

MAKERERE



UNIVERSITY

MakNEWS

MAGAZINE

FEBRUARY 2026

NOT FOR SALE

Prof. Nawangwe

Wins African
Educationalist
Award Again!

Increased
Out-put
Mak PhDs
now at 213

Meet the 2026

**Honorary
Doctorate**

Recipients



PROF. SARAH SSALI
THE NEW DVC (AA)



MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

PRESS

Get Your Copy
at the **Mak**
Souvenir Shop
Today!

For
as low as
20K

Call
to find out
more

Are you
an aspiring author?
Let's turn your words
into compelling
narratives together!
Publish with us



Visit the **Mak Souvenir Shop** at
Frank Kalimuzo Teaching Facility
formerly **Central Teaching Facility One (CTF1)**

Dr. William Tayeebwa (PhD)
MakPress Managing Editor

Ms. Celia Ahumuza
MakPress Admin. Assistant

+ (256) 776/0752.482892
wtayebwa@gmail.com

+ (256) 778.846779
celiakamanye@gmail.com

Also soon to be available in Aristoc and other bookshops



CONTENTS

Vice Chancellor's Message	4	Steady Progress at the Makerere University Convocation	27
A Continental Honour: Prof. Nawangwe Recognised as African Educationalist	5	Uganda has officially broken ground on several state-of-the-art training facilities ahead of AFCON 2027	28
Makerere University Vice-Chancellor's Research Excellence Awards 2026	7	Awakening a Generation: Why Uganda's Universities can no Longer Afford to Ignore Values	29
Chancellor Kiyonga's One Year in Office	10	The First Cohort of the Emerging Leaders Programme	31
Prof Sarah Ssali's Rise from a Volunteer to Deputy Vice Chancellor	12	Mak Hosts Major International Conferences	32
Honorary Doctorates	14	Makerere, Kiira Motors Partner to Enhance Campus Transport	33
Mak Produces More PhDs. The Reasons Behind	15	Early Intervention Psychiatry Services Clinic launched at MakHosp	34
Male Graduands outnumber females at Mak's 76th Graduation	17	Mastercard Foundation Initiatives at Makerere University	35
76th Graduation Statistics	14	Mak-RIF Empowers PhD Students to Turn Research into Real-World Solutions	37
Mak International Students Graduate	18	Championing Safety and Inclusion: Safeguarding Initiatives at Makerere University	38
Best students	19	Drone Technology Powers CAES' NbS4Tea Project	40
Celebrating the Life of Prof. Livingstone Sserwadda Luboobi	20	Inside Makerere's New Daycare Centre	41
A tribute to Sabastian Ngobi	21	Makerere-Tsinghua Belt and Road Lab Targets Natural Disaster Early Warning	43
Makerere Celebrates the Life and Legacy of Ngugi wa Thiong'o	22	Mak hosts First African Symposium on Natural Capital Accounting and Climate-Sensitive Macroeconomic Modelling	44
Lung Institute Celebrates 10 Years	23	The Makerere Marathon that's quietly rewriting student stories	45
School of Public Health Steps Forward, Shaping Tomorrow's Public Health Leaders	24	Team Makerere Claims Bronze at 2025 AUUS Games	46
Building for the Future: Expanding Infrastructure to Strengthen Public Health Capacity	25		
A new dawn for the Makerere University Press	26		

COLLEGES

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES (CAES)	47
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT SCIENCES (CoBAMS)	48
COLLEGE OF COMPUTING AND INFORMATION SCIENCES (CoCIS)	49
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND EXTERNAL STUDIES (CEES)	50
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING, DESIGN, ART AND TECHNOLOGY (CEDAT)	51
COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES (CHS)	52
COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES (CHUSS)	54
COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES (CoNAS)	55
COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE, ANIMAL RESOURCES AND BIOSECURITY (COVAB)	56
SCHOOL OF LAW (SoL)	57
MAKERERE UNIVERSITY BUSINESS SCHOOL (MUBS)	58

EDITORIAL TEAM



Rukundo Eunice



Agaba Issa Mugabo



Mark Wamai



Elias Tuhereze



Betty Kyakuwa



Carol Kasujja Adii

CONTRIBUTORS

Jane Anyango

College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHUSS) and College of Computing and Information Sciences (CoCIS)

Hasifa Kabejja

College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CAES) and College of Natural Sciences (CoNAS)

Harriet Musinguzi

College of Engineering, Design, Art and Technology (CEDAT) and College of Veterinary Medicine, Animal Resources and Biosecurity (CoVAB)

Zaam Namuli Ssali

School of Law (SoL) and College of Health Sciences (CHS)

Ritah Namisango

College of Business and Management Sciences (CoBAMS) and College of Education and External Studies (CEES)

Previous Issue: 2025



ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

Disclaimer: The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the publisher. The publishers do not guarantee the accuracy of statements made by writers and advertisers, nor accept responsibility for any statements expressed in this magazine.

CONTACT US

Mak News Magazine:
Public Relations Office, Level 1
Main Building
P.O. Box 7062 Kampala,
Email: pro@mak.ac.ug

DESIGN & LAYOUT

Charles Mukasa
0702669649 / 0773264627
Email: csrdesignltd@gmail.com

COPYRIGHT

The Mak News Magazine.
This is a publication of the Public Relations Office

Vice Chancellor's Message



It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to this edition of Mak News Magazine, a publication that continues to chronicle Makerere University's journey as a centre of academic excellence, innovation, and societal transformation.

The stories featured in this issue vividly demonstrate Makerere's unwavering commitment to addressing national, regional, and global challenges through research, partnerships, and people-centred solutions. They reflect a university

that is deeply engaged with society, one that applies knowledge not only to advance scholarship, but also to improve lives.

A recurring theme in this edition is innovation for resilience and inclusion. From the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences' Healthy Soy Initiative combating child malnutrition amid climate change, to the cutting-edge work of CEDAT's Team Green Minds integrating IoT into agriculture, Makerere continues to harness science and technology to respond to pressing development needs. Equally inspiring is the College of Natural Sciences' success in securing international funding to scale up fish processing technologies, with a deliberate focus on empowering women and strengthening livelihoods.

This issue also highlights Makerere's growing role in advancing health and wellbeing. The launch of the Early Intervention Psychiatry Services Clinic at Makerere University Hospital marks an important step in strengthening mental health services, while the Hospital's transformation from a modest sickbay into a centre of excellence stands as a testament to decades of strategic investment, dedication, and service to the nation.

Our commitment to education access and global engagement is equally evident. Strategic partnerships, such as that between the College of Education and External Studies and the Uganda Vocational and Technical Assessment Board, are expanding pathways to quality education. The establishment of the first-ever United States Studies Centre in the Great Lakes Region positions Makerere as a hub for dialogue, research, and policy engagement on global

“
Our **commitment to education** access and global engagement is equally evident. **Strategic partnerships**, such as that between the College of Education and External Studies and the Uganda Vocational and Technical Assessment Board, are expanding pathways to quality education
”

affairs. We also celebrate our vibrant international community, with graduates drawn from 67 nationalities—affirming Makerere's status as a truly global university.

This edition further showcases initiatives that ensure long-term institutional sustainability, including the launch of the CoCIS Endowment Fund, infrastructure developments such as the modern hostel at Buyana Farm, and transformative programmes supported by the Mastercard Foundation that continue to empower young people across the continent.

As you read through these pages, I invite you to reflect on the collective effort of our students, staff, alumni, partners, and supporters whose contributions make these achievements possible. Together, we continue to shape Makerere University as a place where knowledge serves humanity.

I wish you an engaging and inspiring read.

Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe
Vice Chancellor
Makerere University



A Continental Honour: Prof. Nawangwe Recognised as African Educationalist

Congratulations Prof.

upon your nomination as the African Educationalist of the Year.

I would like to thank all those who nominated me because I don't know them, as well as the African Leadership Magazine (ALM), for this initiative that recognizes excellence across various sectors on the African continent. By acknowledging outstanding performance, ALM sends a powerful message to leaders in Africa that when you perform well, you are appreciated, and therefore it encourages other leaders to strive for excellence.

I am also deeply grateful to the Makerere University community, because this recognition is a reflection of the many positive developments at the University which are not done by me alone. Most importantly, the students I thank the students who have ensured stability that Makerere University is enjoying today.

Qn Prof, you have been named the African Educationalist of the year, multiple times, what can other African Vice chancellors do to achieve similar continental recognition?

It is the readers of the African Leadership Magazine who identified things that I have done differently in higher education in Africa, and that's why they have kept voting me as the African educationist of the year for three consecutive times.

According to what they wrote in their footnotes to the nomination, the reasons why the readers are nominating and voting for me are the stability that I brought to Makerere University, the transformations into a research-intensive and research-led University, as well as the International repute and the International stature that the university has gained over the years, those are the three main reasons that were given for my nomination.

Qn Prof. what do you mean by the stability you brought to Makerere?

Well, you may remember that at one time Makerere University was closing almost every year due to unrest, either by students or staff, and that was very disruptive, and it was disrupting the University's programs, hence making the university look unstable. Due to the measures that we have taken over the years, for more than seven years, we have not had a single strike at University, either by students or staff.

Qn What are your plans?

The agenda to transform Makerere University into a full-fledged research-led University is continuing. We are making good progress, but we are not at the level that I would say. I am now satisfied, because we still have a lot of members of staff who do not engage in research at all. The big numbers that we are seeing in international rankings Makerere climbing very high with large numbers of publications are done not by everybody, but by the most prolific researchers. So we still have a large number of our staff who are not engaged in research for one reason or another, and it is my intention that I work with everybody, especially government, to avail resources for everybody at Makerere, to engage in research. The people of Uganda have invested so heavily in this institution that we cannot squander the opportunity to take advantage of all the brains that have been developed here for our national development and for the development of the

...available money for innovation so that our students and staff can create companies and create and come up with goods and services which can help propel our economy forward. And this is possible because we can see this happening in all other major universities around the world...

continent. And so we need to put more money in research.

We need to available money for innovation so that our students and staff can create companies and create and come up with goods and services which can help propel our economy forward. And this is possible because we can see this happening in all other major universities around the world. And we want Makerere to take the lead in Africa, to be the university that is the real engine of the moment through the promotion of entrepreneurship, promotion of innovation and commercialization of research outputs.

I want to see that Makerere becomes a leader, not just on the continent, but globally. As far as the modern university culture should be, which should be not just the churning out of graduates who go out looking for jobs, but actually producing graduates who are job creators. And we are already beginning to see that many of our students are already living when they have a company, and all those who live and they haven't found a job, they don't despair and going around and shouting, but they look for opportunities where they can begin doing something because of the culture that now we have created here, we want to ensure that culture of innovation and the entrepreneurship is further inculcated and consolidated at the University because the biggest contribution we can make to the Ugandans, is producing people who

are going to propel the economy and hence make the lives of our people better.

Our population is growing very fast. We have a lot of young people, many of whom have never had the opportunity to come to university. So it is these few who are privileged to have come that must go and emancipate the rest and create those jobs for the rest of the other students who have not had that opportunity. I would like, of course, to see that we create the necessary environment, apart from the resources that I'm appealing to government to increase other aspects of the environment that will make people do their work and concentrate on their work, including infrastructure.

I hope very soon, the building dedicated to research and innovation will be completed to accommodate hundreds of students to participate in the innovations.

Qn Professor, with over 1,100 staff holding PhDs at Makerere, how do you plan to ensure their research actively contributes to economic growth?

We are getting out of the culture of people writing PhDs for the sake of qualifying and getting the qualification, our agenda is to make sure that every PhD is either a policy statement or it comes out with a product. PhDs should not simply be theory, but that they should be bodies of knowledge from which

the either the PhD holder or other people who are interested can actually get out a product or a service in order to contribute to the economy. Also, the criteria for promotion, is no longer going to be just the number of papers one has published. We are going to put emphasis on patents, copyrights and trademarks you have got.

Qn In your remaining years as Vice Chancellor, what key areas will you prioritize?

