

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

### 1. The World Economic Forum

#### Four ways universities are driving innovation (General)

The digital revolution is not only here, it is accelerating every day. Advances in automation, the digitisation of information, unprecedented access to data and the democratisation of knowledge are transforming every sector of our economy – from healthcare to transportation to energy and beyond. The scope, scale, and ubiquity of these disruptions is truly unprecedented. According to data from a recent McKinsey study, a dozen technologies, including genomics, energy storage, and automation, will drive major economic and societal transformation in the next several years. With a potential economic impact between \$14 trillion and \$33 trillion a year in 2025, the value of these emerging technologies could constitute one third of global GDP.

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### 2. The Citizen

#### Tanzania's universities have twice as many male as female students (Tanzania)

Statistically, Anna Daniel stood little chance of completing her master's degree at the African Institute for Mathematical Sciences (AIMS) last year. While she beat the odds and graduated as the one in her family with the highest education, the general rule is that many Tanzanian girls make it to secondary school, fewer to university and even less to postgraduate school. According to Tanzania's Vice President Samia Suluhu, girls in the country are, now more than ever, able to reach their goals after the introduction of the 11-year free education programme. Although studies show that there have been an increase in primary school enrolments between 2012 and 2016, in 2016 there was still a 76 per cent difference between enrolment of girls into Standard 1 and into Form One. Not only is Anna then in a minority group of young women who get a chance to enrol into university, she also chose a male dominated field of study:

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### 3. The Modern Ghana

#### The Power of International Partnerships in Higher Education (Africa)

I accepted leadership of Yale University during a period of inspiring and sustained economic growth in Africa— eleven of the top twenty fastest growing economies in the world were from the continent. It was the ideal moment to build upon Yale's partnerships in Africa and to bring related scholarship and education at the university into sharper focus. During my inauguration as the president of Yale in 2013, I announced Yale's Africa Initiative. By working with collaborators in Ghana and other countries in Africa, I knew we could advance academic excellence at Yale and our partner institutions. In such an interconnected world, there are many approaches for building international partnerships. At Yale, there are three distinct phases, and our work with colleagues in Africa illustrates their effectiveness in enhancing education, scholarship, and research. The first phase is focused on our New Haven campus. To find partners, Yale invites students and faculty members from abroad to our university to enroll in our academic programs, to teach, or to conduct research. As international travel became

more convenient and affordable, it became easier for us to attract talented scholars from diverse disciplines and of every career-level from hundreds and thousands of miles away.

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#### 4. University News

##### [The case for optimism on internationalisation of Higher Education \(Global\)](#)

Of late, there have been increasing notes of concern sounded about the fate of higher education internationalisation. In particular, there is a fear that a host of political changes around the world pose a threat to internationalisation, a suggestion which was made by Hans de Wit in a commentary and together with Philip Altbach in another commentary in the pages of University World News over the past few weeks. I don't think it's arguable that institution-to-institution co-operation between institutions in democratic states and ones in countries undergoing an authoritarian turn is going to decrease. Universities in the OECD will likely sign fewer partnerships with Chinese universities, for instance (maybe fewer with Russian and Turkish ones, too, though there were less of these to begin with). But on what is probably the most visible and most important metric of internationalisation – that is, student mobility – I believe there is much less cause for concern. Not only does demand for higher education remain high more or less across the board (though financial pressures are reducing outflows from Brazil and the Persian Gulf), but the concern that host countries will turn their backs on internationalisation due to domestic pressures may be overstated.

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#### 5. Ghanaian Times

##### [Review Accreditation Processes, Assessments of Tertiary Institutions - Principal, MUCG \(Ghana\)](#)

The Principal of Methodist University College, Ghana (MUCG), Professor Akwasi Asabere-Ameyaw, has advocated a review of the accreditation processes and assessments of tertiary institutions. According to him, a review was necessary to make way for strategic partnerships between academia and industry to bridge the divide in theory, practice and policy in institutions of higher learning. While the processes were largely appropriate to many programmes, he argued that strict application of the guidelines by the Accreditation Board would not necessarily make for real transformation in some of the areas that higher institutions were veering into. "A look at a course such as Entrepreneurship requires a different approach to instruction and learning. It is experiential and requires some form of incubation. This requires that our education system marry theory with practice, where industry experts share experiences with students who are then allowed to deepen their theoretical knowledge on the basis of such interaction," the Principal stated.

