



The Bulletin



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VICTORY, PRESTIGE & APPLAUSE FOR CUK AT KNDFE STATE CONCERT

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Prof. Kamau Ngamau (right), CUK Vice Chancellor, receives the award trophy from H.E. the First Lady Mama Rachael Ruto flanked by the University staff and KRA officials during a State Concert of the 64th edition of KNDFE on Friday, 17th April 2026, at the Statehouse, Nairobi.



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Brilliant Ideas Take the Spotlight at CUK Innovation Week 2026



(Seated L-R) Dr. Shem Mbandu, the Dean School of Computing and Mathematics, Prof. Kennedy Waweru, Director of the Directorate of Research and Innovation, Mr. Kennedy Mbuvi, Technical Director at TecFlax Solutions and Chief Guest, Mr. Charles Katua, Operations and Administrative Lead at the C4D Lab, and Dr. Lucy Ngare, the Dean School of Co-operative and Community Development, University Staff and participants of the 6th Innovation Week 2026 held on Thursday, 23rd April 2026, at our Main Campus, Karen-Nairobi.

By Meshack M. Ngangi, MPRSK | 23rd April 2026

The Co-operative University of Kenya hosted the 6th edition of its Innovation Week on Thursday, 23rd April 2026, at Nordic Hall under the theme, “Co-creating Sustainable Future through Interdisciplinary Research, Green Innovation and Community Impact.” The event brought together university staff, innovators, mentors, industry partners, and guests for a day of pitching, exhibitions, dialogue, and recognition of student-led solutions that are responding to real community and market needs. During the official opening, Prof. Kennedy Waweru, Director of the Directorate of Research and Innovation, underscored the university’s growing commitment to incubation, green innovation, and community impact, while the programme also featured a launch of the CUKiHub Academy and keynote reflections on Kenya’s place in the innovation and entrepreneurship landscape.

The morning sessions set an ambitious tone for the day. Mr. Kennedy Mbuvi, Technical Director at TecFlax Solutions and Chief Guest, challenged participants to move from consuming technology to creating it, with a strong emphasis on the role of artificial intelligence and the transformative power of open source in lowering costs, expanding access, and creating jobs.

He was followed by Mr. Charles Katua, Operations/Admin Lead at the C4D Lab, University of Nairobi, who delivered a keynote on the factors that truly shape innovation and entrepreneurship, including Kenya’s positioning in the global startup, hub, and incubation ecosystem. These conversations framed innovation not merely as invention, but as a practical force for economic growth, digital sovereignty, and inclusive development.

The pitching sessions showcased the depth and diversity of talent within the university. Among the standout innovations was Mazguard by Byron Kipkurui Korir, a digital platform for anonymous, geotagged environmental reporting that strengthens environmental governance and citizen participation. In the financial services space, Nancy Wangui Nyokabi presented an AI-based Unusual Deposit Bank Detection System, while the team behind Agri Kenya proposed a digital marketplace connecting farmers directly to consumers, reducing middlemen and improving access to fair prices. Other notable solutions included Kenya Health Access Platform (KHAP), which improves access to healthcare facilities through USSD, SMS, and web; Shirika AI, a campus assistant designed to reduce information friction for students; Savannah Analytics, which transforms raw data into professional dashboards in seconds; and UpGridOracle, a privacy-preserving

system for smarter electricity tariffs. The innovation week also highlighted cybersecurity, logistics, housing, campus services, and social enterprise solutions, demonstrating a strong interdisciplinary ecosystem that is both locally grounded and globally relevant.