I am putting a lot of effort in consolidating our position as an international university. We are the most internationalized University, or the most collaborative university in the world, according to the Times Higher Education, because we have at Makerere University more researchers who publish jointly with researchers at another university than any other university in the world, and the internationalization of the university has helped us to regain our international repute, but also to take advantage of collaborations in research so that where we do not have facilities. For example, we do not have supervisors who are experienced in a field, or we do not have certain laboratory facilities. We can then take advantage of those facilities, which are at our partner universities. We want that internal internationalization to continue with other universities, but also with other top research institutions across the world.

I want to make sure that our staff development program continues, to see that 100% of our academic staff have PhDs because it is they with PhDs that will propel research and also supervise the research of students, graduate students and even undergraduate students.

we want to ensure that **culture of innovation and the entrepreneurship is further inculcated and consolidated at the University** because the biggest contribution we can make to the Ugandans, is producing people who are going to propel the economy and hence make the lives of our people better.

DIRECTORATE OF RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

Makerere University Vice-Chancellor's Research Excellence Awards 2026

Makerere University recognizes research excellence through the Research Excellence Awards. The awards honor researchers for their scholarly contributions and publication records. The awards were established:

- To recognize and celebrate outstanding performers in research and publication at Makerere University;**
- As part of the efforts to move Makerere University towards being a research-led institution, encouraging staff to publish in high-impact journals, produce innovations, and engage in scholarship consistent with national development priorities.**

The Directorate of Research, Innovation and Partnerships (DRIP) coordinates the Makerere University Research Excellence Awards, overseeing the nomination process and profiling outstanding researchers across the University. The award nominations presented were duly reviewed and approved by the Board of Research and Graduate Training, chaired by Prof. Sarah Ssali, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs. Through this procedure, DRIP promotes transparency, recognition, and a strong culture of research excellence across Makerere University.

COLLEGE /UNIT	OVERALL TOP RESEARCHERS, 2026			
	NAME	RANK	GENDER	PUB
CAES	Mugabi Robert	Senior Lecturer	Male	32
CEDAT	Kirabira John Baptist	Professor	Male	21
CEES	Ssekatawa Kenneth	Lecturer	Male	10
	Oketch Okwong Reymick	Lecturer	Male	10
CHS	Kamya Moses	Professor	Male	43
CHUSS	Neema Stella	Assoc. Professor	Female	12
CoBAMS	Buyinza Faisal	Assoc Professor	Male	9
CoCIS	Nakatumba Nabende Joyce	Senior Lecturer	Female	15
CoNAS	Omara Timothy	Assistant Lecturer	Male	21
CoVAB	Kankya Clovice	Assoc Professor	Male	14
MISR	Cassatella Andrea	Senior Research Fellow	Male	10
IGDS	Amon Ashaba Mwiine	Lecturer	Male	9
MUBS	Mahadih Kyambade	Assistant Lecturer	Male	19
SPH	Waiswa Peter	Assoc. Professor	Male	43

COLLEGE /UNIT	EARLY CAREER RESEARCHER AWARDS, 2026			
	NAME	RANK	GENDER	PUB
CAES	Nalwanga Sendagire Faridah	Assistant Lecturer	Female	3
CEDAT	Ainomugisha Shafiki	Assistant Lecturer	Male	3
	Wesonga Rachael	Assistant Lecturer	Female	3
CHS	Nalwanga Damali	Assistant Lecturer	Female	9
CHUSS	Akugizibwe Mathias	Assistant Lecturer	Male	4
CoBAMS	Mpirirwe Ruth	Assistant Lecturer	Female	4
	Ssempala Richard	Assistant Lecturer	Male	4
CoNAS	Omara Timothy	Assistant Lecturer	Male	21
CoVAB	Eneku Wilfred	Assistant Lecturer	Female	5
MISR	Kasule Joseph	Research Fellow	Male	5
MUBS	Mahadih Kyambade	Assistant Lecturer	Male	19
SPH	Namutundu Juliana	Assistant Lecturer	Female	4

Note. Nominees are staff at rank of Assistant Lecturer and at least three (3) Peer reviewed Publications in 2025 by Academic Unit

Note. Nominees are staff with the highest Number of Peer reviewed Publications in 2025 by Academic Unit

COLLEGE/ UNIT	MID-CAREER RESEARCH AWARDS, 2026			
	NAME	RANK	GENDER	PUB
CAES	Mugabi Robert	Senior Lecturer	Male	32
CEDAT	Manga Musa	Lecturer	Male	15
CEES	Ssekatawa Kenneth	Lecturer	Male	10
	Oketch Okwong Reymick	Lecturer	Male	10
CHS	Munabi Ian	Senior Lecturer	Male	24
CHUSS	Baluku Martin	Senior Lecturer	Male	10
	Musanje Khamisi	Lecturer	Male	9
	Niringiyimana Julius	Lecturer	Male	9
CoBAMS	Wandera Ojiambo Stephen	Senior Lecturer	Male	8
CoCIS	Nakatumba Nabende Joyce	Senior Lecturer	Female	15
CoNAS	Anywar Godwin	Lecturer	Male	15
CoVAB	Nyakahuka Luke	Senior Lecturer	Male	11
	Wampande Mujjwiga Eddie	Senior Lecturer	Male	11
IGDS	Amon Ashaba Mwiine	Lecturer	Male	9
MUBS	Bob Ssekiziyivu	Senior Lecturer	Male	5
SPH	Musoke David	Senior Lecturer	Male	25

COLLEGE/ UNIT	SENIOR-CAREER RESEARCH AWARD, 2026			
	NAME	RANK	GENDER	PUB
CAES	Bamutaze Yazidhi	Assoc. Professor	Male	16
CEDAT	Kirabira John Baptist	Professor	Male	21
CHS	Kamya Moses	Professor	Male	43
CHUSS	Neema Stella	Assoc Professor	Female	12
CoBAMS	Buyinza Faisal	Assoc Professor	Male	9
CoVAB	Kankya Clovice	Assoc Professor	Male	14
MISR	Cassatella Andrea	Senior Research Fellow	Male	10
MUBS	Sheila Namagembe	Assoc. Professor	Female	4
SPH	Waiswa Peter	Assoc. Professor	Male	43

Note. Nominees are staff at rank of Assoc Professor and Professor with least nine (9) Peer reviewed Publications in 2025 by Academic Unit

Note. Nominees are staff at rank of Lecturer and Senior Lecturer with at-least six (6) Peer reviewed Publications in 2025 by Academic Unit

Innovation Commercialization Award

Makerere University, in partnership with the Science, Technology and Innovation Secretariat – Office of the President (STI-OP) and the Innovation Village Group, is proud to present the Annual Innovation Commercialization Award. This initiative celebrates bold ideas and transformative research that turn knowledge into solutions powering Uganda’s socio-economic transformation and advancing the Tenfold Growth Strategy toward a USD 500 billion GDP by 2040.

The Innovation Commercialization Awards underscore the University’s strategic focus on linking scholarship with industry, policy, and community needs. The award highlights the importance of converting research outputs into products, services, technologies, and processes that address real-world challenges while contributing to national and regional development priorities.

Beyond the prestige award, STI-OP has committed to providing a robust ecosystem support package for all awardees. This will include prioritized access to strategic financing and venture capital linkages, direct industry partnerships and regulatory facilitation as well as specialized mentorship for business scale-up and market expansion.

The Directorate of Research, Innovation and Partnerships (DRIP) coordinates the Makerere University Research Excellence Awards, overseeing the nomination process and profiling outstanding researchers across the University. The award nominations presented were duly reviewed and approved by the Intellectual Property Management Committee, chaired by Prof. Goretti Nabanoga.

SN	Innovation Title	Stage	Author
1	Electrochemical biosensor system and method for rapid detection and quantification of Aflatoxin	Prototype	Dr. Wacoo Paul Alex, CHS
2	Sustainable food processing: Refractance Window Drying technology for Small and Medium dry food processors	Pilot	Dr. Sempira John Edison, CAES
3	Nanex an innovative organic preservation solution for preservation of dry produce	Prototype	Mr. Gobyva Ivan, CAES
4	Replacing plastic seedling bags with long lasting, durable biodegradable options	Prototype	Dr. Nuwamanya Ephraim, CAES
5	Commercialization of Freza, a nanotechnology-based preservation solution for shelf-life extension of fruits and vegetables for the local farmer, retailer, exporter, consumer and vendor	Product	Mugisha Gift Arnold/ Ainembabazi Samantha
6	INTEGRATED NIRS (Near Infrared Spectroscopy) Tool for Rapid Feed Quality Control Service	Prototype	Ms. Nabutanda Juliet, CoVAB
7	Making a high protein and digestible instant meal with increased essential nutrients from cereals for vulnerable communities from organic proteolytic plant extracts	Prototype	Mr. Ssenkubuge George William, CAES
8	Commercializing and Scaling the Hybrid Solar Dryers for Uganda's Agro-Industrial Transformation	Prototype	Assoc. Prof. Zziwa Ahamada, CAES
9	A Web-based Histopathology Repository System for Breast Cancer Management	Pilot	Dr. Mutyoba Joan Nankya, School of Public Health
10	Establishing a Sensitization Program and Breast Milk Bank for Milk Donation to Support Infant Nutrition and Health at Mulago Tertiary Public Health Facility in Kampala	Pilot	Prof. Byamugisha Josaphat, CHS
11	SignaChat: An AI-Powered Sign Language Tutor System for Learning Ugandan Sign Language	Pilot	Abwor Tina Marion, Student
12	Improved Soybean Varieties (Maksoy 3N and Maksoy 6N)	Product	Prof. Tukamuhabwa Phinehas, CAES
13	Adapting African Folktales into Animation Films: Preservation, Re-imagination and Accessibility of African Indigenous Knowledge	Product	Prof. Dipio Dominica, CHUSS
14	Recycla an innovative solution for waste plastic conversion into printable 3D filaments	Prototype	Dr. Ssali Francis, CEDAT

The University sincerely appreciates the support of the **Science, Technology and Innovation Secretariat – Office of the President** for its strategic leadership in Uganda's innovation agenda. We also thank **Mr. Arthur Mukembo** of the **Innovation Village Group** and **Dr. Ruth Biyinzika Kasolo** of the **Private Sector Foundation Uganda** for their involvement in the review process and strong partnership in advancing innovation, entrepreneurship, and research commercialization. Their contributions continue to strengthen the link between research, industry, and societal impact.



Hon. Dr. Monica Musenero Masanza
Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation



Dr. Ruth Biyinzika Kasolo
Private Sector Foundation Uganda



Mr. Arthur Mukembo
Innovation Village Group



Chancellor Kiyonga's One Year in Office

Qn Congratulations on your recent election as MP for Bukonzo West.

Answer: Thank you for your prayers.

Qn As the Chancellor of Makerere University for one year, what have been the most significant achievements you've witnessed during your tenure so far?

Answer: Makerere University is a wide institution. There are 10 Colleges. A college in the context of Makerere is quite big. The University is comparatively a complex institution. In one year, I have been learning and observing what goes on in Makerere and I think it has been a fruitful period of observation.

Qn This is your second graduation ceremony as Chancellor, What message do you have for the graduating class.

Answer: My advice to the graduands, is when you are at the University, you should broaden your knowledge of the world, your country and community where you stay. Widen your analytical skills, your capacity to analyse features and things which you see around yourself. Have an eye of what opportunities exist in your country and community that you can take advantage of.

Given the economy in which we live, what can you do for your yourself? President Yoweri Museveni by giving opportunity to young people who may not have had the opportunity to go to secondary schools and higher or dropped out even primary schools- giving them the opportunity to go to skilling centers. He has shown that these people are capable of doing a range of things; These people can now can bake cakes, make shoes and dresses etc. Many of these graduates have built businesses for themselves.

Therefore, students who are graduating may want to have Government jobs. Some will indeed have these jobs but others will not get such jobs because those jobs are very few compared to the number of graduates. And so, we have to look elsewhere for what to do.

Qn Any plans for the University to change student's mindset of starting up their businesses?

Answer: Following advice by President Museveni, soon all students of Makerere University will be doing a common course known as Political Economy. This will assist the students appreciate the forces that move the world one way or the other.

Qn Question: Drawing from your extensive experience in public service, what key lessons from politics do you apply to your oversight of Makerere University?

