



Makerere University rank improves

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MAKERERE University climbed from the 28th to the 15th highest ranked institution of higher learning in Africa.

Makerere is now one of the best African universities, according to ranking released by Webometrics, an organisation that monitors university performance worldwide. Globally, Makerere was ranked 2,685 out of 18,000 universities.

Webometrics does the ranking twice a year according to the number of times a new article appears on the Internet about research done at the institution.

This is considered an indicator of the impact and prestige of the university and its commitment to disseminating research outcomes.

When the rankings were first published in 2004, Makerere was 18th position. It slipped to 23rd in 2005, 24th in 2006 and 54th in 2007.

Out of over 20 universities in Uganda, Makerere is the only one that made it to the top 100 in Africa this year.

Last year, Uganda Martyrs University, Nkozi, was ranked 47th and Uganda Christian University, Mukono was 84th.

The university of Rwanda, which was ranked 35th last year, has maintained the same ranking

The deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of academic affairs, Prof. Tibatemwa-Ekirikubinza, said Makerere had made a conscious effort to let the world know what they were doing in the field of research.

"This ranking mainly considers online research. For years, we didn't go out to disseminate our research which has been going on for many years.

"ICT has become a major component in research and we have started embracing its power," she stated.

The researchers advised poorly-performing universities to reconsider their web policy and promote substantial increases of the volume and quality of their electronic publications.

Makerere University is currently undergoing an intensive public relations and re-evaluation exercise to improve its image, which has been tainted by strikes and limited facilities.

Last year the university got a new vice-chancellor, who promised to restore it to its former glory.

This article can be found on-line at: <http://www.newvision.co.ug/D/8/13/709906>