# NEWSLETTER

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## Coming Soon

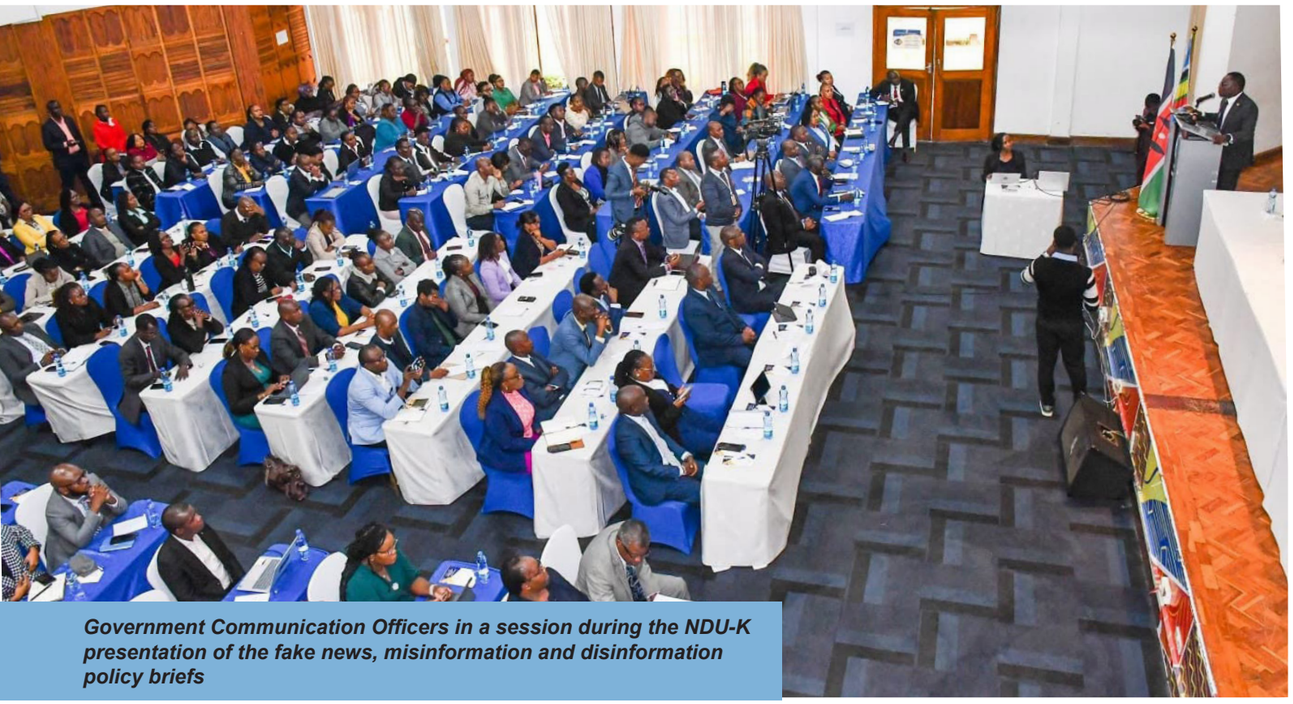
NATIONAL DEFENCE UNIVERSITY-KENYA

# 4TH Convocation CEREMONY

ON FRIDAY 20TH NOVEMBER 2026 AT THE
**UNIVERSITY SEAT LANET, NAKURU COUNTY**

# FROM EVIDENCE TO ACTION

## NDU-K ADVANCES RESEARCH-BASED RESPONSES TO THE INFORMATION THREAT



*Government Communication Officers in a session during the NDU-K presentation of the fake news, misinformation and disinformation policy briefs*

**Turning Research on Fake News, Misinformation and Disinformation into Policy Action**

In an age where information travels across the world in seconds, the contest for truth has become an increasingly important dimension of national security and governance. The same digital platforms that have expanded access to information, strengthened public participation and connected communities have also been exploited to spread falsehoods, manipulate perceptions and undermine trust in institutions.

For Kenya, the challenge is no longer simply about distinguishing fact from fiction. It is about understanding how the information environment shapes public confidence, social cohesion, governance and national security and developing informed, coordinated and sustainable responses.

It is within this evolving landscape that the National Defence University-Kenya (NDU-K) is strengthening its role as a knowledge partner to Government, demonstrating how empirical research can move from academic inquiry to policy conversation and, ultimately, practical action.

The University engaged the State Department for Broadcasting and Telecommunications, - the Government organ mandated to communicate Government policies, programmes and related public information- on fake news, misinformation and disinformation and their implications for governance in Kenya. The engagement provided a platform to present and discuss a policy brief developed from NDU-K's empirical research and explore pathways for translating its findings into policy and institutional interventions.

Hosted by the Principal Secretary, State Department for Broadcasting and Telecommunications, the engagement brought together more than 250 Government Communication Officers. The forum provided an important interface between research and the practitioners responsible for communicating Government policy and information to the public.

**Research with a National Purpose**

The research forms part of NDU-K's broader commitment to generating evidence that responds to emerging national challenges. It was undertaken pursuant to a directive by His Excellency Dr William Ruto, President of the Republic of Kenya, Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Forces and Chancellor of NDU-K, tasking the University to undertake studies on emerging national challenges.

The directive resulted in two studies, one examining femicide in Kenya and the other investigating the place and impact of fake news, misinformation and disinformation on governance. Their findings were subsequently translated into policy briefs for dissemination to relevant Ministries and State Departments, creating a pathway through which empirical evidence could inform policy consideration and institutional action.

This approach reflects an important dimension of NDU-K's research philosophy: research must ultimately serve a purpose beyond the production of academic knowledge. It must help decision-makers understand complex realities, anticipate emerging risks and identify practical responses.

The engagement with the State Department therefore represented more than the presentation of research findings. It was an opportunity to begin the more important conversation about what should happen after the research has been completed.

**When Information Becomes a Security Issue**

Addressing the forum, NDU-K Vice-Chancellor, Lieutenant General David Tarus, emphasised the importance of strengthening the connection between research and policy so that evidence generated through scholarly inquiry translates into practical interventions and measurable outcomes.
He noted that the information environment presents a complex duality. Digital technologies and social media have transformed how citizens access information, participate in public discourse and engage with institutions. At the same time, the same technologies can enable false, misleading or deliberately manipulated information to spread rapidly and widely.

**"The journey from research to impact, however, does not end with dissemination. It requires continued dialogue, institutional ownership, implementation and measurement."**

**The implications extend beyond communication**

When misinformation erodes public trust, disinformation manipulates perceptions or false narratives deepen social divisions, the consequences can affect governance, social cohesion, democratic processes and national security. The information environment has therefore become an important arena in which national resilience must be built and protected.

For NDU-K, understanding this environment requires more than identifying the problem. It requires sustained research into its causes, manifestations and consequences, as well as evidence-based approaches to strengthening institutional and societal resilience.

**From Policy Briefs to Practical Action**

A defining message from the Vice-Chancellor was the need to ensure that research does not end with the publication of a report or policy brief.

"The critical questions are: What needs to be done? Who needs to do it? And how will progress be measured?"

The questions capture the University's growing emphasis on research impact. They shift the conversation from what the research has discovered to what institutions can do with that knowledge.

Addressing fake news, misinformation and disinformation requires coordinated action across

Government and society. It calls for continuous research and policy innovation, public awareness, digital literacy, responsible media practice and institutional mechanisms capable of responding to an evolving information environment.

