



The Bulletin

March 2026

THE CO-OPERATIVE UNIVERSITY OF KENYA



CUK, Moshi Co-operative University Deepen Regional Academic Ties - pg 8

The Co-operative University of Kenya (CUK) hosted a delegation of students and staff from Moshi Co-operative University (MoCU) in Tanzania for a two-day exchange programme.

CUK Students Turn Innovation into Impact at Google-Sponsored AI Hackathon - pg 5



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6th INNOVATION WEEK 2026

Theme: "Co-creating Sustainable Future Through Interdisciplinary Research, Green Innovation and Community Impact".

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CUK Undertakes a Robust Marketing at the Nakuru County Mega National Career Fair

By Meshack M. Ngangi | 9th March 2026



Ms. Lilian Nkatha, the University's Marketing Officer, offers career guidance and a marketing presentation during the Nakuru County Mega National Career Fair held between 6th and 7th March 2026, at Nakuru High School, in Nakuru County.

The Co-operative University of Kenya (CUK) presented a vivid exhibition of academic programmes at the Nakuru County Mega National Career Fair held at Nakuru High School between 6th and 7th March 2026. The Marketing Team from the university used this coveted platform to connect directly with students, teachers, and other education stakeholders in a lively and highly interactive marketing activation. The two-day event, organized by GSmart Events and Marketing Solutions in partnership with the Kenya Secondary Schools Heads Association and the Nakuru County Director of Education, brought together learners from across the county under the theme "Discover careers, celebrate potential, and plan for future success." For us, the fair offered an opportunity to strengthen our presence in Nakuru County, introduce the University's academic programmes to prospective students, and position ourselves as a practical destination for learners seeking quality higher education and career direction.

Led by Ms. Lilian Nkatha, the University's Marketing Officer, the Team approached the activation with a clear purpose: to build awareness, spark interest, and create meaningful one-on-one engagement with the high school students at a stage where they are beginning to shape their future academic and professional choices. At the university's exhibition space, staff members Lilian Nkatha,

Meshack M. Ngangi, and Lilian Wekesa engaged visitors in conversations about the institution's courses, entry requirements, student experience, and the opportunities available to graduates. The booth served as a meeting point where students could ask questions freely, compare options, and receive guidance tailored to their interests and ambitions. By doing so, The Co-operative University of Kenya transformed its presence at the fair into more than just a display; it became a space for dialogue, reassurance, and inspiration.

For institutions of higher learning, career fairs are more than promotional events. They are strategic platforms for brand building, reputation management, and student recruitment. In this case, CUK used the opportunity to speak directly to a large audience of potential applicants and to reinforce the relevance of its academic offering in a competitive Kenyan higher education landscape. The university's message was not only about admission into a course, but also about the value of higher education as a pathway to personal growth, employability, and long-term contribution to society.

What made the event especially effective was the atmosphere it created. Students moved from stand to stand, asking questions, collecting information, and exploring possibilities for their future. In such a setting,



Ms. Lilian Wekesa engages students and participants of the Nakuru County Mega National Career Fair.

CUK's presence was important because it allowed the university to engage face-to-face with its audience in a way that brochures, the website, or social media alone cannot fully achieve. The human interaction, especially with a university brand, often leaves a stronger impression and helps students feel more confident about the choices they make.

Among the participants were the Kenya Secondary Schools Heads Association (KESHA), the Nakuru County Director of Education, and the administration of Nakuru High School, all of whom contributed to the success of the fair. Their collaboration ensured that the event was well organized and that students from different schools in the county could access career information in one place. For The Co-operative University of Kenya, being part of such a collaborative initiative enhanced its visibility while also associating the university with a professional and student-centered career guidance experience.

The activation also served a practical recruitment purpose. By engaging students early, CUK positioned itself within the decision-making journey of learners who are still exploring their options. This is especially important in counties where universities must compete for attention and where direct outreach can make the difference between being remembered and being overlooked. In that sense, the Nakuru High School activation was not simply an event appearance; it was an investment in future student relationships.

The Co-operative University of Kenya's marketing activation at the Nakuru County Mega National Career Fair demonstrated the value of direct engagement, thoughtful presentation, and strategic presence at student-focused events. Through its participation, the university showcased its programmes, built brand awareness, and strengthened its relationship with a key educational market. Supported by the efforts of the stakeholders involved, the fair created a productive environment for career guidance and institutional visibility.