Answer: Politics should be used to contribute to building sustainable security and prosperity for the

people. We must put the people on the path to socio-economic transformation for their survival. In that regard, we must appreciate the problem of the people and communities in which we live and work with these communities to set priorities and move forward. They are many resources in the country. There is a job to orient ourselves as political leaders at different levels, we have for example so many young people who have degrees but they have no jobs. In a country with resources and opportunities that can only be a short-term problem.

Qn Makerere University has a rich history in fostering innovation and research, what initiatives are you championing to enhance the University role in addressing Uganda's National Development Challenges?

Answer: Makerere University has made a contribution of the human resource in Uganda and East Africa generally over the years. The focus of the University must remain on the issues that affect the community we live in. Makerere is a community University, this is the University that is training the people from the community, so whatever we do at Makerere must have that in focus. It is good that President Museveni through the Government has been increasingly helping research in the University and our help should not just be giving money, it should be also directing in which areas the research should be done so that it is focused on the community issues.

Qn How has your background influenced your approach to leadership particularly to inclusivity

Answer: What I have observed is that the young people who are in professional courses, medicine, engineering, are dominated by young people who have gone to Budo, Kisubi, Namilyango, Gayaza etc but as you go upcountry, they thin out. The call is improvement of the overall education standards in the rural areas. This rural-urban divide needs to be addressed.

Qn Looking ahead, what are your top priorities for Makerere University especially in the areas of infrastructure development, academic excellence and partnerships?

Answer: Working with our colleagues in the East African Community. But on the wider scale how can we get back together as Africa. The partnership between universities in Africa has weakened we need to awaken this. Last year I witnessed the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe signing an agreement with the Vice Chancellor of the University of South Africa. This was movement in a strategic direction.

Qn As a Chancellor, what role can alumni play in this vision?

Answer: I call upon my colleagues who studied at Makerere University, we should retain our relationships with our halls of residence, in a small way we who went through the University we can play some roles like mentoring students. Maybe you can paint a hall of residence as alumni. We should not disappear we should occasionally come back and be with those who have come after us. Support the University and set an example.

Qn What has been the most rewarding aspect, serving as Chancellor and how has it shaped your perspective on the future of education in Uganda?

Answer: The most rewarding is that this has given me an opportunity to deepen my appreciation of how the University is run. I go away with that memory.

Qn Question: Your last word.

Answer: Congratulations to the graduating students, this is an achievement in your life, it is a starting achievement. This has given you a stepping stone to start building for prosperity in your life.

Prof Sarah Ssali's Rise from a Volunteer to Deputy Vice Chancellor



In her stylishly furnished office, an unmistakable aura of glamour and authority fills the room as she prepares for the interview. She is clad in a well-fitting navy-blue dress, low red high-heel shoes, and a simple, smart black watch, effortlessly composed and commanding.

Her story is compelling, interesting and quite a revelation. Prepare for bouts of laughter if you intend to hold a conversation with Prof Ssali, like the one we had. She cracks timely light jokes. But in between the light conversation, is a no-nonsense woman through whose hands thousands of students have been nurtured.

At glance

Born and raised in Entebbe to Solomon Ananias Wanyisi and Lorna Kituyi Wanyisi of Entebbe. The 3rd born of an auditor with the Ministry of Finance and a mother who worked as a secretary with the Ministry of Health had nothing remarkable while growing up.

"I was not raised in a family that had clear gender disaggregated behaviours, our family had more males than girls, so everyone did what everyone did. So don't come to me with an assumption of masculine or feminist, do your job," she says.

Asked whether the kind of the way she was brought up has affected her older life or made some people to judge her, she replies without any hesitation.

"Not really. I am a very busy person. There is a lot more to do in life than mind-reading people. I cannot sit here and imagine what people are thinking," she replies with a smile.

Academic Journey

Prof Ssali spent her formative years at St Theresa Primary School in Entebbe, where she studied up to Primary three before her parents took her to Fairway Primary School in Mbale where she sat for her Primary Leaving Examinations. In class, she was always among the top ten pupils.

From Fairway Primary, she joined Tororo Girls Secondary School for her high school education and later Joined Makerere University.

"I was admitted at Makerere to do a Fine Arts course because that is what I had excelled in and that is what I had put as my first choice but I later crossed to Social Sciences where I did Political Science," she says.

After her first degree, she volunteered at Baptist Church and Kisiizi Health Center under an HIV project. It was during this time that she got married to her soul mate Dr Francis Ssali. After marriage, she applied to Makerere University to pursue a Master's

degree in Gender Studies and later a PhD in International Health Studies from the Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh.

Prior to her appointment as Deputy Vice Chancellor, Prof. Ssali served Makerere University as the Ag. Director, Institute of Gender and Development Studies and Dean, School of Women and Gender Studies from 2017- 2024.

She has been a Member of the Makerere University Council since 2010 serving on several committees including: Appointments Board, Quality Assurance, Gender Mainstreaming and ICT, Students Affairs, Staff Development, Welfare, Retirement Benefits, Audit Committee, through the different tenures of Council. Prof. Ssali has been a member of the University Senate since July 2017. She served as Vice Chairperson of Makerere University Academic Staff Association (MUASA) from 2008 to 2010.

The Mentor

When Prof Ssali is not attending to administrative matters you are likely to find her at Deliverance Church or at her home mentoring young people. While University members fondly refer to her as Prof, to the young people she mentors, she is known as Prof 'Kaka' loosely translated as grandmother.

She mentors both students and

staff members whom she sometimes meets at her home. She refers to her mentees as Kakalings.

"Young people need counselling, mentoring and they need old people to be there for them," she notes.

Her mentees do not just meet, eat and go, they have a WhatsApp group known as the Bright Future. Her love for mentoring young people is an aspect that regularly features in her examples.

Prof Ssali explains that during her student days, lecturers stayed on Campus and as such regularly interfaced with students in Church, their homes or in cultural groups. Nowadays, most lecturers live off-Campus resulting in little or no interaction with students beyond classrooms.

"There is not much time with students these days that is why many students end up with those they see most on social media as mentors, and when students see me they come to me and request to be mentored," She notes.

Juggling Family and work

When asked how she balances family and work, the professor has a ready answer, having been asked this question many times before. She is a true example of excellence in juggling responsibilities. While pursuing her PhD in the UK, she

relocated with a four-year-old child and was seven months pregnant, yet completed her doctorate in just three years.

"You have to purpose and be disciplined. There is no need to waste energy by contesting the laws and pushing boundaries. If the framework you have to work in says this is the policy or regulation, fit in, work and achieve what you want to achieve," She notes.

Prof Ssali recalls that during her time in the UK, she had no relatives nearby and her husband was living in Canada. She used to sleep at 3:00am every day and wake up at 6:00am to prepare her four-year-old for School.

"I had to be organized, Sundays were for packing lunch and expressing breastmilk because my child did exclusive breastfeeding for 9 months in a foreign country. So, you need to plan your life, there is enough time for everything we need to do," Prof notes.

She also explains that what helped her was the space her baby had in the daycare center.

When Prof Ssali is done worrying about University work, she gets back to her home and looks after her plants.

"If I am not in office, I am mostly at home, where I do some gardening, like growing vegetables in the green house and flowers, and I also do exercises in my compound," She adds.

Tips to women aspiring to be leaders

- Nothing beats hard work, put in extra hours and if you have a task to do, even if you are a volunteer or a student, do it to the best of your knowledge. Your work will defend you.
- Have the right support network around you and make sure the network you belong to believes in your capacity and is interested in your excellence.
- Be loyal to the people whose shoulders you have stood on to get where you are. It could be a teacher, mentor or a former boss who spoke good things in rooms you weren't in. We are in these spaces because someone thought we are worthy.
- Be truthful, if someone brings you closer to them, don't be the same person who bad mouths them.
- Surround yourself with progressive people, avoid networks of people who gossip, you will not go anywhere. Get networks that inspire you to be better.

Going by the few hours I interacted with her, Prof. Ssali is obviously one of those that does what she says at 100 percent. Most impressive is her humility, her sweet personality that comes through in the conversations, and her ability to always be in the moment, giving you full undivided attention.



Scan QR code to watch Prof. Ssali's interview.

HONORARY DOCTORATES



CPA Japheth Buleetwa Katto

CPA Japheth Buleetwa Katto is a professional accountant and governance professional with rich experience in leading and governing organisations, including regulatory bodies, listed companies, public sector entities, not-for-profit, and international professional organisations.

Mr. Katto's expertise is in corporate governance, executive and board leadership, accountancy and regulation of capital markets, pensions, and banking. He is an acclaimed consultant in these areas, in which he has published books and articles, lectured, and been a speaker in different countries over the years.

He was instrumental in laying the capital markets' legal and regulatory framework and growth of the industry, which today stands at a market capitalization of Ugx 35tn and collective investment schemes (Unit trusts) at Ugx 5tn.

Mr. Katto graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce honors degree from Makerere University in 1975 and is a fellow of ACCA and a member of the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Uganda (ICPAU).

He has received various awards, including the ACCA Achievement Award 2012, the ICPAU Lifetime Award in 2023, the League of East African Directors' (LEAD's) Best Chairman for Listed Companies Boards Award (2021 and 2022), and the Lifetime Non-Executive Director (NED) Award in 2023.

He currently serves as the chairman of JKC Consulting, a corporate governance and leadership consulting firm that he founded in 2016. He is a Board member of Bank of Uganda, a trustee of the Bank of Uganda Defined Benefits Pension Scheme, and a member of the board of trustees of the London-based International Valuations Standard Council.



Ms Reeta Roy

Reeta Roy, Former President & Chief Executive Officer, Mastercard Foundation

A thoughtful leader deeply committed to equity and inclusion, Reeta has worked tirelessly to build a collaborative philanthropy renowned for its bold actions and transformative impact.

As former President and CEO of the Mastercard Foundation, Reeta Roy has been instrumental in building one of the world's largest and most impactful philanthropies.

Under her leadership since 2008, the Foundation is recognised for its collaborative approach, focus on transformative impact, and support for African organisations and Indigenous communities in Canada.

To ensure Africa received its share of global vaccines during the COVID-19 pandemic, Reeta and her team led an unprecedented \$1.5 billion initiative with the Africa Centres for Disease Control and

Prevention (Africa CDC), called Saving Lives and Livelihoods. The program trained, equipped, and deployed 40,000 health workers and helped increase adult vaccination rates from 3% to 53%. Now in its second phase, the Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative is continuing to make an impact by contributing to the development of a skilled health care workforce for vaccine manufacturing in Africa.

Reeta transitioned from her role as President and CEO on 31 December 2025 and was succeeded by Sewit Aherom, who began her tenure effective 1 January 2026.

“We want a future where young people are driving transformative change and achieving their full potential. An environment where young people can find work, and entrepreneurs and small enterprises can succeed and grow.” Reeta's strong desire.

Mak Produces More PhDs. The Reasons Behind



Prof. Julius Kikooma
Director of Graduate Training



We are seeing more people graduate with PhDs within three years, what has changed?

What has changed is not just something recent; it has been a deliberate effort by the Directorate of Graduate Training over the past four to five years.

We have intentionally reviewed and improved policies to make them more responsive and flexible for both Master's and PhD students. One key reform has been in the thesis examination process. Previously, when a student submitted a thesis, it could take up to three months with examiners. Today, the turnaround time has been reduced to just four weeks.

We are also seeing increased PhD completion numbers because, since 2024, we have been working closely with the Directorate for ICT Support

at Makerere University. Every College is now able to track students from admission through each milestone of their academic journey. The system provides a clear roadmap of expectations at every stage, and where a student is facing challenges, timely support can be provided.

As a result of these deliberate reforms, the number of PhD graduates at Makerere is expected to continue rising. We are going to see even more doctoral completions in the coming years.

With many PhDs "on the shelf," what strategies are in place to ensure they are productively engaged?

Last year, we launched the Annual Forum for Graduate Research and Policy Dialogue, which brings

together researchers, policymakers, academics, and industry leaders to reflect on the importance of evidence-based policymaking and the role of research in driving national growth.

Through this platform, we emphasize to our students that there is value beyond the thesis. Every PhD candidate presents their research in the context of national and regional policy challenges, demonstrating how their work contributes to sustainable development and practical solutions. It shifts the mindset from producing a document for the library to generating knowledge that informs decision-making.

