



NEWSLETTER

May Edition - 2025



WELCOME MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORIAL TEAM

Dear Esteemed Readers,
Warm greetings and welcome to the May Edition of the UNILAK
Newsletter!

We began this month with a spirit of unity and gratitude as we joined the global community in celebrating International Labor Day. It was a joyful occasion to honor the dedication and hard work of every member of the UNILAK family from faculty and staff to students all playing a vital role in driving our institution's continued growth and excellence.

This month also marked a solemn period as we stood in solidarity with the Rwandan nation to observe the 31st Commemoration of the Genocide against the Tutsi. As a university, we remain committed to promoting remembrance, unity, and peace, while educating future generations about the importance of never forgetting our shared history.

Looking outward, UNILAK continues to strengthen its global engagement. A senior leadership delegation travelled to Europe, where they held strategic meetings with partner institutions in Poland and Germany. These visits are a significant step towards expanding our international academic collaborations and reaffirming our role in the global higher education community.

Furthermore, we were honored to receive an invitation to participate in the African Higher Education Summit in Mauritius, a platform that showcased the university's vision and growing influence across the continent.

On the student engagement front, we were proud to host a public lecture by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MINECOFIN) in collaboration with EPRN Rwanda. The session, which focused on Rwanda's National Strategy for Transformation (NST2) 2024-2029, attracted a large number of students and faculty eager to engage with and understand the country's roadmap for socio-economic development.

As always, thank you for staying connected with us. We hope this edition inspires you with the strides UNILAK is making locally and globally.

Warm regards,
The Editorial Team



***UNILAK Staff
Unite to celebrate
International
Labor Day***



UNILAK staff members gathered in unity and celebration on May 1 to mark International Labor Day, a globally recognized occasion honoring workers and their invaluable contributions to society.

The event, held in Musanze District, was a vibrant and meaningful tribute to the commitment, resilience, and hard work of employees across all departments.

The celebration brought together academic and non-academic staff, including senior administrators, faculty members, and support personnel, who took time to reflect on the significance of labor and the vital role every employee plays in shaping the institution's success.

In his address, the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Ngamije Jean commended the staff for their dedication and tireless service, stating,

"Today we honor not only the global labor force but especially the men and women of UNILAK, whose efforts make this institution a beacon of excellence and progress. Your work is the foundation upon which our achievements are built."



This year's celebration was marked by a special ceremony honoring staff members who have served the University for 20 years and more. These long-serving employees were recognized for their unwavering commitment, resilience, and service that have significantly contributed to the institution's growth and success over the decades.

Certificates of appreciation and tokens of gratitude were presented to the awardees amid applause and admiration from their colleagues. The day also featured team-building activities, music, and refreshments to foster a spirit of solidarity and shared purpose among staff members.





UNILAK Campuses mark the 31st Commemoration of the 1994 Genocide Against the Tutsi

On 23rd May 2025, all campuses of UNILAK came together in solemn remembrance of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi during the 31st commemoration activities. The day was marked with deep reflection, unity, and a reaffirmed commitment to building a peaceful and inclusive Rwanda.

At Nyanza Campus, the day began with a visit to the Nyanza Genocide Memorial Site in Nyanza District, where staff, students, and invited guests laid a wreath in honor of the victims. The visit served as a powerful reminder of the lives lost and underscored the collective responsibility to preserve the memory of the genocide while educating future generations about its consequences.

Meanwhile, at the Rwamagana Campus, the university community held a parallel event marked by a gathering of students, staff, and dignitaries. Distinguished guests who addressed the participants emphasized the importance of unity, resilience, and the pursuit of excellence. They urged the youth to stand against divisionism and hatred, and to contribute to sustaining Rwanda's journey of reconciliation and peace.

As part of the commemoration, UNILAK extended its support to Genocide survivors in nearby communities, reaffirming its ongoing dedication to remembrance, healing, and national solidarity. Through this act, the University emphasized the role of education not only in shaping minds but also in nurturing compassion and social responsibility.



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UNILAK delegation embarks on strategic collaboration visit to Europe »

On May 29, 2025, a high-level delegation from UNILAK, led by Deputy Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration, Richard Niyonkuru, departed for Europe to strengthen international partnerships.

