

# MAKERERE



# UNIVERSITY

**VICE CHANCELLOR'S MONTHLY MEDIA BRIEFING, FRIDAY, 22<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER 2017**

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

## **1.1. Welcome Statement**

I welcome you all to the Vice Chancellor's Media Briefing for December 2017. I thank you all for the balanced and objective reporting of Makerere University matters and developments in the respective media. I will continue to engage and involve the media in the promotion of the University's core functions of teaching and learning, research and innovations, knowledge transfer partnerships and networking.

## **1.2 Vice Chancellor's first 112 days in Office**

I was appointed Vice Chancellor of Makerere University effective 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017. Today, Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2017, marks my 112<sup>th</sup> Day in the Office of the Vice Chancellor.

This media briefing is aimed at updating you on the advancements we have made in as far as promoting Makerere University's core functions of teaching and learning, promotion of research and innovations as well as knowledge transfer partnerships and networking is concerned.

### **1.2.1 Makerere University Property Investor Conference**

In order to successfully promote our aforementioned core functions, we need to constantly come up with initiatives that can widen the Revenue Base for Makerere University.

It is in this regard that we held the first-ever Makerere University Property Investor Conference on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2017 under the auspices of Makerere University Holdings (MakHoldings), with the strategic goal of guaranteeing the Financial Sustainability of Makerere University

During the Property Investor Conference, we presented five initial projects to national, regional and international property development stakeholders. These comprised:

- Project 1: Conference Centre and 3-Star Hotel at the current Makerere University Guest House
- Project 2: 5 Star Luxury Hotel, Commercial Centre and Upmarket Apartments – Kololo
- Project 3: Gated Community and Upmarket Apartments – Makindye
- Project 4: Student Accommodation at Makerere University Main Campus
- Project 5: Student Centre at Makerere University Main Campus among others.

These Five (5) projects are the pilot undertakings to invest on Makerere University's prime lands, under the strategic direction of Administrative and Financial Re-structuring and Sustainability as envisioned in my business plan.

The response was encouraging and we will do everything necessary to ensure that this initiative succeeds. This is a long term initiative, which may not yield results over-night, but it is a very important step by Makerere University towards her financial sustainability.

### **1.2.1 (a) Makerere University Staff supporting Investment on Mak Land**

Feeding into the goodwill from the Makerere University Property Investors Conference, members of staff (via the staff mailing list) have come up with suggestions of investing in some of the proposed projects.

As Vice Chancellor, I am pleased to say that this is a brilliant idea and we should not miss this wonderful opportunity. For example a 500-room modern hostel would cost in the region of UGX 35 billion maximum. If 2000 members of staff invested in such a project at least UGX 500,000 per month, it would take a maximum of 3 years to complete the project. It would take only three and half months to re-coop the investment.

There can be no better deal than this in our lifetime.

### **1.2.2 Rebranding and Quality of Service Delivery**

Makerere University is home to approximately 40,000 students. In other words, without students, there is no Makerere; students are the reason we exist. We are therefore committed to improving all processes that enable our students to have a holistic experience of student life. Under the strategic direction of rebranding and quality of service delivery, we undertook to introduce central examination marking and issue testimonials and transcripts to students in a timely manner among others.

I am therefore happy to report that:

**i. Under Introduction of Central Marking**

Effective Semester I of this academic year 2017/18, all exams shall be marked centrally. This initiative is aimed at ensuring that all delays that are usually associated with release of students' results are avoided. In order to facilitate this process, funds to the tune of UGX. **120,751,044** shillings have been processed and will be transferred to the respective Colleges accordingly.

**ii. Decentralisation of the issuance of Mak Transcripts**

In October 2017, the University Management decided to decentralize the processing of transcripts to the colleges, beginning with issuance of the transcripts, until capacity is developed at colleges to also print them.

During the Media Briefing held on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2017, the Academic Registrar informed you that uncollected transcripts from the 65<sup>th</sup>, 66<sup>th</sup>, and part of the 67<sup>th</sup> graduation ceremonies had been recorded. Dispatching of the same to colleges was carried out on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2017 and a total of **1,471** transcripts were sent to the colleges.