The awards reflected the quality and promise of the participating innovators. Nancy Wangui Nyokabi emerged as Women's Category Runner-up with her Unusual Deposit Bank Detection System, while Kibet Lorenzo Kiprotich was Men's Category Runner-up with the Kenya Health Access Platform. The Best Overall Women-Led Innovation award went to Sally Alice, Kelvin Amusavi, and Davies Kigen for Agri Kenya, a platform designed to streamline the buying and selling of agricultural products through a seamless online marketplace. In the Men's Category, Joe Chrispine and Justin Otieno Isaac won Best Overall Male Innovation with Health Agent. The overall winner of CUK Innovation Week 2026 was Byron Kipkurui Korir with Mazguard, a project that stands out for its direct relevance to environmental sustainability, public accountability, and the Kenya Vision 2030 agenda. Together, the winning innovations captured the spirit of the week: practical, scalable, and socially responsive solutions developed by young innovators determined to shape a more sustainable future.

Pictorials



Winners of the 6th Innovation Week 2026



Best Overall Women-Led Innovation winners; Sally Alice, Kelvin Amusavi, and Davies Kigen receive their award trophy from Prof. Kennedy Waweru.



Nancy Wangui Nyokabi receives the Women's Category Runner-up award from Prof. Kennedy Waweru.



Men's Category award winners; Joe Chrispine and Justin Otieno Isaac receive the Best Overall Male-Led Innovation at the 6th CUK Innovation Week 2026

CUK & Nyamira County Government Deepen Partnership to Advance Cooperative Development



Prof. Isaac Nyamongo, the DVC Academic, Co-operative Development, Research and Innovation and the County Executive Committee Member (CECM) for Trade and Cooperatives, Jones Omwenga, lead delegations from Nyamira County Government and The Co-operative University of Kenya during a Partnership Visit on Advancing Cooperative Development on Thursday, 20th April 2026, at the Nyamira County Headquarters.

By Victor J. Njogu, MPRSK | 20th April 2026

The Co-operative University of Kenya has reaffirmed its commitment to supporting county governments in strengthening the cooperative movement, improving livelihoods, and expanding opportunities for farmers and communities through knowledge, training, research, and consultancy. In line with this commitment, the University recently held a high-level consultative meeting with the County Government of Nyamira on Monday, 20th April 2026, at the County Headquarters, where a delegation led by Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic, Co-operative Development, Research, and Innovation, Prof. Isaac Nyamongo, engaged with the County's leadership on potential areas of collaboration. The discussions, which brought together county officials led by the County Executive Committee Member (CECM) for Trade and Cooperatives, Jones Omwenga, focused on building a strong partnership that places the farmer at the centre of economic transformation and supports the County's agenda of increasing earnings through cooperative development and agribusiness.

During the engagement, the University outlined its role as an institution committed to empowering communities through quality education, training, research, innovation, and outreach. The proposed collaboration with Nyamira County is anchored on key areas that include capacity building for county cooperative officers, cooperative leaders, farmers, and SACCO officials; advocacy for good cooperative practices; research to inform policy and practice; and consultancy services to support cooperative development. The University emphasized that these interventions are intended to strengthen leadership, improve governance, promote financial inclusion, and enhance production as the County transitions toward value addition.

The partnership also seeks to create broader opportunities by showcasing the University's academic programmes, promoting student enrolment, and identifying community needs that can be addressed through tailored research and development initiatives. Through its expertise in agribusiness, ICT, cooperative development, and consultancy, The Co-operative University of Kenya aims to complement Nyamira County's policy formulation efforts

and market access strategies in ways that deliver practical solutions and sustainable impact. The University's Institute of Co-operative Development, which serves as its outreach arm to the cooperative movement, will play a central role in delivering short courses, consultancies, and research designed to strengthen cooperative institutions and enhance performance across the sector.

The University noted that the proposed collaboration is particularly timely given the County's ambition to train more than 5,000 farmers and SACCO officials in leadership, governance, financial inclusion, and related areas that are essential for improved productivity and enterprise growth. With a broad portfolio of academic and professional programmes in cooperatives, agribusiness, business, finance, computing, and technical and vocational education, the University is well-positioned to support Nyamira County's development agenda through applied knowledge and capacity development. The discussions further underscored the importance of research, innovation, youth empowerment, and community outreach in building resilient value chains and inclusive economic growth.

