

# MAKERERE



# UNIVERSITY

**VICE CHANCELLOR'S MEDIA BRIEFING, THURSDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> JANUARY 2019**

**COMMUNICATION FROM THE VICE CHANCELLOR, PROF. BARNABAS NAWANGWE**

## **1. Introduction**

I warmly welcome you all to this first media briefing of 2019. Happy New Year! I pray that you and your loved ones had an enjoyable holiday season as we look forward to another year of good health and productivity.

I thank you all for taking time off to join I and the members of Management present here to share with you our plans for 2019 as well as updates on some of the important developments.

## **2. Plans for 2019**

### **i. Completion of the University Strategic Plan**

From 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2018, Makerere University embarked on the consultative process that will culminate in the formulation of the next Makerere University 10-year Strategic Plan (2019/20-2029/30). Since then, we have held a number of meetings to validate the proposed Makerere University Strategic Planning Framework as well as received input from the various units.

I am therefore happy to report that the Makerere University Strategic Plan Drafting Committee has made good progress in this regard and all is on course to complete the final publication and launch the document in March 2019. I would like to thank the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Finance and Administration), Prof. William Bazeyo, his committee and the Secretariat led by the Director, Planning and Development Department, Dr. Florence Nakayiwa for spearheading this effort.

We are confident that the participatory approach taken in drafting our Strategic Plan has harmonised ideas at the institutional, national, regional and global levels

and will produce the desired blueprint for transforming Makerere University into a world class research-led university by 2030.

## **ii. Stakeholders Conference 2019**

In addition to launching the Makerere University Strategic Plan (2019/20-2029/30) in March 2019, we shall host a Stakeholders' Conference in August 2019 where we shall officially unveil our strategy for the next 10 years.

The Stakeholders' Conference is a consultative meeting that brings together the University and her development partners to jointly review the outgoing programs and assess the performance of the ongoing projects. The Conference is also an opportunity to recognise the milestones so far achieved and present Makerere's 10 year strategic direction as embedded in the new strategic plan.

## **iii. Establishment of a Public Safety Lab**

On 18<sup>th</sup> December 2018, we hosted a delegation from Tsinghua University's Institute of Public Safety Research (IPSR) together with representatives from the Uganda Police Force (UPF) and Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA). We then jointly held discussions on the establishment of a Public Safety Laboratory at Makerere University.

Tsinghua is China's and Asia's top ranked University and its Institute of Public Safety Research is the Chinese Government's Public Safety Think Tank. In 2003, IPSR helped to establish the China National Emergency Response Platform, with more than two hundred and fifty City-level platforms. This National Platform handles areas such as public safety management, public transport management, environment safety management and early warning systems for natural disaster management on a National scale.

Our partnership with Tsinghua on the joint establishment of a Public Safety Laboratory will not only enable Uganda to tap into the expertise built over the years by IPSR but also reposition Makerere as a Central National Laboratory for Ugandan Government agencies in the area of public safety management and research.

#### **iv. Establishment of an Institute of Petroleum Studies**

In line with our continued quest to be a research-led University by 2030, I am happy to report that a delegation of the China University of Petroleum led by the Vice President Prof. Liu Huadong will visit Uganda from 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> January 2019. This high-powered delegation has dedicated an entire day of their visit; 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019, to Makerere, so as to follow up on the Memorandum of Understanding that we signed in December 2017 for the establishment of an Institute for Petroleum at Makerere University.

The establishment of this Institute fits in well with the appointment of Makerere University as the Centre of Excellence for petroleum and minerals by the Northern Corridor States, especially as Kenya and Uganda make progress in developing their respective oil and gas discoveries. The China University of Petroleum and Makerere also agreed to jointly apply for funding from international funding agencies to support establishment of state-of-the-art petroleum engineering labs at our respective institutions.

#### **v. The Global Engagement Institute East African Conference**

In 2015, Makerere University and the North Carolina State University signed a multi-disciplinary MoU to support our core function of Knowledge transfer partnerships and networking by creating a bridge for the exchange of knowledge and ideas as well as students, faculty and visiting scholars.