In addition, to ensure our PhD research does not remain on the shelves, we have introduced structured industry attachments. These are not routine internships. Our

doctoral students are placed within organizations in their respective fields where they engage directly with top management and technical teams to develop solutions to real-world problems.

We have already seen positive results. Many of our students are benefiting from these engagements, gaining exposure, building networks, and in some cases opening pathways for collaboration and employment. Our goal is to ensure that every PhD graduate is not only academically accomplished but also nationally relevant.

Will the increase in the number of PhD students affect academic quality?

The increase in the number of PhD students does not automatically mean a decline in quality; it depends on how the growth is managed. At Makerere University, we have

strengthened supervision because Uganda needs more PhDs.

We have also set clear requirements to ensure every PhD is fit for purpose. Before graduation, students must produce publications in their scholarly field and write policy briefs. This ensures their research has both academic and practical impact.

In addition, we have increased collaboration with 10 partner universities globally, giving our students access to additional skills, knowledge, and exposure. Research funding from the Government of Uganda, through the Research and Innovations Fund (MakRIF), further supports these PhD research projects. These deliberate measures ensure that growth in numbers is matched by growth in quality and relevance.

What message do you have for new PhD holders

as they step into the next phase of their careers?

Congratulations to all our new PhD graduates! But remember, do not force people to call you 'Doctor', your title should speak for itself. A PhD is meant to be a humbling experience, and with it comes great responsibility.

You are now a brand of the University, and you have a duty to contribute meaningfully to society. Engage in public debates, share your expertise, and help address pressing national issues. For example, when the Kiteezi tragedy occurred, many of our students had conducted research relevant to the situation, and the country needed their insights.

As a PhD holder, you now have the knowledge and confidence to make informed commentary, influence policy, and offer solutions. Carry your title with humility and let your work make a difference.



Male Graduands outnumber females at Mak's 76th Graduation

Makerere University will hold its 76th graduation ceremony from February 24th to 27th, 2026, with a total number of 9,295 graduands expected to receive degrees and certificates. This year's graduation marks a notable shift in gender distribution, with male graduands outnumbering female graduands a reversal of a trend that has persisted for nearly a decade.

The current gender outcome is the first time since the 67th graduation in 2017 that male graduands have exceeded females. In recent ceremonies, female graduands consistently formed the majority. For instance, women accounted for 52–53 percent of graduands during the 72nd to 75th graduations, reflecting the impact of Makerere's long-standing affirmative action policy, which awards female applicants an

additional 1.5 points at admission. According to the Academic Registrar, Prof. Buyinza Mukadasi, the shift observed at the 76th graduation is largely explained by admission patterns during the COVID-19 period, particularly in 2022.

"What has happened at Makerere reflects a national challenge of gender imbalance," Prof. Buyinza explained. "During the COVID-19 period, we admitted fewer students and did not implement the direct A-Level entry scheme due to the absence of A-Level results. Admissions mainly targeted diploma holders and degree entrants, many of whom are enrolled in science-based programmes that traditionally attract more male students."

He noted that the university's affirmative action policy has over the past eight years resulted in an exponential increase in female student enrollment, especially in the humanities and social sciences.

However, the unique circumstances of COVID-19 admissions altered the usual gender balance, leading to a higher number of male graduands this year.

Prof. Buyinza emphasized that Makerere has also introduced targeted interventions to support male students, including mentorship programmes, improved male student accommodation, scholarships, career guidance, and a student employment scheme aimed at reducing dropout rates.

"At the same time, we remain committed to gender parity," he said, expressing confidence that future graduations will likely return to a female majority as regular admission patterns resume.

The 76th graduation, therefore, stands as a reflection of both pandemic-era disruptions and Makerere University's evolving approach to gender equity, retention, and student support.

76th GRADUATION Statistics

TOTAL GRADUANDS

9,295

Female **4,262** Male **5,033**

CATEGORIES

PhD

Female **87** Male **126** Total **213**

MASTERS

Female **1,087** Male **1,416** Total **2503**

BACHELORS

Female **2,999** Male **3,344** Total **6,343**

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMAS

Female **80** Male **126** Total **206**

UNDERGRADUATE DIPLOMA PROGRAMMES

Female **9** Male **21** Total **30**



Mak International Students Graduate



Makerere University has once again demonstrated its status as a leading global institution by graduating international students representing 67 nationalities from across the world. Through the coordination of the International Relations Office, the University continues to attract students from diverse cultural, social, and academic backgrounds, reaffirming its position as a centre of excellence in higher education.

The graduating international students hail from countries including South Sudan, Rwanda, Kenya, Germany, Tanzania, Somalia, Ethiopia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Nigeria, Burundi, Malawi, Zimbabwe, South Africa, India, Cameroon, among many others, bringing the total number of represented nationalities to sixty-seven. This diversity reflects Makerere University's strong international profile and its commitment to promoting cross-cultural learning, inclusivity, and global citizenship.

“ As these students graduate, they leave Makerere University not only with academic qualifications but also with lifelong memories, skills, and friendships. They become global ambassadors of Makerere University, carrying forward its values of excellence, diversity, and service to their home countries and the wider world. The University wishes them continued success in their future endeavours. ”

Throughout their academic journey, international students have described their experience at Makerere University as both enriching and transformative. Many expressed appreciations for the quality of teaching, the dedication of academic staff, and the wide range of academic programmes offered. Beyond the classroom, students embraced Uganda's rich cultural heritage and warm hospitality, as well as opportunities to interact with peers from different backgrounds, which broadened their global perspectives and enhanced their overall university experience.

Although studying in a new country presented challenges the support provided by the International Relations Office, faculty members, and fellow students played a significant role in ensuring a positive experience. Orientation programmes, continuous guidance, and student support services helped international students feel welcome and fully integrated into university life.



Best students

Best in Sciences



Simon Mungudit: (CGPA 4.76) College of Natural Sciences (CoNAS)

Simon Mungudit from the College of Natural Sciences (CoNAS) has etched his name in the academic history of Makerere University, having emerged as the overall best male student in the Sciences, an achievement earned through perseverance, discipline, and an unrelenting pursuit of excellence.

Mungudit attained a CGPA of 4.76 in the Bachelor of Science in Petroleum Geoscience and Production.



Esther Ziribaggwa (CGPA 4.77) College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CAES)

Her journey from humble beginnings to becoming Makerere University's top-performing female student in the Sciences is a testament to her determination, hard work, and unwavering faith.

She studied a Bachelor of Agricultural and Rural Innovation, a programme taught at the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CAES).

Best in Humanities



Sarah Aloyo (CGPA 4.93) Makerere University Business School (MUBS)

Sarah Aloyo is a Procurement and Supply Chain Management student from Makerere University Business School. Passionate about education empowerment, sustainability, and social impact, she has dedicated her university journey to leadership, advocacy, and empowering others.



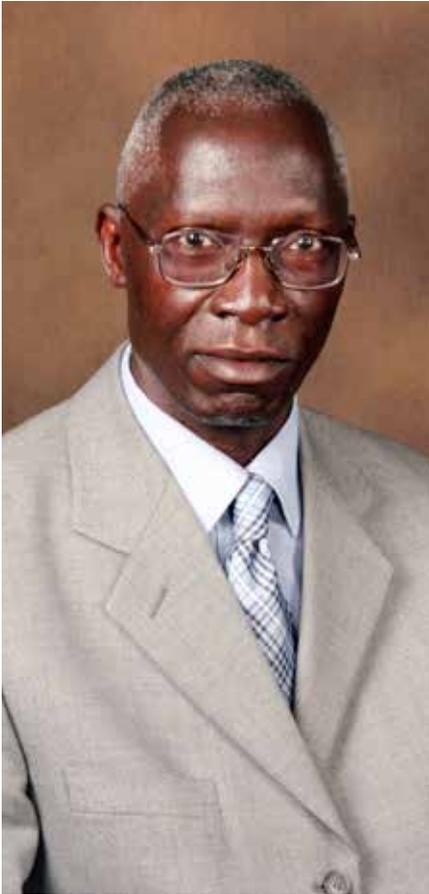
Nakato Dorothy (CGPA 4.93) Makerere University Business School (MUBS Jinja Campus)

Nakato Dorothy is a Procurement and Supply Chain Management student from Makerere University Business School, Jinja Campus. Her academic excellence is matched by discipline, adaptability, and a clear sense of purpose. Dorothy distinguished herself through her ability to navigate complex systems, build strong relationships, and consistently identify cost-saving opportunities.



Ssewalu Abdul (CGPA 4.90) Makerere University Business School (MUBS)

Ssewalu Abdul, a graduating student of Makerere University Business School, where I pursued a Bachelor's degree in Leisure and Hospitality Management and was privileged to rank among the top performers in my class. My journey to this milestone was not easy.



Celebrating the Life of **Prof. Livingstone Sserwadda Luboobi**

It is with profound love and respect that we celebrate the life of Prof. Livingstone Sserwadda Luboobi, a distinguished scholar, transformative leader, and beloved Vice Chancellor Emeritus of Makerere University. His legacy is woven in the fabric of African higher education, marked by intellectual brilliance, unwavering commitment to academic excellence, and a life of selfless service.

Prof. Luboobi was more than a mathematician. He was a visionary, whose work transcended equations and research papers. Serving as Vice Chancellor from 2004 to 2009, he led Makerere University through a critical period of growth and transformation. Under his guidance, the university expanded its reach, strengthened its academic rigor, and embraced innovation and reform. His calm demeanour and principled decision-making earned the admiration of students, faculty, and peers alike.

His legacy endures not only in the impressive body of work he left behind but also in the countless lives he touched – students, educators, and leaders who continue to draw inspiration from him.

An illustrious alumnus of Makerere University, Prof. Luboobi graduated with First Class Honours in Mathematics, laying the foundation for an extraordinary academic journey. He pursued further studies at the University of Toronto (MSc in Operations Research, 1971-72) and the University of Adelaide (PhD in Biomathematics, 1978-80). His scholarly journey spanned

“ He was a visionary, whose work transcended equations and research papers. Serving as Vice Chancellor from 2004 to 2009, he led Makerere University through a critical period of growth and transformation

prestigious institutions worldwide, including UCLA, the University of Bergen, and the University of Dar es Salaam, establishing him as a scholar of global repute and a proud ambassador of African intellectualism.

Prof. Luboobi's service to Makerere began in 1970 as a Special Assistant-remarkably, while still an undergraduate, rising through the ranks to full Professor in 1997. He served as Head of Department, Dean of the Faculty of Science (1994-2001), and later became the university's first elected Vice Chancellor. His tenure brought new energy to institutional leadership, characterized by transparency, inclusivity, strategic direction and accountability.

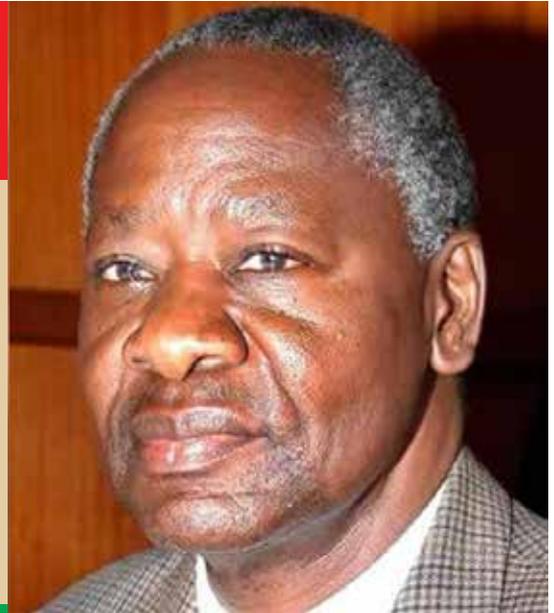
A true architect of transformation, Prof. Luboobi chaired the development of Makerere's first locally-conceived Strategic Plan (1990-91). He was instrumental in securing a UGX30 billion grant from NORAD in 1999, which revitalized key academic areas such as computing, gender studies, and food science. He co-founded the Makerere University Private Sector Forum, bridging the gap between academia and industry, and strengthening alumni engagement and resource mobilization.