No single institution can adequately address the challenge in isolation. Government agencies, communication professionals, media organisations, academia, technology stakeholders and citizens all have roles to play in strengthening the integrity of Kenya's information ecosystem.

The more than 250 Government Communication Officers brought together at the engagement therefore represented an important constituency in this effort. As professionals responsible for communicating public information, they occupy a critical position in strengthening access to credible information, building public trust and supporting informed public discourse.

NDU-K reaffirmed its readiness to support the implementation process through research evidence, technical expertise and intellectual engagement, while recognising the State Department's critical role in advancing recommendations within its mandate.

**Strengthening NDU-K's Role as a Knowledge Partner**

The engagement illustrates the University's evolving role at the intersection of research, policy and national security. NDU-K's contribution is not limited to studying conventional defence and security issues; it increasingly encompasses emerging challenges whose effects cut across society, governance, technology and national resilience.

This is central to the University's identity as a centre of strategic thought and a national knowledge institution. Through empirical research, policy engagement and collaboration with Government and other stakeholders, NDU-K seeks to ensure that emerging challenges are understood before they become deeper institutional and societal vulnerabilities.

The journey from research to impact, however, does not end with dissemination. It requires continued dialogue, institutional ownership, implementation and measurement. It requires researchers and policymakers to remain connected long after a study has been completed.The engagement with the State Department marks an important step in that direction.

It demonstrates NDU-K's commitment to a model of research in which evidence informs policy, policy shapes action, and action produces measurable outcomes.

As Kenya navigates an increasingly complex information environment, the University's role is to help generate the knowledge needed to understand the challenge, convene the expertise required to address it and support the institutions responsible for turning evidence into action.

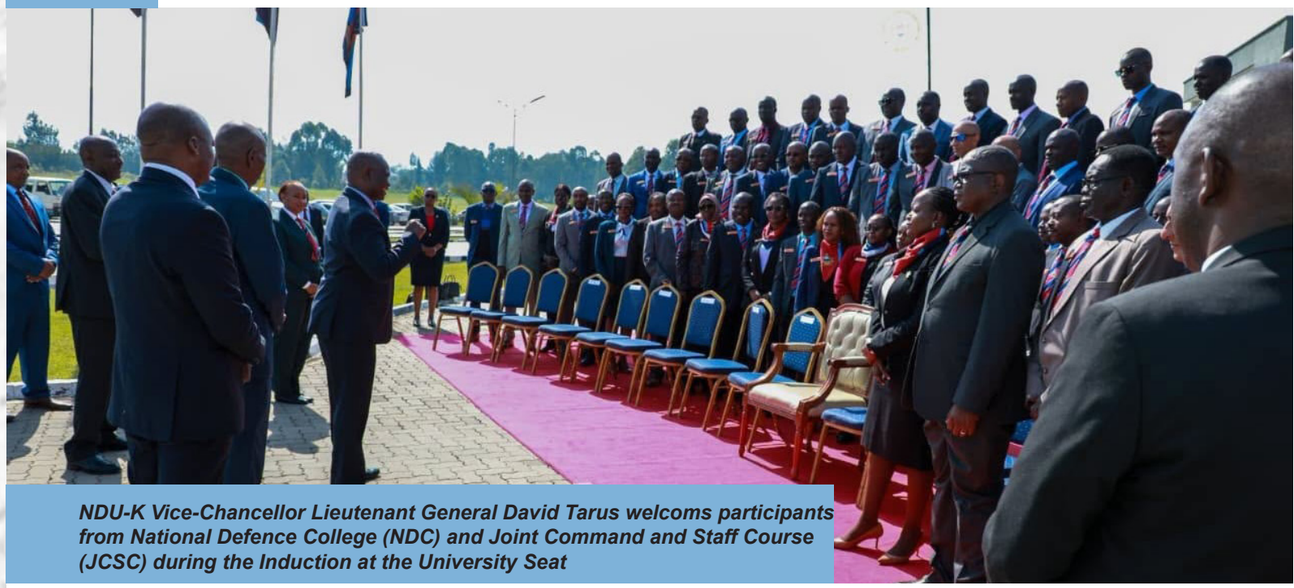
In this way, research becomes more than an academic exercise. It becomes an instrument of national resilience, strategic decision-making and public value— advancing NDU-K's mandate to develop strategic leaders and generate knowledge in support of national security and development.








# DEVELOPING STRATEGIC LEADERS FOR A COMPLEX **SECURITY ENVIRONMENT**



*NDU-K Vice-Chancellor Lieutenant General David Tarus welcoms participants from National Defence College (NDC) and Joint Command and Staff Course (JCSC) during the Induction at the University Seat*

**NDU-K Welcomes New Cohorts to Advance Strategic Thought, Leadership and Security**

The evolving global security environment is creating an urgent demand for leaders who can think beyond conventional approaches, navigate complex challenges and develop evidence-based solutions to emerging national, regional and global security threats. At the National Defence University-Kenya (NDU-K), this demand continues to shape the University's approach to strategic education, research and professional development.

NDU-K has welcomed new cohorts of military officers, public sector leaders and international participants to a range of postgraduate and professional military education programmes at its colleges, marking another important step in the University's mission of developing strategic leaders through education, research and innovation in support of national security and development.

The new cohorts include the second cohort of the Doctor of Philosophy in Crisis and Disaster Management, the fifth cohort of the Master of Arts in Crisis Response and Disaster Management and the inaugural cohort of the Master of Arts in Gender and Peace Support Studies at the International Peace Support Training Centre (IPSTC).

At the Joint Command and Staff College (JCSC), Course No. 42 of the 2026/2027 Academic Year has also commenced, alongside National Defence College (NDC) Course 29, bringing together senior military officers and public sector leaders for advanced studies in national security, strategy and defence.

The induction and commencement ceremonies, held at the University Seat in Lanet, Nakuru County, were presided over by the Vice-Chancellor, Lieutenant General David Tarus. He welcomed the new participants and challenged them to approach their studies with intellectual curiosity, disciplined scholarship and a strong commitment to generating knowledge that responds to real-world security challenges.

The participants are drawn from the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF), Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), State agencies and partner and allied countries. Their diverse professional and national backgrounds provide a rich environment for intellectual exchange, strategic dialogue and the sharing of experiences across the military, government and international security community.

Lieutenant General Tarus noted that contemporary security challenges have become increasingly interconnected and extend beyond traditional military threats. Terrorism and violent extremism, transnational organised crime, cyber insecurity, climate-induced disasters, pandemics, emerging technologies and other non-traditional threats require leaders capable of understanding complex systems and developing multidisciplinary responses.

He emphasised that NDU-K's academic and professional military education programmes are designed to build this capacity by combining rigorous scholarship with practical experience and strategic analysis. Students were encouraged to challenge assumptions, undertake meaningful research and translate their academic work into practical, evidence-based recommendations capable of informing policy and strengthening national, regional and international security.

For participants of NDC Course 29, the year-long programme represents a significant milestone in their professional development. The highly competitive programme brings together senior leaders with extensive operational, policy and leadership experience and is designed to broaden strategic perspectives, strengthen policy analysis and prepare participants for higher responsibilities in national security policy, defence management, strategic leadership and statecraft.