I am therefore happy to report that from 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> March 2019, I will convene a conference of the Global Engagement Institute (GEI) of North Carolina State University with major research universities in the East African Region. The Conference to be held under the theme ***Teaching, Research and Engagement in the East Africa Sub-region*** will once again put Makerere at the forefront of leading North-South collaborations in the areas of Climate change and Meteorological aspects, Computer Science Statistics, Sanitation and Solid Water Management, Oral History and Public History, Religious Studies and Philosophy, Communication and Sociology especially the field of criminology.

These are just some of the exciting prospects that we are keen to undertake this year and we look forward to your continued coverage of the developments.

I will now highlight the Official Position of the University on a number of issues and key decisions at the University.

### **3. Brief on the New Makerere University Council**

As you may all be aware, the Universities and Other Tertiary Institutions Act Section 38 (1) states that there shall be a University Council for every Public University consisting of the; Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Vice Chancellor, Deputy Vice Chancellors, a representative of the Convocation, three members appointed by the Minister of Education and Sports from the public, three members appointed by the University Council from the public, a representative of the Ministry of Higher Education, a representative of the Ministry of Finance, a representative of the Ministry of ICT, one representative of the National Union of Disabled Persons in Uganda (NUDIPU), one representative of KCCA, two representatives of Senate, two representatives of MUASA, a representative of MASA, a representative of the Support Staff, a representative of Staff with Disability, and two Students representatives, one of whom should be female.

On 19<sup>th</sup> December 2018, the four-year term of the previous Council led by Eng. Dr. Charles Wana-Etyem, deputised by Hon. Irene Ovonji-Odida came to an end. We would like to thank Eng. Dr. Wana-Etyem for his leadership which set the pace for a lot of transformation at Makerere University from December 2010 to December 2018.

On 20<sup>th</sup> December 2018, a new term of Council started and the following were the members elected by the various constituencies.

- Three appointees by the Minister of Education and Sports from the public were; Mrs. Lorna Magara, Mr. Kiryowa Kiwanuka and Eng. Dr. Steven Paul Kagoda.
- The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe
- The Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic Affairs), Dr. Umar Kakumba
- The Deputy Vice Chancellor (Finance and Administration), Prof. William Bazeyo
- The Convocation Representative, Dr. F. Tanga Odoi

- The Representative of the Ministry of Education and Sports, Ms Jolly Uzamukunda Karabaaya
- The Representative of the Ministry of ICT, Dr. Fredrick Kitoogo
- The Representative of the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Mr. William Ndoleriire
- The Representative of NUDIPU, Mr. J.C. Ninsiima
- The Representative of KCCA, Hon. Doreen Nyanjura
- Two Representatives of Senate, Prof. Noble Banadda and Dr. Sarah N. Ssali
- Two Representatives of MUASA, Dr. Helen Nambalirwa Nkabala and Dr. Winston T. Ireeta
- The Representative of Support Staff, Mr. Joseph Musoke
- The Representative of Staff with Disability, Mr. George W. Opee
- The Guild President, H.E. Salim Were
- The Vice Guild President, H.E. Fiona Kokoi and
- The Representative of MASA, which position remains vacant

These members of Council went ahead to elect three representatives of the Public in accordance with Section 38 (1) (n) of the Universities and Other Tertiary Institutions Act (UOTIA) (2001 as amended). Those elected were: Mr. Bruce Balaba Kabaasa, Hon. Thomas Tayeebwa and Rt. Hon. Daniel Fred Kidega.

The same inaugural meeting then elected Mrs. Lorna Magara and Rt. Hon. Daniel Fred Kidega as the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson respectively, for the four-year term December 2018 to December 2022.