The Co-operative University of Kenya expressed optimism that the partnership will strengthen the cooperative movement as a pillar for revitalizing agriculture, Agripreneurship, and entrepreneurship in Nyamira County. With continued collaboration, both institutions are expected to unlock new opportunities for research, training, policy support, and market-driven development, ultimately contributing to stronger cooperatives, improved livelihoods, and expanded prospects for the people of Nyamira.

Varsity Hosts Disability Inclusion Workshop

By Meshack M. Ngangi, MPRSK | 16th April 2026

On 16th April 2026, The Co-operative University of Kenya scaled higher heights in reaffirming its commitment to equitable and inclusive education by hosting the Disability Inclusion Workshop for non-academic staff, facilitated by Brenda Betty Kiema, Disability Inclusion Officer, and Nazarene Makena from Tangaza University. The training formed part of an ongoing institutional partnership grounded in collaboration, research, and capacity building, aimed at strengthening inclusive practices across university systems and services. It also built on prior engagements between the two institutions, including targeted training initiatives designed to enhance institutional responsiveness to the needs of students with disabilities, efforts spearheaded by Ms. Veronica Asunda from the Office of the Dean of Students, with Dr. Lucinda Mugaa taking the lead.

The workshop comes at a time when global and regional research continues to highlight both the progress and persistent gaps in disability inclusion within higher education. Studies show that while universities increasingly recognize the right to education for persons with disabilities, structural, attitudinal, and communication barriers still limit full participation, making intentional institutional transformation essential. In many African contexts, including Kenya, these challenges are reflected in barriers to access in areas that include learning resources, accommodation, and support services, underscoring the importance of coordinated institutional efforts and cross-sector collaboration.

Anchored in this broader context, the training emphasized that disability inclusion is not merely a compliance requirement but a values-driven approach rooted in human dignity, justice, fairness, respect, and service. Participants



Nazarene Makena from Tangaza University facilitates the Disability Inclusion Workshop for The Co-operative University of Kenya's Administrative Members of Staff on Thursday, 16th April 2026, at our Main Campus, Karen-Nairobi.

explored how every individual deserves to be treated with respect, free from assumptions, pity, or exclusion, and how true inclusion requires ensuring equitable access to opportunities rather than uniform treatment. These principles align with international frameworks that affirm education as a fundamental right for all, including persons with disabilities, and call for systems that remove barriers and promote full participation.

A key focus of the workshop was translating these values into everyday practice across university operations. Non-academic staff across different departments, often the first point of interaction for students, were equipped with practical strategies to foster inclusive environments. These included asking before offering assistance, communicating directly and respectfully, using clear and accessible language, exercising patience, and actively listening. Participants were also taken through case studies that encouraged them to deepen their understanding of creating environments that support accessibility and to involve all individuals in decision-making processes that affect them. Such practices reflect research findings that highlight the importance of institutional culture, staff attitudes, and accessible communication in improving the experiences of students with disabilities. Equally important, the training addressed behaviors that hinder inclusion. Staff were challenged to avoid making assumptions about individuals' needs, speaking on behalf of others, using patronizing language, or lowering expectations.

The emphasis on collaboration between Tangaza University and The Co-operative University of Kenya reflects a growing recognition that sustainable inclusion requires shared learning and partnership. Evidence from inclusive education initiatives demonstrates that collaborative approaches that bring together institutions, practitioners, and persons with disabilities are among the most effective ways to address systemic barriers and foster long-term change. This workshop, therefore, represented not just a training session but a strategic step toward building an inclusive academic ecosystem that benefits all learners. Ultimately, the Disability Inclusion Workshop reinforced a clear message: inclusion is a collective responsibility that extends beyond lecture halls into every aspect of university life.