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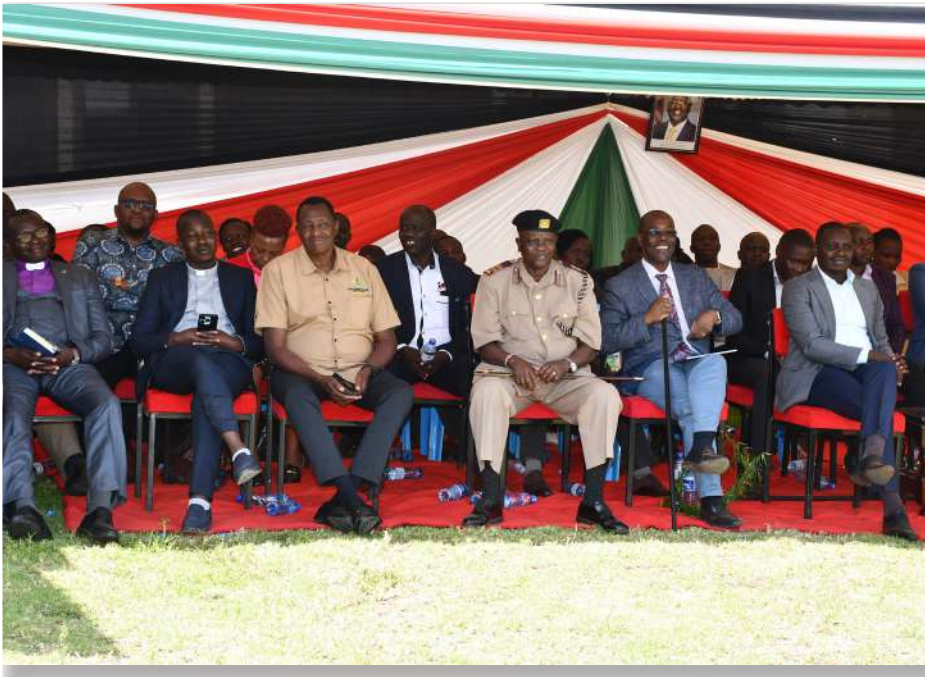
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CUK Breaks Ground for a New Ainabkoi TVET Campus

By Victor J. Njogu | Friday, 13th March 2026



Prof. Isaac Nyamongo (seated 2nd right), Deputy Vice Chancellor, ACDRI, with the Uasin Gishu County Deputy Governor, Hon. Evans Kapkea, during the groundbreaking ceremony of the CUK TVET Campus Ainabkoi on Friday, March 13, 2026

In a landmark move destined to transform the educational landscape of the North Rift region, The Co-operative University of Kenya (CUK) officially broke ground for the CUK Institute of TVET – Ainabkoi Campus on Friday, March 13, 2025. The ceremony, held at the Teldet community site, marks the beginning of a specialized institution dedicated to Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) with a unique focus on the cooperative and Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprise (MSME) sectors.

The Deputy Vice Chancellor in charge of Academic, Cooperative Development, Research, and Innovation (ACDRI), Prof. Isaac Nyamongo, represented the Vice Chancellor at the historic event. In the Vice Chancellor's address, Prof. Nyamongo highlighted that the project is the result of a strategic collaboration between the University and Hon. Samuel Chepkong'a, Member of Parliament for Ainabkoi Constituency. He appreciated Hon. Chepkong'a's leadership in championing the initiative, which began with a visionary proposal to expand technical and cooperative education opportunities in the region.

The establishment of the campus was made possible by the extraordinary generosity of the Teldet community, who donated the land for the institution. In a moving tribute to

this gesture, Prof. Nyamongo noted that the University has already begun honoring its commitment to the locals by sponsoring students for higher education. Among the beneficiaries is Kiprono Japhet Kemboi, a local youth currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Information Technology at the University's Main Campus in Karen, Nairobi.