Prof. Livingstone Sserwadda Luboobi's life was a model of scholarship anchored in service, leadership tempered with humility, and an unshakable belief in the power of education. He leaves behind a vibrant academic legacy and a trail of inspired minds. His contributions will continue to shape Makerere University, Uganda, and the global academic community for generations to come.

A tribute to **Sabastian Ngobi**

The poet William Shakespeare once observed that “All the world’s a stage, and all the men and women merely players.” In that spirit, this tribute honors Sabastian Ngobi, who has now exited the stage, having played a profound and enduring role in my life from the day we first met in 1972 until very recently.

Sabastian Ngobi lived a life of service, distinction, and uncommon integrity. Over the years, he served in many capacities, each marked by wisdom, humanity, and a firm moral compass. For many years, he was Headmaster of Ruiru High School in Kenya, where during the turbulent 1980s he employed and supported numerous Ugandan and Rwandese refugees. At one point, the school had as many as 45 Ugandan and Rwandan teachers, a testament to his compassion and leadership.



Upon his return to Uganda in the early 1990s, Ngobi worked briefly at the defunct Lint Marketing Board as a Personnel Officer. He was later appointed Deputy Academic Officer at Makerere University, then rose to become the substantive Academic Registrar, and subsequently Human Resources Manager. After retiring from Makerere University, he was appointed Director of Human Resources and Technology at the Uganda National Examinations Board (UNEB).

To me, Sabastian Ngobi was more than a friend. He was a guardian, particularly after my retirement from academic life. He was also a father figure, united with me even by name, Ngobi—a name my own father, Charles Afunaduula Ovuma Ngobi Isabirye (1923–2007), also bore. I addressed him as Mzee, and whenever I faced challenges, he never hesitated to step in with clarity, counsel, and calm resolve.

The name Ngobi is traditionally given to children of the princesses of the Ngobi Clan of Busoga, a lineage that carried dignity, which he embodied fully.

Though Ngobi was a Catholic and I am a Protestant, religion never stood between us. I had been raised by parents of different denominations, my mother, Stephanie Ester Naigaga

Nawamwena Kyabwe Wabiseatyo (1932–2016), was Catholic, married to a Protestant, so faith was never a barrier to deep and lasting relationships. With Sabastian Ngobi, religion was simply a non-issue.

I first met Sabastian Ngobi in July 1972, aboard an Akamba bus in Jinja, bound for Dar es Salaam, where we were to begin our undergraduate studies at the University of Dar es Salaam. The bus was filled with young Ugandans embarking on new academic journeys. Despite coming from different school traditions, he from Namiryango College, a strong Catholic institution, and I from Busoga College, Mwiri, a strong Protestant one, we became instant friends.

That journey cemented a lifelong bond. During the trip, I fell seriously ill, suffering intense nausea and vomiting. While many showed concern, it was Sabastian Ngobi and Davies Bagambiire who stood closest to me, escorting me to the university hospital upon arrival and staying with me through the ordeal.

Ngobi and I were later assigned to Hall 2, where we shared student life in its fullness—friendship, laughter, illness, and resilience. He patiently cared for me through repeated bouts of malaria, often accompanying me to the university hospital, sometimes during

overnight admissions.

Sabastian Ngobi’s presence touched many critical moments in my life, including:

1. Supporting and funding the revision of my Master’s thesis at the University of Nairobi, enabling my graduation in 1986.
2. Caring for my family between 1983 and 1986 while he was Headmaster at Ruiru High School, even hosting my wife and children at his home.
3. Playing a central role in my employment by the Kenya Teachers Service Commission, which posted me to Kanunga High School (1986–1989).
4. Serving as Chief Guest at my wedding in 2016 at Bulawa Church of Uganda, Nawaka, delivering a memorable speech and offering generous support.
5. Supporting my cataract surgery at Mengo Eye Clinic in February 2021.
6. Supporting my hospitalization and prostate surgery at Uro-Care Hospital, Nansana, in September 2025.

Sabastian Ngobi’s life was a quiet sermon of loyalty, generosity, and service. His departure leaves a silence that cannot easily be filled.

Tribute by: Oweyegha Afunaduula

Makerere Celebrates the Life and Legacy of Ngũgĩ wa Thiong’o

Makerere University held a solemn yet celebratory memorial in honour of the late Prof. Ngũgĩ wa Thiong’o — the legendary African intellectual, creative writer, and distinguished alumnus whose literary and ideological legacy continues to shape global thought.

The event, held in the iconic Main Hall and streamed online, drew together the university community, literary scholars, writers, students, alumni, and admirers of Ngũgĩ’s work. Speakers paid glowing tribute to his lifelong fight for justice, identity, and linguistic liberation, and to his enduring ties to Makerere — the place where his dream as a writer began.



Delivering the official opening remarks on behalf of Vice Chancellor Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe, the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic Affairs), Prof. Sarah Ssali described Ngũgĩ wa Thiong’o as “our own son” whose bond with Makerere transcended time and mortality.

Prof. Ssali reflected on Ngũgĩ’s formative years at Makerere University College of East Africa from 1959 to 1964, where he began his literary journey and wrote his first two novels, *Weep Not, Child* and *The River Between*, while residing in Northcote Hall (now Nsibirwa Hall).

“Makerere inspired Ngũgĩ’s creative and scholarly spirit,” she said. “His tutors predicted he would bring the College honour — and that is exactly what he did. Let us, too, build for the future as he did.”

In a touching biographical tribute titled “Ngũgĩ: Makerere’s Dream Weaver,” Prof. Susan Kiguli of the Department of Literature recounted the life and intellectual

journey of Ngũgĩ wa Thiong’o, describing him as “a versatile writer, theorist, and activist whose ideas continue to shape African consciousness.”

“Ngũgĩ was a fearless intellectual who spoke truth to power and a passionate believer in the power

“Even those who never read him have something to remember him for,” Kiyimba concluded. “Let us celebrate him not as a departed hero, but as a living ancestor – the griot of the modern world, the keeper of the African word, the eternal Makererean. May the work you did thrive, and the languages you fought for continue to flourish.”

of language to reclaim identity,” she said. “He will forever remain urgently relevant even in his physical absence.”

Delivering a moving keynote address Professor Abasi Kiyimba of the Department of Literature described the late literary icon as “a witness to his people’s history, a warrior for their dignity, and a citizen of the world.” He called on African scholars and writers to honour Ngũgĩ’s legacy by reclaiming African languages as instruments of thought, creativity, and cultural freedom.

Prof. Kiyimba situated Ngũgĩ wa Thiong’o’s life and work within the larger story of African liberation — from political independence to the ongoing struggle for mental and cultural decolonization. “Ngũgĩ’s journey,” he said.

Despite his global fame, Ngũgĩ remained deeply grounded in Africa. His lectures and writings drew parallels between African struggles and those of oppressed peoples elsewhere – from the Aborigines of Australia to the Irish under English rule.

Lung Institute Celebrates 10 Years



Officials pose for a group photo after the site handover for the MLI Expansion Project (MEP) on 4th November 2025

The Makerere University Lung Institute (MLI) celebrated its 10th anniversary through a series of activities that included the launch of a landmark expansion project (MEP) on 4th November 2025. Established in 2015, MLI has treated over 20,000 patients and advanced lung health through research, training, and care. The MEP, a new six-level, 5,139 sqm facility-valued at UGX 66.84 billion (approx. US\$ 18 million)-being built on Mulago Hill will be funded via fundraising. The project aims to position MLI as a leading continental hub for lung disease research, specialist training, and complex care.

MLI operates the largest specialist clinic for complex lung diseases in the region and houses the Clinical Trials Ward and Vaccine House within the Mulago National Referral Hospital (MNRH) complex—the biggest cold room for vaccines outside National Medical Stores, enabling advanced investigational vaccine storage and research. The proposed facility will house three key centers: the Centre for Advanced Pulmonary and Intensive Care (CAPIC), Centre for Clinical Investigation (CCI), and Centre for Capacity Enhancement (CCE). These will deliver cutting-edge respiratory care, clinical research, and specialized training for pulmonologists, thoracic surgeons, and respiratory scientists.

Vice Chancellor Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe praised Founder and Director Prof. Bruce Kirenga’s vision and commended fundraising progress, stating, “Thank you Prof. Kirenga for having the vision to start and grow the Lung Institute.”

He thanked MNRH Executive Director Dr. Rosemary Byanyima for allocating the land, emphasizing collaboration: “Makerere University and Mulago National Referral Hospital must work together.” Dr. Byanyima noted MLI’s strengthened role post-COVID-19, calling support a shared responsibility. MLI Board Chairperson Prof. Charles Ibingira pledged excellence, transparency, and timeliness, envisioning the facility as “a beacon of hope in innovation and global excellence in lung health.”

MLI’s tenth anniversary celebrations included a dinner at the Freedom Square on 26th November, where the fundraising drive for the MEP was officially launched by the Permanent Secretary Ministry of Health, Dr. Diana Atwine. Events also included the 3rd Lung Science and Health Symposium held on 27th November in the Main Hall.

School of Public Health Steps Forward, Shaping Tomorrow's Public Health Leaders



University leadership, School of Public Health staff, and dignitaries celebrate 70 years of excellence and the launch of a Strategic Plan charting the School's autonomous future, December 2024

As Makerere University celebrates its 76th Graduation Ceremony, the School of Public Health marks a milestone of its own, not simply a transition, but a moment of momentum.

For more than 70 years, the School has shaped the health landscape of Uganda and much of sub-Saharan Africa. What began in 1954 as a department of preventive medicine grew into the first Institute of Public Health in the region, laying foundations that would influence primary health care, health workforce, and disease response strategies across Africa.

That legacy of the School of Public Health has never been static. In the last five years alone, the School-led research teams have generated evidence to inform more than 17 national policies and guidelines, from pandemic preparedness and climate adaptation to digital health and reproductive health. Over 1,300 scientific publications have emerged from its faculty and collaborators within

5 years. Thousands of professionals have passed through its classrooms, and many now sit at decision-making tables, in ministries, regional bodies, global agencies, and research institutions, shaping health systems far beyond Kampala.

The School's influence lies in its wide partnerships and extensive community engagement, which facilitate translation, where evidence is turned into policy, data turned into reform, and research turned into action.

As public health challenges become more complex, from antimicrobial resistance and urban pollution to climate-driven displacement and digital transformation, the School is deliberately positioning itself at the centre of these conversations. Its 2025–2030 Strategic Plan sets out a clear direction of transformative education, stronger research-to-policy pathways, deeper community engagement, and expanded

continental partnerships. New investments in health informatics, digital health systems, antimicrobial stewardship, climate and environmental health, and health financing reform reflect a forward-looking agenda aligned with Africa's evolving realities.

A new multi-storey home rising on Makerere's main campus symbolises this next chapter. But the true infrastructure of the School remains its people (staff), networks, with universities and governments across Africa, Africa CDC, the Uganda Ministry of Health and district health teams, multilateral agencies, and communities, and its students and graduates, who continue to carry its ethos into the systems they lead.

As Makerere graduates its newest cohort, the School of Public Health remains Makerere University's icon in *Shaping Health, Empowering the Future*. Building on a long history of impact and preparing to shape the next generation of public health leadership across the continent.



The Remaining Investment

To fully equip and operationalise the facility includes furnishing, laboratory installations, digital infrastructure, and student innovation spaces, and an estimated USD 2.77 million remains to be raised.

Completing this final phase will position the School to lead on today's complex public health priorities, including climate change, environmental pollution, antimicrobial resistance, digital health transformation, shifting financing landscapes, and emerging epidemics. Meeting these challenges requires advanced laboratories, data systems, interdisciplinary collaboration spaces, and modern training environments.

As global thought leaders have argued, schools of public health serve as platforms for generating knowledge, educating leaders, translating science into policy, and guiding long-term health system reform. Sustaining that mandate requires stable infrastructure.

This development affirms a collective commitment to building resilient health systems. Construction is advancing under clear oversight, and continued partnership will ensure the facility delivers its full national and regional impact.

"We invite the Government of Uganda, our alumni, parents, partners, philanthropic organisations, and development agencies to join us in completing this investment. By closing the remaining funding gap, stakeholders will secure more than a building — they will strengthen our capacity to train the next generation of public health leaders, generate actionable evidence, and reinforce health systems across Uganda and the continent," said Dr Rhoda Wanyenze, Dean, School of Public Health.