Victorious Conquest at the 64th Kenya National Drama & Film Festivals National Competitions

By Meshack M. Ngangi, MPRSK | 15th April 2026

The Co-operative University of Kenya delivered an outstanding performance at the 64th Edition of the Kenya National Drama and Film Festival, emerging as one of the biggest winners at the national event held in Nyeri County between 6th and 17th April 2026. The university's drama and film ensemble impressed audiences and judges alike with a remarkable showcase of talent, creativity, and discipline across multiple categories, affirming the University's growing strength in the performing arts.



The Co-operative University of Kenya's Metropolitans Drama Club ensemble and their Patron, Ms. Mary N. Mbugua pose with award trophies after a dominating victory at the 64th Edition of the Kenya National Drama and Film Festival held between 6th and 17th April 2026, at Dedan Kimathi University of Technology, Nyeri County.

Among the standout performances was the narrative piece "No Proof, No Peace," performed by Lucas Kalonzo and Wycklif Omondi in the Kenya Revenue Authority-themed category under the #ItishaRisiti campaign by the Kenya Revenue Authority. The production, which was executive produced by Vice Chancellor Prof. Kamau Ngamau, produced by Ms. Mary Mbugua, and directed by Felix Moses Ogola, carried a powerful message on transparency, verification, and responsible financial practices. Its timely civic message and strong execution earned it the Best Overall item in the KRA-themed category, further highlighting the university's ability to use drama as a tool for public education and social change.

The university also excelled in mime, where Gift Mwendwa's performance in "The Silent Ride" emerged as the overall winning mime at the national competitions. Scripted and directed by Felix Moses Ogola and Ms. Mary Njoki Mbugua, the piece stood out for its originality, technical strength, and artistic expression. It went on to win several accolades, including Best Mime, Best Scripted Mime, Best Directed Mime, Best Costume and Decor Mime, Best Produced Mime, and the Adjudicators' Award. The success of the mime production reflected the depth of talent and careful mentorship behind the university's drama programme.

In the duet dance category, “Broken Embrace,” undertaken by Gift Mwendwa and Faith Kamara, also brought glory to [The Co-operative University of Kenya](#). The item was declared the best overall in its genre and captured a series of honours, including Best Duet Dance, Best Choreographed Duet Dance, Best Scripted Duet Dance, Best Produced Duet Dance, Best Costume and Decor Duet Dance, and the Adjudicators’ Award. Gift Mwendwa was recognised as the Best Male Performer in the duet category, while Faith Kamara received the Best Female Performer award and also emerged as the Best Female Dancer of the Year, alongside the Best Supporting Dancer of the Duet Competition. Their success further cemented the CUK’s dominance in dance performance.

The play category also brought additional recognition for [The Co-operative University of Kenya](#). Ruth Henry earned the Overall Best Actress award for her role in “Jewel of the Moon,” while Sharon Murugi finished as second runner-up in the Best Actress category. Wycklif Omondi was named Best Promising Actor, completing an impressive showing for the university’s stage productions. Together, these achievements demonstrated the strength of the university’s dramatic talent and the value of teamwork, mentorship, and creative discipline.

At the centre of this success was Felix Moses Ogola, the Director of [The Co-operative University of Kenya’s](#) Metropolitan Drama Club and Felissan Media Production, who was named the Best Overall Director at the festival. His leadership, together with the support of the University’s Vice Chancellor, Prof. Kamau Ngamau, as Best Producer, played a major role in guiding the institution’s productions to national acclaim. The sweeping victory across narrative, mime, dance, and play categories marked a proud moment for the university and a powerful testament to the dedication of its students and staff. From the message-driven narrative “No Proof, No Peace” to the compelling mime, dance, and play performances, the university proved that its creative community is capable of competing at the highest level. The victory stands as a landmark achievement and a source of pride for the entire university community.



The Co-operative University of Kenya’s Metropolitans Drama Club ensemble celebrate after emerging victorious at the 64th Edition of the Kenya National Drama and Film Festival at Dedan Kimathi University of Technolog in Nyeri County.

