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2025 COVER PHOTO:
The Chancellor,
Hon. Dr. Crispus Kiyonga

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Vice Chancellor's Message

I warmly congratulate all the Graduands and our hardworking staff upon their perseverance that has culminated into the 75th Graduation Ceremony of Makerere University. This success has been made possible by the sacrifices and diligence of your parents, guardians, sponsors, families and friends. We equally congratulate them upon their respective contributions.

In a special way, I wish to congratulate Hon. Dr. Crispus Kiyonga upon his appointment as Chancellor of Makerere University. Dr. Kiyonga, an alumnus of Makerere University, has had a distinguished career as a Physician, Statesman and Diplomat, and thus, is well

positioned to serve as titular head of this great institution, especially as we continue to strategically align with Government programmes to drive high technology innovation, commercialisation of research outputs and wealth creation.

Makerere University by virtue of her status as a Government institution and a globally acclaimed University continues to enjoy generous funding from the Government of Uganda as well as our development partners. This funding has enabled us to boost our research capacity through training staff at Masters, PhD and Post-doctoral level, produce more research and innovations, improve our laboratory infrastructure, grow our international networks and contribute to the attainment of National Development Priorities as well as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

I am happy to note that with the support of Government through the Makerere University Research and Innovations Fund (Mak-RIF), we have not only been able to fund a number of innovations that are set for commercialization, but also supported PhD Research that addresses national development priorities.

I equally applaud our development partners whose generous support has contributed to training staff, conducting research and the establishment of Innovation Hubs aimed at creating job opportunities for our young people.

On 22nd October 2024, Makerere University in partnership with Kiira Motors Corporation, and UNDP Uganda, launched the Skilling Programme in Electric Mobility and Associated Technologies, aimed at

I wish to reassure you that your alma mater remains committed to not only providing impactful education, but also nurturing innovations and partnerships that contribute to your employability and our national development priorities

building the required pool of young people to drive Uganda's electric mobility and related technologies for industrial application. Additionally, on 19th November 2024, we signed an MoU with The Innovation Village to establish the Research2Industry (R2I) platform. The platform will provide infrastructure that fosters innovation and resource sharing as well as streamline the path from research to commercialization through funding mechanisms that remove barriers and accelerate impact.

Therefore, as you leave the gates of Makerere today, I wish to reassure you that your alma mater remains committed to not only providing impactful education, but also nurturing innovations and partnerships that contribute to your employability and our national development priorities.

Once again, I congratulate the Graduands, our staff, parents, guardians and sponsors upon achieving this milestone and pray that God will grant you good health and keep you safe, as We Build for the Future.

Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe
Vice Chancellor





H.E. Yoweri Museveni (4th R) flanked by Hon. Janet Museveni (3rd R), Hon. Dr. J.C. Muyingo (4th L) and the University Leadership reopens the Main Building.

President Museveni Opens Rebuilt Main Building, Installs Dr. Kiyonga as Chancellor

On 2nd October 2024, President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni the Visitor, alongside First Lady, Hon Janet Kataaha Museveni, who is also the Minister of Education and Sports officially opened Makerere University's reconstructed iconic Main Building, and installed Dr. Crispus Kiyonga as the new Chancellor.

Several dignitaries attended the ceremony held in the Freedom Square, including former Chancellors, Vice Chancellors, members of the University Council, administration, development partners, a delegation from the University of Bergen in Norway as well as alumni of Makerere University. The reopening of the main building comes four years after a disastrous fire that resulted from a short circuit destroyed the building in September 2020.

Speaking at the event, President Museveni congratulated Makerere upon reconstructing the building with funding from the government of Uganda. He added that his initial

When this unfortunate incident happened, as Professor Nawangwe said, my main concern was the records of the students. For the building, we could construct a new one, and we have constructed it,"

concerns about the potential loss of student records, were alleviated when he was reassured by the Vice-Chancellor Professor Barnabas Nawangwe that the records were safe.

"When this unfortunate incident happened, as Professor Nawangwe said, my main concern was the records of the students. For the building, we could construct a new one, and we have constructed it," said the President.

The reconstruction preserved the building's historic exterior while modernizing the interior to enhance safety and accessibility. Traditional wooden floors were replaced with tiles and terrazzo, and pathways for



Dr. Crispus Kiyonga makes his remarks at the installation ceremony.

persons with disabilities were added. The building also features more durable concrete walls, fire detection and fighting equipment, and a restored bell that chimes on the hour.

President Museveni also congratulated the university on appointing Dr. Crispus Kiyonga as Chancellor, succeeding Prof. Ezra Suruma. He praised Dr. Kiyonga as a longstanding and key figure in the National Resistance Movement (NRM).

"I want to congratulate you on having a new chancellor, in the person of Dr. Crispus Kiyonga. He is an outstanding cadre

and leader of the NRM. He is a member of the Central Executive Committee and has been very active in our efforts since 1980 when we were involved with UPM, so I congratulate him and I congratulate the University," the President said.

The President explained the fundamental role of some disciplines at Makerere University such as Food Science and Quantitative economics. He also underscored the relevance of science disciplines to national development.

Hon. Janet Museveni, thanked President Museveni

for his swift response when Makerere's ivory tower was destroyed by the fire. She also commended the President for providing funds for the renovation of the students' halls of residence.

"On behalf of the education sector, I thank you, Your Excellency, for your immediate directive to fund the restoration of the iconic building and other critical projects at Makerere including the students' residences following a request from the University Council. Your timely intervention, Mr. President underscores your unwavering support for the higher education sector and Makerere University in particular," she said.

Dr. Kiyonga expressed gratitude for his appointment and emphasized his commitment to strengthening ties between the university, government, and the broader community. He promised to work closely with Vice Chancellor, Prof. Nawangwe and other stakeholders to align Makerere University's research with Uganda's development agenda.

Mrs. Lorna Magara, the Chairperson of the University Council, thanked the government for funding several projects at Makerere.

"The restoration of the Main Building strongly symbolizes the

H.E. Yoweri Museveni and Hon. Janet Museveni pose for a group photo with University Leaders and other dignitaries.





President Museveni presents a symbolic key to Dr. Crispus Kiyonga at his installation ceremony as Chancellor.

government's commitment to investing in Makerere University and indeed the education sector. In addition to the Main Building, the government has generously funded several infrastructural projects including the construction of the School of Law new building, the School of Dentistry, the renovation of Lumumba Hall, the wall around the university, and several others," she said.

"We extend our heartfelt appreciation to the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development for implementing the President's directive and providing the necessary funding for these critical projects," she said.

The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Nawangwe, thanked the President for swiftly approving the release of funds for the restoration of the building after he had presented the case to the Cabinet. He also highlighted that the basement of the restored building will be reserved for a museum, and the university hopes to host the Luweero War Memorial Museum in this space.

"When Prof. Henry Alinaitwe and I, came to the Cabinet to explain the

cause of the fire, you guided the Cabinet to immediately approve the release of the 21 billion shillings to reconstruct the building. Your Excellency and Mama Janet, this afternoon, we have just re-opened the reconstructed Main Building, and the building is entirely funded by the government of Uganda," he said.

The Vice-Chancellor also used the opportunity to request the President that the government provides Makerere University with a road maintenance unit under the National District Road Maintenance Program.

He explained that such a unit would allow engineering students to gain practical experience by maintaining university roads and those in nearby communities. This initiative, he added, would contribute to producing well-trained engineers who could strengthen the construction industry in Uganda.

"We wish to enhance the training of our engineers through advanced technical and business development skills so that they can compete with international firms. We therefore request for your support, Your

Excellency to consider Makerere University in form of a district for the allocation of a road maintenance unit as part of the district road maintenance unit program. I pray that this proposal is given consideration in the next financial year budget" he requested.

In response, President Museveni welcomed the idea and offered his support, agreeing that it would provide valuable practical learning for Makerere's students.

"Regarding the road unit, that is a very good idea, I will definitely support that so that you can have your own road unit to teach your engineers how to make roads and how to build practically. I totally agree with that," President Museveni said.

The Vice Chancellor appreciated Mastercard Foundation for the support extended to Makerere University when the Main Building was gutted by a fire. "I received the first international call, from Reeta Roy, President of Mastercard Foundation, who in a very short statement said: We are going to support you with one million dollars to help you recover the student records. Indeed, the seed sown by the Mastercard Foundation has transformed Makerere into one of the most digitalised universities," he said.

The Guild President, Lubega Vincent Nsamba acknowledged the President for providing funds for the reconstruction of the main building and renovation of the different halls of residence.

"I thank you for the funds that have been contributed to the reconstruction of the Main Building, but most importantly and particularly to the renovation of halls of residence. They have completed Lumumba hall and they are now at Mary Stuart," he said.

"We extend a vote of appreciation for recognizing that need and providing funds to cater for that. This has not only contributed to the welfare of students, but has also improved their academic life on Campus," he added.

Who is Dr. Crispus Kiyonga?



Born on 19th September 1952, Dr. Crispus Walter Kiyonga prior to his appointment as Chancellor of Makerere University served as Uganda's Ambassador to China, based in Beijing. Kiyonga served as the Minister of Defence in the Cabinet of Uganda from 2006 to 2016 and held the position of Minister Without Portfolio in the Office of the President from 2005 to 2006. Throughout his cabinet tenure, he retained his post during several reshuffles.

Background and Education

Kiyonga was born in Kasese District, Western Uganda. He attended Bwera Primary School and later Nyakasura School. He completed his secondary education at Kings College Budo. From 1973 to 1978, he studied at Makerere University School of Medicine, where he earned his Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBChB). In 2004, he obtained a Master of Health Science MHS specializing in Population Dynamics from the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health.

Career

Crispus Kiyonga began his political career in 1980 as a candidate for the Uganda Patriotic Movement (UPM), winning his constituency. He later joined the National Resistance Movement (NRM) during its struggle from 1981 until 1986. Since the NRM assumed power, he has held various

cabinet and non-cabinet positions:

- Commissioner for planning in the interim NRM administration, 1985-1986
- Minister for Cooperatives & Marketing, 1986
- Minister of Finance, 1986 - 1993: Credited with establishing the Uganda Revenue Authority.
- Minister of Internal Affairs, 1994 - 1996
- Minister of Health, 1996 - 2001: Recognized for effectively managing the Ebola outbreak in Gulu in 2000.
- National Political Commissar/ Minister Without Portfolio in the Office of the President, 2001 - 2006
- Minister of Defense, 2006 – 2016
- Uganda's Ambassador to China, 2017 – 2020

Other responsibilities

- Appointed Member of Central Executive Committee.NRM
- Representative of Uganda to the

Peoples' Republic of China July 2017 to June 2020

- Member of NRA/NRM external committee 1982 to 1985
- Medical officer,Mulago hospital 1978 to 1980
- Medical officer,Gatundu hospital,Republic of Kenya
- Senior medical officer,Kenyatta National hospital,Republic of Kenya 1983 to 1985
- Founding Chairperson of the Global Fund for AIDS/TB and Malaria 2001/2
- Consultant World Bank/ADB 1993/4

Chancellor Kiyonga is a renowned dedicated public servant. He has contributed significantly to nation building and development for decades. He is an avid reader who is also keenly interested in community outreach and service.

Congratulations, Chancellor Crispus Kiyonga. We wish you a successful tenure.

Congratulations

Dr. Crispus Kiyonga



Robert Kakuru (PhD)
CHAIRMAN MUASA

On the occasion of the 75th Graduation Ceremony, the Executive Committee of Makerere University Academic Staff Association (MUASA) congratulates you, Honourable Dr. Crispus Kiyonga, upon your appointment and installation as the Chancellor of Makerere University.

The academic staff of Makerere University are thrilled that you bring great credentials to the critically important role of Chancellor. Being a Makerere University alumni yourself, a freedom fighter, senior politician and diplomat, you have a reputation of solid academic integrity and proven leadership experience.

His Excellency, President Yoweri

Kaguta T. Museveni, could not have appointed a more suitable person.

Therefore, we thank the President for appointing you and wish you every luck in your role as Chancellor. The academic staff are optimistic that you will give them, Management, and Council indispensable guidance as the University navigates ongoing tensions in its employment systems and adjusts to changes in its national and international operating environment.

We build for the future.

MASA Congratulates Dr. Crispus Kiyonga



The Makerere University Administrative Staff Association (MASA), congratulate Hon Dr. Crispus Kiyonga the Chancellor Makerere University on 75th Graduation Ceremony, your first Ceremony to preside over since installation as Chancellor.

Your appointment and installation were welcome by MASA given your astute distinguished career, leadership, vast experience and exemplary service, as a freedom fighter, politician and

diplomat.

We would also like to thank His Excellence the President for appointing one of the finest NRM Cadre you, Dr. Kiyonga.

Makerere University Council, Management, Staff and Students are lucky to have you and should tap into the wisdom that carried you through your previous positions where you served corruption free.

As we build for the future.

Mr. Bennet Magara
Chairperson



Congratulation **HON. CRISPUS WALTER KIYONGA**

prestigious institution.

His commitment to community service and the pursuit of excellence is set to ignite a transformative spark across the University.

His knack for visionary leadership is poised to elevate Makerere University to stratospheric heights, charting a bold course through the ever-evolving landscape of education.

Congratulations Hon. Crispus Walter Kiyonga upon attaining this milestone. May the Good Lord guide you as you exhaustively execute the mantle bestowed upon you.

Yours faithfully,

H.E. Vincent Lubega Nsamba

GUILD PRESIDENT

Minister Janet Museveni Launches Emerging Leaders Program at Makerere University

The First Lady and Minister of Education and Sports, Hon. Janet Kataaha Museveni, officially launched the Emerging Leaders Program and commissioned the first cohort of SAFE champions at Makerere University on Friday 27th September 2024.

Hon. Janet Kataaha Museveni signs on a dummy of a book during the launch of the Emerging Leaders Program on Friday 27th September 2024.



// It gives me great pleasure to commission you as Emerging Leaders Program Champions. I charge you to become role models. Please take the training that you have received as your moral campus at the University and beyond," said Hon. Janet Museveni amidst applause from the audience.

The formulation of the Emerging Leaders Program followed a discussion between Hon. Janet Museveni and Makerere University Council members held on February 2, 2023. Burdened by the challenges that were being faced by students and the disastrous effects of addiction to alcohol, drug and substance abuse, corruption, HIV/AIDS, the First Lady and Hon. Minister of Education and Sports tasked the University Council headed by Mrs. Lorna Magara to partner with her and come up with a solution to save the students and young people from destruction. These issues were viewed as not only jeopardizing students' health and academic performance, but also affecting the social well-being of graduates entering the workforce.

The launch of the Emerging Leaders Program at Makerere University, therefore marked the beginning of the actualization of Hon. Janet Museveni's vision to implement a national Anti-Corruption and HIV/AIDS campaign in Uganda. The SAFE campaign stands for Sexually Fortified, Addiction Free, Financially Faithful and Education Focused.

My desire is that this program expands beyond Makerere University to all universities in Uganda. I pray that God will make that possible

Speaking at the launch, Hon. Janet Museveni said the Emerging Leaders Program is an initiative that she holds dear to her heart because it has the potential to nurture the young generation and shape the destiny of our nation. "My desire is that this program expands beyond Makerere University to all universities in Uganda. I pray that God will make that possible," she said.

The Minister credited the leadership of Makerere University and the program's partners namely; the Global Leadership Summit and Life Ministry Uganda for taking up the challenge to craft the Emerging Leaders Program that will instill character in university students throughout the country.

According to Mrs. Barbra Kaija, the intervention is intended to help the parents who take a lot of risks to educate their children so that they become important and resourceful people, but sometimes get disappointed when they engage in harmful practices which eventually

threaten their education and future.

"Through this emerging leaders program, we can help shape the new generation. What we do in this program is that; we interact with these students and talk to them, teach them, and invite experts in these fields to share ideas," she added.

Mrs. Kaija mentioned that the Emerging Leaders Program focused on Universities because university students are the most productive and as such, we must ensure their safety. "While our students graduate with academic degrees, they need the right set of values and character to succeed in life," she emphasized.

Minister Janet Museveni equally noted with concern, that gambling in the form of sports betting is also spreading very fast in Uganda. "Through this program, we desire to help students rise above what has been the norm of negative peer pressure that compromises their innocence," said the Minister.

"This program is not just about imparting leadership skills; it is about the total transformation of lives through instilling values. Furthermore, through this program young people are being prepared to make the right choices in life, that will safeguard their health and wellbeing while enabling them to succeed in their academics," reiterated the First Lady.

In the same vein, Mrs. Lorna Magara, the Chairperson of Makerere University Council said that the



First Lady and Minister of Education Hon. Janet Museveni in a group photo with SAFE Champions.

program will help to curb societal moral degradation and refocus our young people on values and life skills to secure their future. “The development of Uganda and indeed Africa hinges on the quality of its people, therefore the Emerging Leaders Program is a strategic tool to this cause with a fully-fledged behavior change program, curriculum, and messaging campaigns,” she stated.

She also revealed that Makerere University Council had approved the developed Emerging Leaders Program mandatory course, which students will be required to take over three years of their study. The course will soon be presented to the University Senate for approval.