The team included distinguished delegates Dr. Christine Umumararungu, Dean of Economic Sciences and Management and Dr. Enan Nyesheja, Dean of Computing and Information Sciences.

The delegation's visit focused on strategic collaboration talks with partner universities in Poland and Germany, marking a significant step in expanding UNILAK global academic network.

A key highlight was the collaborative meeting with Warsaw University of Management (MAN). This fruitful engagement culminated in the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), a landmark agreement that sets the foundation for extensive cooperation.

The MoU outlines a framework to promote exchanges between students and academic staff, capacity building initiatives, seminars, conferences, Erasmus projects, public lectures, and joint course development and delivery.

At Powislanska University, the delegation was warmly received by Pro-Rector Dr. Mariia Lutsyk. Productive discussions were held with Professor Arthur Kolb, Vice President of Internationalization & Equal Opportunities, and Mr. Bernd Haulzhauser, Director of the International Office.

Key agreements included launching student and professor exchange programs and initiating joint projects aimed at deepening academic collaboration.

As part of the ongoing partnership, members of UNILAK senior management will be invited to participate in Kempen's International Week scheduled for November 2025.

The visit concluded with a campus tour, including a visit to the Material Testing Laboratory within the Faculty of Engineering, highlighting opportunities for collaborative research and innovation.

This European mission underscores UNILAK commitment to fostering international cooperation, enhancing academic quality, and broadening opportunities for its students and staff.





Prof. Antony represents UNILAK at African Higher Education Summit in Mauritius

Prof. Antony Uwaya, the Head of Partnerships at UNILAK, recently visited Mauritius as a Special Guest of Honour at the prestigious African Higher Education Summit. The event, brought together key stakeholders from Africa, America, Europe, and Asia to engage in high-level discussions on shaping the future of higher education across the globe.

The summit served as a platform for academic leaders, policymakers, researchers, and development partners to exchange ideas, forge new collaborations, and explore strategies to strengthen institutional capacity and global partnerships.

Prof. Antony delivered a keynote address highlighting UNILAK commitment to internationalisation, innovation, and inclusive academic growth. He emphasized the importance of cross-continental collaboration in addressing shared challenges such as digital transformation, research funding, and equitable access to education.

During his visit, Prof. Antony also held bilateral meetings with university leaders and representatives from higher education networks to explore partnership opportunities in areas such as student and staff exchanges, joint research initiatives, and curriculum development.

His participation as Special Guest of Honour reflects UNILAK rising prominence on the international stage and its continued commitment to driving impactful change in higher education across Africa and beyond. The summit concluded with a strong call to action for African institutions to embrace innovation, deepen global ties, and work collaboratively to build a resilient and future-ready education ecosystem.





**"From diverse
backgrounds,
united by purpose"**

we are UNILAK





MINECOFIN and EPRN Rwanda host Public Lecture on NST2 at UNILAK

The Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MINECOFIN) in collaboration with the Economic Policy Research Network (EPRN Rwanda), held a highly engaging public lecture at UNILAK focusing on Rwanda's National Strategy for Transformation (NST2) 2024-2029.

The event drew students and staff from across various faculties, who gathered to learn more about the country's development vision and the key strategies that will guide Rwanda's transformation over the next five years. The lecture offered a deep dive into the goals, priority areas, and implementation plans of NST2, with emphasis on economic growth, social transformation, and good governance.

Officials from MINECOFIN and EPRN took participants through the rationale behind the strategy, highlighting how NST2 aligns with Rwanda's long-term Vision 2050.

Students had the opportunity to ask questions and discuss how the country's strategic initiatives relate to their fields of study and future careers.

Speaking at the event, representatives from MINECOFIN emphasized the importance of engaging the youth and academic institutions in national development processes. "The future of Rwanda lies in the hands of young people. Understanding the NST2 framework enables students to become active contributors to national transformation," said one of the speakers.

The public lecture underscored UNILAK growing role as a platform for national dialogue and policy education. The institution reaffirmed its commitment to working closely with government bodies and research networks to nurture informed and responsible citizens.

As Rwanda moves into the implementation phase of NST2, events like these are expected to play a crucial role in bridging the gap between policy and practice, especially among the country's future leaders.

Thank
You!

