



KABARAK UNIVERSITY

Education in Biblical Perspective

CROW 2026

Where Knowledge Meets Impact

DIRECTORATE OF RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND OUTREACH

5TH CENTRAL RIFT INNOVATION WEEK 2026

Kabarak University, Nakuru, Kenya

PROGRAMME

15TH - 17TH SEPTEMBER 2026

Theme: Transforming Ideas into Impact: Innovating for a Better Tomorrow



PARTNERS



Kabarak University is ISO 9001:2015 certified.



Kabarak University Moral Code

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WELCOME TO CRIW 2026



Prof. Henry K. Kiplangat, PhD, MBS, OGW
Vice-Chancellor

I am delighted to welcome you to the 5th Central Rift Innovation Week (CRIW) 2026, hosted by Kabarak University under the theme, *Transforming Ideas into Impact: Innovating for a Better Tomorrow*. Over the years, CRIW has grown into an important platform for bringing together academia, government, industry, investors, entrepreneurs, development partners, and other innovation ecosystem stakeholders to exchange ideas, build partnerships, and develop solutions to the challenges facing our communities, our nation, and the continent.

At Kabarak University, our vision is to provide holistic, quality education rooted in Biblical Christian values. We believe that the role of a university extends beyond teaching and research. A university must create knowledge that responds to society's needs, nurture innovators and entrepreneurs, and facilitate the translation of research and ideas into products, services, technologies, enterprises, and policies that improve lives.

CRIW 2026 provides an opportunity to turn this commitment into action. Organized by the Directorate of Research, Innovation and Outreach, the event is designed to catalyze innovation-led growth, strengthen research commercialization, and promote multi-sectoral collaboration at regional and national levels. It provides a structured platform where ideas can be tested, challenged, refined, connected to resources, and ultimately transformed into meaningful impact.

Through topical presentations, expert panel discussions, training sessions, technical workshops, innovation showcases, pitching competitions, policy dialogue, and startup exhibitions, CRIW 2026 will facilitate knowledge exchange, investment linkages, mentorship, partnership building, and ecosystem strengthening. Particular emphasis is being placed on Agritech, Fintech, and HealthTech—three areas with enormous potential to transform lives, create employment, strengthen livelihoods, and accelerate Kenya's development. We also recognize the transformative potential of emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, blockchain, digital technologies, and other innovations that are reshaping economies and societies.

This agenda is closely aligned with Kenya's development priorities, including Vision 2030, digital transformation, health sector reforms, and the MSME development agenda, as well as continental aspirations under Agenda 2063 and Africa's science, technology and innovation priorities. By connecting research, innovation, entrepreneurship, policy, and investment, CRIW seeks to contribute to the transition from ideas and discoveries to solutions that are relevant, scalable, sustainable, and inclusive.

Importantly, CRIW is about collaboration. The complex challenges of our time cannot be solved by universities, government, industry, entrepreneurs, or development partners working in isolation. We must bring

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together diverse disciplines, experiences, technologies, networks, and resources. Such collaboration is essential for creating solutions that can move beyond the laboratory or classroom and achieve real-world adoption and impact.

I therefore wish to express my sincere appreciation to our partners and sponsors, including Access Bank, DSL, Kenya Industrial Property Institute (KIPI), National Research Fund (NRF), Boresha SACCO, Kabarak University SACCO, Kenya National Highways Authority (KeNHA), NCBA Bank, Kenya National Innovation Agency (KeNIA), AMREF, ICEA LION and all other organizations that have supported this important initiative. Your commitment demonstrates a shared belief that innovation, research, entrepreneurship, and collaboration are powerful drivers of inclusive growth and sustainable development.

I also commend our speakers, mentors, judges, exhibitors, researchers, innovators, entrepreneurs, students, staff, and all participants whose contributions make CRIW 2026 possible. Your ideas, expertise, experiences, and willingness to collaborate are central to the success of this platform.

To all participants, I encourage you to engage boldly, collaborate widely, share generously, and seek opportunities beyond this event. Let CRIW 2026 be more than a gathering for discussion. Let it be a catalyst for partnerships, investment, intellectual property development, commercialization, enterprise creation, and solutions that address real societal needs.