The National Defence College remains NDU-K's flagship institution for strategic education, providing a platform where senior military and public sector leaders engage with complex national and international security issues while developing the analytical capacity required at the highest levels of decision-making. Participants pursue the National Security and Strategy Programme at the appropriate academic level, while benefiting from a multidisciplinary and multinational learning environment.

The diversity of the new cohorts also reflects NDU-K's expanding regional and international footprint. Bringing together military professionals, civil servants and participants from partner and allied countries creates opportunities for knowledge exchange, professional networking and stronger institutional relationships. It reinforces the University's role as a platform for strategic dialogue and cooperation on shared security challenges.

Across its colleges, NDU-K continues to integrate professional military education, academic programmes, research and innovation to produce operationally competent leaders, strategic decision-makers and policy advisers. The University's approach recognises that effective leadership in today's security environment requires not only professional competence, but also critical thinking, intellectual agility, ethical leadership and the ability to connect diverse perspectives.

As the new cohorts embark on their academic and professional journeys, they join a growing community of NDU-K alumni and scholars contributing to defence, security, public policy and national development. Their learning represents more than individual career advancement; it is an investment in the leadership, institutional capacity and knowledge required to build resilient societies and respond effectively to the security challenges of the twenty-first century.

Through these programmes, NDU-K continues to strengthen its position as a leading institution and centre of excellence in defence, security and strategic studies, advancing strategic thought, developing transformative leaders and generating knowledge that supports national security and development.

***Participants from International Peace Support Training Centre (IPSTC) during the Induction at the National Defence University Kenya (NDU-K)***



# NDU-K EXPANDS STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS TO ADVANCE KNOWLEDGE, INNOVATION AND SECURITY LEADERSHIP



The National Defence University-Kenya (NDU-K) is strengthening its strategic partnerships with academic, professional and Government institutions as part of its broader efforts to harness expertise, generate knowledge and develop practical solutions to emerging national, regional and global challenges.

Through engagements with the Kenya School of Revenue Administration (KESRA), Central Georgia Technical College (CGTC) in the United States and the International Relations Society of Kenya (IRSK), NDU-K is expanding opportunities for collaboration in education, professional training, research, innovation, policy dialogue, knowledge exchange and institutional capacity building.

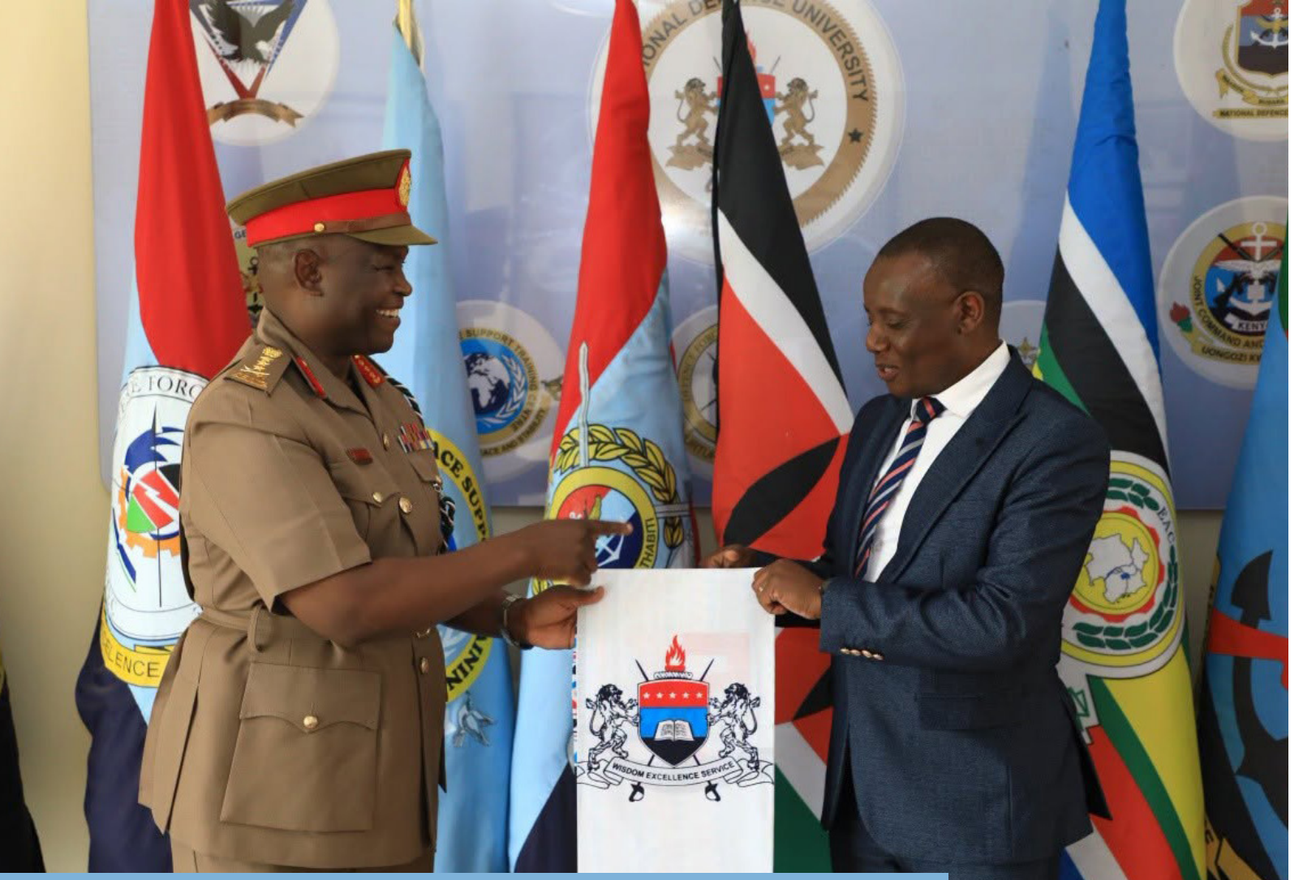
The partnerships reflect the University's strategic approach to collaboration-not simply as institutional linkages, but as platforms for translating complementary expertise into meaningful programmes, strengthening strategic leadership and contributing to national security and development.

**Strategic Partnerships for Action and Impact**

NDU-K's engagement with KESRA focuses on translating the institutions' existing partnership framework into structured and sustainable programmes addressing areas of mutual and national interest. The engagement brought together KESRA officials led by its Commissioner, Dr Mugambi Mwirigi, and NDU-K senior officers to identify priority areas for collaboration.

According to the NDU-K Vice-Chancellor, Lieutenant General David Tarus, the strategic value of bringing together complementary institutional capabilities, national security and national development are closely interconnected. He observes that the complexity of contemporary national challenges requires strong institutions, specialised expertise and strategic leadership capable of connecting different areas of professional knowledge.

The NDU-K-KESRA partnership provides



*NDU-K Vice-Chancellor Lieutenant General David Tarus with KESRA Commissioner, Dr Mugambi Mwirigi during a Formal Engagement and Partnership meeting between NDU-K and KESRA at National Defence University - Kenya*

opportunities in academic programmes, professional training, research, consultancy, publications, knowledge exchange, capacity building and resource mobilisation. Among the initiatives highlighted were the proposed Master of Science in Tax Forensics and National Security, submitted to the Commission for University Education and awaiting site inspection and accreditation, as well as the customised Maritime Security, Port Operations and Border Management Course developed for Kenya Revenue Authority officers.