While Kenya boasts a robust network of over 2,300 TVET institutions, the Ainabkoi Campus distinguishes itself through a sector-specific mission. It is meticulously designed to be a hub for Competency-Based Education and Training (CBET) tailored specifically to the needs of Agricultural and Marketing Cooperatives, SACCOs, Housing and Transport Cooperatives, and MSMEs. By integrating modern digital skills, such as ICT, digital

financial systems, and entrepreneurship, the campus ensures that cooperative enterprises remain competitive within a rapidly evolving global economy.

The Chief Guest, Dr. Chris Kiptoo, Principal Secretary for the National Treasury, underscored the government's commitment to the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA). He emphasized that by equipping the youth with practical, market-ready skills, this new campus will serve as a catalyst for inclusive economic growth and a center for research and innovation for farmers and enterprises throughout the North Rift.

As Prof. Nyamongo concluded the Vice Chancellor's remarks, he reminded the gathered stakeholders that when a community gives land for education, it is an enduring investment in the future of its children. The groundbreaking ceremony was attended by officials from the Uasin Gishu County Government and university leadership, all of whom joined the local community in celebrating a future where education directly meets the practical demands of Kenya's vibrant cooperative movement.

Innovation in Action: CUK Celebrates Google-Sponsored Machine Learning Hackathon Winners

By Corporate Communication and Marketing Department | 19th March 2026



Seated: Deputy Vice-Chancellor ACDRI, Prof. Isaac Nyamongo (Center), Ag. Dean, School of Computing and Mathematics, Mr. David Wachira (2nd left), Project Principal Investigator, Prof. Simon M. Karume (2nd right) alongside other faculty Members and Winners of the Hackathon pose for a group photo after the award ceremony at Main Campus, Karen on 19th March 2026

The School of Computing and Mathematics (SCM) at The Co-operative University of Kenya recently held an award ceremony to honor the brilliant minds who participated in the Google-sponsored Machine Learning Hackathon. This event served as the crowning moment for a journey that began earlier on 20th February 2026, when students gathered to challenge their understanding and push the boundaries of artificial intelligence. The ceremony was not just a celebration of victory, but a recognition of the technical prowess and collaborative spirit that define the next generation of the University's tech innovators.

During the ceremony, Prof. Isaac Nyamongo, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Academic, Cooperative Development, Research, and Innovation (ACDRI), delivered an inspiring address to the participants. He commended the students for their ingenuity and issued a challenge to move beyond the competition, urging them to continually refine their existing ideas and hone their skills into great solutions. His remarks highlighted the university's commitment to nurturing a culture where theoretical knowledge is transformed into tangible, life-changing technology.

The success of the initiative was largely attributed to the leadership of the Project Principal Investigator, Prof. Simon M. Karume, an Adjunct Professor of Information Technology. Prof. Nyamongo specifically noted Prof. Karume's dedication to bringing such high-level industry partnerships to the university. To ensure the momentum continues, the Deputy Vice Chancellor assured the faculty

and students of his full support for future hackathons and related technological activities, cementing the institution's position as a hub for digital excellence.

Dr. Andrew Kipkebut appreciated the university for hosting the hackathon, noting that it had produced some of the brightest minds during the hackathon. On the other hand, Richard Omollo from Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Agriculture and Technology (JOUST) noted how students demonstrated that every idea they presented was targeting a particular real-world issue. He also encouraged the participants to keep on inventing, because the world is waiting for solutions. In his brief remarks, Dr. Dancun Nyale, the Director of the Institute of Online, Distance, and eLearning (IODeL), challenged the students to continue creating solutions that will have immediate application to society, urging them not to relent but think about the next steps, including pitching.

The hackathon provided a vital platform for students to showcase their skills in solving real-world issues through technology. Consequently, through collaboration on complex datasets and machine learning models, the student participants demonstrated that they are ready to tackle global challenges. This partnership between academic institutions and industry sponsorship from Google ensured that CUK students remain at the forefront of the rapidly evolving digital landscape, prepared to lead the future of machine learning.

CUK Makes Debut at the Nairobi Region Universities Drama and Film Festival 2026

By Meshack M. Ngangi | 23rd March 2026

The Co-operative University of Kenya (CUK) made a lively and memorable appearance at the Nairobi Region Universities Drama and Film Competitions held between Friday, 20th, and Monday, 22nd March 2026, showing once again that the university is not only a place for lecture-hall learning but also a home for creative talent. The festival brought together university performers from across the region. "The Metropolitans" Drama Club entered the event with confidence, energy, and a clear sense of purpose with ruthless focus on victory. The students did not just go to compete; they went to tell stories, entertain audiences, and use drama and film to speak about real societal issues.