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## 6. University News

### **Universities mourn ‘Mother of the nation’ Winnie Mandela (South Africa)**

The country’s universities this week mourned the death of Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, anti-apartheid icon and former wife of democratic South Africa’s first president Nelson Mandela, who passed away in Johannesburg on 2 April at the age of 81 after a long illness. The flag above the Great Hall at the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits University) in Johannesburg, where Madikizela-Mandela obtained a bachelor of arts degree, was flown at half-mast in honour of her memory. The University of the Free State also announced it would fly its flags at half-mast as a symbol of respect.

In a tweet, Minister of Higher Education Naledi Pandor said: “As a freedom fighter, your body had served its purpose. Your soul had done what it came to do, learned what it came to learn, and then was free to leave. We are because of you! Rest in Power Mama Winnie Madikizela-Mandela.” In a statement, Wits University, where Madikizela-Mandela obtained a degree in political science in the 1980s, described Madikizela-Mandela as an activist and leader at the forefront of the struggle for freedom. “Mama Madikizela-Mandela did not hesitate to speak her mind, and to sacrifice her personal freedoms and her family, in the quest for the freedom and liberation of South Africans from apartheid,” said Buhle Zuma, Wits senior communications officer.

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## 7. Daily Nation

### **Counties to get Sh2bn to build, equip polytechnics (Kenya)**

Counties will receive Sh2 billion for building, equipping and renovating polytechnics in order to absorb thousands of Form Four leavers who fail to join universities. According to the Division of Revenue Bill, the additional conditional allocation, which is in its second year of implementation, is meant to support county governments in equipping technical and vocational centres and also for capitation of students’ fees. “The additional conditional allocation implemented by the State Department of Vocational and Technical Training aims at enhancing access to quality and relevant vocational skills training,” the bill indicates. The bill further states that the polytechnics are essential in developing skills of youth who fail to join institutions of higher learning.

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## 8. The Sierra Leone Times

### Senegal Races to Reform University Sector (Senegal)

The law school lecture hall at Dakar's Cheikh Anta Diop University (UCAD) is, as usual, packed well beyond its 2,000-person capacity. Students huddle on the floor and perch on the window sills. Others stand by the door, straining to hear the professor. *"If you really want a seat, you need to get here at noon or at 11 a.m. for a class that starts at 3 p.m.," says second-year student Insa Diop, seated outside. "I'm just going to have to make photocopies of the handout. And for the teacher's explanations, well, I've missed them."* About 60 percent of the students at UCAD failed their exams last year. Administrators and staff blame overcrowding. For those who do graduate, jobs are far from guaranteed. In fact, people with more than a secondary-school education have the highest unemployment rate in Senegal, according to 2017 government data.

Experts see the higher education sector in crisis across the region.

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## 9. University News

### Changing the discourse on private higher education (General)

The rise of private higher education in Africa has been mainly driven by such factors as the inability of the public sector to meet growing demands, strains on public finance that called for alternative sources of funding and consequent economic policies that led to structural reforms. By global standards, the growth of the private higher education sector in Africa remains low – currently hovering around 20% of the overall tertiary enrolment. However, the sector's importance is strongly felt in terms of addressing the deficiencies of the public sector, creating job opportunities, enhancing managerial efficiencies and infusing an entrepreneurial culture into the traditionally conservative higher education arena. The significant role Governments play through appropriate legislation and policies remains one of the most critical levers for lending credence to, and advancing the growth of, the private higher education sector. However, arguments against private higher education have been equally strong due to a host of controversies surrounding the use of taxpayers' money on private institutions.

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### Note to University Public Relations Officers:

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

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