The Vice Chancellor, Professor Barnabas Nawangwe commended the First Lady and Hon. Minister

“**gambling in the form of sports betting is also spreading very fast in Uganda. “Through this program, we desire to help students rise above what has been the norm of negative peer pressure that compromises their innocence**”

of Education and Sports for the initiative that is highly anticipated to reshape the future generation. He appreciated Hon. Janet Museveni for championing the fight to save the emerging leaders from destruction and committed himself to ensuring that the Emerging Leaders Program succeeds.

“Makerere University is committed to ensuring the safety of her students and staff. The University Council has approved the safeguarding policy, and the counselling and career guidance policy is in the offing. The University Management will make every necessary effort to ensure the success of the Emerging Leaders Program,” he said.



Hon. Janet Kataaha Museveni, First Lady and Minister of Education and Sports cuts the ribbon at the opening of the School of Law Building. Left is the State Minister for Primary Education Hon. Dr. Joyce Moriku Kaducu, while Right is Mak Council Chairperson Mrs. Lorna Magara.

First Lady Opens School of Law Building

The new Makerere University School of Law Building was officially opened on 18th December, 2024 by the First Lady and Minister for Education and Sports, Hon. Janet Kataaha Museveni. She laid the foundation stone for this building on 17th May 2022.

The building, fully funded by the Government of Uganda to a tune UGX7.3bn, is a three-storied structure with several state-of-the-art facilities including lecture theatres, tutorial and seminar rooms,

a library, state-of-the-art Moot Court room, a cafeteria, lactation room and staff offices. This modern infrastructure is going to greatly enhance and provide a conducive teaching and learning environment for both staff and students. The construction works were undertaken by M/S CK Associates as Contractors and Symbion as the Consultants.

The plaque commemorating the launch of the School of Law New Building.

In her remarks, Mrs. Lorna Magara extended a warm welcome

to Hon. Janet Kataaha Museveni, First Lady and Minister for Education and Sports. Mrs. Magara said, 'your presence here today Maama, is a testament of your unwavering and steadfast support for Makerere University and highlights the tangible impact of your leadership in advancing Uganda's education sector, particularly at Makerere University'. She noted that the building will provide critical support for practical legal education.

Professor Barnabas Nawangwe also welcomed the Minister to



Hon. Janet Kataaha Museveni (4th Right) and Hon. Dr. Joyce Moriku Kaducu (3rd Right) with Left to Right: Prof. Buyinza Mukadasi, Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe, Mrs. Lorna Magara, Prof. Henry Alinaitwe and Prof. Ronald Naluwairo after unveiling the plaque on 18th December 2024.

Makerere University noting that, 'this is a joyful day when we are witnessing a bumper harvest in infrastructure development at this great institution'.

Thanking the Minister for her unwavering support to Makerere University, the Vice Chancellor said, 'from the time you took over the Office of Minister of Education and Sports, the Higher Education Sector and Makerere University in particular has transformed tremendously. Most notable is the infrastructure revolution at Makerere. On several occasions, you have come to Makerere to lay the foundations for new buildings and to open completed buildings, including our iconic Main Administration Building.

He noted that before the new School of Law building, it was appalling that a place that had trained the entire judiciary of Uganda was in such a dilapidated state.

Prof. Nawangwe pledged the total commitment of the University to work with the Government of Uganda in the struggle to emancipate the people from poverty through research and production of highly skilled and patriotic graduates, innovators and entrepreneurs.

In her remarks, Hon. Janet Kataaha Museveni expressed her joy in coming to Makerere University, more especially on a day to mark another effort to provide quality education through provision of infrastructure at Uganda's oldest University.

Front view of the School of Law New Building.

She said, 'It is one thing to break ground for new infrastructure and another thing to complete. I vividly remember the ground breaking ceremony at the School of Law. I am

therefore very pleased to be here today to commission the same'.

Quoting the bible, Hon. Kataaha Museveni reminded the congregation about the great rebuilder, Nehemiah, who had mobilised his countrymen to rebuild Jerusalem. She noted that with rebuilding, there is restoration of dignity that comes to an institution both physically and spiritually.

The minister saluted the Council and Management for the dedication to the rebuilding of the University expressing confidence that as they rebuild physically, the character of our young people shouldn't be forgotten.

New Appointments



DR. CRISPUS WALTER KIYONGA
CHANCELLOR OF MAKERERE UNIVERSITY



PROF. BUYINZA MUKADASI
Ag. FIRST DEPUTY VICE CHANCELLOR
(ACADEMIC AFFAIRS)



DR. BRUCE KIRENGA
PRINCIPAL COLLEGE OF
HEALTH SCIENCE (CHS)



ASSOC PROF HELEN
NAMBALIRWA-NKABALA
PRINCIPAL COLLEGE OF
HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL
SCIENCES (CHUSS)



PROFESSOR EDWARD BBAALE
PRINCIPAL COLLEGE
OF BUSINESS AND
MANAGEMENT SCIENCES
(CoBAMS)



MR. TAYARI DEUS MUJUNI
CHIEF HUMAN RESOURCE OFFICER

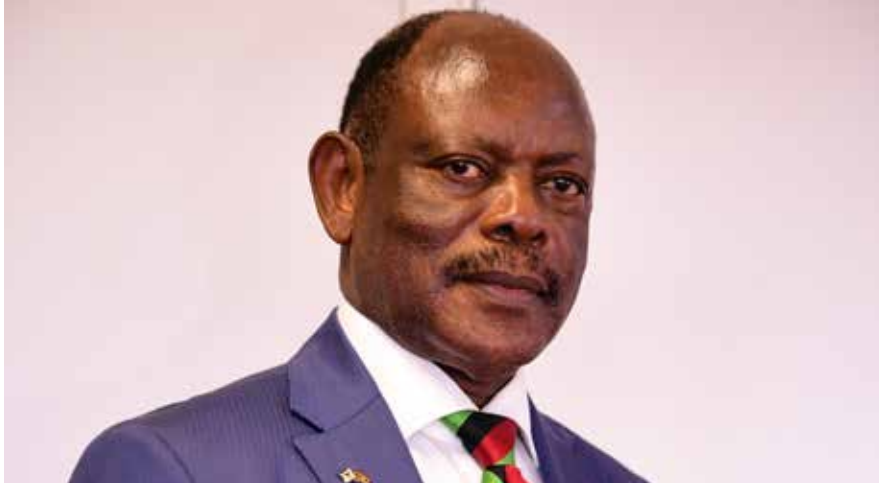


NANYONDO SUMAIYAH SEBUTA
CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER



ENG. OKUK GEOFFREY BRIGHT OWERA
CHIEF, ESTATES AND WORKS OFFICER

Gender inclusion will spur Africa's Renaissance and Development



The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe, while speaking at the United Nations General Assembly's Science Summit in New York, USA on 18th September 2024 urged universities, leaders, and researchers to take lead in the renaissance of Africa.

"We are the people to handle the renaissance. We must ensure that Africa leads. The renaissance of Africa should be inclusive. Women should not be left behind. Women should be part of leadership, higher education and development," he said.

Prof. Nawangwe made the remarks as part of a Panel Discussion titled: AAP Dialogue Series "Advancing the Role of Women in Science for Sustainable Development in Africa: Lessons for Leadership of Higher Education Institutions."

According to AAP, this specific panel discussion was very critical because the process of fundamental change in gender equity at African higher education institutions remains slow. Some of the significant challenges include deeply entrenched cultural norms, inadequate policy implementation, and resource constraints.

Citing statistics, studies and investigations conducted by

We are the people to handle the renaissance. We must ensure that Africa leads. The renaissance of Africa should be inclusive. Women should not be left behind. Women should be part of leadership, higher education and development

reputable researchers, that revealed that the ratio of women to men in leadership, science and development in African institutions was very low, Prof. Nawangwe rallied stakeholders to prioritize inclusion of women in education, development and all processes leading to shaping the future of the African continent.

Noting one of the studies that indicated that the enrolment of women in higher education across African countries was still below 15%, Prof. Nawangwe advocated for planned and deliberate gender

inclusive strategies to be undertaken at the national, regional and continental levels to increase the percentage of women.

"We need to come up with strong policies about the inclusion of women in higher education and development," he stressed.

The Vice Chancellor shared Makerere University's experience, which offers hope to any institution that embraces positive policy to support gender inclusion. He pointed out that when Uganda attained independence (1962), 90% of the secondary schools in Uganda were for the boys and only two (2) girls' schools taught sciences. And in 1990, the enrolment of women in universities in Uganda was less than 15%. However, when the Government of Uganda, Parliament and Makerere University embraced the affirmative action policy, more girls and women were empowered and supported to access education.

"The policy on affirmative action for girls who qualified to enter Makerere in 1990 has led to a rise in women enrollment to 53% presently. The policy on affirmative action for women in STEM at Makerere has seen a rise in enrollment from 30% to 45% in three years" he reported.

Prof. Nawangwe stated that Makerere has over the years increased its staff composition by gender with women members of staff constituting 35% and affirmed the University's commitment to implementing gender inclusive policies. He disclosed to the participants that when he instituted the Vice Chancellor's Research Excellence Awards, the second best researcher was a woman in Science-Professor Rhoda Wanyenze, who is the Dean, Makerere University School of Public Health.



(Seated L-R) Mrs. Lorna Magara, Dr. Pamela Tibihikirra-Kalyegira, Dr. Ruth Biyinzika, H.E. Lubega Nsamba and Amb. William W. Popp with other dignitaries (Standing) pose for a group photo.

Mak Holds 5th Senteza Kajubi Memorial Lecture

The U.S. Ambassador to Uganda William W. Popp, has called on institutions of higher learning to groom and shape active citizens. The Ambassador was delivering a keynote address at the Annual Prof. William Senteza Kajubi Fulbright Memorial Lecture, held on Thursday October 3, 2024 at Makerere University's Yusuf Lule Auditorium.

"Higher education is not just about earning degrees; it is about cultivating the skills and values that create active, engaged citizens who can contribute to a better world," H.E. William W. Popp said.

Ambassador Popp emphasized the crucial role universities play in nurturing responsible citizens. By fostering debate, advocacy and governance participation, universities equip students with the tools needed for leadership in their communities and beyond. "Universities are essential for promoting civic participation, critical thinking, and informed citizenship—key components of a healthy democracy. A vibrant democracy

relies on citizens who can engage constructively and peacefully with each other and their leaders," he explained.

He elaborated on how universities contribute to civic

education is not just about earning degrees; it is about cultivating the skills and values that create active, engaged citizens who can contribute to a better world,

education by offering courses in disciplines like political science, history, and sociology. These programs inform students about democratic systems, civil rights, and global issues, while also providing platforms for interaction with current and former political leaders, he said.

Ambassador Popp highlighted the importance of fostering critical thinking and debate. "By engaging in discussions around complex issues, students learn to form informed opinions and engage in responsible democratic discourse." He noted that universities empower individuals through education, internships, and student councils, laying the groundwork for active and informed citizenship. "History shows that universities are incubators of social movements, where students challenge the status quo and advocate for policies that benefit society."

Panel discussants

Dr. Pamela Tibihikirra-Kalyegira, Director of the Law Development Centre, reinforced these points by outlining three core roles of universities: teaching, applied research, and community engagement. “We must reflect on how well we are fulfilling these responsibilities,” she urged, encouraging students to adopt a lifelong learning mindset and recognize that no one can know everything.

Dr. Ruth Biyinzika, Coordinator of the GROW Project at the Private Sector Foundation Uganda (PSFU), shared insights on various opportunities available to students that can help them navigate their career paths. She also called on parents to actively engage in shaping their children’s educational journeys before they transition to higher education institutions.

In honoring the legacy of

universities are incubators of social movements, where students challenge the status quo and advocate for policies that benefit society

Prof. Senteza Kajubi, Makerere University Vice Chancellor Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe praised him as one of Uganda’s most influential educationists. A two-time Vice Chancellor and the first Fulbrighter from Uganda, Prof. Kajubi opened doors for many African students to benefit from the Fulbright scholarship. Prof. Nawangwe recalled his personal friendship with Kajubi, highlighting the wisdom he gained from him.

During Uganda’s struggle with the HIV/AIDS epidemic, Prof. Kajubi played a pivotal role in establishing a partnership between Makerere University and Case Western Reserve University in the U.S., which helped train staff to manage the crisis.

“The first COVID-19 testing kits we received at Mulago Hospital were donated by Case Western Reserve University—400,000 free kits,” noted Prof. Nawangwe, emphasizing the enduring impact of Prof. Kajubi’s contributions to Makerere University and Uganda.

Through these discussions, the lecture underscored the vital role of higher education in not only developing individual capabilities but also fostering a more engaged and informed citizenry, ultimately contributing to a stronger democracy.



Mr. Wasswa Kajubi (flanked by family members) speaking on behalf of the family of Senteza Kajubi.

Prof. Nawangwe calls for Increased Government Sponsorship for Students with Disabilities

The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe, while speaking at the inaugural commemoration of the International Day for Persons with Disabilities at Makerere University has appealed to the Government to increase the number of students with disabilities on government sponsorship.



The event held on Wednesday, 13th November 2024 was organised by the Office of the Dean of Students and the 90th Students' Guild-Ministry of Students with Disabilities and held in the Yusuf Lule Central Teaching Facility Auditorium.

"Students with disabilities should be the first to be admitted on Government sponsorship because there are not so many," Prof. Nawangwe said.

Prof. Nawangwe called upon the government to devise a scheme and policy for integrating students with disabilities into the working environment after graduation.

Prof. Nawangwe noted that the University has established a Disability Support Centre, a one-stop facility to ensure equal access to education and life, promote inclusivity, and support students and staff with disabilities.

While addressing the gathering, the Chief Guest, Hon. Hellen Grace Asamo, the State minister for Disability Affairs, called upon Persons with Disabilities to always believe in themselves and be able to break the

Students with disabilities should be the first to be admitted on Government sponsorship because there are not so many,

barriers of the inferiority complex.

"You have to show people that you have the potential, and when people get to know your potential, they will begin to include and engage you. But if you do not have your potential, nobody will include you. They will think you are just someone who is just there seated and begging," Hon. Asamo noted.

In her welcome remarks, Dr. Winifred Kabumbuli, the Dean of Students at Makerere University, said that the University is making a deliberate effort to pay particular attention to the decisive implementation of inclusive Policies and Practices.

"This is where we want all people to thrive and grow. Therefore, we are proud to accept and celebrate our differences and uniqueness. We welcome you here to build a culture of active support for each other and to declare that by championing a conducive environment for students and staff with disability, we are part of the change-makers of today," Dr Kabumbuli said.

Makerere has directed attention to ensuring accessible and comfortable accommodations for students with Disabilities by having designated accessible hostels and rooms. The University provides salaries, lodging, and meals for helpers who assist students with disabilities. A concentrated effort is also being made to build ramps, elevators, and accessible pathways to facilitate navigation for students and staff.

The International Day of Persons with Disabilities is celebrated annually on December 3rd to raise awareness and support for people with disabilities worldwide.

Nkrumah's Legacy, Influence on Future Generations Endures



(Seated L-R) Dr. Grace Kabayo, Rt. Hon Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda, Mrs. Lorna Magara and Maj. Gen. Henry Masiko with other officials (Standing) at the event.

On September 21, 2024, the walls of the Yusuf Lule Auditorium at Makerere University reverberated with tributes of the powerful legacy of Kwame Nkrumah, a titan of Pan-Africanism and a visionary leader whose influence continues to shape the aspirations of the African continent. As the university celebrated the 70th anniversary of Nkrumah Hall, tribute was paid to titan's unwavering commitment to African unity, as students, scholars, and dignitaries gathered to reflect on the profound impact of his ideals.

This momentous occasion, which featured a public lecture and celebrations at Nkrumah Hall grounds, was a resounding call to action for today's students and young people to embody Nkrumah's dream of a unified and independent Africa. Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda, Prime Minister Emeritus and special envoy of His Excellency the President of Uganda, urged the younger generation to embrace the legacy of Kwame Nkrumah in the pursuit of a unified and independent African continent, calling for collective action in the face of adversity.

"Upon Ghana's independence in 1957, Kwame Nkrumah stated that the freedom of Ghana would be meaningless unless it was linked to the liberation of the entire continent. To this end, he ensured that Ghana served as a political and military base for training African freedom fighters to prepare for their respective nations' liberation. This commitment

inevitably created tension between Nkrumah and several oppressive colonial regimes across Africa, but he remained resolute in his mission. Ultimately, his efforts gained significant momentum," Dr. Rugunda remarked.

"Nkrumah realized that without protection, Africans would continue to be exploited. He asserted that Africa must unite. He authored a classical

text titled 'Africa Must Unite,' in which he passionately articulated the importance of trade and collaboration among African nations. Even 45 years ago, his insights into the dangers of colonialism and neo-colonialism, which he described as the final stage of independence, were profoundly relevant," he stated.

The Prime Minister Emeritus further emphasized

Officials cut cake at the Kwame Nkrumah statue in front of Nkrumah Hall to crown the celebrations.



the significance of the renaming of the New Hall, recounting that when he joined Makerere University, there was considerable student activism that mirrored the broader movements both in Uganda and across the African continent. "The struggle against colonialism was intensifying, and Africa was on a path to liberation, with Kwame Nkrumah serving as an iconic figure in this quest. He was a leader who dedicated Ghana's resources to the collective benefit of the continent" he recalled.

Rt. Hon. Rugunda urged the audience to continually add value to the teachings and philosophy of Kwame Nkrumah in order to support the independence, self-determination, and decision-making of the African people, as well as to promote their unity. He emphasized that unity is essential for harnessing Africa's vast natural resources, which are often exploited by others.