Ongoing construction of the new Makerere University School of Public Health building at the Eastern Gate, Main Campus, part of a broader infrastructure expansion to strengthen public health capacity as of Jan. 2

Building for the Future: Expanding Infrastructure to Strengthen Public Health Capacity

Globally, schools of public health are increasingly recognised not merely as academic units, but as essential infrastructure for resilient societies. At Makerere University, that recognition is taking shape on various fronts, including the relevant infrastructure and systems.

Rising on the main campus, the new multi-storey home of the School of Public Health represents a deliberate investment in Uganda's and Africa's future health security. For over seven decades, the School has shaped national responses to infectious diseases, maternal and child health challenges, health financing reforms, and disease surveillance. Its graduates now serve in ministries, district health teams, regional bodies, multilateral agencies, and global institutions. Yet the physical space supporting this work has long lagged behind the scale of its impact.

The new facility is designed to address that gap by providing lecture theatres, research laboratories,

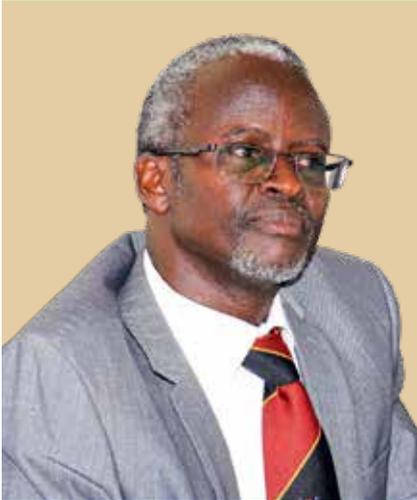
digital learning environments, collaboration hubs, and office space that reflect the scope of the School's expanding portfolio. It is not simply a construction project; it is a platform that reflects the vision of the school in shaping the public health agenda in an increasingly complex environment.

Progress to Date

Construction of Phases I and II is well advanced, with structural works nearing completion and finishing processes underway. The School has implemented active oversight mechanisms and regular reporting to ensure quality and accountability. To date, USD 4.5 million has been mobilised through internal University commitment and the support of valued partners and collaborators.

These investments have already delivered tangible milestones, including reinforced structural completion across multiple blocks, roofing and slab works, mechanical and electrical installations, and ongoing interior finishing. The project remains firmly on course toward completion and operational launch.

A new dawn for the **Makerere University Press**



William Tayeebwa, Ph.D.
Managing Editor, MakPress



As documented in a 2024 Logos article (DOI:10.1163/18784712-20240014), the Makerere University Press (MakPress) traces its origins to the 1960s. It survived the turbulent years in the 1970s-1980s until its formal re-establishment following University Council approval in December 1995 to become the University's official publishing arm with primary focus on scholarly and academic works.

The MakPress was officially launched on 24th January 1997 by the then Chancellor of the University and President of Uganda, H.E. Yoweri K. Museveni. This milestone reaffirmed Makerere University's enduring commitment to the creation, preservation, and dissemination of knowledge.

A significant turning point was in 2019 when the Government of Uganda started to provide funding subvention to strengthen university-based scholarly publishing. This support was intended to promote the publication of academic works through a credible scholarly press; thereby safeguarding

academic rigour, editorial quality, and institutional ownership of knowledge.

Since then, MakPress has published 21 books in several disciplines. Despite challenges, MakPress has remained steadfast, thereby attracting both local and international scholarly publishing engagements.

Multiple partnerships

Due to the challenge of a low reading culture in Uganda, MakPress books are priced low to encourage a wider readership. However, local sales remain dismal in bookshops and online. To enhance global reach and visibility, MakPress established a strategic partnership with the African Books Collective (ABC) based in Oxford, England for global distribution of MakPress titles in both print and digital formats.

MakPress has also embraced co-publication and contract publishing models. It has already completed works for partners such as University of California Press, AfricaE in Nairobi and the French Institute for Research in Africa (IFRA). These collaborations reflect growing confidence in MakPress as a credible academic publisher.

In 2024/2025 alone, MakPress published ten books by authors that included colleagues from sister universities at Kyambogo, Lira and Gulu. MakPress has attracted a growing pool of MAK alumni submitting book proposals.

The journals project

In a major institutional development during the 2024/2025 academic year, MakPress assumed responsibility for all Makerere University journals as official imprints of the University. With support from Makerere University Research and Innovations Fund (MakRIF), MakPress has implemented an Open Journal System (OJS) to strengthen scholarly publishing, peer-review quality, visibility, and indexing.

In 2025, MakPress attained publisher-level accreditation from the ISSN International Centre to support ISSN assignment, verification, and credible scholarly communication. All these efforts are part of key criteria for scholarly recognition. Collectively, these milestones position MakPress as a central pillar to support the mandate of Makerere as a research-led university.

Steady Progress at the Makerere University Convocation towards transforming Makerere's Legacy through the CEO's/ Investors in Uganda



In a bold and historic move, the Makerere University Convocation convened the inaugural CEOs/Investors' Round Table Summit, bringing together an extraordinary assembly of CEOs, investors, entrepreneurs, policymakers, researchers, innovators, and development partners. The half-day summit became more than just a meeting—it became a symbol of Makerere's evolution from a center of academic excellence into a catalyst for innovation, entrepreneurship, and socio-economic transformation.

Held under the theme, *"Exploring the Opportunities for Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Value Creation for Accelerated Socio-Economic Integration and Development of Sub-Saharan Africa,"* the summit reflected Makerere University's ambition to position itself as a hub of knowledge, innovation, and transformation. It provided a platform for meaningful dialogue, collaboration, and the exploration of investment opportunities capable of unlocking the immense potential of Uganda's next generation of talent—the very

graduates Makerere continues to produce.

The significance of the summit was underscored by the presence of the Rt. Hon. 3rd Prime Minister Lukia Isanga Nakadama, who officiated as Chief Guest and representing Robinah Nabbanja, and Dr. Peter Kimbowa, CEO of the CEO Summit Uganda, who delivered the keynote address. Their participation reaffirmed the growing recognition that universities like Makerere must play a central role in national and continental development by connecting knowledge to opportunity, and talent to investment.

Welcoming the distinguished guests, the Vice Chancellor, Professor Barnabas Nawangwe, spoke with conviction about Makerere's determination to work collaboratively with partners to shape lasting solutions for Uganda and beyond.

"We want to work with you to see how, together, we can move our country and continent forward. I invited all of you CEOs to Makerere so that we can brainstorm on what we can do to transform our nation and Africa at large," Prof. Nawangwe

remarked.

For Ms. Grace Cherotich Ruto, Chief Convener of the Summit and Vice Chairperson of the Makerere University Convocation, the event represented a defining moment in Convocation's journey. For decades, Convocation had served as a platform for alumni engagement, but now it was stepping forward to become a driver of transformation—connecting graduates to mentorship, internships, employment, and enterprise opportunities.

She emphasized that the summit was designed to bridge the longstanding gap between academia and industry, ensuring that graduates do not leave Makerere with knowledge alone, but with pathways to impact.

A defining highlight of the summit was the unveiling of Convocation's Massive Transformation Purpose—a visionary framework that transforms ideas into action. This bold initiative established five dedicated working teams: *From Ivory Tower to Impact Tower, Diaspora Dividend vs. Brain Drain, Intergenerational Knowledge Bridges, AI & Future of Learning, and From Convocation to Covenant.* Each team carries a clear mandate, structured objectives, and measurable outcomes, ensuring that Convocation's work translates into tangible and sustainable impact.

As graduates walk across the stage to receive their degrees, this summit stands as a reminder that their journey does not end with graduation—it begins there. Makerere University, through its Convocation, is building bridges between education and opportunity, between talent and transformation, and between dreams and reality.



Uganda has officially broken ground on several state-of-the-art training facilities ahead of **AFCON 2027**

Hon. Peter Ogwang who represented Hon. Janet Kataaha Museveni with the Chancellor-Hon. Dr. Crispus Kiyonga, Vice Chancellor-Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe and officials from Kyambogo University, Gulu University, Lira University, National Council of Sports, UPDF, Gulu City, Hoima City, and Masindi District at the groundbreaking ceremony for AFCON 2027 training facilities held 19th February 2026 at Makerere University.

Representing the First Lady and Minister of Education and Sports, Hon. Peter Ogwang presided over the ceremony at Makerere University Sports Ground, where a modern multi-sport complex will be constructed.

Other facilities will be built at Kyambogo University, Gulu University, Lira University, Pece Stadium, Hoima Booma Grounds, and Masindi Municipal Stadium.

The projects, valued at UGX 22.8 billion, will be implemented by the UPDF Engineering Brigade and are expected to be completed within six months.

Uganda is gearing up to co-host AFCON 2027 alongside Kenya and Tanzania under the Pamoja Bid.

#AFCON2027
#Uganda
#SportsInfrastructure
#PamojaBid
#NCSUganda

Awakening a Generation: Why Uganda's Universities can no Longer Afford to Ignore Values



Hon. Janet
Kataaha
Museveni launching
the Emerging Leaders
Program at Makerere
University.

By the time lectures end on Makerere Hill, another kind of learning begins. In quiet hostel rooms, students wrestle with decisions that will shape the rest of their lives. In crowded taxis heading back to MUBS or Makerere University, others scroll endlessly through social media feeds filled with temptation, pressure, and comparison. Some carry post-betting debts they cannot explain to their parents. Others carry grief, addiction, or shame that never appears on a transcript.

It is a silent crisis unfolding across Uganda's universities. One that grades and degrees alone cannot fix. Rising drug abuse. Gambling addictions disguised as hustle. Worrying cases of sexual abuse and coercion. Suicides that shock campuses briefly, then disappear into whispers. Dropouts whose potential evaporates quietly. A generation technically skilled, yet often unanchored.

At its heart sits the SAFE Campaign:
***Sexually Fortified,
Addiction Free,
Financially Faithful,
Education Focused.***
Simple words.

Beyond Degrees: How Values Became the Missing Conversation

ELP began with an uncomfortable question: What kind of leaders are our universities producing? For decades, higher education has rightly prioritised academic excellence. But leadership failures across society, from corruption scandals to abuse of power, have exposed a painful gap. Intelligence without integrity. Ambition without restraint. Influence without empathy. Uganda's First Lady and Minister of Education and Sports, **Maama Janet Kataaha Museveni**, conceived ELP to confront that gap head-on. Not as a club. Not as a once-a-year event, but as a values ecosystem, a combination of curriculum, peer leadership, mentoring, storytelling, digital engagement, counselling, and institutional dialogue.

Heavy realities. Where Honest Conversations Begin

On certain evenings, students gather not for concerts or protests, but for conversations.

Under tents, in halls, or open spaces, ELP's Fireside Conversations (Kyōtos) create something rare on campus: a safe space for truth. Former addicts speak of recovery. Entrepreneurs speak of integrity under pressure. Survivors of the justice system speak of second chances. Faith leaders, academics, and alumni speak honestly about failure and redemption.

"Leadership doesn't start with titles. It starts with how you choose when no one is watching," Miracle Nassazi, an ELP student leader put it plainly

The effect is tangible. Attendance remains strong, but online reach often multiplies when the stories are raw. Testimony travels faster than theory.

And sometimes, the impact is immediate. During an orientation medical camp linked to ELP's SAFE Campaign, a student tested HIV-positive. Instead of panic or stigma, there was counselling, referral, and early treatment. "That moment," an ELP health facilitator reflected, "reminds us why values-based leadership must be practical. It must save lives, not just sound good."

When Students Stop Waiting and Start Leading

Perhaps ELP's most powerful shift has been invisible.

Students are no longer waiting to be helped. They are helping each other.

Through **SAFE Clubs**, peer mentoring, and digital storytelling, students have launched their own initiatives—on gambling addiction, mental health, financial literacy, consent culture, and responsible relationships.

This is how culture changes, not through enforcement alone, but through ownership.

Over time, sustained advocacy around wellbeing, consent, and safeguarding contributed to deeper institutional conversations at Makerere University, strengthening attention to student protection and welfare frameworks that had long needed reinforcement.