The ensemble of "The Metropolitans" Drama Club of The Co-operative University of Kenya performs the Jewel of the Moon stage play during the Nairobi Region Universities Drama and Film Festival competitions held at the University of Nairobi between the 20th and 22nd March 2026.

One of the most notable pieces presented by the varsity was the mime production Silent Ride, which was performed by Gift Mwendwa, a Bachelor of Science in Statistics and Information Technology student. Mime is one of the hardest forms of performance because it depends entirely on movement, expression, and body language rather than words. This mime tells the story of a hardworking boda boda rider whose life takes a dangerous turn after he is introduced to alcohol and nightlife by friends. The

performance highlights the dangers of peer pressure, alcohol abuse, and reckless behavior, while promoting self-control, responsibility, and positive life choices. Gift Mwendwa and the team behind the piece brought the story to life through silent storytelling that was both emotional and easy to follow.



Gift Mwendwa, a second-year Bachelor of Science in Statistics and Information Technology, celebrates after winning the Mime Category at the Nairobi Region Universities Drama and Film Festival competitions held at the University of Nairobi on 22nd March 2026

Other important items from the university were "Speak it Loud" podcast and "E-Tims" Advert under the film category presentation that also formed part of The Co-operative University of Kenya's regional entry, presented by Cecil Nyongesa and Annie Wanjiku, George Owuor and Fanaka Tharau, respectively. The production itself showed that the university was ready to embrace modern forms of storytelling beyond the traditional stage play. This made the performance especially appealing to students, since it connected with everyday communication, digital media, and the voices of young people. It also showed that CUK was thinking broadly about what drama and film can be in a modern university setting.

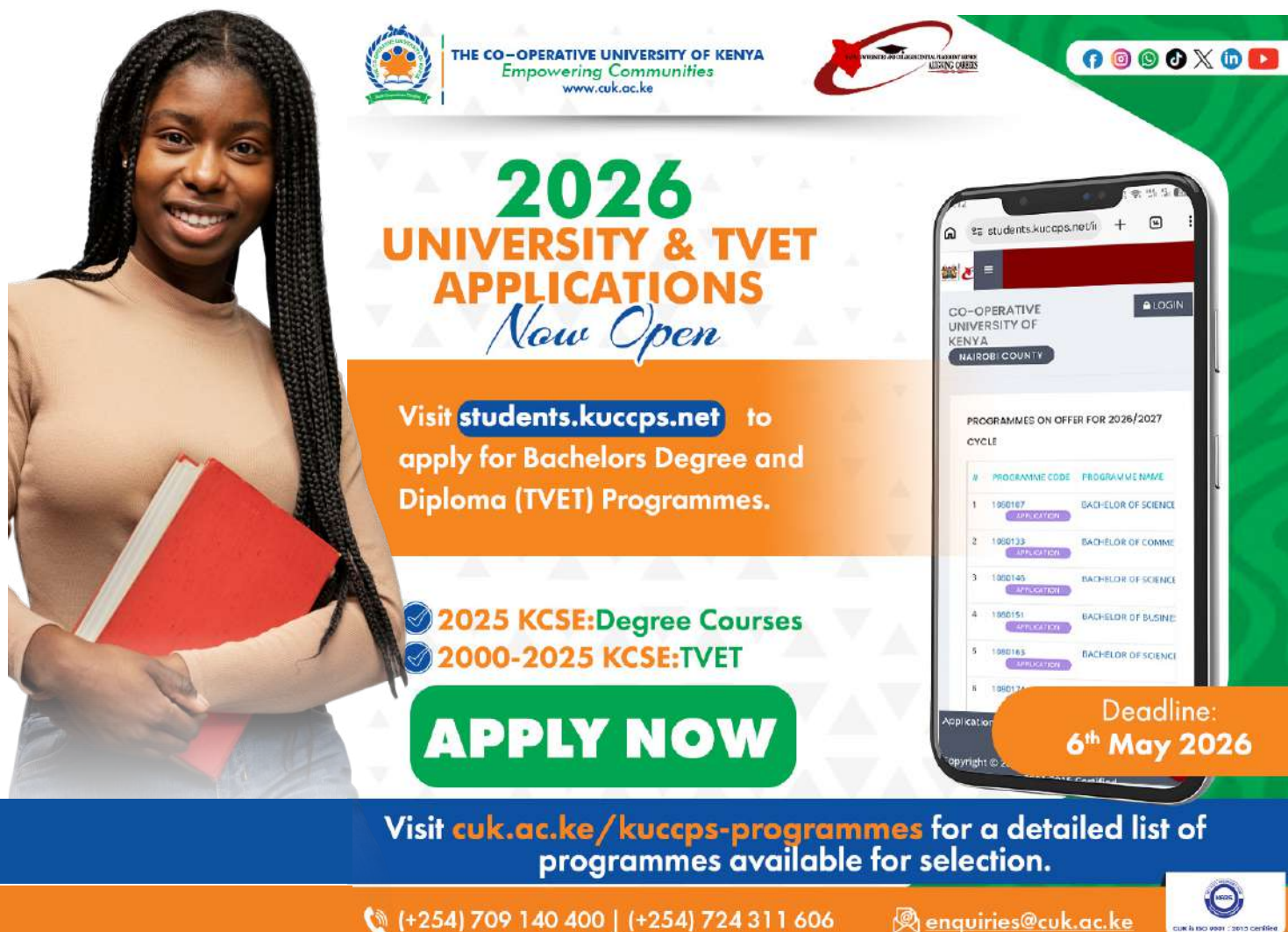
What made CUK's participation meaningful was the seriousness with which the students approached the festival. The team had spent time rehearsing, refining their performances, and preparing themselves for a competitive environment. That