These initiatives demonstrate the University's multidisciplinary approach to security and development challenges, particularly where revenue administration intersects with border management, maritime security, intelligence, governance and inter-agency cooperation.

**Expanding Technical Skills and Innovation**

At the international level, NDU-K has deepened its engagement with Central Georgia Technical College through a Memorandum of Understanding aimed at advancing technical skills development, research, innovation, institutional capacity and academic and professional exchanges.

The partnership provides a platform for the two institutions to leverage their respective expertise and resources in developing practical, industry-relevant skills and promoting applied learning and innovation. The Defence Forces Technical College (DEFTEC) and Defence College of Health Sciences (DCHS), both colleges of NDU-K, are expected to play a leading role in implementing and benefiting from initiatives arising from the collaboration.

Lieutenant General Tarus notes that the partnership reflects a shared commitment to using education, technical training and innovation to prepare individuals and institutions to respond effectively to an increasingly complex and rapidly changing environment. The collaboration is expected to strengthen institutional capacity while creating opportunities for knowledge sharing and professional development among learners, faculty and staff.

The engagement also reinforces NDU-K's commitment to expanding international partnerships that enhance the quality, relevance and impact of its education, research and professional training.

**Connecting Research, Policy and Practice**

NDU-K's partnership with the International Relations Society of Kenya further strengthens the University's role in connecting academic knowledge with policy and professional practice.





*NDU-K Vice-Chancellor, Lieutenant General David Tarus and Commandant Defence Forces Technical College (DEFTEC) Brigadier Ismail Noor observing a Practical Medical Training Demonstration using a patient simulator at Central Georgia Technical College*

Formalised through a Memorandum of Understanding, the collaboration provides a framework for joint research, executive education, policy dialogue, scholarly exchange, conferences and institutional capacity building. It brings together NDU-K's academic and research capabilities with IRSK's professional networks and expertise in international relations.

Lieutenant General Tarus emphasises that the contemporary security environment demands integrated and multidisciplinary approaches, as security challenges increasingly intersect with governance, economic resilience, technology and societal transformation. He underscored the importance of collaboration among universities, professional bodies, policymakers and practitioners in generating evidence-based knowledge and developing responsive policy solutions.

The partnership is therefore positioned to strengthen strategic dialogue and contribute to research and policy engagement on issues relating to defence, security, governance, regional peace and sustainable development.

**Partnerships with Purpose**

Together, these partnerships demonstrate NDU-K's deliberate effort to move beyond conventional institutional collaboration towards partnerships that generate tangible value. Whether through developing specialised academic programmes, advancing technical skills, producing policy-relevant research or creating platforms for strategic dialogue, the University continues to leverage partnerships as instruments for knowledge generation, leadership development and institutional transformation.

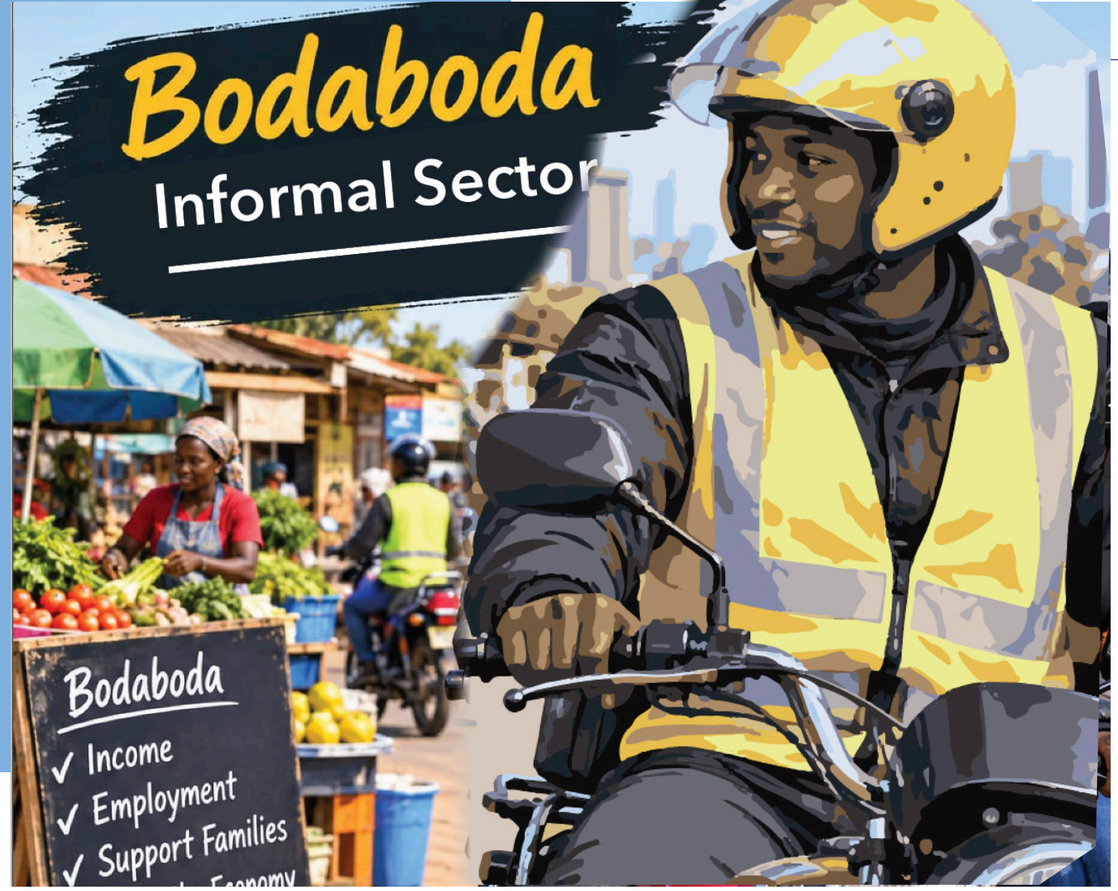
The collaborations also reinforce NDU-K's position as a convening platform for diverse expertise, bringing together academia, Government, professional bodies, technical institutions and international partners around shared national and global priorities.

As the security and development environment becomes increasingly interconnected, NDU-K continues to strengthen the networks and partnerships required to understand emerging challenges and develop informed, multidisciplinary responses. Through these strategic alliances, the University is advancing its mandate of developing strategic leaders through education, research and innovation while strengthening its contribution to national security and development.

Ultimately, NDU-K's partnerships are about more than institutional cooperation. They are about connecting knowledge, expertise and innovation to leadership and practical solutions that matter to Kenya, the region and the wider global community.

# FROM RESEARCH TO ACTION

## NDU-K EXAMINES EMERGING SECURITY CHALLENGES




**Research Validation Workshop Explores Boda-Boda Security Vulnerabilities and Climate-Security Risks**

Kenya's changing security environment is increasingly shaped by challenges that extend beyond traditional notions of national security. From the rapid expansion of informal transport networks to the growing impact of climate change on communities and national resilience, emerging vulnerabilities require institutions to anticipate risks, generate evidence and develop informed responses.

Building on this foundation, the National Defence University-Kenya (NDU-K) convened a research validation workshop bringing together scholars, policymakers, security practitioners, government agencies and other stakeholders to interrogate research on two contemporary national security issues.

The workshop examined studies on The Boda-Boda Informal Transport Sector and National Security in Kenya and The Kenya Defence Forces' Involvement in Climate Change Interventions through the Environmental Soldier Programme. While addressing distinct areas, the studies reflect NDU-K's broader approach to understanding security as an interconnected phenomenon shaped by social, economic, environmental and institutional factors.