"I would like to express my gratitude to Makerere University and the leadership of Nkrumah Hall for organizing this event and fostering an environment conducive to symposia and discussions of this nature. I recommend that this become an annual event to ensure that more students and the general public are reminded of the vision, ideals, and significant contributions of the iconic Pan-Africanist Kwame Nkrumah and what he advocated for," he concluded.

ensuring that liberation is not exclusive to a select few. Second, that Africa must be free, as the struggle in many places was for immediate independence. Third, it is not enough for people to be free, they must also prosper

Reflecting on the colonial powers' efforts to weaken and divide Africa, Maj. Gen. Henry Masiko, Chief Political Commissar of the Uganda People's Defense Forces (UPDF), remarked that Africa was treated like a cake, with its resources plundered and controlled. He noted that Nkrumah recognized that independence would be meaningless without addressing the distortions, particularly the issue of division.

"Nkrumah understood the four essential goals of independence, which can be summarized as five key objectives: First, ensuring that liberation is not exclusive to a select few. Second, that Africa must be free, as the struggle in many places was for immediate independence. Third, it is not enough

for people to be free, they must also prosper. Nkrumah viewed the prosperity of the African people as a crucial aim of independence. Fourth, reassembly of Africa as one united entity. Lastly, the need to recover African dignity, heritage, culture, and identity. He fully grasped these five objectives and was especially passionate about the reintegration of Africa," Maj. Gen. Masiko stated.

In her speech, Mrs. Lorna Magara, Chairperson of the Makerere University Council, emphasized that Kwame Nkrumah's vision for a politically united and economically independent Africa is as relevant today as it was during his lifetime. She called for a renewed commitment to Nkrumah's ideals, particularly among the youth, who represent the future of Africa with 73% of Uganda's population under the age of 17.

Mrs. Magara encouraged young people to engage in conversations about their history and the legacies of those who fought for their freedom and proposed the establishment of "Ekyooto," a fireside discussion for young people to engage in discussions about Nkrumah's vision and explore ways to actualize it in today's context. She emphasized the importance of bridging the generational gap and empowering the youth to carry forward the torch of unity and purpose.

Prof. Buyinza Mukadasi, the Acting Vice Chancellor of Makerere University, reaffirmed that Kwame Nkrumah remains a symbol of African pride. He commended the students and residents of Nkrumah Hall for organizing the event, with support from the Office of the Dean of Students.

"I am very much delighted to join you all in celebrating the legacy and the day of birth of our African icon, the late Kwame Nkrumah. It is an indication that his ideals and legacy continue to inspire these generations. And for this, we shall be grateful for his contributions and his works for eternity," he remarked.

Rt. Hon. Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda plants a tree in celebration of Nkrumah's Legacy and the 70th anniversary of Nkrumah Hall.



Minister Kasaija Calls for Strategic Public Investments to Drive Uganda's Economic Transformation



The Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Hon. Matia Kasaija, has outlined Uganda's economic growth prospects through strategic public investments aimed at achieving sustainable development and transforming lives, particularly for the youth. He highlighted this vision during the inaugural Public Investment Management (PIM) Conference, held on Thursday, October 17, 2024, at Makerere University.

Hon. Matia Kasaija (C) in a group photo with guests after officially opening the inaugural Public Investment Management (PIM) Conference on October 17, 2024.

the ministry has developed and disseminated guidelines and standardized manuals for project preparation and appraisal. "Our objective is to build the center's capacity for research that will inform policy changes in PIM," he said.

During the panel discussion, Dr. Joseph Muvawala, Executive Director of the National Planning Authority, advised that the government should focus on constructing the Standard Gauge Railway to ensure that every Ugandan benefits from the infrastructure development. He emphasized that this would be a transformative project for the entire country.

The keynote speaker, Professor Glenn P. Jenkins from Queens University in Canada, shared insights on the current state and future of Uganda's Public Investment Management System, established in 2016. Jenkins emphasized Uganda's leadership in Africa in creating a modern PIM system, which integrates financial, economic, and social criteria into public sector decision-making.

Makerere University's Vice Chancellor, Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe, called on all stakeholders to collaborate and develop strategies to address gaps in public sector investments. He urged government officials, academics, development partners, and practitioners to use the conference platform to align strategies, share experiences, and explore new approaches to improve Uganda's public investment outcomes.

"This platform is an opportunity for us all to come together and develop prudent solutions that will elevate our economy," Prof. Nawangwe stated.

// Public investment is clearly the backbone of our nation's development, particularly in building the infrastructure, human capital, and institutions necessary to elevate Uganda to middle-income status and beyond," Kasaija remarked. He called for increased investments to propel Uganda's economy from its current \$50 billion in the 2022/2023 financial year to \$500 billion over the next 15 years.

"Investments in infrastructure such as roads, energy, and digital connectivity can stimulate economic growth and attract private sector investment, leading to job creation," Kasaija emphasized.

He also highlighted the importance of integrating public investment management with government welfare programs such as the Parish Development Model (PDM), Emyooga, and small business recovery funds, which offer critical financing for entrepreneurship.

The government is committed to enhancing the efficiency of public spending, focusing on a fiscal consolidation strategy to restore fiscal discipline and reduce public debt.

"Fiscal consolidation does not mean cutting back on investment, but rather optimizing spending by prioritizing high-impact projects that directly contribute to economic growth. Our public investment must align with this strategic direction," Kasaija added.

The Permanent Secretary and Secretary to the Treasury, Mr. Ramathan Ggoobi, focused his remarks on the government's efforts to improve the quality of projects at their inception. He noted the establishment of a dedicated department of project analysis and public investment within the Ministry of Finance, which oversees the ongoing PIM reform process.

Mr. Ggoobi mentioned that

Council Chair Calls for Integration of CERTL Initiatives into University Processes

The Chairperson of Makerere University Council, Mrs. Lorna Magara, has called for the university-wide standardization of CERTL initiatives to strengthen its research-led transformation. Mrs. Magara made this call while presiding over the opening ceremony of the 2024 CHUSS Centre of Excellence in Research, Teaching, and Learning (CERTL) International Conference on November 14, 2024, at Fairway Hotel in Kampala.



In her opening remarks, Mrs. Magara highlighted Makerere's 2020-2030 Strategic Plan, emphasizing the transition from a teaching-focused to a research-led institution. She identified four key pillars: deepening research, building industry partnerships, fostering an innovative academic environment, and ensuring inclusive governance. She noted that CERTL's contributions in research skills training, scholarly writing, and curriculum reorientation are setting a model that can be replicated across other colleges.

"CERTL's mission to enhance research, teaching, and learning is perfectly aligned with Makerere University's direction. Initiatives such as New Hires' Workshops and the RATE (Reflect, Articulate, Translate, and Evaluate) framework are models that can enrich our academic practices university-wide," Mrs. Magara said, encouraging the integration of CERTL's frameworks across the institution.

Speaking at the conference, Prof. Nkabala commended the

CERTL team's dedication to creating a rich academic environment that prioritizes mentoring early-career researchers, accessibility for students with disabilities, and a collaborative approach to research. "We are not only here to conduct research but to make a significant impact on teaching and learning. We aim to lead Makerere into becoming a strong teaching and learning institution," she said, emphasizing that CHUSS is "moving in the direction of excellence" by building on the strong foundation laid by previous faculty members.

Prof. Nkabala expressed her gratitude to the college's leadership, particularly recognizing Professor Josephine Ahikire, the Principal Investigator of the CERTL project, which has been instrumental in advancing teaching strategies and research since 2020. "CERTL has allowed us to look at research from a new perspective and address the unique needs of students with disabilities," she remarked, reflecting on the project's role in promoting

inclusivity and high standards in education.

Looking ahead, Prof. Nkabala advocated for enhancing CHUSS's interdisciplinary contributions across Makerere University, particularly through Communication Skills courses, which play a crucial role in academic writing and teaching methodologies. She hinted at a potential restructuring to further strengthen the English language and literature programs, emphasizing their critical role in achieving the college's academic goals.

In her conclusion, Prof. Nkabala expressed her hope for continued collaboration with Makerere's leadership in advancing the college's academic mission, stating, "With the support of university leadership, we can firmly establish CHUSS as a model of excellence."

Mak at the 2024 Oliver Tambo Africa Research Chairs Annual Gathering in Burkina Faso



The Research Chairs concept is similar to Centers of Excellence (for instance in supporting world-class research in a priority area), but also has many distinguishing features. Most notably, it recognizes individual excellence, leadership and talent.

Uganda's
Chair elect, Prof.
David Meya of
Makerere University's
College of Health
Sciences (extreme left)
and other O.R. Tambo
Africa Research
Chairs

with a target of training 5-6 PhDs, 10-15 Post-doctoral fellows and 10-12 Masters of Medicine and Master of Science Students at Makerere

University and Mbarara University of Science and Technology.

The 2024 annual O.R. Tambo Africa Research Chairs Annual Gathering in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso was co-hosted by the Joseph Ki-Zerbo University, National Research and Innovation Fund for Development (FONRID) and the National Research Foundation (NRF) of South Africa. This year's theme was: *"African Sovereignty: A Catalyst for Research Collaborations and Social Impact in the Continent"*.

At the annual gathering, Uganda was represented by Associate Prof. David Meya (Uganda Chair Elect, ORTARChI), Prof. Henry Alinaitwe (Ag. Deputy Vice Chancellor Finance and Administration), Associate Prof. Robert Wamala (Ag. Director, Research and Graduate Training) and Dr. Martin Ongol (Ag. Executive Secretary, UNCST).

The O.R. Tambo Africa Research Chairs Initiative (ORTARChI) builds on the work of Oliver Reginald (O.R.) Tambo, a prominent South African and pan-Africanist with a science education background, who believed in creating change through education and in cooperation and solidarity among African nations. The Initiative focuses on celebrating his legacy in building knowledge-based economies for the advancement of Africa.

ORTARChI builds on and leverages existing continental frameworks and interventions geared towards institutional capacity strengthening; recruitment and retention of excellent researchers; and incentives to support research that contributes to socio-economic and transformative development.

Ten (10) O.R. Tambo Africa Research Chairs across seven (7) countries in Africa, namely; Botswana, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mozambique,

Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia have been selected for funding through a rigorous and competitive two-stage review process. These research chairs are focused on research priorities identified by each host institution in conjunction with, especially the Science Councils, and in alignment with AU Agenda 2063 and STISA 2024.

Prof. Noble Banadda from the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences had initially been inaugurated as one of the first 10 (ten) Oliver Tambo (ORTARChI) Chairs. Unfortunately, Prof. Banadda passed on in July 2021, which created a vacuum. To ensure that Uganda and Makerere University continue to tap into the ORTARChI, Associate Professor David Meya from the School of Medicine, College of Health Sciences was appointed for the purpose. The appointment will attract USD 170,000 annually for 5 years for graduate research

Mak Eulogizes Anthem Composer Grace Mutekanga



On August 22, 2024, St. Francis Chapel at Makerere University was filled with mourners from all walks of life who gathered to pay their final respects to Grace Wilson Mubi Igaga Mutekanga, the esteemed alumnus, musician, and educator. Mutekanga, who passed away on August 16, 2024, at the age of 81, leaving behind a legacy rooted in education, music, and community service.

His most celebrated contribution to his alma mater was composing the Makerere University Anthem, a song that continues to resonate with pride among students and alumni alike.

During the funeral service, the Vice Chancellor, Professor Barnabas Nawangwe emphasized that the Makerere University Anthem is not just a song but a powerful symbol of institutional pride, unity, and spirit. "We should celebrate because God has enabled us to share this path with such a great mind that was in the late Mutekanga," Nawangwe added.



Prof. Nawangwe lays a wreath on the casket of the Late Igaga Mutekanga.

The Vice Chancellor elaborated on the personal connection he shared with Mutekanga, their educational background at Busoga College Mwiri. "Many good things came out of that school. We gave this country its first minister, and we gave this country a motto. We donated Mutekanga to Makerere, and he gave us a lifetime anthem that will remain alive for thousands of years. What a great man!" he remarked.

Nawangwe also spoke of the Makerere Anthem's unique ability to evoke emotions, noting how

His most celebrated contribution to his alma mater was composing the Makerere University Anthem, a song that continues to resonate with pride among students and alumni

graduates celebrate the anthem with unparalleled enthusiasm. "We always have graduations here. And of course, we always stand to our national anthem, but we never dance. But when it comes to singing the Makerere Anthem, students never just stand, they even dance and go wild because of the joy they feel when it is sung" Nawangwe observed.

Turning to Mutekanga's academic journey, Nawangwe described him as a man with a "restless mind" who pursued his passion for music despite initially studying social sciences. "Great minds are always restless. Mr. Mutekanga came to Makerere to study social sciences, but he loved music. And so, he was restless. He wanted to know what he really had in his heart and loved. If that had not happened, maybe we would not have this anthem," Nawangwe reflected.

In a poignant moment, Prof. Nawangwe unpacked the meaning behind the Makerere University Anthem, describing it as a powerful summation of the institution's values

and mission. "The song says, 'Great are the walls beside thee', and 'Great are the gates beside thee.' So, you have passed through great walls and great gates. And that gives us great hope and reminds us that we are great," Nawangwe explained.

He continued to highlight the significance of the anthem's call to action, "Arise means, when we want to do anything important, we stand up. That's why they say, 'Stand up to be counted.' So, this gentleman carried such weight in these few sentences that he wrote that he actually touched a lot of things. So, we always, of course, rise to the occasion, as the greatest institution, in order to make the lives of our people better," Nawangwe said.

Nawangwe concluded by emphasizing the anthem's enduring legacy and its role in uniting people from all over the world. "'From east and west, from north and south. All voices singing arise Makerere'. It means the institution will welcome people from everywhere in the world, not just the people from the south and west. And that has been the legacy of the university. Makerere University is considered the most international university in the world," he noted.

The Principal of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Associate Prof. Helen Nambalirwa Nkabala lauded Mutekanga as a visionary who saw the world before it was made and as someone who

celebrated the diversity of humanity. "One who did not only celebrate from east to west, but also from north to south, which takes care of the central. One who was able to know that as we are here, we are beautiful, but there are those who are poor and there are those who are proud," she added.

In a final tribute, Nkabala emphasized the legacy Mutekanga has left behind. "We are not mourning; we are celebrating because he has left a legacy that no one can match—not now, and not tomorrow. We celebrate him, we thank God for that, and to the family, for the life that we have lived with him," she said.

Grace Wilson Mubi Igaga Mutekanga Igaga was born on June 29, 1943, to Daudi Kintu Mutekanga and Erina Babyale Mutekanga in Bubula, Kamuli, Busoga. He was married to Frances Katusabe Mutekanga, and together they raised a large and loving family, including their children: Basalirwa Frida, Mutekanga Andrew, Igaga Isaac, Igaga Yonah, Mutekanga Erina, Bakibinga Jacob, Igaga Amos, Namutebi Irene, Igaga Matthews, and Ibembe Patrick. His life was further blessed with numerous grandchildren.

Mutekanga's educational journey begun at Naminage and Mwiri Primary Schools from 1951 to 1956, where he completed his Primary

Leaving Examinations (PLE). He then attended Busoga College Mwiri from 1957 to 1962, earning his O-Level Certificate, and Makerere College School from 1963 to 1964, where he obtained his A-Level Certificate. He briefly attended Makerere University College, pursuing a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) degree, before transferring to Heidelberg University in Ohio, USA, where he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Music between 1966 and 1969. He furthered his studies at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, from 1970 to 1971.

His career in education and music was distinguished and impactful. Grace began his professional journey at Olive-Hervey College in Chicago, USA, before returning to Uganda, where he served as a teacher and part-time lecturer at Makerere College School and the Department of Music, Dance, and Drama from 1971 to 1973. He later became the Head of the Music Department at the National Teachers College in Kyambogo from 1973 to 1975. Mutekanga continued to shape young minds as a lecturer at Makerere University's Department of Music, Dance, and Drama, and later at the School of Education from 1975 to 1988. He also held leadership roles, such as Warden of Livingstone Hall and Principal of Bishop Willis Teacher's College in Iganga from 1989 to 1995. His commitment to education

culminated in his positions as Principal at Kabulasoke Teacher's Training College and Director of the National Teacher's College in Mubende from 1996 to 2003.

His contributions to Makerere University were recognized during its 90th Anniversary Grand Finale celebrations on August 3, 2013. Accompanied by his wife and family, he received an award from the Chancellor, Professor George Mondo Kagonyera, for composing the university anthem, earning a standing ovation from those present.

Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe speaks during the Requiem Mass at St. Francis Chapel on 22nd August 2024.





Mak Launches “Safer Campuses Campaign” to Combat Gender-Based Violence

On 4th October 2024, more than three universities convened at the Makerere University Freedom Square to witness the the launch of the “Safer Campuses Campaign,” aimed at shattering the silence surrounding Gender-Based Violence (GBV) across universities in Uganda. The initiative is being piloted at Makerere University and its branch campus in Jinja, Ndejje University, and Kampala International University, in partnership with UNESCO.

Dr. Euzobia Baine (3rd Right) chairing a panel with speakers from KIU, Mak Jinja Campus, Makerere University Main Campus and MoGLSD.

making Makerere a natural home for those dedicated to the fight against GBV. “Makerere’s desire is to fight for both the rights of boys and girls.