Celebrating Legacy and Connection at CUK's 2nd Alumni Dinner

By Meshack M. Ngangi, MPRSK | 10th April 2026

Since the inaugural Alumni Dinner of October 2022, on Friday, 10th April 2026, [The Co-operative University of Kenya](#) marked yet another defining milestone with its Alumni Dinner and the official launch of the CUK Endowment Fund. This occasion brought together the University leadership, alumni, staff, sponsors, partners, and friends in a shared celebration of progress, purpose,

In his remarks, [Vice Chancellor](#) Prof. Kamau Ngamau reflected on the shared journey of the University, from its founding in 1952 as a training centre for government co-operative officers serving Kenya, Uganda, and Tanganyika, to its current standing as a premier co-operative training institution on the continent. He noted that the Alumni Dinner's theme, "Empowering our journey together: the legacy lives on," captured both the collective effort that has shaped the University and the responsibility



(Seated L-R) Dr. Jeremy Bundi, the University Council Chairperson, Dr. Benard W. Chitunga, CUK Chancellor, Dr. Bonface Makhoka, Principal Secretary of the State Department of Economic Planning, Dr. Gideon Muriuki, Group Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Co-operative Bank of Kenya, and Vice Chancellor Prof. Kamau Ngamau, flanked by the University Council and Management Board Members at the Alumni Dinner and the Launch of CUK Endowment Fund held on Friday, 10th April 2026, at the Swiss Lenana Mount Hotel in Nairobi.

and long-term vision. The event, graced by the Principal Secretary of the State Department of Economic Planning, [Dr. Bonface Makhoka](#), and the [Second Chancellor](#) of CUK, Dr. Benard William Chitunga, underscored the University's commitment to strengthening its institutional foundations while deepening the bond between the University and its alumni community, whose support remains central to the growth and sustainability of the institution.

Speaking on behalf of [The Co-operative University of Kenya Alumni Association](#) (CUKAA), Mr. Peter Kinuthia welcomed the deliberate steps taken by the University to strengthen alumni engagement through the establishment

to preserve and grow that legacy.

Prof. Ngamau explained that the Endowment Fund, anchored in the University's [Strategic Plan 2022–2027](#) and the Chancellor's Legacy Programme, is intended to provide a sustainable financial base to support scholarships, research and innovation, infrastructure development, co-operative outreach, and academic excellence. The Vice Chancellor further outlined the University's intention to institutionalize a structured and sustainable alumni engagement framework through a strengthened Alumni Relations Office and a vibrant Association, including a review and update of

the Alumni Association Constitution and the organization of credible and timely elections. He also affirmed the University's commitment to deeper alumni participation in mentorship, guest lectures, curriculum enrichment, internships, career development, and fundraising, alongside a strong alumni

the University's sustainability and contribute to the national grid. Dr. Bundi also expressed gratitude to the Government of Kenya, the [Ministry of Co-operatives and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises \(MSME\) Development](#), the [National Treasury](#), and the [Ministry of Education](#) for

all distinguished guests, alumni, members of staff, partners, and friends of the University for honouring his invitation. He described the gathering as a strong demonstration of unity of purpose and shared vision for the future of the institution. Dr. Chitunga noted that the Endowment Fund is a strategic initiative anchored in the University's [Strategic Plan 2022–2027](#) and designed to secure a sustainable financial future for the institution. "At the very heart of the Chancellor's Legacy Program is the Chancellor's Scholarships, our solemn promise to lift 1,000 vulnerable yet brilliantly promising scholars in next four years who embody the hope of tomorrow and the human capital so desperately needed by the co-operative movement," spoke our Chancellor, Dr. Benard William Chitunga.

