

Media Monitoring: Extract of Press News on Higher Education in Africa

1. The University News

Heads of state throw their weight behind science (Rwanda)

Emphasising the importance of partnerships in the development of science and technology in his country and describing science as a “very serious business”, Rwandan President Paul Kagame said science had a place in society “whether we support it or not”. However, “we would be the ones losing if we didn’t support it for the benefit of our people”, he said at a presidential panel of the Next Einstein Forum (NEF) held last week in the Rwandan capital of Kigali. Kagame, together with Senegalese president Macky Sall, set the tone for the high-level panel discussion – “Laying the groundwork for knowledge-led economies: Policy and practice” – which reflected on past policies and future reforms needed to nurture the creative and skilled populations that will form the bedrock of knowledge-led economies. Both heads of state stressed the need for partnerships to build scientific expertise in their countries. In addition to Sall and Kagame, panelists included South Africa’s Minister of Science and Technology Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane, African Institute for Mathematical Sciences (AIMS) president and CEO as well as the founder and chair of NEF Thierry Zomahoun, and the German Minister of Science, Research and the Arts, Baden-Württemberg State, Theresia Bauer. Addressing over 1,500 delegates, Sall called on African states to balance a focus on quality of science and mathematics courses in higher education with policy reforms aimed at attracting foreign investment into the technology sectors. “We need to have similar public-private partnerships across Africa and beyond,” said Sall, urging Africans to believe in the transformative power of science and technology. Technology, he explained, elevates states, citing India and Japan as successful examples.

Click this [Link](#) for more details

2. Daily News

Give African scientists chance to compete professionally (Tanzania)

President Kagame was speaking recently at the Next Einstein Assembly wrapped up a sitting in Arusha, Tanzania, and sought clarity on what is being done to implement the third pillar of integration, the Monetary Union. The EAC Treaty provides for four pillars of integration: the Customs Union, Common Market, Monetary Union and Political Federation. Dr Rwigema said: “As of now, the first two pillars are being executed but we are aware that East Africans are desirous to use one common currency, and to integrate politically.” “Can the Chairperson of the Council of Ministers inform this August House the status of implementation of the third and fourth pillars of the integration?” Partner States negotiated a Protocol for establishment of the East African Monetary Union (EAMU) which was signed by regional leaders in November 2013. It sets out the process and prerequisites for attaining a monetary union in the region over a period of 10 years. The Monetary Union is expected to be in place in 2024 with introduction of a common currency to replace national currencies and establishment of a regional central bank – the East African Central Bank (EACB) – which can be host e-solutions, without making every effort to procure the services here. It doesn’t make sense,” The President said. Kagame called for the use of African specialists to give them a chance to grow and compete professionally.

“Let’s use the resources we have to give these talented African specialists the chance to grow and compete professionally,” he said.\

Click this [Link](#) for more details

3. Daily Nation

[Varsities staff vow to paralyse learning in quest for pay rise \(Kenya\)](#)

The employees of 31 public universities have vowed to continue with their strike until the national government honours their 2017-2021 collective bargaining agreement. The Kenya Universities Staff Union (Kusu) members said the government was unwilling to end the stalemate. Led by Kusu Secretary-General Charles Mukhwaya, the employees vowed to intensify their strike – which has entered its fourth week – by paralysing learning in public universities. “For a month now, the Ministry of Education and vice-chancellors of our universities have been silent on this issue. We will not call off the strike until our demands are met,” said Mr Mukhwaya. Addressing the union members on Tuesday at Moi University’s main campus in Kesses, Uasin Gishu County, Mr Mukhwaya said: “The Cabinet Secretary for Education asked us to give the government one-and-a-half weeks. Three weeks have since elapsed, why should we call off the strike? We will continue with the strike because it is our constitutional right.”

Click this [Link](#) for more details

4. The University News

[Association of African Universities opens regional office \(Sudan\)](#)

The Association of African Universities (AAU) has opened its Eastern regional office in Sudan in a bid to increase the association’s visibility and proximity to its member universities, as part of a broader move to open regional offices throughout the continent. The University of Khartoum is the host to the new AAU Eastern Regional Office that was inaugurated on 14 March. It will represent AAU member institutions from Kenya, Burundi, Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania, Djibouti, Eritrea, Sudan, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Mauritius, Somalia, Comoros and the Seychelles. The regional offices will assist the AAU to work collaboratively with its members in finding solutions to issues confronting them, and help respond to the broader mandate of improving higher education quality as recommended by the African Union Agenda 2063 and other relevant strategies, according to a statement. The new Eastern Africa office is part of the AAU’s plan to establish regional offices in the northern, western, eastern, central and southern regions of Africa. It was one of the key tasks assigned to the AAU secretariat by the AAU governing body during its last meeting in June 2017 in Accra, Ghana. The secretariat is in discussions with Egypt on arrangements to host the North African AAU regional office. The AAU regional offices will be responsible for facilitating activities of the membership in the sub-regions in consultation with the secretariat and for pursuing membership drives in order to increase and improve relations with existing and potential members.

Click this [Link](#) for more details

5. The New Vision

Gov't prioritises education for child mothers (Uganda)

The Ministry of Education and Sports is working on new policy to ensure that all child mothers who dropped out of school continue with their studies. The State Minister for Higher Education, John C. Musingo said the strategy document will soon be reviewed by the ministry's top management for approval and later be presented to cabinet. "This will cater for all girls who dropped out of school because of early pregnancies, rape and defilement. We want to make sure that this programme caters for such accidents to make sure they complete their education," he noted. Musingo revealed on Tuesday while opening the national dialogue on Safe and Positive Learning Environment, at Imperial Royale Hotel in Kampala He noted that despite government's effort to ensure quality education for all; many children still dropout due to violence. "Many children are exposed to sexual harassment, gender based violence and corporal punishments in many schools at the hand of their teachers, parents, and other school members of staff. Others are exposed to bullying among others," he said. Click this [Link](#) for more details

6. The Daily Nation

Varsity students cry foul as dons skip class in pay protest (Kenya)

Jane Akinyi, a fourth-year education student at Kenyatta University was to start her final semester in March, but that has not happened. A few days after reporting back, lecturers went on strike. She stayed in the university for two weeks without learning and she is now at home as she awaits a solution, which might not come soon due to the hard-line positions taken by the government and the lecturers' union. This is the fourth time she has been affected by strikes in one academic year; first was in March, then July, and in December last year. Last month, a student identified as Joy Kinya took to social media to appeal to President Uhuru Kenyatta to intervene and end the strike that has paralysed learning in the 31 public universities.

"Mr President, this should have been my last month studying on campus. I should have done my final exams in April. It is the 29th day of March and I am yet to start my January semester," said Ms Kinya.

Click this [Link](#) for more details

Note to University Public Relations Officers:

To share news/events about your Universities, contact Ms Maureen Agena, Program Officer - Communications, Marketing & Advocacy, below.

Name: Maureen
Agena

Program Officer -
Communications,
Marketing & Advocacy

Email:
communications@ruforum.org