The workshop provided researchers with an opportunity to present the objectives, key themes, findings and recommendations of the studies before participants engaged in plenary and seminar discussions. The diverse perspectives brought into the discussions enabled the researchers to test their findings against professional and institutional experience, identify areas requiring further strengthening and assess the practical implications of the recommendations.

**Understanding Security Beyond Traditional Threats**

NDU-K Vice-Chancellor, Lieutenant General David Tarus, reaffirmed the University's commitment to research that moves beyond academic reporting to generate actionable knowledge capable of informing policy, strengthening institutions and supporting evidence-based decision-making.

He underscored the importance of research that responds to emerging and complex security challenges, noting that NDU-K's role as a university and national think tank is anchored in generating strategic knowledge that contributes to informed decision-making and strengthens the connection between research, policy and practice.

The study on the boda-boda sector highlighted the complex relationship between mobility, livelihoods and national security. The sector has become an important component of Kenya's socio-economic landscape, providing employment, supporting household incomes and facilitating access to transport services across the country.

At the same time, its rapid expansion presents security and governance considerations relating to regulation, institutional coordination, community engagement and vulnerability to exploitation. Discussions at the workshop emphasised the need for balanced approaches that address these vulnerabilities without undermining the sector's important contribution to livelihoods and national development.

Participants highlighted the importance of coordinated action involving Government agencies, security actors, local communities and sector stakeholders in developing sustainable interventions. The discussions reinforced the need to understand the sector within its broader social and economic context rather than approaching its security dimensions in isolation.

**Climate Change as an Emerging Security Challenge**

The second study examined another increasingly important dimension of national security: the relationship between climate change, environmental pressures and security.

Participants explored how climate-related challenges can contribute to resource competition, displacement, disaster risks and vulnerabilities that affect communities, institutions and national resilience. The discussions reflected a growing recognition that environmental and climate pressures can have wider implications for stability and security.

Particular attention was given to the Kenya Defence Forces' involvement in climate change interventions through the Environmental Soldier Programme. Participants examined the programme's contribution to environmental protection, disaster response and national resilience, while considering the broader implications of the evolving role of defence institutions in responding to non-traditional security challenges.

The discussions demonstrated how environmental security is increasingly becoming part of the wider national security conversation, requiring collaboration across defence, government, academia, communities and other stakeholders.

**Turning Knowledge into Impact**

Although the two studies focus on different areas, the workshop revealed a common message: Kenya's evolving security environment requires institutions to anticipate emerging risks and develop integrated, evidence-based responses.

The discussions underscored the value of sustained research, inter-agency collaboration and knowledge exchange in understanding complex challenges and developing solutions that are both context-specific and forward-looking. They also highlighted the importance of ensuring that research findings are accessible and relevant to policymakers, practitioners and institutions responsible for responding to emerging risks.

For NDU-K, the validation process is an important part of ensuring that research generates value beyond the academic environment. By bringing researchers together with policymakers, practitioners and other stakeholders, the University creates opportunities for knowledge to be tested, refined and translated into insights that can support real-world decision-making.

The workshop therefore reaffirmed NDU-K's growing role in advancing strategic thought and knowledge generation on issues at the intersection of defence, security and national development.

As Kenya navigates an increasingly complex security landscape, NDU-K continues to position research and innovation as critical tools for understanding emerging challenges, strengthening institutional preparedness and informing strategic responses.

From the boda-boda sector to climate security, the message is clear: understanding tomorrow's security challenges requires research that anticipates risk, connects knowledge to policy and turns evidence into action.



*Cabinet Secretary for Defence, Hon. Soipan Tuya, Chief of the Defence Forces Gen Charles Kahariri and NDU-K Vice-Chancellor Lieutenant General David Tarus after signing PERFORMANCE CONTRACT FOR FY 2026/2027*

# NDU-K STRENGTHENS INSTITUTIONAL EXCELLENCE THROUGH PERFORMANCE CONTRACTING

The National Defence University-Kenya (NDU-K) reaffirms its commitment to institutional excellence, accountability and results-oriented service delivery with the signing of its Performance Contract for the 2026/2027 Financial Year.

The Performance Contract was signed by the Vice-Chancellor, Lieutenant General David Tarus, during a ceremony presided over by the Cabinet Secretary for Defence, Hon. Soipan Tuya. The signing marked an important step in aligning the University's institutional priorities with measurable targets and strengthening a culture of performance, accountability and continuous improvement.

At NDU-K, performance contracting is more than an annual compliance exercise. It is a key management tool for translating institutional priorities into measurable results, monitoring progress and ensuring that University activities remain focused on its mandate and strategic objectives.

Leading the University's performance contracting process, Lieutenant General Tarus underscored the importance of accountability, efficiency and effective service delivery in achieving institutional excellence. He reaffirmed NDU-K's commitment to strengthening its contribution to defence, security, leadership and strategic studies through quality education, impactful research and innovation.

The Vice-Chancellor emphasised the need for the University to remain responsive to emerging national, regional and global security challenges while developing strategic leaders equipped with the knowledge, skills and perspectives required to navigate an increasingly complex security environment.

The 2026/2027 Performance Contract provides a framework through which the University will translate its strategic priorities into specific, measurable and accountable actions across its core functions. It is expected to strengthen institutional effectiveness, enhance service delivery and promote responsible use of resources while ensuring that performance remains aligned with NDU-K's mandate.

For an institution dedicated to developing strategic leaders through education, research and innovation in support of national security and development, performance management is central to delivering meaningful institutional impact. It provides a basis for assessing progress, identifying areas for improvement and ensuring that individual and institutional efforts contribute to shared strategic outcomes.

The signing therefore represents more than the commencement of another performance cycle. It signals the University leadership's collective commitment to delivering results, strengthening accountability and sustaining a culture of excellence across NDU-K.

Through effective implementation of the Performance Contract, NDU-K continues to position institutional performance as a driver of quality education, research and innovation, strategic leadership and national development.

**"Performance contracting is tool for translating institutional priorities into measurable results,monitoring progress and ensuring that University activities remain focused on its mandate and strategic objectives."**





# NDU-K HEALTHCARE STUDENTS EMBRACE *The Call to Service*

For the 50 students of the Defence College of Health Sciences (DCHS), the journey from lecture rooms and clinical training to professional practice is more than the completion of an academic

programme. It is the beginning of a calling defined by care, service and responsibility, often in environments where the quality and speed of medical support can make the difference between life and death.

The students marked this important transition during the Nurses' Candle Lighting and End-of-Course Ceremony at the National Defence University-Kenya (NDU-K), celebrating years of study, clinical practice, discipline and perseverance.

Among them were 28 students of the Diploma in Community Health Nursing, Class of 2023; 15 students of the Higher Diploma in Perioperative Nursing, Class of June 2025; and seven students of the Higher Diploma in Clinical Medicine and Surgery (Anaesthesia), Class of September 2024.

Their journey has taken them beyond textbooks and lecture halls into the demanding realities of healthcare practice. Through specialised training at DCHS, they have developed skills designed to prepare them for diverse clinical and operational environments, where professionalism, sound judgement and compassion are essential.

For the nursing students, the lighting of the candle provided a particularly poignant moment. More than a ceremonial tradition, it symbolised their transition into professional practice and their commitment to the values that define nursing—care, compassion, service and sacrifice.

