empathy. Their words resonated deeply, affirming that MSA-CUK would be far more than a club—it would be a launchpad for careers and a crucible for ideas.



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