As we gather under the theme *Transforming Ideas into Impact*, let us remember that innovation is not simply about having new ideas. It is about transforming knowledge and ideas into solutions that make a measurable difference in people's lives. The future we desire will not happen by chance. It must be imagined, innovated, invested in, and built together.

Once again, I warmly welcome you to Kabarak University and Central Rift Innovation Week 2026. May this edition inspire new ideas, forge lasting partnerships, unlock investment opportunities, and move promising innovations closer to commercialization and societal impact.

Prof. Henry Kiplangat, PhD, MBS, OGW

VICE CHANCELLOR



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR, RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND OUTREACH, KABARAK UNIVERSITY

Dr. Phillip Nyawere, PhD

Director Research, Innovation and Outreach

CRIW 2026 brings together researchers, innovators, entrepreneurs, investors, industry players, policymakers, development partners, and students to celebrate ideas, foster collaboration, and explore pathways for translating knowledge and creativity into meaningful impact. Innovation is not merely about generating new ideas; it is about creating value, solving real-world challenges, and transforming opportunities into sustainable solutions. As we engage with emerging technologies, research discoveries, and entrepreneurial ventures during this week, I encourage all participants to embrace dialogue, collaboration, critical thinking, and the courage to challenge conventional approaches.

The Directorate of Research, Innovation and Outreach remains committed to strengthening the link between research, innovation, entrepreneurship, and societal impact. Through CRIW, we seek to nurture an ecosystem where ideas can progress from conception to development, investment, commercialization, and ultimately, positive transformation. I sincerely appreciate our partners, speakers, exhibitors, innovators, entrepreneurs, researchers, students, and all participants for their invaluable contribution to making CRIW a platform for meaningful engagement and opportunity.

Let us use this week to connect, collaborate, create, and transform ideas into solutions that shape a better and more prosperous future. Welcome to CRIW 2026, where ideas become innovation, innovation becomes enterprise, and enterprise creates impact.

Dr. Phillip Nyawere, PhD
DIRECTOR - RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND OUTREACH



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Mr. Allan Koskey

Chairman, Kenya Industrial Property Institute

Mr. Koskey is a seasoned legal practitioner and governance specialist. He is an Advocate of the High Court of Kenya, Commissioner of Oaths, Notary Public, and Certified Public Secretary. He holds an LLM (Master of Laws) from King's College, University of London, and an LLB from the University of Reading, UK. Additionally, he earned a Diploma in Law from the Kenya School of Law. Mr. Koskey is actively affiliated with notable legal bodies, including the Law Society of Kenya, East Africa Law Society, International Bar Association, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, and the Institute of Certified Public Secretaries of Kenya. Notably, he is also admitted as counsel at the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague. He serves as Managing Partner at Koskey & Masese Advocates, a law firm specializing in corporate governance, constitutional law, public procurement, and alternative dispute resolution. Prior to that, he was a Partner at Oraro & Company Advocates, advising on high-profile corporate transactions and regulatory reforms. Mr. Koskey previously held the position of Chief Administrative Secretary (CAS) at the State Law Office, where he played a key role in shaping legal and policy reforms. He's also served as Treasurer and Council Member of the Law Society of Kenya, participated in the Anti-Doping Task Force in Kenya, and advised several industry associations—contributing significantly to institutional governance frameworks. On January 17, 2025, Mr. Koskey was appointed as Chairperson of the KIPI Board, serving a three-year term. In his inaugural meeting with staff, he emphasized KIPI's mission to serve all Kenyans, including underserved groups like youth, women, and persons with disabilities. He highlighted the importance of public outreach, IP awareness, and protecting creators' rights nationwide.