The ceremony brought together the students, their families, friends, faculty, instructors and partners, providing an opportunity to recognise the collective effort behind their achievement. Their success is a reflection not only of individual determination, but also of the support systems that sustained them throughout their training.

Congratulating the students, NDU-K Vice-Chancellor, Lieutenant General David Tarus, commended their discipline, commitment and perseverance. He also recognised the contribution of their families, faculty, instructors and the wider DCHS community in supporting them through their academic journey.

For the Vice-Chancellor, however, their achievement carries significance beyond the individual careers they are about to begin. Military healthcare is an essential component of operational readiness. Kenya Defence Forces personnel frequently operate in challenging and unpredictable environments where timely, specialised and effective medical support is critical to sustaining missions and protecting lives.

Lieutenant General Tarus noted that this reality places a special responsibility on military healthcare professionals. The guiding principles of the KDF healthcare philosophy "Strategic Health Support for a Mission-Ready Force" and "A Healthy Force is a Combat-Ready Force", underscore the critical link between healthcare capability, personnel welfare and operational effectiveness.

The students therefore leave DCHS carrying more than professional qualifications. They join a specialised workforce whose expertise contributes to the health, resilience and readiness of the Defence Forces.

Chief Executive Officer of the Nursing Council of Kenya (NCK), Dr Lister Onsongo, challenged the students to see graduation not as the end of learning, but as the beginning of continuous professional development. She encouraged them to embrace evidence-based practice, clinical research and innovation as they confront changing healthcare needs.

Her message speaks to the reality of modern healthcare, where emerging diseases, evolving technologies, complex clinical conditions and changing patient needs require professionals who remain curious, adaptable and committed to lifelong learning.

For DCHS, the achievement represents another step in its contribution to developing specialised human capital for the defence and security sector. Through rigorous academic instruction, clinical exposure and practical training, the College continues to prepare healthcare professionals capable of providing quality care across a range of clinical and operational settings.

The students are scheduled to graduate during the 4th NDU-K Graduation Ceremony on 20 November 2026, marking the culmination of their years of academic and professional training.

As they prepare to take that next step, the 50 healthcare professionals carry with them the knowledge gained, the lessons learned and the responsibility entrusted to those who choose a profession built around serving others.

Their story is ultimately one of preparation for service, where knowledge meets compassion, professional competence meets duty, and healthcare becomes an essential part of keeping a force healthy, resilient and ready for the mission.

*NDU-K Healthcare Students from Defence College of Health Sciences (DCHS) Lighting candles during the Nurses' Candle Lighting and End-of-Course Ceremony*






***Prof. Anne Muigai – DVC Academic & Student Affairs Principal Moi Forces Academy and Students from the Institution during a photo session after A Mentorship Session at Moi Forces Academy-Lanet***

# NDU-K STRENGTHENS MENTORSHIP AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH To Shape Tomorrow's Leaders

**Nurturing Character, Resilience and Service Beyond the Classroom**

The strength of a nation is shaped not only by the knowledge and skills of its young people, but also by the values, character and sense of responsibility they carry into society. Recognising this, the National Defence University-Kenya (NDU-K) continues to position mentorship and community outreach as important avenues for nurturing ethical leadership, resilience and responsible citizenship among the next generation.

Through recent mentorship engagements at Moi Forces Academy–Lanet and Nakuru High School, NDU-K has taken its leadership and educational mission beyond the University environment, engaging students, parents and the wider community on the values and life skills needed to navigate an increasingly complex and competitive world.

At Moi Forces Academy–Lanet, the University, represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic and Student Affairs), Prof. Anne Muigai, challenged parents to take a more intentional role in shaping the character and future of their children. Conveying a message from the Vice-Chancellor, Lieutenant General David Tarus, Prof. Muigai emphasised the importance of building trusting relationships that enable young people to openly discuss not only their academic aspirations, but also values, life choices and the pressures they encounter in contemporary society.

Parents were encouraged to become approachable confidants and create supportive environments in which their children can seek guidance as they navigate social, technological and other influences. The engagement also emphasised the importance of involving young people in household responsibilities and everyday tasks as practical ways of cultivating discipline, accountability, integrity and a sense of responsibility.

For NDU-K, such conversations form part of a broader understanding of leadership development—one that begins long before an individual assumes a formal leadership position. Character, resilience, adaptability and ethical decision-making are foundational qualities that enable young people to become responsible citizens and future leaders.

This message was similarly reflected in the University's mentorship engagement at Nakuru High School, conducted under the theme “Mentoring Young Men for Integrity, Discipline, Leadership and Service.” The initiative brought the University closer to the community, providing an opportunity to engage young men on the values required to make positive choices and contribute meaningfully to society.

The mentorship encouraged participants to embrace integrity and discipline, develop confidence and resilience, lead with courage and understand leadership as a responsibility to others rather than simply a position of authority. Through interaction and shared experiences, the students were challenged to recognise their potential and the role they can play in shaping their communities and the future of the country.

The two engagements demonstrate NDU-K's approach to mentorship as more than a one-off activity. They reflect the University's commitment to contributing to the development of a values-driven generation capable of responding to social and economic challenges with resilience, responsibility and purpose.

The University's community outreach mandate provides a platform through which its expertise in leadership, education and strategic thinking can be shared beyond its immediate academic community. By engaging schools and families, NDU-K contributes to conversations that strengthen character formation, responsible citizenship and a culture of service.

At the heart of these efforts is the belief that developing strategic leaders begins with nurturing individuals who understand the importance of integrity, discipline, accountability and service. These qualities are essential not only for future leaders in defence and security, but for professionals and citizens across every sector of national life.

As NDU-K continues to expand its mentorship and community outreach initiatives, the University remains committed to investing in young people as an essential part of Kenya's future. Through purposeful engagement, knowledge sharing and mentorship, the University continues to inspire a generation equipped to lead with integrity, resilience, excellence and a strong commitment to service.