Mr. Charles Draecabo, the team leader at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in his address warned that anything disrupting students’ education such as GBV also threatens broader development goals.

On his part, Makerere University Guild President, H.E. Vincent Lubega Nsamba, affirmed students’ commitment to raising awareness about GBV and promoting a culture of respect, dignity, and equality.

“We shall raise awareness about any form of gender-based violence in our universities, we shall promote a culture of respect, dignity, equality, nonviolence among students, faculty and non-staff, and we shall continue educating one another about sexual health,” he said.

“We shall support one another against any form of sexual harassment; we shall establish a confidential accessible reporting mechanism for victims of GBV ensuring that survivors are supported and that their cases are handled sensitively,” he stated.

A significant feature of the campaign is the Yamba App, designed to provide students with sexual and reproductive health information, as well as access to professional and peer counseling services. The project seeks to promote positive health, education, and gender equality outcomes in Uganda’s tertiary institutions by reducing rates of new HIV infections, unintended pregnancies, and gender-based violence.

At Makerere University, the Vice Chancellor, the Gender Mainstreaming Directorate, the Office of the Dean of Students, and the 90th Students’ Guild through its Ministry of Gender, Ethics and Integrity are maximally involved in championing the Safer Campuses Campaign.

“We (especially the men), must stand firm against Gender Based Violence. We must protect our mothers, sisters, daughters and wives, so that they can be able to

more meaningfully contribute to the development of society,” stated the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe, while endorsing the publicity efforts for the Safer Campuses Campaign.

The Vice Chancellor was represented at the launch of the Safer Campuses Campaign by the Dean of Students, Mrs. Winfred Kabumbuli, who expressed pride in Makere’s legacy of promoting gender equality.

“Makerere University has had a history of promoting gender awareness and protection of individuals for a long time ago. When this university started, it was a male institution, but it was realized that one gender cannot build a country, so the motto of this university was intentionally changed from “Let us be men” to “We build for the future,” she said.

Mrs. Kabumbuli also noted that the university has produced many prominent human rights activists,



Mak Innovation Pod Launches Electric Mobility Skilling Programme

Ms. Nwanne Vwede-Obahor (5th R) with Prof. Buyinza Mukadasi (5th L), Prof. S.S. Tockodri-Togboa (4th R), Prof. Goretie Nabanoga (3rd R), officials and students at the launch.

On 22nd October 2024, Makerere University Innovation Pod, in partnership with Kiira Motors Corporation, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Uganda, launched a skilling program designed to equip students with expertise in electric mobility and related technologies for industrial application.

The launch team consisted of the Executive Chairman of Kiira Motors Corporation (KMC) Prof. Tickodri-Togboa, the UNDP Resident Representative Ms. Nwanne Vwede-Obahor, and Prof. Buyinza Mukadasi (Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic Affairs) who represented the Vice Chancellor of Makerere University, Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe, Prof. Goretie Nabanoga, Chairperson of the Steering Committee of the Makerere University Innovation Pod (Mak-UniPod) and Dr. Peter Turyakira, the Acting Manager of Mak-UniPod.

This strategic direction of building the required pool of young people to drive Uganda's electric mobility such as production of electric cars targets Makerere University students who are not

only excelling in the academics, but also interested in innovation and development.

"When I heard about this project, I thought about this innovation. I realized it comes with so many opportunities starting from employing many people, but also helping the world agenda to transition to green energy. When the call was shared, I thought I could grab this opportunity and also contribute to the sector that is seemingly a virgin one," remarked Twinomujuni Mutunji, a student selected from the Bachelor of Electrical Engineering program.

The first cohort consists of a total of 25 students selected from Electrical, Biomedical, Software, Mechanical, and Computer

Engineering, as well as the Bachelor of Science in Physics programmes. The 12 female and 13 male students were selected following a competitive process where only those with grades in the first and second upper classes were subjected to interviews and the top 25 were subsequently enrolled.

The program's main objectives include providing participants with foundational knowledge in electric vehicle technology, renewable energy systems, battery cell technology, smart grid systems, and electric vehicle powertrains. It also emphasizes the development of practical skills through hands-on training and project-based learning, enabling students to apply theoretical concepts to real-world scenarios.

Additional goals of the initiative include promoting innovation and problem-solving by encouraging participants to explore solutions to challenges in clean energy



Some of the selected students receive a guided tour of the Makerere University Innovation Pod.



technologies. It also seeks to prepare students for careers in the electric vehicle industry and its related sectors.

During the launch, Prof. Buyinza Mukadasi emphasized Makerere University's pioneering role in innovation, stating that the electric mobility skilling programme represents a significant step in Uganda's transition to green energy.

"As Makerere, we always pride ourselves on trailblazing. The electric vehicle journey and sector in this country started with the Kiira EV produced by staff and students from our College of Engineering,

Design, Art and Technology. The skills and knowledge led to the formation of the Kiira Motors Corporation. Through the launch of electric mobility skilling programme, Makerere University is committing itself to championing electric mobility and the green revolution," said Prof. Buyinza Mukadasi.

Speaking on behalf of Mak-UniPod, Dr. Peter K. Turyakira acknowledged the timeliness of the skilling program, as it coincides with Uganda's embracing of the global shift toward electric mobility. "This program is intended to give young people the opportunity to develop

skills, drive innovation in e-mobility, and influence the economic development of the country," remarked Dr. Turyakira.

On her part, Ms. Nwanne Vwede-Obahor, hailed the program as a solution to youth unemployment and a creator of green jobs in Uganda. "Through this skilling programme, Makerere University and Kiira Motors Corporation are going to find solutions to the youth unemployment question and create green jobs in Uganda."

She urged the students in the first cohort to make the most of this opportunity to contribute to the global green energy agenda and to shape their own futures.

"To the E-Mobility Skilling Program students, this is a great opportunity for you. I hope you understand that you are creating for yourself an opportunity, not open to others. You are part of a nascent group. You are part of history. You are the first cohort. The opportunities are beyond Uganda and Africa. There are many opportunities in the world. I am very glad to see the number of young ladies who are part of this first cohort," she said.

The UNDP Resident Representative thanked Makerere University for the vision, and appealed to the private sector in Uganda to come to the Makerere University Innovation Pod (Mak-UniPod) to support the student innovators.

Recognizing Makerere University as the cradle of E-Mobility in Uganda, Prof. Tockodri-Togboa acknowledged the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe for being a very instrumental figure in this milestone and always providing guidance in this journey.

Makerere University School of Public Health Marks 70 Years of Excellence in Research and Training



State Minister for Primary Healthcare, Hon. Margaret Muhanga launching the School of Public Health Strategic Plan 2025-2030 flanked by Ms. Lorna Magara, the Chairperson Makerere University Council and the Vice Chancellor Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe.



MakSPH staff in a group photo with dignitaries during the launch MakSPH@70 celebrations and launch of the Strategic Plan (2025-2030).

On December 13, 2024, Makerere University School of Public Health (MakSPH) commemorated its 70th anniversary, celebrating remarkable contributions to public health education, research, and service. From its humble beginnings in the 1950s as the Department of Preventive Medicine, MakSPH became Sub-Saharan Africa's first Institute of Public Health (IPH) in 1974 and has evolved into the renowned School of Public Health we know today, shaping policies and practices that have transformed health outcomes across Uganda and beyond.

The School's legacy is intertwined with Uganda's public health progress. It has played a defining role in addressing critical challenges such as maternal and child health, HIV, malaria, disease outbreak and disaster preparedness and response, health systems strengthening, among others. Nearly 70% of the graduates of the school work within Uganda and others within the African region and globally, with many leading transformative initiatives that save lives and strengthen systems across Africa.

The impact of MakSPH extends far beyond its classrooms. As

Makerere University's research powerhouse, it attracts nearly half of the institution's research grants. Its collaborations span over 25 African countries and global partners including international NGOs and universities across Europe and the US. MakSPH has worked with various partners for a longtime, some of these right from the inception of the school, such as the World Health Organization and other UN agencies, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Rockefeller Foundation. These partnerships have driven impactful research and informed policies that continue to shape Uganda's health systems and health outcomes.

Starting in January 2025, MakSPH embarks on an exciting new chapter as a standalone school within Makerere University, a status endorsed by the Makerere University Council. This transformation will enhance its impact on public health research, training, and services. Over the past 70 years, the School has grown into a hub of excellence, marked by increasing student enrolment, ground-breaking research, and strong local and international partnerships.

Central to the 70th anniversary celebrations was the launch of a bold five-year Strategic Plan (2025–2030), which sets an ambitious vision for the future. With a focus on transformative education, impactful research, community engagement, strategic partnerships, and institutional growth, the plan positions MakSPH to address complex health issues such as climate change and health, urbanization, and emerging diseases, while cementing its place as a leader in global health innovation.



Chief Guest Hon. Janet Kataaha Museveni, First Lady and Minister of Education and Sports

First Lady Museveni Lays Foundation Stone for School of Graduate Studies Building

Minister Janet Museveni Lays Foundation Stone for School of Graduate Studies Building,

The First Lady and Minister of Education and Sports, Hon. Janet Kataaha Museveni, has laid the foundation stone for Makerere University's School of Graduate Studies building, whose construction is now underway.

The Minister laid the foundation stone for the USD8 million project during a brief function held on Wednesday 18th December 2024 at the site opposite Makerere University's Lumumba Hall. The event was attended by several dignitaries, including the State Minister for Primary Education, Hon. Joyce Moriku Kaducu, University Council Chairperson Mrs. Lorna Magara, and Makerere University Vice Chancellor, Professor Barnabas



Nawangwe.

Hon. Janet Kataaha Museveni, First Lady and Minister of Education and Sports cut the ribbon at the opening of the School of Law Building, left is the State Minister for Primary Education Hon. Dr. Joyce Moriku Kaducu and Mak Council Chairperson Mrs. Lorna Magara on the right.

The building is a donation (in-kind) from the late Hasmukh Patel, an industrialist and former Chairman of Tororo Cement who passed away on August 29, 2024, after a short illness. The journey to this befitting donation to Makerere University started in December 2022, when Hasmukh Patel accompanied by

some members of his family and friends visited the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe to declare his donation. From December 2022, a number of meetings were convened involving the Minister of Education and Sports, the University leadership, Mr. Hasmukh Patel, his family and Tororo Cement regarding this donation. Living true to his commitment during those meetings, his family and Tororo Cement are implementing his wishes to construct the building, which will house the School of Graduate Studies at Makerere University.



Centre of Excellence in Sickle Cell Anemia Launched as Mak Hosts AAP Meeting

Mr. Muzamil Mukwatampola cuts the tape to officially launch the Centre of Excellence for Sickle Cell Anemia and Other Neglected Tropical Diseases at the Alliance for African Partnership (AAP) Meeting.

The State Minister for Higher Education Hon. Dr. J.C. Musingo represented by the Commissioner in Charge of Admissions and Student Affairs Mr. Muzamil Mukwatampola on 9th September 2024 officially launched the Centre of Excellence for Sickle Cell Anemia and Other Neglected Tropical Diseases at the Alliance for African Partnership (AAP) of Michigan State University (MSU) Annual Consortium Meeting.

Addressing participants at the opening event on 9th September, the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe acknowledged that it was a privilege for Makerere to host the Annual Consortium Meeting as it presents a lot of opportunities for AAP members to deliberate on innovations that can contribute to the betterment of humanity. Narrating a firsthand account of the loss of loved ones to Sickle Cell Disease, he added that Makerere can work together with consortia such as AAP to alleviate Africa's health challenges.

Prof. Nawangwe also current Chair of the AAP Advisory Board therefore expressed happiness that the funds used to start the Centre of

Excellence for Sickle Cell Anemia and Other Neglected Tropical Diseases were received from Government of Uganda through the Makerere University Research and Innovations Fund (Mak-RIF). He invited all AAP Members to utilize Centre's resources to conduct research on Sickle Cell Anemia and NTDs. The Centre is headed by Prof. Sarah Kiguli, a Professor of Paediatrics and Child Health at the College of Health Sciences (CHS).

Delivering the opening remarks, Prof. Steven Hanson the MSU Vice Provost and Dean for International Studies and Programs thanked Makerere University for the demonstrable leadership in tackling challenges such as Sickle Cell Anemia

and Neglected Tropical Diseases.

"When an institution like invests its resources, creates infrastructure and prioritises addressing big problems like these by creating a Centre for Excellence, we have an obligation to not just learn from them but to work together alongside them because we know that in a global society, challenges faced by one community affect us all, and solutions built together help us all" he added.

The opening ceremony also played witness to the announcement of Prof. David Meya an Infectious Disease physician at the College of Health Sciences (CHS) as the Oliver Reginald Tambo Africa Research Chair Initiative (ORTARCHI) for Infectious Diseases recipient. The announcement was made by Dr. Dorothy Ngila, Director of Strategic Partnerships at the National Research Foundation of South Africa (NRF).

Mak, UCC Host 26th Annual Media Convention



On September 3, 2024, the Department of Journalism and Communication at Makerere University, in partnership with the Uganda Communications Commission (UCC), hosted the 26th Annual Media Convention under the theme **"Harnessing Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Social Networks to Combat Misinformation in Uganda."**

The Head Department of Journalism and Communication, Dr. Nakiwala Ssembatya (Right) is joined by officials on stage during the Convention.

The event was officially opened by the Minister of State for National Guidance, Hon.

Kabbyanga Godfrey Baluku who urged stakeholders to embrace and collaborate on Artificial Intelligence (AI) while emphasizing the

The Vice Chancellor of Makerere University, represented by University Secretary Mr. Yusuf Kiranda, urged the Ugandan government to take decisive action in regulating harmful content on AI and social media networks. Mr. Kiranda emphasized the urgent need to address the negative impacts of these digital platforms.

Mr. Kiranda expressed gratitude to UCC for its support in organizing the event and highlighted the importance of the collaboration in fostering discussions on the intersection of AI, social networks, and misinformation. He nevertheless

stressed the need to go beyond the discussion of misinformation and address the broader issue of harmful content, which he described as a growing concern for society.

"These platforms are having a significant impact on our lives, and it is crucial that we focus on the ethical development of AI and social networks," he noted.

Hon. Nyombi Thembo, Executive Director of the Uganda Communications Commission (UCC), emphasized the pressing issue of misinformation and disinformation in the digital age, underscoring the dual-edged nature of artificial intelligence (AI) and social networks.

Hon. Thembo began by acknowledging the transformative benefits of AI but shifted focus to its darker side, highlighting the proliferation of misinformation and disinformation as significant

concerns. "We live in a world where information is at our fingertips, thanks to the digital revolution," he said. "However, this ease of access comes with a severe downside - the rapid spread of false and misleading information."

Associate Professor Helen Nambalirwa Nkabala, Principal of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHUSS), issued a passionate call for ethical and responsible use of AI. In her address, Prof. Nkabala expressed gratitude to the UCC for its decision to hold the event at Makerere University, a gesture she described as a testament to the institution's commitment to fostering a responsible digital environment.

"It is indeed an honor to see the confidence that the UCC has in Makerere University," she said. "We don't take this for granted. This celebration could have been held elsewhere, but it's here at Makerere, demonstrating your dedication to creating a clear and ethical environment."

The Head Department of Journalism and Communication Dr. Nakiwala Ssembatya underscored the importance of this year's theme, which addresses the latest developments, challenges, and opportunities in media and communications. "The rise of AI presents both significant potential and notable challenges," she said. "It is essential for us to explore how AI impacts society and our field as journalists and communicators, and how we can shape its governance, practice, and regulation in the country and beyond."

RUFORUM Celebrates 20th Anniversary

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM), a vibrant organisation of 170 universities in 40 countries across Africa hosted by the Government of Uganda at Makerere University since 2004 celebrated its 20th anniversary on the margins of its second Triennial conference that took place in Win

The Second triennial conference which was hosted by the Government of Namibia and RUFORUM member Universities in Namibia, took place from 12-16 August, 2024 under the theme **“Operationalising Higher Agricultural Education and Research Ecosystems for Innovation, Industrialisation, and Economic Development in Africa: A Call for Action.”** The theme is a response to the urgent needs for the African governments, development partners, private sector and citizenry to take action, to invest in higher education to underpin the continent’s urgent development needs in an inclusive and sustainable way.

The Minister of Higher Education, Training and Innovation of the Republic of Namibia, Hon. Dr. Itah Kandjii Murangi on behalf of the President H.E. Nangolo Mbumba, officially opened the conference.

The Minister who noted that the conference theme calls for immediate action to secure the posterity of our continent, warned against existing climate change and increased weather variability that is already with us and affecting agriculture, which employs over 70% of Africa’s population.

While speaking on behalf of all visiting African Ministers of Higher Education at the official opening of the conference, Hon. Dr. John Chrysestom Muyingo underscored the value of enhancing agriculture education, skills development and knowledge support, noting the urgent need for curriculum reform



Prof. Nawangwe (C), Vice Chancellor Makerere University together with Vice Chancellors from across Africa

and skills development to combat graduate unemployment as industry increasingly indicates that graduates do not have the skills that they are looking for. To overcome the situation, he proposed that the quality of higher degree programmes and their relevance to Africa’s challenges must be addressed. Agricultural education, he noted, will be critical in enhancing the quality of employment and ensuring inclusive growth.

