

NATIONAL

VP commissions extension of Makerere varsity library



Vice President Edward Ssekandi (L) and Kawempe South MP Ssebuliba Mutumba inspect the extension of Makerere University main library on Monday. PHOTO BY FAISWAL KASIRYE

IN SUMMARY

Vice President Edward Ssekandi says the university should use the new facility to enhance research and seek solutions to social challenges.

Kampala

Makerere University has opened a new library extension which will facilitate research, ease access and retrieval of information by students and external users. The ultra-modern facility was constructed with support from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Norwegian Government and Sida in addition to locally raised funds from student contributions.

The Vice President, Mr Edward Kiwanuka Ssekandi, who presided over the ceremony, advised the university to put more emphasis on research, saying it would go a long way in generating knowledge and solutions to existing and emerging challenges in the country.

Mr Ssekandi said while universities allover the world exist principally to generate knowledge and provide solutions to complex socio-economic and political challenges, Makerere should utilise the new library to lay more emphasis on research and find solutions to the country's challenges.

He also said the government had not only apportioned a reasonable percentage of the national budget to the education sector but had also gone a long way to invest in human capital through liberalisation of the sector.

He urged students to utilise the new facility to improve their academic performance and asked university authorities to put aside resources for the maintenance of the library to ensure its long life.

The Vice Chancellor, Prof. John Ddumba Ssentamu, described the commissioning of the new library extension as the best way for the university to mark its 90th anniversary and its corporation with Carnegie Co-operation of New York, who are the main funders of the extension.

Prof. Ddumba said the collaboration with Carnegie Corporation has had a significant impact on the growth and transformation of the university library functions from manual operations to fully fledged automated online cataloging. Most of the library collections are accessible through its online catalogue. Carnegie Corporation funds several research projects at the university.

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