The latest update on this exercise is that issuance is going on smoothly at the respective colleges.

**iii. Issuance of Mak Transcripts in time for Graduation**

We have embarked on the process of printing Mak Transcripts for students scheduled to graduate during the 68<sup>th</sup> Graduation Ceremony of Makerere University scheduled to take place from 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

According to the Academic Registrar, Mr. Alfred Masikye Namoah, they have finalized printing of transcripts for students from the College of Health Sciences,

College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, and the School of Law. The printing of academic transcripts for other Colleges are going on.

I reiterate that all the students who would have satisfied the academic and financial requirements for graduation, and cleared with the University authorities, will be in position to receive his/her transcript on the day of graduation.

### **1.2.3 Academic Reform**

Makerere University in line with her aspiration to become a research-led University is aware that all these objectives must be framed within national development plans and the universal sustainable development goals. Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Four: Quality Education mandates Makerere to **“Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all”**

I am happy to report that under our strategic direction to achieve academic reform, we have been able to:

#### **i. Operationalise the Open, Distance and E-Learning Strategy**

The University Council at its 136<sup>th</sup> Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> October 2015 approved the policy on Open, Distance and E- Learning (ODeL).

Subsequently, the University Council at its 141<sup>st</sup> Meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017 gave a go ahead to the operationalisation of the Open, Distance and E-Learning Strategy.

The policy aims at mainstreaming open, distance and eLearning into academic programmes of the University so as to increase access to flexible and quality technology supported learning as is emphasized in the Makerere University strategic plan.

The Open, Distance and E-Learning (ODeL) Strategy outlines in clear terms how ODeL is the number one strategy for increasing access to flexible education for both male and female prospective students, and the ways to implement this. I congratulate the College of Education and External Studies (CEES) upon this achievement that will spread the reach of Makerere University’s teaching and learning core function beyond the walls of lecture rooms.

## **ii. Institute the College Review Committee**

Makerere University transitioned from the Faculty-based to the collegiate system on 1st July 2011 and as of Friday 30<sup>th</sup> December 2011. As at 1st July 2014, 10 Constituent Colleges including the School of Law were approved, all operating as semi-autonomous units of the University.

On 7<sup>th</sup> September 2017, I instituted the College Review Committee chaired by Prof. John David Kabasa, with the aim of studying the existing system and functionality, as well as its efficiency and effectiveness. Specifically, the committee was also tasked to identify successes and challenges of the system and propose changes to the college statute and structure where the need arose.

I am happy to report that the committee is in the final stages of writing its report and I look forward to receiving it and discussing the findings with members of Management.

### **1.2.4 Updates on Expansion of Management**

During the Monthly Media Briefing held on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2017, I shared with you the introduction of three Management Committees namely the: Central University Management Committee consisting of 16 members; Top University Management Committee consisting of 26 members and University Management Consultative Forum consisting of 37 members.

With this strategic approach, we have enhanced team work and resolved a number of issues through dialogue, consultation, openness and transparency. The long term outcome is to ensure that every stakeholder is on board and he/she is aware of the challenges facing the University, and instead of lamentations and/or apportioning blame, resort to working together as a team to provide solutions to the day to day challenges facing this institution.

### **1.2.5 Staff Health Insurance Scheme**

The University Management on behalf of Council is committed to coming up with measures that improve the wellbeing of Makerere University staff and their families. Management further recognises that medical treatment and associated medications account for a big percentage of expenses incurred by families.

I am therefore happy to inform you that after a rigorous procurement process, IAA Healthcare, a member of the International Medical Group (IMG) was commissioned as the Makerere University Staff Health Medical Insurance Scheme provider.

Registration by staff for the scheme started on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2017 and we look forward to the successful completion of this process and issuance of medical cards. These cards will ensure that our staff will enable staff to access health facilities across the country where our provider has presence.