In Uganda, RUFORUM member universities include; Bishop Stuart University, Bugema University, Busitema University, Gulu University, Islamic University in Uganda, Kabale University, Kyambogo University, Mbarara University of Science and Technology, Makerere University, Muni University, Ndejje University, Soroti University, Uganda Christian University, Uganda Martyrs University and Uganda Technology and Management University. RUFORUM is a vibrant organization with a strategic MoU with the African Union Commission to implement priority area one of the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA 2024).

Since its establishment, RUFORUM has supported the training of over 2,909 students (2,053 MSc, 627 PhD, and 229 Bachelors) from all over Africa, in different African Universities as part of building Africa’s aptitude

for Capacity Development and promoting pan-Africanism, of whom 98% work in their countries or region. These efforts, apart from Human Capital Development, have contributed to knowledge generation and community impact. Some of the products of RUFORUM supported research, such as two soybean varieties developed in Uganda are now being grown throughout Sub-Saharan Africa. RUFORUM has also targeted strengthening capacity of the National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) in Uganda, Burundi, DR Congo, Rwanda, South Sudan and Sudan among others.

In his presentation at the opening ceremony of the Triennial Conference, the Executive Secretary RUFORUM, Prof. Patrick Okori noted that TAGDev 2.0 has to-date, under the expanded work and other livelihood opportunities for young women and men result area, empowered beneficiaries to run profitable enterprises and create work opportunities for themselves and others. Furthermore, under the improved adaptive agricultural production and productivity of focus value chains in target countries, he reported that TAGDev 2.0 has enabled smallholder farmers to access and utilize climate adaptive technologies, innovations and management practices (TIMPs).



MURBS declares 13.40% Interest for FY that ended on 30th June 2024

MURBS Board of Trustees with the Vice Chancellor and other officials at the presentation of the Scheme's performance.

Dr. Elizabeth Patricia Nansubuga, Chairperson of the Makerere University Retirement Benefits Scheme (MURBS) Board of Trustees, announced this milestone during the 14th Annual General Meeting (AGM) for the year 2023/24 held on Thursday, 24th October 2024, at the School of Public Health Auditorium.

The AGM attracted various stakeholders, including trustees, Audit Committee Chairperson CPA David Ssenoga, Board Evaluation Consultant Vincent Kaheeru, URBRA Representative Mark Lotukei, Audit Committee members, co-opted members, and university administrators.

Presenting the performance report, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, Dr. Nansubuga highlighted 13.40% as the highest interest declared by the scheme in the past five years, and she anticipates continued improvements. She noted that for the previous financial year, which ended in June 2023, the Board of Trustees declared an interest of 12.34%.

Dr. Nansubuga also announced

that the scheme had achieved a Net Investment Income of UGX 44.6 billion, far higher than the UGX34.4 billion collected in contributions during the year.

"By 30th June 2023, MURBS had a fund value of UGX 352.4 billion. The Board of Trustees targeted Fund growth of 17%, and I am glad to inform you, that the fund value of MURBS, as per the Audited Financial Statements of 30th June 2024 is UGX 409.2 billion, which is an increase of 16.1%. This achievement was made possible by strategic periodical activities undertaken by the Board and our fund managers, supported by the strong oversight committees of the Board," the Chairperson further revealed.

She attributed the positive growth to factors such as improved debt recovery, operational efficiency, timely remittance of contributions by the Scheme Sponsor (Makerere University), an increase in project and contract contributions, and the recovery of UGX8.85 billion in debts.

Dr. Nansubuga also expressed gratitude to Makerere University

for consistently remitting contributions, a key factor that has significantly contributed to MURBS' smooth operation. "I am happy to announce that the sponsor-Makerere University remitted your retirement benefits for the financial year 2023/24," she said.

In the same development, Dr. Nansubuga reported that MURBS registered a legal victory against Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) over a real estate investment in Sonde undertaken in 2019, and which URA sought to tax heavily. She notified the AGM that MURBS won the case and was awarded costs which also set a precedent.

"On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I am pleased to inform you that during the financial year, we received a favorable outcome on a key court case. How did we end up with this case? In 2019, MURBS invested in real estate, we bought land in Sonde," Dr. Nansubuga explained.

While discussing investments, Dr. Nansubuga mentioned that 86% of MURBS' funds are currently invested in government bonds, but added that the Board is exploring diversification to reduce risks.

Lumumba Hall Renovated to Perfection

On Friday 26th July 2024, the Contractor – National Enterprise Corporation (NEC) handed over the renovated Lumumba Hall of Residence to the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe.

The UGX 9 billion renovation works, which commenced on 27th June 2023 involved undertaking an overhaul aimed at restoring Lumumba Hall to its original beauty. At the site handover in 2023, the Vice Chancellor stated that Lumumba Hall which was built in the 1960s and officially opened in 1971 was the biggest Hall of Residence, but there had been no major renovation since the time it was constructed.

“You can think this Hall has just been built. It has been restored. This points to the wonderful quality works by NEC,” remarked Prof. Nawangwe. He equally thanked NEC for the high level of professionalism



Hon. Janet Kataaha Museveni (6th R) and Hon. Dr. Joyce Moriku Kaducu (4th L) with University Officials at the commissioning of the renovated Lumumba Hall.

in the execution of the entire project.

Lumumba Hall was named after Patrice Lumumba, a freedom fighter and the first Prime Minister of the Republic

of Congo (currently Democratic Republic of Congo). The hall has the capacity to accommodate approximately 752 students.



Mary Stuart Hall Closed for renovation

The proposed rehabilitation of Mary Stuart Hall commenced on Friday 31st May 2024 with the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe handing over the site to the contractor National Enterprise Corporation (NEC) represented by Managing Director and CEO, Lieutenant General James Mugira.

The first and largest female Hall of residence, Mary Stuart was completed in 1953 and named after wife to Bishop Simon Cyril Edgar Stuart, the Third Bishop of the Diocese of Uganda from 1932-1952.

Mary Stuart worked hard for the betterment of women education during her time in Uganda.

Mary Stuart Hall becomes the second student residence to undergo rehabilitation following the handover of Lumumba Hall. Both projects are fully funded by the Government of Uganda. And whereas Lumumba's works cost UGX9billion, Mary Stuart's will cost UGX10.5billion, and cover roof repairs, plumbing and electrical systems and installations overhaul, as well as external aesthetic works.

Mak Develops New Digital Timetable and Attendance Systems

In a significant step towards improving operational efficiency, Makerere University is implementing new systems for digitizing timetables and monitoring student attendance.



Mr. Katongole Juma presenting on the e-timetable and biometric system.

Dr. Cyprian Misinde, the Director of Quality Assurance, outlined the university's plans for a comprehensive Student Attendance Management System (SAMS), which aims to replace cumbersome manual roll calls with a streamlined digital solution.

"The motivation for developing the e-timetable is to streamline processes across the university," Dr. Misinde stated. "Our strategic plan focuses on digitizing university operations, which we have successfully started with several systems, including financial management and student records."

The current manual timetabling process has been described as cumbersome, creating challenges in managing lecturer workloads and classroom allocations. "Digital timetabling will eliminate these problems, providing a permanent schedule that minimizes changes," Dr. Misinde added. This system will also generate reports on classroom usage and teaching loads, facilitating better resource management.

In addition to the e-timetable, the SAMS is currently under pilot testing, aiming to enhance attendance tracking for both students and staff. Dr. Misinde emphasized the importance of monitoring attendance, stating, "Our policy requires students to attend at least 70% of lectures before they can sit for exams. This system will allow us to track attendance digitally and generate reports for quality assurance."

Mr. Juma Katongole, Principal Information Systems Officer at the Directorate for ICT Support (DICTS), elaborated on the advantages of the e-timetable,

Our policy requires students to attend at least 70% of lectures before they can sit for exams. This system will allow us to track attendance digitally and generate reports for quality assurance

which integrates with the existing Academic Management Information System (ACMIS). "The new system allows for central management of timetables, reducing conflicts and ensuring rooms are allocated efficiently," Katongole noted. "It will support Heads of Department while improving the overall timetabling process."

As for the implementation timeline, Katongole indicated that while functionality has been developed, some colleges are further along than others. "Most colleges have nearly completed their timetabling processes, but we aim to refine the system for wider deployment by next semester," he said.

Makerere University is poised to enhance its operational efficiency significantly through the introduction of digital systems for timetabling and attendance management, marking a progressive step towards modernizing its academic administration. The ongoing feedback and adaptation process will be essential to address the specific challenges faced by different colleges within the university.

Mak, UNAM Renew MoU to Strengthen Collaborative Research

Makerere University (Mak) and the University of Namibia (UNAM), have renewed their Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen collaborative academia and industry research.

The two partnering universities are both members of the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM), an organization of 170 universities in 40 countries across Africa hosted by the Government of Uganda at Makerere University.

Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe the Vice Chancellor of Makerere University confirmed an already existing collaboration with UNAM on a number of projects with a lot of their staff coming to Makerere University for exchange programs. He stated that Makerere was instrumental in helping to set up UNAM's School of Pharmacy with many students from Namibia coming to Makerere for training.



Left to Right: Prof. Gorettie Nabanoga, Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe and Prof. Kenneth Matengo at the MoU signing.

Prof. Nawangwe added that the solutions of Africa will be found within Africa and the work that the universities are going to do together will help move Africa out of poverty.

He signed the MoU in the presence of the Principal of the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CAES), Prof. Gorettie N. Nabanoga.

Speaking at the MoU signing ceremony in Windhoek, Namibia, Prof. Kenneth Matengo, the Vice Chancellor of UNAM said that for a long time, universities in Africa have had more research collaborations with universities in Europe and America than with their African counterparts, a position that must now change. "We need to focus on South to South Cooperation within the Context of Africa."

MUBS Gets New Principal

President Museveni has appointed Professor Moses Muhwezi as the new Principal of Makerere University Business School (MUBS), succeeding Prof. Waswa Balunywa, who retired in 2023 after leading the institution for 26 years.

In a letter dated November 3, 2024, President Museveni confirmed Prof Muhwezi's appointment as the substantive principal for a five-year term, effective immediately.

The appointment of Prof Muhwezi, who previously served as Deputy Principal, in substantive position, came after nearly 17 months in which he served as acting principal, following the end of former principal Wasswa Balunywa's term.



Prof. Muhwezi was appointed Acting Deputy Principal of MUBS in 2014 and confirmed as the substantive Deputy Principal in 2019. Previously, he served as the Dean of the Faculty of Entrepreneurship and Business Administration and led both the Department of Procurement and Supply Chain Management and the Department of Management Science at MUBS.

His academic credentials include a PhD in Public Procurement from the University of Twente, The Netherlands, a Master's in Public Procurement from the Maastricht

School of Management, and an MBA in Accounting and Finance from Makerere University. He is also affiliated with multiple professional bodies, including the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply (MCIPS) and the Institute of Public Procurement Professionals in Uganda.

Prof. Muhwezi has worked in Makerere University since 1995 at various ranks from Teaching Assistant, Assistant Lecturer, Lecturer, Senior Lecturer, Associate Professor and Professor.

MUBS was established in 1997 as a constituent college of Makerere University through the merger of Makerere's Faculty of Commerce and the National College of Business Studies Nakawa (NCBS). This merger required the Faculty of Commerce to relocate from the Makerere main campus to Nakawa, where NCBS was located.

75th Graduation's Best Students

We congratulate Mr Mubiru Enock Joel upon his exceptional performance and CoNAS upon achieving this remarkable feat.



Mubiru Enock Joel
The Best in Sciences

Mr. Mubiru Enock Joel has emerged as the best student in the Sciences of the 75th Graduation Ceremony of Makerere University slated to run from 13th to 17th January 2025. Mr. Mubiru obtained a CGPA of 4.91 in the Bachelor of Science of Makerere University.

We congratulate Mr. Abdul Latif Umar Bagoole upon his exceptional performance and MUBS upon achieving this remarkable feat.



Abdul Latif Umar Bagoole
The Best in Humanities

Mr. Abdul Latif Umar Bagoole has emerged as the best overall and best student in the Humanities of the 75th Graduation Ceremony of Makerere University slated to run from 13th to 17th January 2025. Mr. Bagoole obtained a CGPA of 4.97 in the Bachelor of Leisure and Hospitality Management of Makerere University.

75th Graduation Statistics



CATEGORIES

PhD

Female 64 Male 79 Total 143

MASTERS

Female 768 Male 1,045 Total 1,813

BACHELORS

Female 6,369 Male 5,086 Total 11,455

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMAS

Female 96 Male 147 Total 243

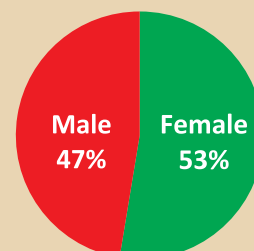
UNDERGRADUATE DIPLOMA PROGRAMMES

Female 2 Male 6 Total 8

TOTAL GRADUANDS

13,662

Female 7299 Male 6363



The Freedom Square: Mak's Official Ceremonial Ground



The Freedom square is one of Makerere University's most famous landmarks because of its legendary function and strong historical background. Located between Makerere University Main Building (the administrative block), the University Library and the School of Social Sciences, the Freedom Square has always been a ceremonial ground.

The Freedom Square was the venue for the cutting of the first sod for the Main Administration Building (at the then Makerere College) by His Royal Highness, The Duke of Gloucester on 3rd November 1938. On 8th October 1970

Makerere University was officially inaugurated as an autonomous university from the University of East Africa (UEA). The Government of H.E. Dr. Apollo Milton Obote organised a grand ceremony in the Freedom Square to which Presidents H.E. Jomo Kenyatta of Kenya, H.E. Julius Nyerere of Tanzania and H.E. Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia were invited. Then the Out-going Guild President, Hon. Prof. Peter Anyang' Nyong'o had the privilege of bearing the University Mace.

Since that day, the Freedom Square has played host to the making of countless graduation memories. Prominent leaders from around the world have received their Bachelors, Masters, PhDs and Honorary Doctorate degrees of Makerere University in the Freedom Square.

To many, the square is a symbol of freedom. It is a testament to staff and students of the value Makerere University accords to the values of freedom of expression and assembly.

Mak's Student Work Scheme Starts

In May 2024, Makerere University launched a work scheme aimed at supporting financially struggling students with tuition, accommodation, meals, and other expenses. This followed the decision by Makerere University Council to approve the policy during its 153rd sitting on 6th October, 2021.



Some of the recruited Hall Attendants with the Scheme Coordinator-Mr. Bruce Byamukama (2nd R) and Ag. Warden Nsibirwa Hall-Mr. Peter Rivan Muhereza (3rd R).

Makerere University Council established a Students Work Scheme through which students will be able to access part time employment to help them meet their financial needs and also, to get work experience which they will use in search for gainful employment after studies.

Makerere University is committed to giving to its students an education that prepares them for employment within the University and the outside world. The Students Work Scheme recognizes that Student Employment is an important step in pursuit of personal and professional growth of

the students engaged in acquiring education as a lifetime investment. Under the Scheme, 20 students were recruited as Hall Attendants.



A New era for Makerere Convocation: Renovating a Home and Empowering Alumni

In a remarkable achievement under the leadership of CPA George Turyamureeba Mugabi, the Makerere University Convocation has reached a milestone that cements its commitment to fostering stronger alumni ties and advancing economic empowerment. The new executive, inaugurated to revitalize the Convocation's impact, has successfully renovated the physical home for Makerere Convocation—a space that symbolizes unity, collaboration, and growth for the entire Makerere alumni community.

The renovation of a dedicated home for the Convocation is a landmark achievement. This space provides alumni with a central point to connect, network, and collaborate on initiatives that further Makerere University's legacy. It stands as a testament to the executive's commitment to creating a sense of belonging and pride among graduates, reinforcing their role as integral stakeholders in the university's progress.

Equipped to host meetings, training sessions, and events, the new home will serve as a dynamic hub for fostering professional growth and personal development.

Alumni can look forward to engaging in meaningful conversations, mentoring opportunities, and initiatives aimed at giving back to the university and its broader community.

Recognizing the need for economic empowerment among alumni, the executive has also spearheaded the creation of a SACCO. This Savings and Credit Cooperative Organization is designed to provide alumni with access to financial resources, enabling them to invest in personal and professional ventures.

The SACCO reflects the Convocation's vision of empowering its members economically, creating opportunities for growth, and strengthening their capacity to contribute to society. Whether through business startups, educational pursuits, or personal projects, alumni can now leverage this financial platform to achieve their aspirations.

Under CPA George Turyamureeba Mugabi's leadership, the Convocation's new executive has demonstrated a forward-thinking approach that prioritizes alumni engagement and empowerment. This team has worked tirelessly

to bridge the gap between the university and its graduates, ensuring that the Convocation remains a vibrant and impactful organization.

The establishment of the new Convocation home and the SACCO are just the beginning. These achievements set the stage for more transformative initiatives aimed at enriching the Makerere alumni experience and solidifying their role in shaping the future of the university.

As the Convocation embarks on this new chapter, its vision for a stronger, more connected, and empowered alumni network is poised to make a lasting impact. With this foundation, Makerere University's alumni community is well-positioned to thrive and contribute meaningfully to the university, the nation, and beyond.

Compiled by Grace Cherotich Ruto

**Compiled by Grace Cherotich Ruto
Vice Chairperson
Makerere University Convocation**



Makerere University Research and Innovations Fund (Mak-RIF): Empowering PhD Students to Shape the Future

74th
Graduation PhD
Graduands pose for
a group photo with the
Chairperson Ceremonies
Committee, Dr. Jackie
Bonabana-
Wabbi (R).