Mr. Allan Koskey

CHAIRMAN – KENYA INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY INSTITUTE

GUEST SPEAKER

Mr. Ralph Chinedu Opara

Country Managing Director, Access Bank (Kenya) PLC



Mr. Ralph Chinedu Opara is the Country Managing Director of Access Bank (Kenya) PLC, appointed with the approval of the Central Bank of Kenya in September 2025. He joined the Kenyan subsidiary from the Access Bank Group office, where he served as Group Head of the Commercial Banking Division and grew it into the Group's largest commercial business, with a balance sheet exceeding USD 1.2 billion and risk assets above USD 1.3 billion.

He brings more than two decades of banking experience, including over ten years within the Access Bank Group, and is a Senior Member of the Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria. He holds advanced degrees

in banking and international development, complemented by executive education from Harvard, Wharton, IMD and Cranfield. His track record covers large-scale portfolio management, cross-border growth and complex transformation initiatives across Africa, including the Access and Diamond Bank integration and the expansion of specialized desks with global development finance institutions.

At Access Bank Kenya, Mr. Opara is guiding the integration of the bank with the National Bank of Kenya through the Integration Management Office, with the objective of building a regionally connected institution that combines local trust with pan-African scale, supports regional trade and accelerates inclusive economic growth. His keynote will address the financing of Africa's innovators, access to capital, trade finance and the practical pathways through which banks and innovation ecosystems can jointly move ideas from concept to market.

Mr. Ralph Chinedu Opara,

COUNTRY MANAGING DIRECTOR, ACCESS BANK (KENYA) PLC

GUEST SPEAKER

Mr. John Onyango

CEO, Kenya Industrial Property Institute



Mr. John Onyango is the Managing Director of the Kenya Industrial Property Institute (KIPI). He holds a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from the Strathmore Business School, Strathmore University, Nairobi.

An Associate member of Kenya Institute of Management (AKIM) and Member Institute of Directors (IOD), Mr. Onyango worked in the financial services industry in various roles both in Kenya and abroad before joining KIPI as Deputy Managing Director in 2007.

Mr. Onyango has participated in various trainings including the Advanced Management Course by the IESE Business School, International Graduate School of Management University of Navarra, Barcelona, Spain, and Management of Intellectual Property Offices and Result-based Management both conducted by World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

Others are Strategic Leadership Development Programme at Kenya School of Government (KSG), Corporate Governance, Change Management and Performance management.

Mr. John Onyango,

CEO, KENYA INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY INSTITUTE - KIPI

PROGRAM

TIME	SESSION / ACTIVITY	LEAD PARTNERS
DAY 1 Tuesday, 15th September 2026 Financing Innovation, Intellectual Property and Enterprise Readiness		
08:00 – 08:30 AM	Arrival & Registration	CRIW Officials
8:30 – 8:40 AM	Devotional Thought and Opening prayer	Rev. Justus Mutuku, <i>Ag. University Provost</i>
08:40 – 08:50 AM	Remarks, Director - RIO	Dr. Phillip Nyawere
08:50 – 09:05 AM	Presentation: <i>Building a regional Innovation Ecosystem for impact</i>	Dr. Michael Walekhwa
09:05 – 09:35 AM	Financing Enterprise through Cooperative Models <i>Member savings mobilization, back-office digitization and credit access for youth and MSMEs</i>	Boresha DT SACCO
09:35 – 10:05 AM	Institutional Cooperative Financing for Staff and Student Enterprise <i>Payroll-based credit, seed savings schemes and enterprise on-lending</i>	Kabarak University SACCO
10:05 – 10:20 AM	Presentation: From Research to Commercialization – Creating Impact through Innovation	Dr. Phillip Nyawere
10:20 – 10:45 AM	Health Break and Innovation Exhibition	Catering Department
10:45 – 11:30 AM	Training: Intellectual Property, Technology Transfer and Commercialization <i>Patents, utility models, trademarks, industrial designs and freedom-to-operate for innovators</i>	Mr. Samuel Ziro Lewa <i>KIPI</i>
11:30 AM – 12:15 PM	Competitive Research Grants and the Path to Commercialization <i>Funding windows, proposal design, national research priorities and grant compliance</i>	National Research Fund
12:15 – 1:00 PM	Workshop: Enterprise Readiness and Hands-on Entrepreneurship Skills	ICT Authority
1:00 – 2:00 PM	Lunch Break & Innovation Exhibition	Catering Department
2:00 – 2:45 PM	Youth Forum: <i>Building Inclusive Models for Creative and Tech Startups</i> 1. Boresha DT SACCO 2. Kabarak University SACCO 3. National Research Fund	<i>Moderator:</i> Ms. Mercy Gachoka
2:45 – 3:30 PM	Interactive Session: <i>Funding Innovation, Access to Capital, Trade Finance and Partnership Working capital, asset finance, cross-border trade instruments and bankability</i>	Access Bank