preparation was visible in the confidence of the actors, the coordination of the group, and the quality of the final presentations. In university festivals, success is not only about winning awards. It is also about growth, learning, teamwork, and building the courage to perform in front of an audience.

The cut-throat competition also showed the value of university drama as a tool for learning. Through the Drama Club's performances, students explored important themes such as struggle, expression, and social reality. These are the kinds of stories that help young people think more deeply about life and about the communities they live in. At the three-day Nairobi Region Universities Drama and Film Festival 2026, The Co-operative University of Kenya emerged as the third-best university in the region. Taking a total of 8 out of the 9 performed items to the National Drama and Film Festivals, the University won trophies for the "Speak it Loud" podcast in the Film Category and the "Silent Ride" mime.

On the other hand, Spoken Word and Duet Dance scooped position 2, at position 3 was the "E-Tims" Advert, "No Proof No Peace" narrative, and "Foundation of Hope" Modern Dance, while the "Jewel of the Moon" play went to position 5. Proceeding to the National competitions, which will be held in Nyeri County, CUK establishes its position as a premier University of excellence in education, research, innovation, and cooperative training. The University's presence at the Nairobi Region competition also spoke well of the arts and culture embraced by the institution. A strong drama club exhibited a vibrant student community and The Co-operative University of Kenya's continued resolve to nurture that spirit. These well-curated and victory-conquering items were expertly produced and directed by Ms. Mary N. Mbugua and Felix Moses Ogola

In the end, The Co-operative University of Kenya's participation in the 2026 Nairobi Region Universities Drama and Film competitions was a proud moment for the institution and its students. Gift Mwendwa's role in Silent Ride gave the university a memorable performance to celebrate, while Speak it Loud showed the team's range and willingness to experiment with new forms of storytelling. The overall message was clear that the cast and the ensemble of CUK brought talent, discipline, and creativity to the festival. For the students involved, it was an opportunity to shine, to grow, and to represent their university with pride.



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Cross-Border Collaborations: CUK and Moshi Co-operative University Unite for Academic Excellence

By Corporate Communication and Marketing Department | 25th March 2026



Seated: The Co-operative University of Kenya Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Kamau Ngamau, joined by Registrar FPA, Mr. Chris Kathoka (3rd left), Dean of Students, Dr. Lucinda Mugaa (2nd left), and Director of Student Services at Moshi Co-operative University (MoCU) Ms. Elisifa Nkoo (3rd right) flanked by Students, student leaders and staff from both institutions pose for a group photo at the sidelines of the two-day visit on 25th March 2025.