Makerere University is one of the oldest and most prestigious institutions of higher learning in Africa. Research and innovations constitute the heart of the vision and mission of Makerere as it steadfastly advances towards its goal of becoming a research-led University and reinforcing its legacy of academic excellence and transformative impact.

Makerere University has been receiving funding from the Government of the Republic of Uganda since Financial Year 2019/2020 to support high impact research and innovations that contribute to the realization of the national development priorities. The research and innovations work is coordinated by the Makerere University Research and Innovations Fund (Mak-RIF) whose objective is to increase the local generation of translatable research and scalable innovation projects that address key gaps required to drive Uganda's development agenda.

Mak-RIF is governed by a 15-member multi-sectoral Grants Management Committee (GMC) chaired by Prof. Fred Masagazi-Masaazi. To-date, Mak-RIF has supported 1,337 multidisciplinary research and innovation projects

The Mak-RIF grant made my research journey much easier and faster than it would have been. I used the resources to get all the necessary ethical and administrative clearances, collect, and analyze data

with the potential to cause transformative change in various communities. 235 of these projects were awarded under the recently introduced PhD Research Grant aimed at supporting translatable research and scalable innovations of Makerere University's PhD students. The PhD Research Grants are only open to students who have been approved for full registration at Makerere University. Particular attention is paid to ideas that have clear potential for scalability to drive development.

For the first cohort of PhD awardees, 50 have already completed their research and successfully closed off their studies. 95 out of 122 PhD

graduates for Makerere University's 74th graduation indicated that they had secured at least one source of funding for their doctoral studies. Notably, Mak-RIF Fund was a major source of funding, supporting 12% of these doctoral candidates.

The Mak-RIF PhD Research Grants are thus an indispensable resource for PhD students and for Makerere University. Through the grants, the University is not only empowering PhD students to shape the future but also contributing to the broader development of Uganda and beyond.

Mr. Gerald Ahabwe, the Former President of the PhD Forum in Makerere University received a PhD Research Grant in 2023 and undertook a research project titled, "Utilization of Technological Innovations in piped water services; a case of prepayment system in urban poor settings in Kampala, Uganda." With excitement in his voice, Mr. Ahabwe expressed his gratitude towards Mak-RIF.

"I successfully defended my PhD on 2nd December 2024 and I am very excited about graduation in January 2025," he said. The Secretariat plans to share the findings of Mr. Ahabwe's work with the National Water and Sewerage Corporation for uptake.

New Roles

Makerere University continues to recognize research as a pillar of both institutional and national development.

To operationalise the research thrust, the University has reorganized the Directorate of Research and Graduate Training (DRGT). The Directorate has been split into two units:

1. **Directorate of Research, Innovations and Partnerships (DRIP)**
2. **Directorate of Graduate Training (DGT).**



Directorate of Research, Innovations and Partnerships (DRIP)

Dr. Robert Wamala (Assoc. Prof.)
Chief, DRIP

The Directorate of Research, Innovation and Partnerships (DRIP) is dedicated to advancing the University's mission by fostering a robust research culture, promoting innovation and establishing strategic collaborations. The specific functions and responsibilities of the DRIP include:

1. **Promoting and Coordinating Research Activities:**

Fosters a vibrant research culture across different academic, administrative and research units in-line with the University's strategic goals.

2. **Facilitating Innovation and Technology Transfer:**

Supports translation of research findings into practical applications and managing intellectual property rights to ensure that research outputs are effectively protected and utilized.

3. **Enhancing Research Capacity and Infrastructure:**

Works to develop the University's research capabilities by providing access to necessary facilities, resources, and training programs that support high-quality research.

4. **Securing Research Funding:**

Assists researchers and graduate students in identifying potential funding opportunities for their projects.

5. **Overseeing Research Ethics and Integrity:**

Ensures that all research activities comply with ethical standards and regulatory requirements, maintaining the integrity and credibility of the university's research endeavours.

6. **Establishing and Managing Partnerships:**

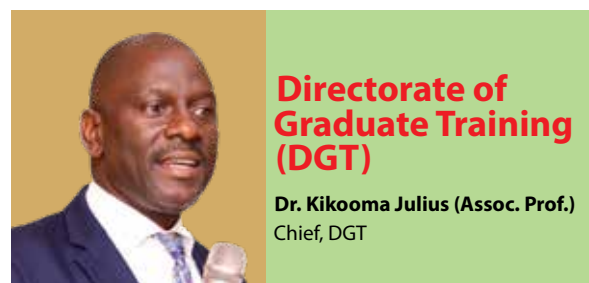
Build and maintain collaborative relationships with other institutions to enhance research opportunities and resource sharing.

7. **Disseminating Research Outcomes:**

Promotes the dissemination of research findings through publications, conferences, and other platforms.

8. **Encouraging Community Engagement and Outreach:**

Facilitates initiatives that apply research insights to community development, fostering a reciprocal relationship between the University and society



Directorate of Graduate Training (DGT)

Dr. Kikooma Julius (Assoc. Prof.)
Chief, DGT

Our mission

To coordinate, monitor and provide an enabling environment for quality graduate studies and research to meet the changing needs of society and for sustained development

Specific Functions and Responsibilities of DGT

1. Coordinate and administer all matters related to postgraduate studies
2. Advertise graduate programs to the public to create awareness and to meet demand
3. Admission of students to graduate programs
4. Develop and maintain a database of students' records and thus coordinating graduate training and documenting graduate records
5. Assessment ensuring quality of graduate programs
6. Streamline, review and reform, if necessary, regulations, procedures and practices in order to provide a conducive environment for graduate training and innovative research at Makerere
7. Monitoring of quality and coordinating examinations and programs development from teaching units
8. Awarding degrees, PhDs and postgraduate diplomas to graduate students
9. Provide both postgraduate students and supervisors a home that gives them sense of belonging to a meaningful scholarly community
10. Undertake any other relevant activity that is pertinent to graduate studies and research so as to promote and improve the quality of scholarship in Makerere University

The Jack Smith I knew:

Tribute from a former student



Moderate lamentation is the right of the dead, excessive grief the enemy of the living. When I die, please, shed a tear or two; but I don't want you to mourn forever. I want you to be able to get on and carry forward what you think needs to be done

I write this in honour of my lecturer, mentor and friend, Dr. Jack Smith, who went to be with his creator on December 2, 2024. News of Smith's passing on came to me as a shock. His health had been declining for some time. However, it was not expected that his life would come to an end so soon. He had been out of public for some time but few of us were aware that he had become increasingly weak. Information about his life was intentionally kept a secret as it was explained during his memorial service on December



4, 2024.

My encounter with Smith was in October 1988 when I joined Makerere University as a student. He was introduced to us as our lecturer by the Head of Department during the first lecture in one of the first year courses. We looked forward to his mentorship. However, for some of us, there were many anticipated challenges. It was to be the first time for me to be taught by a white man. Whereas this seemed not a big challenge, the bigger challenge was when Smith started to talk to us. Many questions came to my mind: *How was I to understand his American accent and teaching style? How was I to understand what he was going to teach? How was I to pass this Course Unit?*

As I contemplated on these questions, I thought of changing the subject but it was not easy. I could not change the Course Unit either because it was core for all first year students. I decided to hang in there. With the encouragement from my Head of Department, I was able to quickly cope with Smith's accent and teaching style. Given the very small number of students that we were in that Course Unit, Smith got to know each one of us and that enabled his mentorship to each one of us as an individual.

When I completed my undergraduate studies in 1991, I applied and was appointed as a teaching staff in the department. This gave me an opportunity to remain close to Smith, now as a colleague. Smith continued to love me dearly and to mentor me into the kind of staff I am today. Apart from this, Smith spiritually nurtured me. As a missionary in Uganda, one

of his other roles was to disciple and spiritually nurture people. Besides, Smith was a kind man. He helped me and other needy students. He would give freely to us without expecting returns. We looked forward to his appearance because we knew he would provide to us some money for our personal needs. As a friend, I looked to him as a true mentor. When I visited him at his home, he offered to me gifts, including books. He occasionally came to see me at my office. I knew about some of his future plans. Smith occasionally took us out for lunch as his colleagues in the department. We greatly enjoyed these moments together.

He clearly understood that to love is to sacrifice and surrender. God worked tremendously in him to serve and bless other people. We were reminded that Smith served God's purpose in his generation before he fell asleep, citing from the example of David in **Acts 13:36**. No doubt Smith accomplished this with distinction. As Shakespeare stated: *"Moderate lamentation is the right of the dead, excessive grief the enemy of the living. When I die, please, shed a tear or two; but I don't want you to mourn forever. I want you to be able to get on and carry forward what you think needs to be done"*. The message I get from this, in respect to Smith, is not to mourn him forever but to get on and carry forward his legacy.

I would have loved to carry flowers and place them on Smith's casket or to attend his burial in honour of what he meant to me, but this was not acceptable according to his wish. I am reminded of these words spoken by Marc Antony in Shakespeare's Julius Caesar that: *"The evil that men do lives after them; the good is often interred with their bones."* My prayer is that the good things that Smith did will be continuously remembered and cherished. Sleep well my lecturer, mentor and friend.

By Dr. Chris Tuhirirwe
Lecturer, Department of Religion and Peace Studies
Makerere University



Scholars
Program



MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

Achievements of Phase One of the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program Unlock Opportunities for Another Phase to Benefit Additional 1000 Young People



Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe (R) and Mr. Adrian Bukenya, the Country Director of Mastercard Foundation (L) during the panel discussion on 2nd August 2024.

refugees and internally displaced youth (25%), young people living with disabilities (10%), students transiting from schools located in highly ranked poor sub-regions of Uganda (10%), refugee hosting communities and minority tribes (10%), and international students (5%).

The selected Mastercard Foundation Scholars will receive comprehensive financial support, career guidance and mentorship, leadership and entrepreneurship training, psychosocial and mental wellness services, and welfare and health care support throughout their studies at Makerere University.

Since its launch in Africa in 2012, the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program has established itself as a powerful initiative for creating a transformative network of young leaders and institutions committed to driving inclusive and equitable socio-economic progress.

Key Accomplishments of the Program in its First Phase (2013-2023)

During the first phase of the Scholars Program, several achievements were realised at the individual, institutional, and ecosystem levels. Below, we highlight some of the most significant ones.

- **Recruitment:** The Program supported 1,032 scholars across six cohorts, achieving 103% of the target, 76% females and 24% males.
- **Graduation:** As of January 2025, 965 Scholars have successfully graduated, achieving an exceptional completion rate of 94%.
- **Impacting Communities:** The Scholars Program positively impacted over 12 communities across the country through key

At Makerere University, the Scholars Program began in 2013 with a decisive goal: to empower academically gifted yet economically disadvantaged youth by facilitating their access to higher education. The Scholars Program educates and cultivates the next generation of enterprising leaders who will significantly contribute to their communities. By addressing critical systemic barriers to higher education, the Program has successfully supported 1,032 talented individuals, with 965 Scholars having graduated by 2023 and expecting 32 to graduate during this 75th Graduation ceremony.

In December 2023, the Mastercard Foundation Scholars

Program at Makerere University rolled into Phase Two of the Program to last another 10 years. The main aim is to deepen inclusive University education and empower youth to transform into leaders who will make meaningful contributions to national and regional development.

The second phase of the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program at Makerere University (Main Campus) will provide 1000 scholarships at both the undergraduate and Master's degree academic levels for students to study at Makerere University main campus. The Program is intentional on inclusivity, and therefore, Scholarship quotas will be set for the following special categories of applicants:





The Program Coordinator Prof. Justine Namaalwa (R) cuts cake with Scholars who graduated during the 74th Graduation Ceremony.

initiatives, including but not limited to;

- Construction of a two-room classroom block at Achukudu Primary School in Napak District in 2023.
- Construction of a two-room classroom block and a ventilated pit latrine at St. Katherine Primary School in Agago District in 2022.
- Construction of a borehole for the Bulamwaki community in Iganga District in 2021.
- Constructed a two-room accommodation for teachers and planted trees at Kibaale Primary School in Mityana District in 2019.
- Constructed a chain-link fence and planted trees at Salama School for the Blind.
- Constructed a classroom block and renovated another one at Muzinda Primary School, Wakiso district, central Uganda in 2017.

These efforts and many other community-engaged activities reflect the Program's continued commitment to uplifting vulnerable African communities.

The Scholars Entrepreneurship Fund (SEF):

- **Entrepreneurship Engagements:** The Scholars Entrepreneurship Fund, coupled with capacity building and

mentorship, supported 46 enterprising projects that are being implemented across the country.

• Social Venture Initiatives:

Besides fostering entrepreneurship through the SEF initiative, the Scholars have had the opportunity to pitch their ideas and compete for funding with partner institutions. Twenty-four project teams have been successful to date through Resolution Social Venture, a partner of Mastercard Foundation, to bring their projects to life.

Alumni speak out

Most Mastercard Foundation scholars have leveraged their higher education knowledge, skills, and values to lead, serve, and improve their communities—whether in personal, business, or official capacities—to create transformative change.

Doreen Nyago, an alumna of the Program, shared that receiving the scholarship was the best thing that ever happened to her. Without the Mastercard Foundation scholarship, she would never have been able to attain a university education.

"The scholarship provided me with the opportunity for quality education and changed my family's history. I am the first person in my

family to graduate with a Bachelor's degree," Nyago said. She graduated with a Bachelor's in Records and Archives Management from Makerere University in January 2024.

Nyago's journey—from hustling for survival for seven years to her current role as a Program Associate at the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program at Makerere University—is a testament to her dedication, passion for learning, and desire to make a meaningful impact.

Another alumna, Mattia Mulumba, exemplifies what the Mastercard Foundation seeks in its scholars. Mulumba, an agribusiness graduate from the first cohort of the Scholars Program, was born into an economically struggling family. However, his fortunes changed, and he now stands as an agent of change in his community.

"The Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program elevated me from living in poverty with my grandmother. We initially viewed agriculture merely as a means of survival; we farmed to eat. Today, I have created a piggery project, a maize farm, and a nursery bed where community members and others can obtain coffee seedlings. Ever since my graduation, I have transformed the mindset of the people around me," Mulumba said.

Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe, the Vice Chancellor of Makerere University, expressed his gratitude for the partnership between the university and the Mastercard Foundation.

"We are excited to collaborate with the Mastercard Foundation, an organization focused on enhancing the quality of life for the African people. This partnership aligns well with Makerere University's vision to be a thought leader in knowledge generation for societal transformation and development. Together, we continue to nurture skilled human resources that will drive the development of our nation." Prof. Nawangwe commented. For more information, please visit our website: <https://mastercardfoundation.mak.ac.ug/>



"I Yoweri Kaguta Tibuhaburwa Museveni, do hereby appoint Muhwezi Moses (Prof.) on local contract as Principal of Makerere University Business School for a period of five years with effect from the date of assumption of duty. This appointment takes immediate effect,"

Prof Moses Muhwezi, PhD
Principal MUBS

The Future and Critical Role of Makerere University Business School

I am humbled, being appointed Principal of Makerere University Business School by H.E Yoweri Kaguta Tibuhaburwa Museveni, The President of the Republic of Uganda. I appreciate him for the trust. I also appreciate Hon Maama Janet Museveni, the First Lady and Minister of Education and Sports, the Minister of State for Higher Education, the Education Service Commission and MUBS Council and colleagues. May God bless you all. I pray that God gives me the grace to add value to business education in the nation.

Business education enables students acquire necessary knowledge, skills and competencies for growth of society. All organizations, science and non-science based require business and management models to run efficiently and effectively. MUBS offers diverse disciplines; accounting, finance, business law, leadership and governance, entrepreneurship, project management, business administration, human resource management, information

and communication technology, energy economics and governance, marketing, international business, leisure and hospitality, among others.

All government Ministries, Departments and Agencies require these disciplines. For

example, all the seven pillars of the Parish Development Model approach are covered by MUBS curricula. The private sector investments which are much needed for development require these disciplines. The key objectives of the National Development Plan IV can best be influenced by business education.

My strategy is to shift MUBS from rhetoric to applied mode and be at the centre of the economic and public service activities. There is need to progressively change the pedagogical approach from the dominant cognitive orientation to the affective (mindset change) and psycho-motor (use of hands) orientations. Together with Top Management, we shall endeavor to have more strategic collaborations with the public and private sectors to realise this strategy.

My views and strategies on the future of education in Uganda and role of MUBS include the following;

1. **It is clear that all major human developmental interventions in the world were as a result of higher education.** Therefore, as universities, teaching, learning and research should aim at turning knowledge into a "community good". Published research should create impact in society. MUBS will begin from the end to determine what and how to teach; catalogue the challenges students are likely to face in future and train them accordingly, find what students are passionate about and use it



to teach them. MUBS should be able to excel because all projects and scientific innovations require a business model. I plan to “sell” our business models to various scientific innovations because they must run efficiently to be sustainable.