Dr. Chitunga explained that the Chancellor's Legacy Programme is focused on mobilizing resources through Private-Public Partnership (PPP) for transformative projects that will define the next phase of the University's growth, including academic complexes, student hostels, an administration block, a referral hospital, and a solar energy project intended to enable the University to operate off-grid while contributing to the national energy supply. The Chancellor called upon stakeholders, particularly alumni, to take an active role in supporting these initiatives, stressing that giving back is essential to sustaining the opportunities the University has provided. He also conveyed gratitude to the Government of Kenya for its continued



Alumni of The Co-operative University of Kenya pose for a photo during their Dinner and the Launch of CUK Endowment Fund on Friday, 10th April 2026, at the Swiss Lenana Mount Hotel in Nairobi.

value proposition that includes lifelong learning, professional networking, access to facilities, and recognition.

Dr. Jeremy Bundi, the University Council Chairperson, praised the University Management Board for the excellent organization of the event and commended Chancellor Dr. Benard Chitunga for his visionary leadership. He highlighted the Chancellor's Legacy Programme as a transformative agenda that includes lecture theatres, student hostels, an administration block, a referral hospital, and a solar energy project designed to enhance

their continued support, as well as to co-operative sector partners whose contributions have strengthened the University and the wider co-operative agenda. He affirmed Council's commitment to ensuring that the Endowment Fund is managed prudently, transparently, and in accordance with best governance practices through a robust framework and a dedicated Board.

The [Chancellor, Dr. Benard William Chitunga](#), expressed his appreciation to the University leadership for organizing the occasion and thanked

support, including its role in key developments such as the establishment of the CUK Institute of **TVET Campus in Ainabkoi**.

In the Guest of Honour's address, **Dr. Gideon Muriuki**, Group Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of **Co-operative Bank of Kenya**, commended the University for its forward-looking initiative in establishing the Endowment Fund, describing it as a clear demonstration of visionary leadership and strategic foresight. He highlighted that the Fund reflects a deliberate effort by the University to diversify its resource base and adopt sustainable financing mechanisms in support of its mandate. Dr. Muriuki observed that universities globally are increasingly embracing alternative funding models to complement government support, and he noted that CUK has positioned itself well by seeking innovative ways to sustain and expand its academic and research programmes. He added that the Endowment Fund will provide financial stability while enhancing the University's capacity to invest in infrastructure, research, scholarships, and overall institutional development.

Speaking at this signature event and delivering the remarks of **Dr. Chris Kiptoo**, the National Treasury Principal Secretary, the Chief Guest, the Principal Secretary of the State Department of Economic Planning, **Dr. Bonface Makhoka**, reiterated that the Chancellor's Legacy Programme is an incredible initiative under the stewardship of **Dr. Benard W. Chitunga**. He described the Endowment Fund as a cornerstone that will leave a lasting impact on generations of students and scholars. Dr. Makhoka expressed particular encouragement at the University's broader strategic initiatives aimed at financial sustainability, including the proposed solar-to-grid project, which he said aligns with the Government's Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) of promoting renewable energy and reducing dependence on conventional power sources. The Chief Guest noted that by investing in solar energy generation, the University stands to create an additional revenue stream while contributing to the national green energy transition, and he said the initiative offers a model that other institutions can emulate.

Further, **Dr. Bonface Makhoka** underscored the University's commitment to community engagement and grassroots development, citing the establishment of a

TVET Campus in Ainabkoi Constituency in Uasin Gishu County, whose groundbreaking on Wednesday, 13th March 2026, was evidence of its dedication to expanding access to quality education and skills development. The Chief Guest emphasized that the initiative directly supports the Government's agenda of strengthening the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) sector and building practical skills for employment and entrepreneurship, while also extending the University's footprint beyond its main campus in a way that advances inclusive growth and national development. The evening concluded with a renewed sense of purpose and shared responsibility, as the University community affirmed its commitment to building a stronger, more resilient, and sustainable institution. The launch of the Endowment Fund stood as a powerful statement of confidence in the future of **The Co-operative University of Kenya** and a reminder that its legacy will continue to grow through collaboration, generosity, and vision.