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TIME	SESSION / ACTIVITY	LEAD PARTNERS
DAY 1 Tuesday, 15th September 2026 Financing Innovation, Intellectual Property and Enterprise Readiness		
3:30 – 4:00 PM	Afya na Hadithi: The power of story in Health and Innovation	Ms. Sharon Ngugi
4:00 – 4:30 PM	De-risking Innovation: Insurance, Asset Management and Investment Readiness <i>Risk transfer, Insurtech, pension and structured investment for enterprise</i>	ICEA LION
4:30 – 4:45 PM	MSME Showcase and Market Access Clinic: <i>Participating MSMEs to be confirmed</i>	CRIW 2026 Secretariat
4:45 – 4:50 PM	Day One closing and preview of Day 2	Director - RIO
4:45 – 5:00 PM	Health Break & Networking	All Participants

TIME	SESSION / ACTIVITY	LEAD PARTNERS
DAY 2 Wednesday, 16th September 2026 Official Opening Ceremony		
08:00 – 08:30 AM	Arrival & Registration	CRIW 2026 Officials
08:30 – 09:10 AM	Keynote and Guest speakers pay courtesy call to the Vice Chancellor	
09:10 – 09:15 AM	Kenya National Anthem, East African Community Anthem, Kabarak University Anthem	School of Music & Media
09:15 – 09:25 AM	Devotional Thought and Opening prayer	Rev. Justus Mutuku, <i>Ag. University Provost</i>
09:25 – 09:30 AM	Remarks, Director, Research, Innovation and Outreach	Dr. Phillip Nyawere
09:30 – 09:35 AM	Remarks, DVC (Academic and Research)	Prof. John N. Ochola
09:35 – 09:50 AM	Welcome Remarks and official opening by the Vice-Chancellor	Prof. Henry K. Kiplangat, PhD, MBS, OGW
09:55 – 10:20 AM	Keynote Speaker <i>Intellectual Property as an Engine of Enterprise and Job Creation</i>	Mr. Allan Koskey <i>Chairman of Board, Kenya Industrial Property Institute</i>
10:20 – 10:40 AM	Guest Speaker <i>Financing Africa's Innovators: Access to Capital, Trade Finance and Pan-African Scale</i>	Mr. Ralph Chinedu Opara <i>Country Managing Director, Access Bank (Kenya) PLC</i>
10:40 – 11:00 AM	Guest Speaker	Mr. John Onyango <i>CEO, KIPi</i>
11:00 – 11:20 AM	Panel Discussions/Q&A Panelist: Building a Stronger Regional Innovation Ecosystem 1. Prof. Henry K. Kiplangat, PhD, MBS, OGW VC Kabarak University	Ms. Mercy Gachoka