#### **4. The 69<sup>th</sup> Graduation Ceremony**

I am happy to share with the public that 13,299 graduands have satisfied the requirements and will be presented for conferment of degrees and award of diplomas at the 69<sup>th</sup> Graduation ceremony due to be held from Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> to Friday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

Three hundred and sixty eight (368) of these candidates will graduate with First Class Honours. The best performing student in the Humanities is Ms. Namuwaya Hajarah Ali who attained a CGPA of 4.94 in the Bachelor of Bachelor of Business

Computing of Makerere University Business School (MUBS). The best performing student in the Sciences is Galiwango Kasozi Steven who scored a CGPA of 4.84 in the BSc Food Science and Technology.

I wish to clarify that only candidates who satisfied all graduation requirements within the stipulated timeframes shall be included on the list. Graduation requirements include clearance of all outstanding fees owed to the University, and payment of graduation fees of UGX218,000 for Ugandans and East Africans and US\$130 + UGX108,000 for International Students.

The unique Makerere University Graduation Gown cost of UGX98,000 has been incorporated into the 69<sup>th</sup> Graduation fees. This gown is for candidates graduating with Bachelors and Masters degrees, as well as Undergraduate and Postgraduate Diplomas. All PhD graduands will purchase specialized gowns from other service providers.

I therefore encourage all those graduands who have already paid the graduation fees to collect their gowns from the Senate Building basement, upon presentation of your receipts.

We are also working hard to ensure that student transcripts are available for picking before the Graduation Ceremony. Transcripts for the School of Law are ready and candidates have been picking them since November last year. We hope that all the transcripts for other colleges will be ready before graduation and we thank the Department of the Academic Registrar for ensuring that this is done.

We have received reports of students who claim to have fulfilled all requirements on time but whose names are missing from the graduation lists. Preliminary investigations have shown that some of these cases could have submitted their theses or research reports after the deadlines. Whereas it is too late to include these names on the graduation list, such cases will be able to pick up their transcripts but graduate at subsequent ceremonies.

We therefore encourage all our students to always adhere to the timelines issued by the academic registrar to avoid last minute disappointments.

## **5. Staff Disciplinary Cases**

We have over the last few weeks seen media reports claiming that the University had wrongfully dismissed some members of staff. I therefore wish to clarify that all disciplinary cases arose out of decisions of the University Appointments Board acting in accordance with Section 50 (3) & (4) of the Universities and Other Tertiary Institutions Act (UOTIA) (2001 as amended).

In line with the aforementioned sections, I wish to inform the public that the majority of those cases affected are staff who absconded from duty, some as far back as 2010! The Appointments Board was, in line with its mandate, clearing a backlog of disciplinary cases. All the cases were properly handled in accordance with the law and all those affected were given the opportunity for a fair hearing.

I also wish to clarify that all aggrieved staff have the right to appeal to the Makerere University Staff Tribunal for legal redress. The Staff Tribunal provides a forum for aggrieved members of staff to be heard by an independent team of persons, led by a qualified member of the Justice Department of Uganda.

## **6. Suspension of Administrative Staff**

We have received some reports that two members of administrative staff who were suspended from the university service with immediate effect on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2018 are being viewed as part of the larger group of disciplinary cases handled by the University Appointments Board. I wish to state that this is not true.

The Vice Chancellor in accordance with Section 31 (1) (a) of the Universities and Other Tertiary Institutions Act (UOTIA) (2001 as amended) has responsibility over the Academic, Administrative and Financial affairs of the University. On 20<sup>th</sup> December 2018, these two administrative staff together with a few other individuals attempted to disrupt a session of the University Council, the supreme policy making organ of the University.

In accordance with Section 5.9 (b) (ii) of the Makerere University Human Resources Manual, and after previous guidance to these two individuals to desist from actions that disrupt university activities and injure the institutional reputation, I suspended both these members of administrative staff from

University Service until a committee is constituted to investigate their conduct. Both these individuals will be invited to participate in the committee's proceedings and defend themselves accordingly.

I therefore appeal to all our staff and students to always abide by the university rules and regulations even as they air out their grievances, so as to avoid damaging our institutional image.

**.....I thank you for listening to me.....**