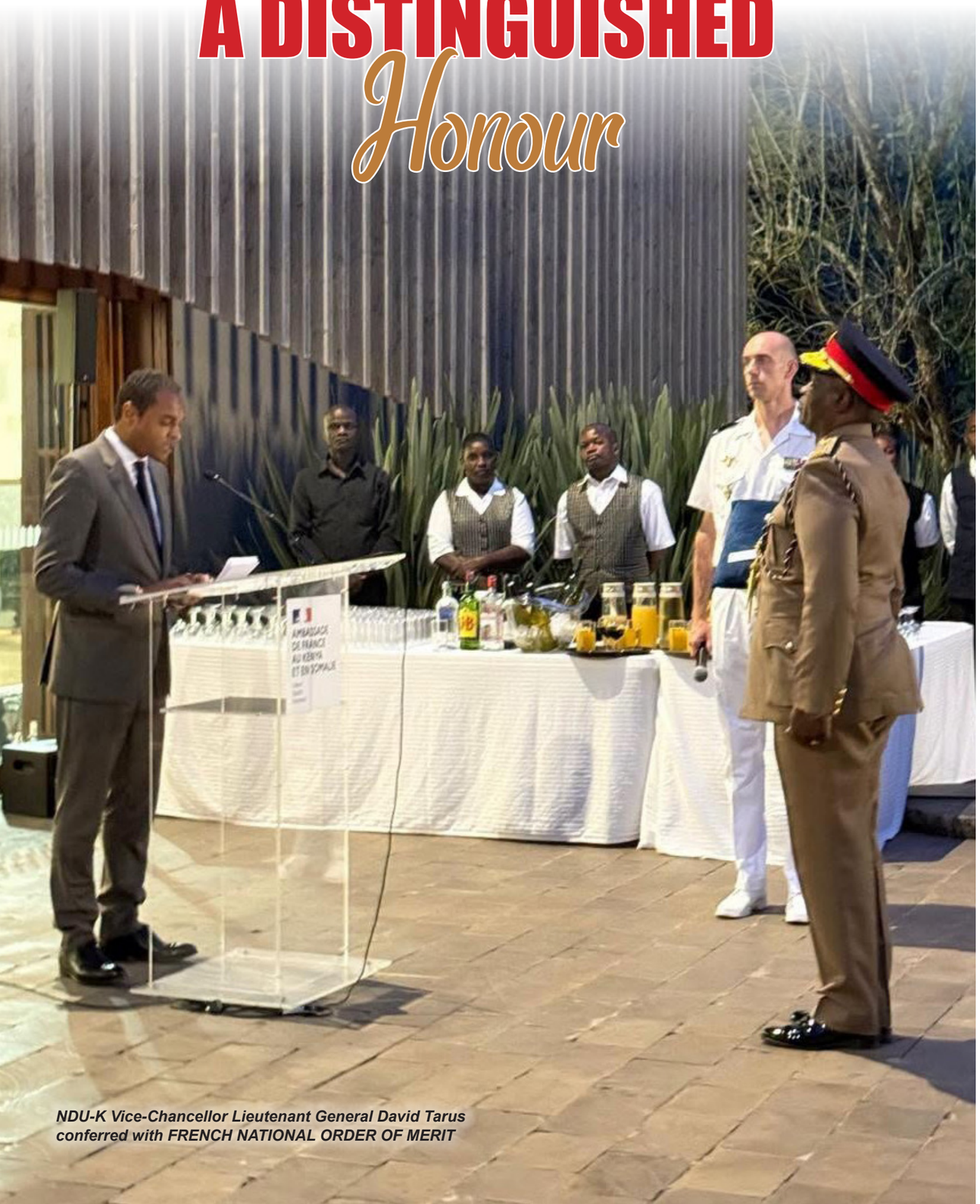
Ultimately, NDU-K's mentorship efforts affirm a simple but powerful principle:

> ”Shaping tomorrow's leaders begins with shaping character today.”

***NDU-K Fraternity during a photo session after A Mentorship Session at Nakuru High on 27July 2026***



# A DISTINGUISHED *Honour*



*NDU-K Vice-Chancellor Lieutenant General David Tarus conferred with FRENCH NATIONAL ORDER OF MERIT*





## Leadership, Service and the Power of **STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS**

The conferment of the French National Order of Merit (Ordre national du Mérite) on the Vice-Chancellor of the National Defence University-Kenya (NDU-K), Lieutenant General David Tarus, is more than a personal distinction. It is a recognition of a career defined by service, leadership and a commitment to strengthening professional relationships that contribute to Kenya's defence and security interests.

The honour was conferred at the Residence of France in Nairobi by His Excellency Wadid Benaabou, Ambassador of France to Kenya, during a seminar for French Defence Attachés in East Africa. Lieutenant General Tarus received the distinction alongside other senior leaders of the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF), reflecting the enduring depth of defence and security cooperation between Kenya and France.

France's National Order of Merit recognises distinguished service. For Lieutenant General Tarus, the honour carries the weight of a professional journey shaped by leadership and service within the defence and security sector, as well as engagement in strengthening military-to-military relations and international defence cooperation.

Yet, the significance of the recognition extends beyond the individual.

At a time when security challenges increasingly transcend national borders, professional relationships between nations have become an important part of building knowledge, trust, capability and collective resilience. Defence cooperation is no longer defined only by military engagement; it increasingly encompasses education, research, strategic dialogue, innovation and the exchange of ideas.

This is where the honour resonates strongly with NDU-K's institutional mission.

As an institution dedicated to developing strategic leaders through education, research and innovation in support of national security and development, NDU-K recognises that strategic leadership is strengthened through engagement with diverse institutions, experiences and perspectives. International partnerships create spaces where knowledge is exchanged, emerging challenges are examined and leaders are equipped to think beyond immediate operational concerns towards the broader strategic environment.

Under the leadership of Lieutenant General Tarus, NDU-K continues to deepen its engagement with regional and international defence, security and academic institutions. These relationships extend the University's intellectual and professional reach, creating opportunities for collaboration in education, research, capacity development and strategic dialogue.

The Kenya-France relationship is part of this wider ecosystem of cooperation. Its value lies not only in institutional connections, but in the shared pursuit of knowledge, professional excellence and stronger responses to an increasingly complex security environment.

For NDU-K, therefore, the honour is both a recognition and a reminder: leadership is measured not only by the responsibilities one carries, but by the relationships one builds, the knowledge one advances and the institutions one strengthens.

As NDU-K continues to consolidate its position as a Centre of Excellence in Defence, Security and Strategic Studies, the recognition of its Vice-Chancellor provides a moment to reflect on the University's own journey- one anchored in service, strategic thought, professional excellence and partnerships that advance national, regional and global security.

The NDU-K fraternity celebrates Lieutenant General David Tarus on this distinguished recognition and honours the values it represents:
service, leadership, partnership and a shared commitment to a more secure and resilient future.

# A LEGACY *Rooted in Science*



**How Prof. Anne Muigai's Lifelong Journey Earned a Place in Botanical History**

For decades, Prof. Anne Muigai walked through grasslands and diverse ecosystems across Africa, collecting plant samples, documenting biodiversity and pursuing scientific answers that would shape the continent's understanding of its rich natural heritage. While the countless field expeditions, laboratory analyses and years of research often went unnoticed outside scientific circles, they have now culminated in one of the highest honours a scientist can receive—a newly described plant genus bearing her name.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Academic and Student Affairs at the National Defence University–Kenya (NDU-K), Prof. Anne Muigai, has been honoured through the naming of Muigaia, a newly established plant genus that recognises her exceptional contributions to genetics, biodiversity science and the mentorship of African scholars.

Comprising seven African species, Muigaia represents a newly defined evolutionary lineage within the morning glory family (Convolvulaceae). The discovery follows extensive scientific research integrating molecular phylogenetics, morphology, pollen studies and evolutionary analysis, leading to the reclassification of several species previously placed under the genus Ipomoea.

The honour is a fitting tribute to a scientist whose career has been dedicated not only to advancing knowledge but also to nurturing the next generation of African researchers. A distinguished Kenyan geneticist, Prof. Muigai has made significant contributions to biodiversity conservation, genetics and scientific capacity building across the continent. Through her leadership in the African BioGenome Project and her longstanding academic career, she has inspired and mentored countless students and researchers, many of whom continue to make meaningful contributions to science in Africa and beyond.

Today, as the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic and Student Affairs) at the National Defence University–Kenya, Prof. Muigai continues to champion academic excellence, research, innovation and student success, strengthening the University's mission of developing knowledge and human capital in support of national





**"Two emotions have hit me with the same intensity—surprise and deep humility. I was hugely surprised and profoundly honoured by this recognition. It is something that I would never have imagined in my life.."**






*A: Argyreia Lour., B: Ipomoea L., C: Astripomoeia A.Meeuse., D: Lepistemon Blume, E: Muigaia Ngima, Kathambi & A.R. Simoes, F: Paralepistemon Lejoly & Lisowski, G: Rivea Choisy, H: Stictocardia Hallier f., I: Turbina Raf.*

*I dedicate this honour to my family and to the numerous African students and scholars who have passed through my hands. This is truly our honour!"*

development.