Dr. Bonface Makhoka and Dr. Gideon Muriuki cut a cake during the Alumni Dinner and the Launch of CUK Endowment Fund at the Swiss Lenana Mount Hotel, Nairobi.

CUK Comrades Decide: SGC Elections Hail Democracy at Best



Samuel Owino Otieno, the Chairperson-elect (carried by supporters), celebrates after emerging victorious in the Student Governing Council elections of The Co-operative University of Kenya Students' Union (CUKSU) held on Wednesday, 1st April 2026, at the Main Campus, Karen - Nairobi.

By Meshack M. Ngangi, MPRSK | 1st April 2026

Democracy is not about winners or losers; it is about representation, participation, and the collective voice of the people. At The Co-operative University of Kenya, that spirit was clearly reflected in the recent [The Co-operative University of Kenya Students' Union \(CUKSU\)](#) elections, where students exercised their democratic right and chose leaders who will serve their interests and shape the direction of student leadership in the 2026/2027 Academic Year. This vital exercise was overseen by the Electoral Commission, which was chaired by Dr. Duncan Nyale, the Director of the [Institute of On-line, Distance, and e-Learning \(IODeL\)](#). Held at the Main Campus in Karen on Wednesday, 1st April 2026, it marked a moment for the university community as comrades turned out to elect a new Student Governing Council (SGC) committed to service, unity, and accountability.

After a hotly contested duel of manifestos, ideologies, and political flex, Samuel Owino Otieno emerged as the Chairperson-elect, while Awino Nicole Ahono was elected Vice-Chairperson in a landslide victory. Both are students in the [School of Co-operative and Community Development](#), with Samuel pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Disaster Risk Management and Sustainable Development and Awino studying a Bachelor of Marketing, Innovation, and Technology. Their election exhibited the confidence the student fraternity has placed in their leadership and vision, and it reflects a shared hope for a student government that listens, represents, and delivers.

The newly 2026/2027 elected Council is now positioned to be strengthened by a full leadership team that brings together representation across key office holder positions. According to the election results declared that evening, Mark Munuhe became Secretary-General, Yvonne Kanini was elected Finance Secretary, Chris Sabatia was elected Social Welfare and Co-curricular Activities Secretary, Lucy Wanja was chosen as Gender and Special Needs Secretary, and Mercy Wanjiku Njoroge will serve as Campus Representative to represent the Nairobi CBD Campus. Together, the student leaders-elect form a balanced council that is expected to champion student welfare, coordinate campus affairs, and amplify the voices of learners across the university.

The outcome of the election underscored the maturity of the student body and its commitment to democratic values.

By casting their



Meshack M. Ngangi, an Election Clerk and Electoral Commissioner Risper Wairimu during the delegate elections voting exercise at The Co-operative University of Kenya's Main Campus on Wednesday, 1st April 2026, Karen - Nairobi.

ballots for the Delegates, students did more than elect leaders; they affirmed the importance of participation, inclusivity, and shared responsibility in campus governance as espoused in the University's Charter. With the newly elected Student Governing Council preparing to take the oath of office on Friday, 8th May 2026, there is optimism that it will build on the mantra of fostering dialogue, addressing student concerns, and upholding the cooperative spirit that defines [The Co-operative University of Kenya](#).

CUK Cultural Festival - An Expressive Celebration of Identity, Diversity, and Unity



The Co-operative University of Kenya students perform Maasai Cultural Dance on the first day of the Cultural Festival 2026 held from 9th March to 13th March 2026, at the Main Campus, Karen, Nairobi.

By Esther Nalotweshia | 13th March 2026

The Co-operative University of Kenya successfully hosted its vibrant Cultural Week from 9th March to 13th March 2026, at the Main Campus, Karen. The week-long celebration, themed "Different Cultures, Same People," brought together students from diverse backgrounds in a colourful showcase of identity, creativity, and unity. The event provided a platform for students to celebrate and express their cultural heritage through fashion, performance, and social interaction while reinforcing the University's commitment to inclusivity and community building. Each day of the week featured a unique theme that encouraged participation and creativity among students.