TIME	SESSION / ACTIVITY	LEAD PARTNERS
DAY 2 Wednesday, 16th September 2026 Official Opening Ceremony		
11:00 – 11:20 AM	- Prof. Robert Gateru, VC Riara University - Mr. Allan Koskey, Board Chairman – KIPi - Mr. Ralph Chinedu Opara, Country MD, Access Bank (Kenya) PLC - Dr. Dickson Andala – CEO National Research Fund - DSL Representative - AMREF - Maureen Awuor	Ms. Mercy Gachoka
11:20 – 11:25 AM	Launch of Kabarak University Innovation Club [KABUIC] and Innovation Pulse Magazine	Prof. Henry K. Kiplangat, PhD, MBS, OGW
11:25 – 11:30 AM	Appreciation	Prof. Henry K. Kiplangat, PhD, MBS, OGW
11:30 – 11:35 AM	Photo Session & Exhibition Tour	University Photographer & MC
11:35 – 11:45 AM	Tea Break	Catering Department
<i>11:45 AM – 1:00 PM — Chapel</i>		
1:00 – 2:00 PM Lunch Break & Exhibition Tour		
Afternoon Session		
2:00 – 2:30 PM	AGRITECH Panel: Can Technology Transform Food Security & Rural Livelihood? <i>Precision agriculture, agri-Fintech and cooperative aggregation and value addition</i>	Boresha DT Sacco and Agri-innovators Moderator: Agritech lead
2:30 – 3:00 PM	HealthTech Panel: Reimagining Primary Health care with AI	Ms. Yvonne Okwara (AMREF)
3:00 – 3:30 PM	FINTECH PANEL: Building Inclusive Digital Economies for MSMEs, Youth & Communities <i>Digital lending, mobile money, asset finance and embedded insurance</i> - NCBA - ICTA - Boresha DT Sacco - ICEA LION Group - KeNHA	Moderator: Fintech Lead
3:30 – 4:15 PM	INFRASTRUCTURE AND MOBILITY Panel: Innovation in Roads, Intelligent Transport Systems and Road Safety <i>Smart corridors, road asset management technology, materials innovation and safety analytics</i>	KeNHA
4:15 – 4:45 PM	Innovation Ecosystem Networking <i>Academia, industry, government and investor linkages</i>	Directors and Sponsors
4:45 – 5:00 PM	Tea Break and Closing Prayer	MC/Catering Department

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TIME	SESSION / ACTIVITY	LEAD PARTNERS
DAY 3 Thursday, 17th September 2026 <i>Innovator Pitching, Investment Readiness and Awards</i>		
08:00 – 08:30 AM	Arrival & Registration	CRIW Officials
8:30 – 8:45 AM	Devotional thought and Opening prayer	Rev. Justus Mutuku, <i>Ag. University Provost</i>
08:45 – 09:00 AM	Recap of Day 2	Dr. Emmy Kisang
09:00 – 09:10 AM	Remarks, Director – Research, Innovation and Outreach	Dr. Phillip Nyawere
09:10 – 9:25 AM	Pitching Briefing: Format, Rules and Evaluation Criteria <i>Each innovator: 5-minute pitch and 3-minute question-and-answer, maximum 10 slides</i>	Lead Judge and Coordinator, Innovators
09:25 – 10:15 AM	AGRITECH Pitching Competition <i>Structured pitches scored against the standard rubric</i>	Panel of Judges
10:15 – 10:35 AM	Tea Break	Catering Department
10:35 – 11:35 AM	HEALTHTECH Pitching Competition <i>Structured pitches scored against the standard rubric</i>	Panel of Judges
11:35 AM – 12:35 PM	FINTECH Pitching Competition <i>Structured pitches scored against the standard rubric</i>	Panel of Judges
12:35 – 1:00 PM	MSME Innovation Showcase <i>Participating MSMEs to be confirmed</i>	CRIW 2026 Secretariat
1:00 – 2:00 Lunch Break & Exhibition Tour		
Afternoon Session		
2:00 – 2:45 PM	Investor Masterclass: What makes an innovation investment ready? <i>Unit economics, financial modelling, risk transfer, due diligence and deal structuring</i>	Access Bank, ICEA LION and National Research Fund
2:45 – 3:30 PM	Panel: From Prototype to Product – Scaling Innovations to Market <i>Manufacturing, standards, distribution and IP-backed scale-up</i>	Commercialization Expert
3:30 – 3:45 PM	Showcase of top innovation	MC
3:45 – 4:05 PM	Innovation Awards and Recognition of Outstanding Innovators	Awards Committee
4:05 – 4:15 PM	Beyond CRIW 2026	Director – Research, Innovation and Outreach
4:15 – 4:20 PM	Vote of thanks, Coordinator Innovations	Dr. Andrew Kipkebut
4:20 – 4:40 PM	Closing Prayers and Tea Break	MC/Catering Department



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