Despite the global significance of the recognition, Prof. Muigai received the news with characteristic humility.

It puts a name and a meaning to the numerous field trips and years of sample collection that I have undertaken over the last decades, and it, perhaps, at last, offers an explanation to my family what I have been doing over so many years.

Her words reflect a career built not on the pursuit of recognition, but on curiosity, perseverance and an unwavering commitment to science and mentorship. The naming of Muigaia immortalises not only her scientific achievements but also the enduring impact she has had on generations of African scholars whose careers she has helped shape.

For the National Defence University–Kenya, this international recognition is a source of pride and a testament to the calibre of leadership within the institution. It reinforces the University's commitment to fostering academic excellence, impactful research and innovation while contributing to national, regional and global knowledge.

As Muigaia joins the scientific record, it stands as more than a botanical classification. It is a lasting symbol of a lifetime devoted to discovery, education and service—a legacy that will continue to inspire future generations of scientists across Africa and the world.






*A delegation from Stellenbosch University, South Africa visit National Defence University-Kenya in Lanet*

# NDU-K DEEPENS INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT THROUGH **STRATEGIC VISITS AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE**

The National Defence University-Kenya (NDU-K) continues to strengthen its position as a hub for defence education, strategic leadership, research and international knowledge exchange, as it hosts engagements with the Defence Attachés' Association of Kenya and Stellenbosch University of South Africa.

The engagements provided valuable platforms for benchmarking, institutional learning and exploring opportunities for collaboration in defence and security education, research, professional military training, innovation and knowledge exchange. They also offered visiting delegations an opportunity to gain deeper insights into NDU-K's distinctive mandate, institutional structure, academic programmes, research priorities and contribution to strategic leadership and national security.

The Defence Attachés' Association delegation, comprising Defence Attachés representing allied and partner countries accredited to Kenya, was led by the Dean of the Association, Lieutenant Colonel Anthony Kaulback. The delegation toured key facilities at the Kenya Military Academy (KMA) and the National Defence University-Kenya, where they received briefings on academic programmes, research initiatives, professional military training and ongoing infrastructure development.

Welcoming the Defence Attachés, NDU-K Vice-Chancellor, Lieutenant General David Tarus, expressed appreciation for the Association's continued goodwill and support towards the University. He underscored the critical role of Defence Attachés in advancing military diplomacy, defence cooperation and international security collaboration, noting that their engagements facilitate training exchanges, mutual understanding and strategic partnerships that contribute to regional and global peace and security.

Lt Gen Tarus further highlighted NDU-K's distinctive role as an institution of strategic national importance that brings together military personnel, law enforcement officers, intelligence professionals, policymakers and civilian partners in developing strategic responses to emerging geopolitical and security challenges.

"NDU-K is not merely a military training institution, nor purely an academic university but a deliberate



*Members of the Defence Attachés' Association of Kenya during their visit at The National Defence University-Kenya*

convergence of the two, a place where soldiers, scholars, diplomats and policymakers can learn alongside one another and where strategic thought is cultivated to serve not only Kenya, but the wider region and our international partners," he said.

The Defence Attachés' Association commended NDU-K for the progress made within a relatively short period, with Lt Col Kaulback describing the University as an emerging centre of excellence in defence education, strategic leadership and military scholarship. He also noted the quality of NDU-K's academic programmes, modern infrastructure and integrated approach to military and civilian education, expressing confidence in its growing contribution to regional and international defence education.

Similarly, the familiarisation visit by a delegation from Stellenbosch University provided an opportunity for institutional benchmarking and exploration of areas of mutual interest. The engagement focused on strengthening academic and professional exchanges, collaborative research, innovation, knowledge sharing, curriculum development and the development of programmes responsive to evolving security and societal needs.

During the engagement, Lt Gen Tarus emphasised the importance of strategic partnerships among institutions of higher learning in advancing knowledge generation, professional capacity and strategic leadership. He noted that sustained collaboration creates platforms for shared learning, institutional growth and the development of innovative responses to contemporary security challenges.

The Stellenbosch University delegation, led by Prof. Andries Fokkens, appreciated the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of NDU-K's role in Kenya's strategic leadership and national security architecture. Prof. Fokkens underscored the value of institutional linkages in enabling academics and professionals to exchange ideas, share experiences and generate knowledge to address contemporary and emerging challenges.

The delegation also toured KMA and the National Defence College (NDC), both constituent colleges of NDU-K, gaining first-hand insights into their respective mandates, academic programmes, training activities and contributions to professional military education and strategic leadership development.

The engagements with the Defence Attachés' Association and Stellenbosch University demonstrate the value of institutional visits as platforms for benchmarking, peer learning and strategic engagement. They further reinforce NDU-K's commitment to building purposeful partnerships with local, regional and international institutions in advancing defence and security education, research, innovation and capacity development.

Through such engagements, NDU-K continues to expand opportunities for knowledge exchange and institutional collaboration while strengthening its contribution to strategic thought, leadership and solutions to complex security challenges in Kenya, the region and beyond.








***NDU-K Officers, Service Personnels and Staff on a 5KM walk during the launch of NDU-K at 5 Anniversary Celebration.***

***Health Workers serving during a medical outreach programme at Dundori Vocational Training Centre as part of a month-long series of NDU-K activities marking the University's Fifth Anniversary celebrations.***





***Prof. Anne Muigai – DVC for Academic & Student Affairs' a KDF Personnel and a pupil planting a tree at Dundori Forest in Nakuru County.***




*NDU-K Vice-Chancellor Lieutenant General David Tarus, Bomet University Vice Chancellor Prof. Charles Mutai and Bomet University staff during his visit at Bomet University.*




*Deputy Vice-Chancellor Finance & Administration, Maj Gen Ng'ang'a Tees off at Nakuru Golf Club.*



*Friendly rivalry and military camaraderie between National Defence University-Kenya (NDU-K) vs the Kenya Military Academy (KMA) in a friendly football matchduring the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) Day.*





*The National Defence University-Kenya (NDU-K) participants in the premier Nairobi International Trade Fair (NITF) exhibition, showcasing academic, research and innovation capabilities.*

ADS

NATIONAL DEFENCE UNIVERSITY-KENYA

**CENTER FOR SECURITY AND STRATEGIC STUDIES**

*"Strategic Knowledge for Effective Leadership, Governance and National Security"*

CSSS EXECUTIVE NATIONAL SECURITY PROGRAMMES

The Centre for Strategic Studies and Security (CSSS) at the National Defence University-Kenya (NDU-K) offers a portfolio of executive training programmes designed to:

- Strengthen Strategic Leadership
- Policy Capacity
- Institutional Resilience and
- National Security Awareness

Across Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), the private sector, security and defence institutions, development partners and other strategic organizations. The programmes provide participants with practical knowledge, strategic insights and contemporary tools to navigate emerging national, regional and global challenges.

Organizations may also contact CSSS to discuss customized programmes, preferred dates, group participation and sector-specific training requirements.

***Register through the CSSS Training Office***

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