The week officially kicked off on Monday with Cultural/African Wear Day, marked by a vibrant opening ceremony. While representing the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Esther N. Gicheru, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (FPA), emphasized the importance of unity in diversity. "The theme for this year's cultural week celebration, 'Different Cultures, Same People,' speaks to a simple but powerful truth. While we come from different cultural backgrounds, we share a common humanity. Our languages, traditions, customs, and ways of life may differ, but our aspirations are remarkably similar," she noted.

The Chief Guest, Mr. Javan Ddaddah Bonaya, a Director at the National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC), echoed these sentiments, reminding students of the value of cultural diversity. "We should remember that culture was never meant to divide us. It was meant to enrich the human experience," he stated. He further highlighted that every

community represented at the University brings something valuable, a story worth telling, a rhythm worth dancing to, a wisdom worth preserving, and a perspective worth hearing.

Students proudly showcased traditional attire representing various Kenyan communities and beyond, transforming the campus into a vibrant display of color and heritage. The Kikuyu community emerged as the winners of the day, impressing judges with their coordination, authenticity, and overall presentation. The highlight of the day was the captivating runway showcases, where student models delivered outstanding performances that set the tone for the week.

Day Two featured Official/Modern Wear, where students blended professionalism with contemporary fashion, creating a dynamic and stylish atmosphere across campus. The day was further enriched by a guest speaker session from Mr. Benjamin Otwal, Manager to Africa's iconic artist Alikiba and an alumnus of Uzuzi Hub. He engaged students on "Global Entrepreneurship Network," with a particular focus on the music industry and its entrepreneurial potential within the creative space. His insights encouraged students to explore opportunities within the creative economy and leverage innovation for global impact, aligning with the University's commitment to empowering communities.

Wednesday's Denim/High School Wear brought a nostalgic and playful energy to the campus, while Thursday's Sporty Wear theme saw students embrace athletic styles that reflected both comfort and team spirit. The week concluded in style with Dinner Wear on Friday, where elegance and sophistication took center stage as students showcased formal fashion. The grand finale of the Cultural Festival was marked by the much-anticipated crowning of Mr. and Miss CUK 2026/2027, held at the Carnivore Grounds in a lively and well-attended ceremony. The event celebrated not only beauty and style but also confidence, charisma, and cultural awareness among participants. Eugene Kibet was crowned Mr. CUK 2026, while Vivian Joy Asiga earned the title of Miss CUK 2026, both standing out for their poise, presentation, and strong connection to the event's theme.

Throughout the week, students demonstrated that despite coming from different cultural backgrounds, unity remains at the core of the CUK community. The theme "Different Cultures, Same People" was clearly reflected in the interactions, participation, and shared experiences that defined the celebrations. The 2026 Cultural Week celebrations emphasized the University's commitment to nurturing not only academic excellence but also cultural awareness, diversity, and student engagement and served as a reminder that culture is a powerful tool for connection, understanding, and community building within the University and beyond.



(L-R) Prof. Esther N. Gicheru, the DVC Finance, Planning, and Administration, Prof. Isaac K. Nyamongo, DVC Academic, Co-operative Development, Research and Innovation, and Ms. Edna Musyoki, the Cultural Week Organizing Committee Chairperson perform a jig dance during the Opening Ceremony of the Cultural Festival 2026 on 9th March 2026, at the Main Campus, Karen, Nairobi.



The newly crowned Mr. and Miss CUK 2026/2027, Eugene Kibet (seated left) and Vivian Joy Asiga (seated right), respectively pose for a photo with the beauty pageants after the Contest and Coronation Ceremony held at the Carnivore Grounds, Nairobi.



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