One Vision, Two Campuses: Mak and MUBS

ELP's pilot at Makerere University benefited from a residential campus, long-form engagement, and deep faculty interaction. But expansion to Makerere University Business School (MUBS) brought a new reality. MUBS students are commuters. Time

is scarce. Pressures are sharper. Many juggle work, internships, rotational learning, and family responsibilities alongside study. Conversations about values intersect directly with money, ambition, and survival. Yet therein lies the opportunity. At MUBS, ELP is reframing values as strategic leadership capital, integrity as a business asset, financial faithfulness as resilience, ethical leadership as employability. Shorter sessions, digital-first content, and career-linked mentorship are lined-up.

From Campus to Country: A National Question

This story does not end at Makerere's gates.

ELP's journey raises a national challenge, one that policymakers and university leaders can no longer sidestep.

If drug abuse, suicides, sexual violence, and ethical failures are rising among educated youth, can values and character development remain optional?

Countries that have faced similar questions acted decisively. Singapore embedded Character and Citizenship Education. Finland integrated wellbeing and transversal skills. Rwanda linked leadership formation with national service.

Uganda, too, stands at a crossroads.

Early Signs of Enduring Impact

The signs are emerging. ELP alumni are stepping into leadership, student offices, civic roles, even national politics, across party lines, carrying a shared grounding in integrity and service.

In 2025, ELP distilled its learning into a home-grown implementation framework: Engage, Equip, Empower, Elevate, Endure. This is a recognition that leadership formation is a journey, not a moment.

The First Cohort of the **Emerging Leaders Programme (ELP)** Graduating During the 76th Graduation Ceremony



Kanyesigye Julian
Bachelor of Science in Quantitative Economics (COBAMS)



Emojong Kisajja
Bachelor of Biomedical Lab Technology (COVAB)



Mwebaze Bruce
Bachelor of Science in Petroleum Geoscience and Production (CONAS)



Kato Collins
Bachelor of Fine Art (CEDAT)



Tyobo Harriet Yake
Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Engineering (CHS)



Haguma Fredrick
Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery (CHS)



Ssemanda Isaac
Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery (CHS)



Ahonesa Dorcas Wamimbi
Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery (CHS)



Wakayiya Lenard
Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine (COVAB)



Namatovu Brenda Fancy
Bachelor of Statistics (COBAMS)



Musiime Abias
Bachelor of Arts with Education (CEES)



Ssekandi Paul
Bachelor of Social Work (CHUSS)



Nagudi Racheal Belinda
Bachelor of Food Science and Technology (CAES)



Taranta Martha
Bachelor of Fine Art (CEDAT)



Mugisha Edgar Stuart
Bachelor of Pharmacy (CHS)



Nambasa Jemimah
Bachelor of Adult and Community Education (CEES)



Ssegawa Trevor Mathias
Bachelor of Law (SoL)



Niwasiima Hellenah
Bachelors of Journalism and Communications (CHUSS)



Gramusen Sulaiman
Bachelor of Social Sciences (CHUSS)



Nakajubi Mary Gloria
Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine (COVAB)

Mak Hosts Major International Conferences



The Chief Guest-Hon. Dr. Monica Musenero Masanza (Central) poses for a group photo with dignitaries after officially opening the 5th ARUA Biennial International Conference on 29th October 2025.

ARUA 5th Biennial Conference A Success

Makerere University hosted the 5th Biennial International Conference of the African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA) from 29th to 31st October, 2025, marking ARUA's 10th anniversary. Focused on "Research, Innovation, and Artificial Intelligence for Africa's Transformation," the conference brought together over 250 experts to explore how AI and research can tackle challenges in agriculture, health, education,

and governance while driving sustainable development aligned with Agenda 2063. Key speakers, including Hon. Dr. Monica Musenero Masanza, Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe, and ARUA leaders, urged Africa to shift from knowledge consumption to creation, reclaim innovation legacies, build ethical AI ecosystems, and foster university-industry ties. A major outcome was an MoU with Atria Learning to launch an AI e-Campus supporting postgraduate education and the AU's one million PhDs goal by 2035. The conference reinforced African universities' role in ethical, inclusive AI adoption for continental progress.

2nd AI in Health Africa Conference

The 2nd AI in Health Africa Conference, held 6th to 7th November, 2025, in the Main Hall centered on "Setting AI for Sustainable and Inclusive Health Systems in Africa." It stressed that AI is not primarily about technology but about serving vulnerable communities burdened by infectious diseases and health inequities. Keynote speaker Hon. Dr. Monica Musenero urged Africa to develop homegrown AI solutions and boldly enter the "evil forest" of innovation. Organizers, including Makerere's AI Health Lab and partners, highlighted ethical, equitable applications through projects like the Ocular AI tool for rapid diagnostics. The event featured panels, workshops, a hackathon, and calls for inclusive AI governance and capacity building to benefit underserved populations.



Hon. Dr. Monica Musenero (Centre) flanked by Left to Right: Dr. Andrew Kambugu, Mr. Ambrose Ruyooka, Dr. Stella Kivila and Dr. Rose Nakasi takes part in the plenary session on "The Future of AI in Africa's Healthcare" on 6th November 2025.



*Right to Left:
Prof. Sarah Ssali, Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe, Dr. Winifred Kabumbuli, H.E. Churchill James Ssentamu, Prof. Buyinza Mukadasi and other officials receive the electric bus donated by Kiira Motors to ease mobility for staff and students with special needs.*

Makerere, Kiira Motors Partner to Enhance Campus Transport

Makerere University has made a bold stride in transforming campus mobility with the introduction of three new buses, including an Electric one, dedicated for students and staff with disabilities, reinforcing its commitment to inclusive access, sustainability, and homegrown innovation.

Inclusive Mobility

Among the buses received was a state-of-the-art electric vehicle donated by Kiira Motors Corporation specially designed to improve movement for students and staff with disabilities across Makerere’s expansive campus. The dedicated electric bus will serve routes that connect key academic, administrative, and residential

areas, a development that university officials say will significantly enhance accessibility, dignity, and independence for persons with mobility challenges.

The introduction of this bus responds directly to concerns about traversing Makerere’s hilly terrain and long distances between facilities, obstacles that have, in the past, made mobility especially difficult for persons with disabilities. The electric bus reflects the University’s broader goal of fostering an equitable learning environment where all members can fully participate in academic and campus life.

In addition to the disability-friendly electric bus, Makerere University acquired two additional buses from Kiira Motors to expand its internal transportation system. These vehicles will serve the wider student and staff population, offering reliable

transport on busy campus routes.

The new buses, especially the one tailored for persons with disabilities, have been warmly welcomed by the Makerere community. Students and staff are optimistic that improved transport will boost punctuality, participation in campus activities, and overall academic engagement. The initiative is also expected to serve as a model for other institutions seeking to enhance accessibility and sustainable operations.

By investing in modern, environmentally sound transport solutions and supporting local manufacturing, Makerere University continues to demonstrate leadership not only in education but also in inclusive development and innovation, contributing to Uganda’s broader goals of industrialisation, accessibility, and environmental stewardship.

Early Intervention Psychiatry Services Clinic launched at MakHosp

Makerere University Hospital (MakHosp) is a teaching and service hospital of Makerere University, established to support training, research, and the delivery of specialized health care. The hospital provides primary and selected specialized clinical services to Makerere University students, staff, and surrounding communities, while also serving as a hub for clinical research, innovation, and community health outreach. Its work complements national referral services offered by Mulago National Referral Hospital.

MakHosp offers a wide range of outpatient and inpatient services, including general medical care, specialist outpatient clinics, pharmacy services, laboratory diagnostics, radiology, dental care, eye and ENT services, physiotherapy, immunization, HIV care, and emergency services, including ambulance support. Through this comprehensive service package, the hospital plays a critical role in addressing both routine and specialized health needs within and beyond the university community.

On 30 October 2025, the Department of Psychiatry from the College of Health Sciences in partnership with MakHosp, officially launched the Early Intervention Psychiatry Services (EIPS) Clinic—an innovative programme set to transform the treatment of psychosis and other severe mental-health conditions in Uganda.

The launch attracted a wide range of stakeholders from academia, clinical practice, research, and the community. Faculty and students from the Department of Psychiatry attended under the leadership of Dr Dickens Akena, Head of the Department at Makerere University College of Health Sciences. Hospital staff were led by the Hospital Director, Professor Josaphat Byamugisha, while the clinic's core operational team—the Psychosis Working Group—was represented under the leadership of the Principal Investigator, Dr Emmanuel Kiiza Mwesiga. Individuals with lived experience of psychosis also participated, reinforcing the clinic's strong patient-centred approach.

Operational since June 2024, the EIPS Clinic delivers community-

based early psychosis intervention for first-episode cases, alongside general mental-health services for Makerere University students. The clinic is staffed by a dedicated multidisciplinary team comprising three psychiatrists, two nurses, a psychologist, and a laboratory professional. Services are offered on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays, and include clinical assessment and diagnosis, laboratory investigations, psychological interventions, pharmacological treatment, and long-term follow-up care. Plans are underway to expand the service package, with social-intervention components currently under development.

The initiative is supported by a strong network of national and international partners, underscoring the global relevance of early-intervention psychiatry. The launch of the EIPS Clinic represents a significant step toward proactive, accessible, and evidence-based mental health care in Uganda, signalling a shift from delayed, reactive treatment to timely and preventive psychiatric care.





SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Mastercard Foundation Initiatives at Makerere University



Participants in the Scholars Council meeting pose for a group photo with Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe (Centre) in the Freedom Square, 2nd February 2025.

Makerere University has proudly cultivated a partnership with the Mastercard Foundation for the past 13 years, yielding significant and measurable outcomes. This collaboration has given rise to several key initiatives and partnerships that exemplify the impactful relationship with the Mastercard Foundation, including:

Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program at Makerere University

Makerere University and the Mastercard Foundation established a Scholars Program to educate and empower the next generation of African leaders. The first phase of the Scholars Program ran from 2013 to 2023, during which 1032 young people were recruited and educated at Makerere University. In December 2023, the partnership was renewed for the second phase of the Scholars Program, which runs through 2034.

During the second phase, 1,000 scholarships will be awarded for undergraduate and Master's studies

at Makerere University's main campus. Scholars will receive comprehensive financial support, mentorship and career guidance, psychosocial and wellbeing services, and healthcare throughout their studies.

The Program aims to enhance inclusive university education and empower young people to become transformative leaders contributing to national and regional development. Its objectives include enabling access to quality education, providing inclusive support services and skills development, building a strong network of service-oriented leaders, influencing institutional policy and practice, and ensuring effective program management.

Key Accomplishments of Phase One (2013–2023)

The Scholars Program supported 1,032 scholars across six cohorts, exceeding its target by 103%, with 76% female participants. By January 2025, 965 scholars had graduated, achieving a 94% completion rate. The Program also benefited

over 12 communities by constructing classrooms, teachers' accommodation, boreholes, sanitation facilities, and enhancing accessibility at places like Salama School for the Blind and several rural primary schools.

Through the Scholars Entrepreneurship Fund (SEF), 46 entrepreneurial projects were supported nationwide, while 24 scholar-led social ventures received funding through partnerships such as the Resolution Social Venture initiative.

The Africa Climate Collaborative at Makerere University

Climate change is one of Africa's most pressing development challenges, disproportionately affecting women, youth, and marginalised communities. In April 2025, Makerere University and the Mastercard Foundation launched the Africa Climate Collaborative to strengthen climate resilience through research, innovation, and workforce development.





Cohort 8 Scholars pose for a group photo with Prof. Buyinza Mukadasi, Mr. Adrian Bukonya, Prof. Justine Namaalwa and Prof. Ibrahim Mike Okumu shortly after their Scholarship Award Ceremony, 11th September 2025.

Delivered through a consortium including the University of Cape Town, the University of Cambridge, and the University of Ghana, with the Association of African Universities as the backbone organisation, the Collaborative aligns with the Mastercard Foundation’s Young Africa Works Strategy. It is an eight-year, university-wide programme structured around four pillars:

- **Workforce Development:** Scholarships for 250 Master’s and 40 PhD students, development of new graduate programmes, and upskilling 150 senior academic staff.
- **Entrepreneurship:** Green entrepreneurship skilling for 500 youth, seed funding for 200 ventures, and boost funding for 40 women- and youth-led innovations.
- **Research and Innovation:** Support for 30 postdoctoral fellows, establishment of a Climate Resilience Support Centre, and funding for 101 research and innovation projects.
- **Networks, Policy, and Learning:** Partnerships with public universities, policy dialogues, support to local governments, and community engagement to promote uptake of innovations.