### **1.2.6 Internationalisation (Agreements Signed)**

Since assuming office three months ago, I made internationalization of the University one of the priorities. We have since signed MOUs with four international organisations, including the following:

#### **a. Makerere University and The Embassy of France in Uganda.**

This MOU seeks to increase the number of Ugandans studying French, one of the major international languages used in scientific writing. The need for researchers to know at least two international languages cannot be over-emphasized. Under this MOU, a dedicated office will be opened in the International Office and a French Corner will be established in the Main Library. I encourage all colleagues to take advantage of this facility when completed.

#### **b. Makerere University and China University of Petroleum**

On 19<sup>th</sup> December 2017, I signed an MoU with the China University of Petroleum in Qingdao China. The MoU will help Makerere tap into the training of experts for the lucrative oil and gas industry. This MOU seeks to leverage expertise at UPC to establish an institute/school of Petroleum Engineering at Makerere University. Mak and UPC will jointly apply for funding from international funding agencies to establish state of the art petroleum engineering labs at UPC and Mak. UPC and Mak will also collaborate through student and staff exchange programmes.

While in China, the Makerere University delegation also participated in the 12th International Confucius Institute Conference in Xian and in the Confucius Institute Board meeting. We agreed to promote the teaching of Chinese, the most widely spoken language in the world.

#### **c. Makerere University and UNESCO-ICHEI and SUSTech**

On 17<sup>th</sup> November 2017, I signed an MoU with the International Centre for Higher Education Innovation under the auspices of UNESCO (UNESCO-ICHEI) and the Southern University of Science and Technology (SUSTech), China.

Through this institute, we will train high level experts in computing and also promote research in computing disciplines.

Under the MoU, identified areas of cooperation were; joint research programmes on higher education and ICT; information sharing and mutual support on international conferences and academic fora; exchange of international students; exchange of academic staff between SUSTech and Makerere University; exploration of university-enterprise cooperation with industries, including but not limited to Huawei and Weidong Cloud Education and on-line education.

**d. Makerere University and Mount Kenya University**

On 19<sup>th</sup> September 2017, I signed an MoU with Mount Kenya University (MKU) on behalf of Makerere University aimed at establishing collaboration to improve higher education in the region. Under the agreement, the Colleges of Health Sciences at Makerere and MKU will develop exchange programs for students and faculty as well as conduct joint teaching and research.

Mount Kenya University has already committed USD 300,000 for research in health disciplines. Mount Kenya University highly values collaboration with Makerere University.

**e. Makerere University and Taiwanese Institutions**

On 13<sup>th</sup> October 2017, I signed an agreement with Dr. Jeff J.L. Lin and his wife Mrs. Mei Yvan, aimed at creating a formal avenue through which Taiwanese institutions can collaborate with Makerere and other Ugandan institutions.

Proposed areas of collaboration included exchange of staff, students, research, among others. Taiwanese Universities are ranked highly by global rankings and are a source of modern technology that has accelerated growth and development of other sectors like agriculture in the island nation. We are confident that under this agreement, Makerere will be able to partner with these leading Universities and also support Uganda's development agenda.

**At the national level, Makerere University and the Ministry of Defence on Emergency Health Response**

On 11<sup>th</sup> September 2017, I signed an MoU on behalf of Makerere University with the Ministry of Defence and Veteran Affairs aimed at building synergies to strengthen quality of health care and mitigate health threats to public health security. The signing which took place at the Ministry headquarters in Mbuya will involve the College of Health Sciences (CHS) and the College of Veterinary Medicine, Animal Resources and Biosecurity (CoVAB).

### **1.3 Important Dates in the Makerere University Almanac 2017/2018**

- **Semester One Holiday Break:** Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2017 to Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2018
- **68<sup>th</sup> Graduation Ceremony:** Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> to Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2018
- **Semester Two Duration:** Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2018 to Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2018

### **1.4. Conclusion and Merry Christmas**

As I conclude today's briefing, I would once again like to appreciate each and every media house represented here for the support extended to Makerere University throughout the year. Makerere University recognises that each of your establishments has built a reputable following over the years and sincerely appreciates your contribution, in as far as disseminating the latest news and research findings to your audiences is concerned.

I therefore wish each and every one of you as well as all members of your family a very merry Christmas and a prosperous new year 2018.

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