The Co-operative University of Kenya (CUK) hosted a delegation of students and staff from Moshi Co-operative University (MoCU) in Tanzania for a two-day exchange programme between 24th and 25th March 2026. This visit served as a confirmation of the growing spirit of regional integration, focusing on fostering a rich environment for knowledge exchange and institutional collaboration. By bringing together diverse perspectives from two of East Africa's premier cooperative-focused institutions, the event underscored a shared commitment to advancing the cooperative model as a driver for socio-economic development.

Throughout their stay, the visiting MoCU delegation participated in a series of interactive sessions and immersive campus tours designed to bridge the gap between theoretical study and practical application. These forums allowed students to dive deep into the meaning of cooperative education and effective student leadership. Through sharing the unique campus experiences and organizational strategies, the participants gained a broader perspective on how cooperative principles are adapted to different national contexts, enriching their global outlook and refining their leadership skills.

The visit culminated in a celebration of the strong ties and cross-border partnerships that exist between Kenya and Tanzania, and charting a way forward for the upcoming Joint Annual Scientific Conference 2026 to be held at Moshi Co-operative University. This cross-border academia collaboration highlights the immense value of academic diplomacy, proving that when institutions share resources and ideas, the entire educational landscape benefits. As the students and staff from MoCU concluded their visit, they left behind a foundation for future joint ventures, ensuring that the existing partnership between these two universities continues to flourish and inspire the next generation of cooperative leaders in the region.

Beyond the immediate academic benefits, this exchange highlighted the vital role that cross-cultural engagement plays in shaping well-rounded professionals. By stepping outside their familiar environments, students from both institutions were able to build lasting networks and forge friendships that transcend national territorial borders. The spirit of cross-border cooperation ensured that the lessons learned over these two days continue to resonate far beyond the classroom, laying the groundwork for a more unified and resilient cooperative sector across the East African community.

CUK and University of the Free State Partner for Continental Growth

By Corporate Communication and Marketing Department | 27th March 2026

Prof. Kamau Ngamau, the Vice Chancellor of The Co-operative University of Kenya (CUK), hosted a high-level consultative meeting today at the Karen Main Campus with Prof. Lynette Jacobs, the Head of Internationalisation at the University of the Free State (UFS), South Africa. This strategic visit marks a significant milestone in intra-African academic diplomacy, focusing on a shared vision for research, innovation, and the expansion of academic programs. The meeting provided a platform for both institutions to align their mandates and explore how their combined expertise can address the unique challenges facing the African continent.

A primary focus of the deliberations was the co-operative business model, which UFS has identified as a critical pillar for sustainable socio-economic development. Recognizing CUK's leadership in this field, the South African delegation expressed a keen interest in deep-diving into the mechanics of cooperatives to understand how they can be better utilized for community empowerment. The discussions bridged the gap between academic theory and practical application, emphasizing the model's potential to transform livelihoods when implemented with precision and local

insight.

The partnership aims to cast a wide net, specifically targeting innovation within the agriculture, mining, and health sectors. By focusing on these three essential industries, the universities intend to develop collaborative research and technological solutions that drive efficiency and growth. The presence of key stakeholders, including Ms. Lilian Njeri Munene of Ayenit Alolom Africa and Peres Agola from Nation Media Group, alongside CUK's directors of research and cooperative development, underscored the multifaceted approach required to bring these innovations to the mainstream market.

This visit reaffirms the commitment of both CUK and UFS to building a resilient, self-sustaining Africa through collaborative education and specialized innovation. By leveraging CUK's expertise in cooperative structures and UFS's broad international perspective, the partnership is poised to create a blueprint for cross-border institutional success. As these discussions transition into actionable projects, the focus remains clear: utilizing the cooperative spirit to ignite a new era of socio-economic prosperity across the continent.



Prof. Kamau Ngamau (2nd left), CUK Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Lynette Jacobs (2nd right), Head of Internationalization at the University of the Free State (UFS), South Africa, Ms. Lilian Njeri Munene (left) of Ayenit Alolom Africa, and Peres Agola (Standing 2nd left) from Nation Media Group, alongside a delegation of staff members during a past meeting held at The Co-operative University of Kenya, Main Campus, Karen, on 27th March 2026.



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