2. **Every Ugandan should get concerned with the dropout rate of students at primary and lower secondary level.** These get out of the system and the country miss their potential to contribute optimally to national development. We also know that a larger percentage of school dropouts are involved in initiatives to survive, therefore business and management dimension. So MUBS comes in. We plan to start “catch up programmes” like short term courses to reconnect the dropouts with the formal higher education system. Through this initiative, the university will be unlocking the potential of the school dropouts.
3. **There is reasonable initiative for innovations at MUBS but has not reached a critical minimum level to have impact on NDP111 (and NDP IV).** I will aim at talent identification and nurturing of innovators and incubation of start-ups. I will also aim at having MOUs with the National Science, Technology and Innovation Programme and other government bodies for possible seed grants to innovators among others. I plan to have mentors who are professionals from industry in Uganda and international organizations. Once these businesses takeoff, MUBS will be able to buy equity in its own promising start-ups. We shall also continue to support the Friday Market which is an initiative of entrepreneurship students to start businesses and create their own jobs.

4. **The Parish Development Model, the approach to bring down poverty level to NDP target of 18.5% and income inequality to 0.37 should be fully supported by the business school more than any other education institution.** All the seven pillars of the PDM fit within the MUBS mandate and competences. MUBS has programmes (and courses) related to the seven pillars of PDM; production, storage, processing and marketing; infrastructure and economic services through communication; access, produce markets, internet use; financial inclusion, mindset change and business ethical practices; integrated system to support community, social services like transport and communication and governance models and administration. In future, MUBS will develop specific PDM programmes. We plan to strengthen the field attachment dimension. There are enough students to cover the 10,594 parishes in Uganda and enhance capacity to handle PDM operations.
5. **We will take keen interest in the review of curricula and introduction of new programmes that enable students not only appreciate the business and management content but also understand the meaning of life.** This will make them whole citizens.
6. **We plan to ringfence resources for ICT and digitization.** We shall take advantage of RENU (Research and Education Network for Uganda). Our priority will be to have internet installed around the campus and student residences. We shall continue to lobby for government free installation of internet for students and staff use. Once students have fully adopted to ICT, the need for the

expensive physical infrastructure will reduce.

7. **We acknowledge that human resources is a key input to achieving results in the university.** With my management team, we will continue to motivate staff to be patriotic and self-motivated to do work. We will prioritize staff welfare, mentor-ship, staff recognition, fairness and financial support systems through strengthening the MUBS staff SACCO.
8. **We will work with Council and Government to strengthen the academic-public-private sector partnerships.** Working with non-academic faculty like successful businessmen, entrepreneurs, administrators through introduction of titles like Professor of Practice, Professor without Borders, Guest Lecturer etc., will bring more practical knowledge to the classroom.
9. **The “BCOM plus 1” concept has been my dream strategy.** This is where a student undertakes an academic programme like BCOM but also adds one of the technical courses like plumbing, electrical work, carpentry, gardening, mechanics, etc. This adds to students’ ability to find alternative employment and also do work in their homes. I have already contacted the World Bank GROW Project to consider offering a common user facility in form of factory/workshop to enable the practical courses at the institution.

We call upon all the alumni and other stakeholders to support our initiatives to have a value adding institution. I wish all our graduating students a great future ahead.

Makerere University Renews Partnership with the CGIAR to Enhance Equitable Agrifood Systems

Makerere University and the CGIAR, in August 2024, renewed their Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to accelerate efforts to create more inclusive agricultural systems in Africa. With funding of US\$ 99,935 through the CGIAR GENDER Impact Platform, Makerere University will implement the activities through the Gender-responsive Researchers Equipped for Agricultural Transformation (GREAT) Project, co-implemented by the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CAES) and the School of Women and Gender Studies.

This renewed partnership focuses on developing and enhancing postgraduate training and research in gender and agri-food systems at Makerere University. This is in line with the broader aim of nurturing a cadre of gender-responsive agricultural researchers (both social and biophysical scientists), equipped to contribute to inclusive and effective agricultural systems that address the priorities of both women and men in Sub-Saharan Africa and beyond.



Participants and trainers of the GREAT gender-responsive cereal grains breeding course that was held at Makerere University, September 2017

AfPEC Project Targets to Safeguard Ecosystems in the Mt. Elgon Region through Agroforestry

Funded by DANIDA, Agroforestry for People, Ecosystems and Climate Change (AfPEC), a five-year project (March 2024-April 2029) focusing on Mt. Elgon Highlands in Eastern Uganda aims to foster to use agroforestry to prevent the loss of biodiversity and climate change in the region. The project will focus on four districts namely: Mbale, Bududa, Bulambuli, and Kapchorwa. Project Partners: Makerere

University, Aarhus University & University of Copenhagen (Denmark), Youth Leading Environmental Change (YLEC), Seniors without Borders, Forests of the World, Stjernekomunikation, and FrellsenKaffe.

Through the project, coffee farmers in the region will be supported to export their coffee to Denmark. The project team held the inception meeting on 25th-26th September 2024 in Mbale City.



The Project team led by the PI Dr Anne Mette Lykke (seated 4th R) and the coordinators at Makerere, Prof. John Tabuti (seated 3rd L) and Prof. Frank Mugagga (seated 3rd R) at the inception meeting in Mbale City

Mak hosts 3rd GORILLA Conference

Held on 4th-6th December 2024 at Hotel Africana in Kampala, the 3rd International Conference on Geographical Science for Resilient Communities, Ecosystems and Livelihoods under Global Environmental Change (GORILLA), attended by researchers and policy makers from 50 countries, focused on discussing strategies for realizing the Global Development Agenda 2030.

Hosted by the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CAES), Makerere University, the conference specifically

sought to provide a platform for conceptual, empirical, and theoretical conversations to establish how science can help in bridging gaps and addressing sustainable development deficits.

The Conference featured twelve (12) themes namely: 1) Geographies of Climate Change, Climate Justice and Just Transition, Spaces and patterns; 2) Biodiversity Informatics, Sustainable Ecosystems, Landscapes and People; 3) Green Growth and Transitions to Land Degradation Neutrality and Net Zero; 4) Water Governance and Transitions to Land Degradation Neutrality and Net Zero; 5) Interconnected Geo-hazards and Disasters in a Changing World; 6) Polycrisis: Migration, Displacement, Conflict and Humanitarianism; 7) The changing Geography of Agrifood Systems; 8) Nature Best solutions for inclusive and equitable development; 9) Emerging and novel technologies for societal resilience; 10) Sustainable Cities and Urban Systems in SSA; 11) Geographies of Energy and Energy Transitions; and 12) Environment and Health.



The Minister of State for Environment, Hon. Beatrice Atim Anywar, together with the Umukhukha Jude Mike Mudoma (2nd R), the Ag. Vice Chancellor, Makerere University, Prof. Buyinza Mukadasi (L), the Chair of the Organizing Committee also Deputy Principal, CAES, Prof. Yazidhi Bamutaze (3rd R), and other participants after the opening ceremony of the Conference.

2nd Entrepreneurship Congress: Youth Urged to Embrace Entrepreneurship for Economic Empowerment



At the recent Makerere University Entrepreneurship Congress 2024, held under the theme “Entrepreneurship as a Catalyst for Inclusive Growth”, Uganda’s State Minister for Gender, Labour, and Social Development, Hon. Balaam Barugahara, highlighted the transformative power of entrepreneurship.



Uganda’s State Minister for Gender, Labour, and Social Development, Hon. Balaam Barugahara with Prof. Edward Bbaale, Principal of CoBAMS, who represented the Vice Chancellor.

“Entrepreneurship promotes social mobility, fosters innovation, and empowers young people,” he said, emphasizing its role in addressing unemployment, limited opportunities, and inequality.

The event, organized by the Entrepreneurship and Outreach Center (MakeEOC) under the College of Business and Management Sciences (CoBAMS), focused on providing young people with practical skills and strategies for entrepreneurial success. Hon. Barugahara shared his entrepreneurial journey, urging young entrepreneurs to “start small, dream big, understand their market, and surround themselves with mentors.”

Prof. Edward Bbaale, Principal of CoBAMS, who represented the Vice Chancellor, emphasized that entrepreneurship is vital for Uganda’s economic growth and development, particularly in tackling

underemployment. “We aim to reinforce that growth must be inclusive, equitable, and accessible, ensuring that no one is left behind,” he remarked. He encouraged students and faculty to leverage the university’s resources to turn ideas into marketable products.

The Dean of the School of Business, Prof. Godfrey Akileng, underscored the role of entrepreneurship in achieving Uganda’s sustainable development goals, describing it as a crucial path for economic empowerment. “Through this congress, we aim to prepare students not only to create jobs for themselves but also to drive change and innovation that can uplift communities,” he stated.

The new generation of entrepreneurs, promoting discussions on innovative solutions

Dr. Jude Mugarura, Head of the Department of Marketing and Management, commended

the congress’s efforts in fostering entrepreneurship and noted the department’s role in developing well-rounded graduates. “Our goal is to produce graduates who can innovate, create, and manage businesses and also employ others,” he said, emphasizing the shift from “job-for-life” careers to “portfolio careers.”

featured insights from a range of panel speakers. Spera Atuhaire, Country Director of BRAC Uganda

The event also featured insights from a range of panel speakers. Spera Atuhaire, Country Director of BRAC Uganda, discussed their mentorship-driven employment programs designed to empower young people. “Our initiatives focus on social economy, mentorship, and savings, helping youth overcome barriers to success,” she noted, adding that BRAC provides affordable credit to address financial challenges for young entrepreneurs.

Diana Ninsiima Kibuuka, Country Director of BNI Uganda, highlighted the importance of networking and understanding the values behind each network. “Each network serves a purpose, and you must understand that purpose,” she said, sharing her personal experience transitioning from law to entrepreneurship through her connection with BNI.

CK Japheth, founder of Innovation Village, emphasized the importance of testing business ideas for viability. “How do you reduce the time spent proving an idea is viable?” he asked, encouraging entrepreneurs to validate ideas through trial and error. “Find out by trying,” he advised, reminding participants that good ideas don’t automatically lead to successful businesses.

Latest News from CoSIS



Mak-CoCIS Students Win Africa 2024 Marketplace Simulation Award

Undergraduate students from Makerere University's College of Computing and Information Sciences (CoCIS) emerged as winners in the 2024 Marketplace Simulations Awards during the AFRIC2024 Conference in Alexandria, Egypt, held from November 4-15, 2024.

The team, comprising fourth-year Software Engineering students Fortunate Tusiime Agnes and Nampwera Elisha, alongside third-year Computer Science student Atuhaire Ronnie, excelled in a rigorous competition featuring participants with advanced degrees, including master's and Ph.D. holders. Guided by Dr. Swaibu Kyanda Kaawaase, Head of the Department of Networks, the team's victory underscores Makerere University's commitment to fostering innovation and entrepreneurial excellence.

Their winning project, *Kakati Fit Bikes*, emphasized climate action through a simulated business environment. "Kakati," derived from Luganda, translates to "now," symbolizing urgency in addressing climate challenges. This accomplishment earned the team a fully-funded trip to the United States

next year for the UN Convention on Climate Change.

Participants utilized a simulation tool widely recognized in institutions like Oxford and MIT to model business environments, competing against teams from Kenya, Niger, Egypt, and Ghana. The event, organized by Marketplace and the University of Senghor, was led by Prof. Dr. Mahamadou Biga-Diambédou. Sponsorship came from Prof. Tonny Oyana, who funded airfare, while accommodation and meals were provided by Prof. Dr. Ernest R. Cadotte.

Leveraging Artificial Intelligence for Disease Screening



The Ocular project has made significant strides in developing innovative tools for diagnosing malaria, tuberculosis, and cervical cancer. These tools integrate advanced technology with practical healthcare solutions to improve

diagnostic accuracy and efficiency in resource-limited settings.

One of the project's key achievements is the design and fabrication of 3D-printed adapters for microscopes. These adapters, tailored for diagnosing malaria, tuberculosis, and cervical cancer, were field-tested in health centers and refined based on user feedback. Documentation of experiments and surveys during the modification process is ongoing to guide further enhancements.

The project has also developed an AI-powered Android app for malaria diagnosis. Using object detection technology, the app processes microscopy images to identify and highlight malaria trophozoites and white blood cells. This tool enhances diagnostic accuracy and is particularly beneficial in underserved healthcare settings.

Additionally, a data collection app facilitates the systematic gathering of microscopy data for malaria and cervical cancer. This app captures images alongside metadata, such as blood slide details and microscope settings, and uploads the information to a central server. The resulting dataset supports AI model training and diagnostic tool refinement.

To support education, the project introduced a microscopy teaching aid. This interactive desktop and mobile app enables students and professionals to capture and annotate images, fostering hands-on learning experiences. By strengthening diagnostic skills, it serves as a valuable educational resource.

The Ocular project aims to integrate these AI-enhanced tools into existing healthcare systems, making disease surveillance and diagnosis more accessible and reliable in Uganda and similar contexts.

CEES Researchers Discover how Indigenous Knowledge Systems Enhance Teaching and Learning of Mathematics



Group photo of the participants.

On September 3, 2024, the College of Education and External Studies at Makerere University hosted a significant research dissemination event, presenting pioneering findings on integrating Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) such as ethnomathematics in teaching and learning school mathematics. The research, funded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York through the Makerere University Directorate of Research and Graduate Training, highlighted innovative approaches to making mathematics education more relevant and accessible to students in Uganda.



Ethnomathematics is an interdisciplinary field that explores the relationship between mathematics and culture. It investigates how different cultural groups understand, articulate, and apply mathematical concepts in ways that are often unique to their traditions and everyday practices. Educators and researchers can bridge the gap between formal, academic mathematics and the diverse mathematical practices found in

various cultural contexts by exploring ethnomathematics. This approach can serve as a powerful medium for teaching and learning mathematics, offering several benefits such as cultural relevance in education.



Ethnomathematics helps make mathematics more culturally relevant to students by connecting abstract mathematical concepts to their real-world experiences and cultural backgrounds. This relevance can increase student engagement, making mathematics feel more accessible and meaningful. For example, students from agricultural communities may better understand mathematical concepts when they are presented using traditional farming practices, such as crop rotation patterns or land measurement techniques.

The research, led by Dr. Marjorie Sarah Kabuye Batiibwe from the Department of Science Technical and Vocational Education, focused on how traditional practices such as mat and basket weaving can be incorporated into the secondary school mathematics

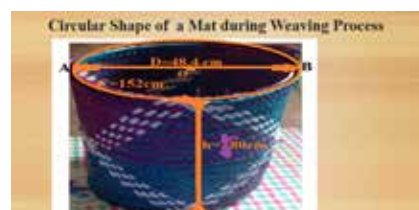


Dr. Batiibwe addresses the participants.

curriculum. This approach, termed ethnomathematics, seeks to connect abstract mathematical concepts to the cultural practices familiar to students, thus enhancing their understanding and engagement with the subject.

Key Findings

The research revealed that the mathematical processes embedded in traditional activities like weaving are rich in concepts that align with the school mathematics curriculum. For instance, mat weaving incorporates geometrical concepts such as symmetry, parallel lines, and shapes, while basket weaving introduces students to patterns, sequences, and measurement techniques. These cultural activities can be used as teaching tools to make learning more hands-on and relatable.



Impact on Education

Julius Anthony Musinguzi, a Master's student undertaking this research said, the study also demonstrated that students taught using these culturally relevant methods showed improved conceptual understanding and a more positive attitude toward mathematics. "The use of IKS in teaching not only made mathematics more engaging but also helped bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application," he said.

By Betty Kyakuwa

CEDAT Joins Efforts to Deliver Affordable Houses in Sub-Saharan Africa

The College of Engineering Design Art and Technology (CEDAT) is undertaking research and training in Cloud-Based Building Information Modelling, 3D-Printing, and modular construction technologies that can enhance the rate of delivery of affordable houses. A senior researcher Associate Prof. Stephen Mukiibi from the Department of Architecture and Urban Planning is the Principal Investigator of the project, **'Innovation and Digitalisation Pathways for a more affordable housing in Sub-Saharan Africa'**.



The PI Prof. Stephen Mukiibi (grey suit) together with the VC, Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe (4th Left), and the College Principal Prof. Moses Musinguzi (stripped tie) inspected the ongoing work at CEDAT.

The innovation is aimed at addressing the ever-increasing demand for affordable housing in sub-Saharan Africa that is due to rapid urbanization, economic challenges, and high unemployment coupled with poverty and the negative effects of climate change. Despite such challenges, advancements in sustainable design methods, new materials, and innovative building materials offer potential solutions for the development of sustainable, innovative, and affordable housing.

Through research and training, it is believed that the investigation of the impact of innovation and digitization on the increase of



The VC, Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe was part of the team that inspected the construction of the prototype at CEDAT.

construction delivery can be undertaken. Training and associated costs, along with skepticism from industry professionals suggest that further research can be undertaken to investigate the impact of innovation and digitization on the increase of construction delivery.

The growing housing backlog in Uganda and Sub-Saharan Africa as a whole is attributed to low-quality workmanship, sub-optimal construction methods, ineffective collaboration, poor coordination, and little communication which result in delays affecting the project delivery time. Other factors include energy wastage, problems with electrification, inefficient water use, high carbon footprints, and unsustainable practices in housing delivery and construction technologies. The project proposes a triangulation of activities to introduce civil engineering and built environment graduates to innovation and digital methods that enhance engineering capacity in sub-Saharan Africa by improving the knowledge, skills, and employability of engineering graduates.

The project is funded by the Royal Academy of Engineering (UK) under Higher Education Partnerships in sub-Saharan Africa (HEP SSA) and aims to build on the research

and innovation capacity of higher education institutions in sub-Saharan Africa and stimulate ties with the industry sector to increase the scale of impact in affordable housing delivery, knowledge dissemination and skills development training on innovative methods of construction through Cloud-Based Building Information Modelling, 3D-Printing, and modular construction as well as Curriculum Development and fostering collaboration amongst partner academic institutions and the community.

Prototype Model Construction

One of the project's activities involves constructing a section of a self-build printed panel house. This practical building work, currently under construction will serve as an educational facility for showcasing the use of the suggested construction technologies. The prototype house is developed using BIM and 3-D printing through digital plywood cutting covering an area of approx. 12 sq. Metres (4.2X3.0m). On completion, the structure will be fully owned and used by Makerere University as a demonstration building and its space will be used according to the needs of the university.

Weekly Dihydroartemisinin–Piperaquine (DHA-P) Significantly Prevents Malaria in Children with Sickle Cell Anaemia



In December 2024, Makerere University researchers led by Assoc. Professor Richard released results of their research that investigated the efficacy of weekly doses of Dihydroartemisinin–Piperaquine (DHA-P) versus monthly Sulfadoxine–Pyrimethamine (SP) for the chemoprevention of malaria in children with Sickle Cell Anaemia (SCA) in Uganda and Malawi. The research has shown that weekly Dihydroartemisinin–Piperaquine (DHA-P) is safe and considerably more efficacious in preventing malaria than monthly Sulfadoxine–Pyrimethamine (SP, or Fansidar), the current standard of care, in children with Sickle Cell Anaemia.

Children with Sickle Cell Anaemia are at a very high risk of developing severe and complicated malaria, sickle cell crises and death. As a result, in many areas of Africa where malaria is endemic, it is recommended they receive routine malaria chemoprevention as part of the standard of care. In Uganda, and many other countries, monthly Sulfadoxine–Pyrimethamine (SP, or Fansidar) is used. However, over the years, there has been a growing concern of high levels of antifolate resistance of the parasites to Sulfadoxine–Pyrimethamine compromising the efficacy of this intervention.

The researchers conducted a multi-centre, randomized, placebo-controlled trial in four in Uganda and in Malawi to compare the efficacy of taking weekly doses of the tablet dihydroartemisinin–piperaquine versus monthly doses of sulfadoxine–pyrimethamine for the prevention of clinical malaria in children with sickle cell anaemia aged 6 months to

15 years. In Uganda, the study was conducted at Jinja regional referral hospital in Eastern Uganda and Kitgum general hospital in Northern Uganda. The study found that the risk of contracting malaria persisted beyond age 5 years and over 50% of the malaria attacks required in hospital care. The research showed that in these areas of Africa that have high levels of antifolate resistance, weekly dihydroartemisinin–piperaquine is safe and considerably more efficacious in preventing malaria than monthly sulfadoxine–pyrimethamine in children with sickle cell anaemia. Specifically, weekly dihydroartemisinin–piperaquine reduced malaria incidence by 80% compared to monthly sulfadoxine–pyrimethamine. This reduction was even more when the children were also taking hydroxyurea – 90% versus 68%. In addition, weekly dihydroartemisinin–piperaquine also reduced the number of malaria related hospital admissions by 71% and the need for

blood transfusion by 30%.

However, besides these malaria-specific findings, there were other important non-malaria-related findings worthy noting. Specifically, children with aged 5 years or older who do not take penicillin prophylaxis (another standard of care medicine) and who received weekly dihydroartemisinin–piperaquine had a higher incidence of pneumonia or the severe sickle cell anaemia complication of acute chest syndrome compared to those who took monthly sulfadoxine–pyrimethamine. This finding likely reflects the antimicrobial effects of sulfadoxine–pyrimethamine.

The findings of the research have policy implications for consideration by the Ministries of Health in regions of Africa where levels of antifolate resistance to malaria is high. Health policy officials and could consider replacing monthly sulfadoxine–pyrimethamine in children younger than 5 years with sickle cell anaemia receiving penicillin prophylaxis with weekly dihydroartemisinin–piperaquine. However, there is need for further research in children older than 5 years.

This study was made possible through collaborations between Makerere University College of Health Sciences and its partner institutions, including the Ugandan Ministry of Health, the University of Bergen, Kamuzu University College of Health Sciences in Malawi, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM), Indiana University among others. Funding support was provided by the Research Council of Norway and UK Medical Research Council.



In 2024, the College of Humanities and Social Sciences reached a significant milestone, continuing to lead in graduate output and securing over €4 million in international grants. These achievements underscore the College's commitment to academic excellence and global collaboration, reinforcing Makerere University's expanding international presence through strategic partnerships and innovative programs in humanitarian action, security strategy, and language preservation.

€3,456,000 Grant for Joint Mobility Scheme for Master of Humanitarian Action

Makerere University, through the School of Social Sciences, secured a €3,456,000 grant from the European Union as part of a consortium of seven universities to launch the Master of Humanitarian Action program. This interdisciplinary

program, combining social work and development studies, will offer collaborative courses and joint supervision across institutions. Starting in 2025, students will rotate through partner universities, with Makerere hosting the third semester, fostering international scholarship and attracting a diverse global student body.

€375,000 Grant from the Gerda Henkel Foundation to Train PhD Students

In September 2024, the College of Humanities and Social Sciences received a €375,000 grant from the Gerda Henkel Foundation to train a new cohort of PhD students. The funds will provide three-year scholarships for ten Lisa Maskell Fellows, covering tuition, accommodation, living expenses, and medical insurance, supporting the College's goal of developing high-quality scholars across disciplines.

€404,000 Grants for Summer School and Linguistic Repertoires Documentation

The School of Languages, Literature, and Communication, led by Prof. Namyalo, secured two significant grants in 2024. A €198,000 grant from the Volkswagen Foundation will fund a summer school on "Humanities for Societal Transformation in Africa." Additionally, a €206,000 grant from the Endangered Language Documentation Fund will support

the preservation of the Batwa people's linguistic heritage in the Semuliki Forest. The school has also expanded its curriculum to include Indigenous languages such as Ateso and Lusoga.

Support from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for Arabic Studies and ICT Equipment

Makerere University continues to strengthen its collaboration with Saudi Arabia, which has provided bursaries for Arabic studies students and donated ICT equipment to enhance Arabic language teaching. The Saudi Embassy also contributed to the establishment of a Centre for Arabic Language Studies at CHUSS and supported Muslim staff in performing the Hajj pilgrimage.

Over 10 Universities Hosted for Summer School on Wealth and Inequality

In September 2024, the Department of Development Studies hosted a Summer School on Wealth and Inequality, bringing together around 100 students and scholars from East Africa and the Global North. This event, organized with the University of Duisburg-Essen, University of Michigan, and the Volkswagen Foundation, focused on interdisciplinary research on inequality, emphasizing Makerere's role in addressing wealth disparities and promoting equitable development.

Development of a New Diploma in Security Strategy at NDC Kimaka

In collaboration with the National Defence College in Kimaka, Makerere University is developing a Diploma in Security Strategy to complement the Master of Security Strategy, enhancing regional stability and cooperation by providing accessible training for military officers.



Prof. Leif Abrahamsson Honoured for His Contribution to the Development of Mathematics in E.A

During the 74th graduation ceremony held in January 2024, Makerere University awarded Prof. Leif Abrahamsson an Honorary Doctor of Science in recognition of his contribution to the development of Mathematics in East Africa, and particularly in Uganda. The award was presented to Prof. Leif Abrahamsson by the Acting Chancellor, also Vice Chancellor of Makerere University, Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe. Over 100 publications in Mathematics at Makerere University are direct outcomes of Prof. Abrahamsson's EAUMP and Sida initiatives. With his support, the International Science Programme (ISP), Uppsala-Sweden has supported the training of over 30 PhD students, over 20 Master students, and over 15 Postdocs in Mathematics and its Applications in Uganda since 2002.



Prof. Abrahamsson receiving his award

New projects at CoNAS targeting to address development challenges

INNOECOFOOD Project to Address Food Security & Nutrition Gaps in Africa

The world population will reach 9.7 billion people by 2050 (un. org), requiring a 70% increase in agricultural food production. Funded by the EU under The Horizon Europe Programme, INNOECOFOOD (Eco-innovative Technologies for Improved Nutrition, Sustainable Production and Marketing of Agro-ecological Food Products in Africa),

a three-year project at CoNAS coordinated by the Department of Zoology, Entomology and Fisheries Sciences, aims to address the above issue with agro-ecological approaches coupled with AI and IoT technologies and certification to ensure safe, nutritious and marketable food supplies in six African countries, with three in East Africa. To support EU-AU markets and trade, the project will train rural farmers, youth and women to innovatively produce and process nutritious aquaculture fish, blue-green cyanobacteria spirulina, and selected insect value chains at pilot/large scale level into certified marketable human food products and feed.



The project team led by Dr Godfrey Kubiriza Kawooya (2nd R) in a meeting with the owner of Kamos Fish Farm in Buikwe to establish the possibility of setting up small, customized experimental cages and ponds to facilitate the project experimental activities

BioGOLD Project to facilitate better mining practices

Mercury-dependent Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining (ASGM) provides an important source of employment to several communities in Uganda. Reports indicate that between 400,000 and 600,000 people in Uganda are directly employed in ASGM and about 2 million people indirectly dependent on it. At least 45% of the workforce in ASGM are women and another 20% are children. However, the methods used in ASGM are not safe. In ASGM, gold is extracted from crushed rocks or soils through amalgamation with mercury. In the process, mercury is released into the environment

leading to contamination of arable land downstream of the ASGM areas. Contamination of the soils and water has severe consequences on agricultural activities, yet agriculture significantly contributes to Uganda's GDP with about 68% of the country's working population employed in the sector. Biosorption for Sustainable Small-Scale Gold Mining in Uganda (BioGOLD), a new project funded by the Austrian Development Cooperation through APPEAR aims to develop sustainable technologies for remediation and rehabilitation of mercury contaminated soils and effluents in Mercury-dependent Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining (ASGM) areas in Uganda.



Left: The project team conducting a baseline survey at one of the project sites in Namayingo District. Right: A miner shows the team some of the gold extracted from the site

Launch of the E-resources for Health Website

Through their MakRIF supported project titled, **"Using the Internet to Incentivize Healthy Lifestyle Choices in Uganda"**, researchers from the Department of Biochemistry and Sports Science led by Dr Lorna Baingana developed a website, www.eresourcesforhealth.org to serve as a medium to inform, educate, and communicate about non-communicable diseases (NCDs) by providing well-researched, evidence-based information to motivate, empower and support readers to make healthy life-style choices to prevent NCDs.

CoVAB to Receive Scientific Equipment Worth 400,000 USD



A female user in one of the Labs at CoVAB.

The College of Veterinary Medicine, Animal Resources and Biosecurity (CoVAB), Makerere University is set to receive scientific equipment comprised of modern lab equipment from the Seeding Labs Instrumental Access program. The equipment to be utilized in the Department of Veterinary Pharmacy, Clinical, and Comparative Medicine was awarded following the acceptance of Makerere University as an Instrumental Access awardee. Instrumental Access is the flagship program of Seeding Labs, a US-based NGO with a mission to increase access to resources for science in developing countries.

Assoc. Prof. James Acai-Okwee, who is also the Deputy Principal

CoVAB requested the equipment which is worth 400,000 USD (Ug. Shs. 1.6 billion). When received, the equipment will be used for teaching, research, and diagnostic services to advance scientific research and education. CoVAB's participation in Instrumental Access makes Makerere University a member of the community of 137 Instrumental Access awardees in 39 countries worldwide.

The Department of Veterinary Pharmacy, Clinical and Comparative Medicine, Makerere University was chosen for the Instrumental Access award after a rigorous and competitive selection process that receives and evaluates applications from institutions around the world.

To be considered, applicants outline the ways that an infusion of scientific equipment would remove barriers to STEM education and research at their institution, paving the way for new avenues of scientific inquiry and expanding hands-on opportunities for students.

The equipment will provide a foundation for other critical resources that allow scientists to generate new knowledge, leverage sustainable funding, and better prepare university students for the scientific workforce and innovation economy.

Makerere University and Uganda Prisons Sign MoU



The Vice Chancellor- Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe (3rd Left) and Commissioner General Uganda Prisons Service (UPS)-Dr. Johnson Byamugisha (Centre) flanked by Left to Right: Dr. Patricia Atim, Dr. Zahara Nampewo and UPS Officials show off the signed MoU on 10th December 2024.

Makerere University (Mak)'s strategic direction is to become a research-led institution leading to innovations, knowledge transfer partnerships and providing solutions to national challenges. In line with the strategic direction, on 10th December 2024, Mak and Uganda Prison Services (UPS) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that paves way for the Makerere University School of Law to undertake short trainings in administrative law for UPS staff.

At the signing ceremony held at the UPS headquarters in Kampala, Uganda, Professor Barnabas Nawangwe, Vice Chancellor – Mak and Dr. Johnson Byamugisha,

Commissioner General for UPS signed for their institutions. In attendance were senior officers from UPS and staff of SoL, Dr. Zahara Nampewo – Deputy Principal, and Dr. Patricia Atim, Coordinator of the Administrative Law short course.

The collaboration arising from the MoU aims to equip UPS officers with knowledge and skills in administrative law, improving their legal understanding and service delivery within the institution. The partnership involves training 60 UPS officers annually in the SoL Administrative Law Short Course Programme

Expressing pride in Mak and the School of Law, Professor Nawangwe

thanked Dr. Byamugisha and the UPS for giving the university an opportunity to contribute to the professionalization of the prisons service. He emphasized the importance of strengthening the legal framework and ensuring the effectiveness of law enforcement personnel.

The partnership marks a significant step in enhancing the capacity of Uganda's correctional facilities, ensuring that officers are better equipped to carry out their duties in accordance with the law.

Makerere University Rotary Peace Center: Highlighting Peace Through Collaboration During President Stephanie Urchick's Visit



Stephanie Urchick
Rotary International President

As Rotary International President Stephanie Urchick visits Uganda from January 5–11, 2025, her packed itinerary underscores Rotary's commitment to driving impactful change in health, education, and peacebuilding. Two key events, the **Peace Symposium and the 7th Capstone Conference on January 10** and the **Peace Walk on January 11**, hold particular significance for the Makerere University Rotary Peace Center and the university, reinforcing their role as regional leaders in peacebuilding and social transformation.

The Peace Symposium and 7th Capstone Conference offer a unique dialogue, innovation, and collaboration platform. As the only Rotary Peace Center on the African continent, Makerere University serves as a hub for equipping fellows with the skills to address complex global challenges.

This year's symposium featured

feature thought leaders, Rotary Peace Fellows, and policymakers discussing practical approaches to resolving conflicts and promoting sustainable development. At its core, the event highlighted the Social Change Initiatives (SCIs) of Cohort 7. These initiatives represent the culmination of months of rigorous training, blending academic learning with community-focused action to address challenges ranging from education and health disparities to economic inequities.

For Makerere University, hosting these presentations reflects the institution's broader mission to drive social innovation and create leaders capable of transforming their communities. The SCIs embody the university's commitment to bridging the gap between theory and practice, ensuring that peacebuilding efforts translate into real-world impact.

The day's activities closed with the **Africa Peace Concert** at Nsambya Gardens, a vibrant celebration of the continent's cultural richness. Through music, storytelling, and performance, the concert emphasized unity and the role of the arts in healing and fostering harmony.

The Peace Walk, organized by Rotary D9213 and D9214, in partnership with the Makerere University Rotary Peace Center, is a symbolic event designed to galvanize local and international stakeholders around the shared vision of a peaceful society. With President Urchick leading alongside Rotarians, Rotaractors, and community members, the walk serves as a public demonstration of Rotary's commitment to collective action.

For Makerere University, the Peace Walk underscores the vital role of academic institutions in promoting community engagement and collaboration. It was a moment to highlight the

university's partnership with Rotary in championing sustainable peace initiatives that resonate far beyond Uganda.

Why These Events Matter to Makerere University and the Peace Center

Both the symposium and Peace Walk reinforce the Makerere University Rotary Peace Center's mission of shaping peacebuilders equipped to tackle today's most pressing challenges. These events allowed fellows to share their transformative work while fostering connections between academia, civil society, and policy leaders.

For Makerere University, the Peace Center stands as a beacon of its global influence, reflecting its role as a leading institution for education and innovation in Africa. The walk and symposium are prime examples of how the institution uses different initiatives, in this case, the Rotary Peace Center to generate impact that spreads from regional communities to international projects.

A Visit Rooted in Impact

While these events hold special significance, they are part of a larger program that highlights Rotary's multifaceted approach to improving lives. During her visit, President Urchick toured impactful Rotary projects, the Mengo Hospital Rotary Blood Bank, the Rotary Cancer Centre in Nsambya, and the launch of a WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) initiative at Nkumba University among others. These site visits underscored Rotary's dedication to improving health and basic living conditions in Uganda.

President Urchick's visit also included a courtesy call to the Prime Minister, the Katikikiro of Buganda and interactions with Rotarians and Rotaractors, showcasing the importance of collaboration at all levels of leadership.



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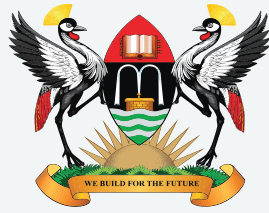
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