Scholarship Award Ceremony and Strategic Engagements

For the 2025/2026 academic year, 30 fully funded Master’s scholarships were awarded across five programmes, attracting 190

applicants. The cohort includes 70% women, four students with disabilities, and two international scholars.

Recruitment is ongoing for six PhD students undertaking research in climate-resilient agriculture, water access, waste-to-energy, ecosystems, and disaster risk management. Scholars receive full tuition, stipends, accommodation, healthcare, research support, and leadership and employability training.

The Collaborative’s strategy has been co-created through engagement with University leadership, government ministries, local governments, and private-sector actors.

Partnerships have also been formalised with four public universities in Uganda to strengthen research networks and innovation platforms.

The Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program eLearning Initiative (2022–2024)

Between June 2022 and October 2024, Makerere University implemented the eLearning Initiative to strengthen capacity for inclusive, high-quality online education. The Initiative focused on developing online academic content and learner support services, and on improving access to and utilisation of digital learning platforms.

Key achievements included developing and uploading eContent

for 2,579 course units (101% of the target), capacity-building for 1,280 academic staff, and creating four comprehensive online learner support courses.

Significant ICT investments were made, including servers, multimedia studios across five colleges, and equipment to support decentralised content development.

Despite challenges such as varying digital literacy levels and competing workloads, continuous mentorship, flexible design, and early stakeholder engagement proved critical to success.

The Initiative has positioned Makerere University as a regional leader in blended and digital education, expanding access for learners facing geographic, financial, or physical barriers.

Conclusion

Through the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program, the Africa Climate Collaborative, and the eLearning Initiative, Makerere University has strengthened inclusive education, climate resilience, and digital transformation. These initiatives demonstrate the power of strategic partnerships, innovation, and African-led solutions to shape resilient futures. Makerere University remains deeply appreciative of the Mastercard Foundation’s sustained partnership and looks forward to advancing the next phase of transformative impact.



Chancellor Kiyonga awarding Ms. Hilda Mpirirwe, a PhD during the University's 75th graduation ceremony in January 2025. Dr. Hilda Mpirirwe is one of the beneficiaries of the Mak-RIF PhD award.

Mak-RIF Empowers PhD Students to Turn Research into Real-World Solutions

Research and innovations are at the heart of Makerere University's vision and mission. This is especially evident in its steady advancement towards becoming a research-led University. 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.

Coordinated by the Makerere University Research and Innovations Fund (Mak-RIF), the financial support is used to increase the local generation of translatable research and scalable innovation projects that address key gaps required to drive Uganda's development agenda. To date, Mak-RIF has funded **1,457 multidisciplinary research and innovation projects** focusing on priority issues of national importance jointly identified with policymakers. The Fund has also supported **235 PhD students** with funding, and **over 100**

publications in peer reviewed journals.

For PhD students at Makerere University, the journey from research concept to real-world impact is increasingly becoming a reality. Mak-RIF provides financial resources that allow them to focus on innovative research addressing pressing societal needs such as improving healthcare systems, advancing technological solutions, and policy reforms among others. Ultimately, Mak-RIF-backed projects are helping bridge the gap between academic research and community impact.

"The PhD Award plays a critical role in building research capacity and nurturing the next generation of scholars. Our goal is to empower PhD students to translate ideas into practical solutions in areas such as health, technology, agriculture, and social development," says Dr. Roy William Mayega, Mak-RIF Coordinator.

19 out of the **143 PhD** Graduands during the 75th Graduation Ceremony held in January 2025 at Makerere University were Mak-RIF PhD grantees. In February 2026, 18

Mak-RIF PhD grantees will be awarded their degrees.

Beneficiaries of Mak-RIF's PhD Award describe the fund as more than financial support. It offers validation, visibility, and confidence for young researchers seeking to make meaningful contributions in their fields. By prioritizing innovation and relevance, Mak-RIF builds a strong pipeline of researchers equipped to influence policy, industry, and academia in Uganda and beyond.

Prof. Masagazi-Masaazi, Chairperson of the Mak-RIF Grants Management Committee applauded Makerere University's Management for prioritizing research and innovations and appreciated the Government of the Republic of Uganda for continuously funding research and innovations through Mak-RIF.

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 learn more about Mak-RIF, visit our website on rif.mak.ac.ug

Championing Safety and Inclusion: Safeguarding Initiatives at Makerere University



At Makerere, learning goes beyond lectures and exams. It is about feeling safe, supported, and respected.” Precious Ssenonga, a second-year student from the College of Computing and Information Sciences, said.

Over the past years, the University has strengthened its safeguarding initiatives, by creating an environment where students and staffs can thrive academically, socially and emotionally.

In 2024, Makerere University took a bold and deliberate step towards strengthening this promise with the approval of its Safeguarding Policy, a comprehensive framework designed to protect the wellbeing, dignity and rights of all members of the University community.

Safeguarding, once viewed narrowly as protection against a few specific risks, has today emerged as a central pillar of responsible institutional governance. Globally, universities are increasingly assessed not only on the quality of their teaching and research, but also on how well they create safe, inclusive and supportive environments. Makerere’s Safeguarding Policy positions the University firmly within this global movement.

“We want every member of our community to feel safe, respected and supported. Safeguarding is not just about responding to incidents; it’s about building a culture where everyone is aware of their rights and responsibilities.” Dr Winfred Kabumbuli, the dean of students, said.

The potential safeguarding risks in Institutions of higher learning include emotional distress, Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (SEAH); material loss, financial exploitation, discrimination and neglect, unfair and illegitimate response to civic engagements, cyber security/threats, psychological and emotional harm, substance abuse, and physical assault.

Discrimination and neglect are often high risks for students with disabilities and international students.

MakSafeSpace

The University’s MakSafeSpace platform has become a cornerstone of these efforts. This confidential reporting system allows students, staff, and visitors to report any

form of harassment, abuse or unsafe behavior. More than just a reporting tool, the MakSafeSpace ensures timely intervention by the appropriate authorities and provides access to counseling and support services.

Beyond reporting, Makerere has prioritized awareness and education. The University organizes workshops, seminars and peer-led sessions that focus on prevention of harm. These sessions equip students and staff with the knowledge to identify unsafe situations and empower them to act responsibly.

The Safeguarding Champions from different Colleges play a vital role within the University, by guiding peers on how to navigate challenges, encouraging dialogue on sensitive issues, and promoting respectful conduct across the campus. These efforts have created a campus culture where safety and respect are not optional, they are the foundation of the Makerere experience.

Through these initiatives, Makerere University is not just producing graduates, it is nurturing responsible, empathetic and courageous leaders who understand the importance of creating safe spaces in every environment they enter. As graduates leave the University, they carry with them not only knowledge but also the values of respect, dignity and care for others.



Safeguarding champions speak out

Mary Agnes Atim, a third-year Fine Art student, described her experience as a Safeguarding Champion as an opportunity to serve beyond the classroom.

“Being a champion has taught me that safeguarding is not just about reporting harm, but about creating safe spaces where students feel seen, heard and respected. Sometimes it’s simply listening, guiding a fellow student to the right support, or reminding people that help is available.” Atim, said.

Edinah Kamurasi, a second-year Bachelor of Arts in Economics student, said safeguarding has given students the confidence to speak up.

“Knowing that the University has clear systems and people who will listen makes a big difference. It tells

us that our safety matters just as much as our academics.” Kamurasi, said.

Jenkins Okidi, a third-year Bachelor of Animal Production student, said safeguarding has helped students take responsibility for one another.

“We are learning that safety on campus is everyone’s responsibility. As students, we must look out for each other and speak up when something is not right.” Okidi, said.

Sharifah Nalubembe, a second-year Library and Information Science student, said access to information is central to safeguarding.

“Many students are affected because they don’t know their rights or where to report. When information is clear and easy to access, it becomes easier to seek help early.” Nalubembe, said.



Drone Technology Powers CAES' NbS4Tea Project



Just after sunrise, a low hum broke the quiet over Kyenjojo District's tea fields as a drone lifted into the air, gliding steadily above neat rows of green. Below, the landscape told a complex story of soil, water, climate stress, and human effort. From above, however, the drone captured what the naked eye could not: precise data that may help shape the future of tea production in the country.

This moment marked a significant milestone for the Nature-based Solutions for Tea (NbS4Tea) project, which has successfully deployed drone technology to strengthen environmental and agricultural data collection.

Funded by the Danish Fellowship Centre under Denmark's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, NbS4Tea is a five-year initiative designed to enhance climate resilience and increase tea productivity in Uganda. The project aims to sustainably close the national tea yield gap by developing research-driven, nature-based solutions that improve the resilience of tea production systems. Key

interventions include identifying climate-resilient tea varieties, integrating tea prunings and banana by-products, incorporating nitrogen-fixing agroforestry trees, and improving irrigation management. The project also prioritizes socio-economic viability, research capacity building, and market-oriented, multi-stakeholder collaboration to ensure long-term environmental and economic sustainability.

NbS4Tea is implemented by a consortium of Ugandan and Danish institutions, including Makerere University, the National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO), the Uganda Tea Association, Aarhus University (Denmark), and Kick-start International. At Makerere University, the project is coordinated by Dr. Alex Nimusiima of the Department of Geography, Geo-Informatics, and Climatic Sciences at CAES.

On June 19, 2025, the project



team officially launched the drone technology at the Rwebitaba Tea Research Centre in Kyenjojo District, the project's primary research site. The launch included practical training sessions conducted by Mr. Timothy Mutungi, a certified Remote Sensing Drone Pilot, who provided hands-on instruction in drone operation, safety procedures, and data acquisition methods tailored to the project's research needs. The training was attended by core NbS4Tea researchers and project-supported students.

The integration of drone technology enables the collection of high-resolution imagery and detailed environmental data across large tea-growing areas. This advancement supports more precise assessments of biodiversity, soil health, water use, and ecosystem services. The resulting insights will guide the development of sustainable, nature-based agricultural practices with strong potential for adoption across Uganda's tea sector.

The project supports one PhD and one Master's student in each of its five work packages: (1) climate change impacts on tea yield and quality; (2) screening and selection of tea genotypes for resilience to biotic and abiotic stresses; (3) evaluation of nature-based solutions for climate resilience, productivity, and biodiversity; (4) development of smart, scalable irrigation technologies for improved tea production; and (5) socio-economic assessment of tea-agroforestry systems and selected tea varieties.

A drone testing exercise at Rwebitaba Tea Research Centre in Kyenjojo District on 19th June 2025 under the Nature-Based Solutions for Climate Resilient Tea Production in Uganda (NbS4Tea) Project in the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CAES).

A Safe Haven on Campus: Inside Makerere's New Daycare Centre



Giggles and hearty laughter welcome me as I walk into the University's Daycare and Breastfeeding centre, located at the Institute of Gender and Development Studies.

Launched in August 2025 by the Vice chancellor, Prof Barnabas Nawangwe together with the United Nations Development Programme(UNDP), the Daycare center was established to provide a safe and nurturing environment for children and relief for mothers and fathers to focus on their work and studies.

For many young mothers especially students, continuing with education can be a daunting task when childcare options are limited or unaffordable. The Centre bridges this gap, by enabling parents to attend lectures, teach, conduct research

Makerere University, in partnership with UNDP Uganda launched a Daycare and Breastfeeding Centre located at the Institute of Gender and Development Studies (IGDS) on 7th August 2025. Vice Chancellor Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe, Mr. Ian King - UNDP Uganda Deputy Resident Representative and Guild President Ssentamu Churchill James (Standing before Banners) joined other officials in a group photograph.

or carry out administrative duties knowing their children are safe and well cared for.

The tour

One of the day of my visit, I was welcomed by the manager of the center, Ms Donna Keirungi, who ushered me inside the play area where two children are seated on a red carpet. A number of toys are strewn around them as they babble in baby language. They are the only babies around, given that it is holiday season. The atmosphere is warm and reassuring, the kind that instantly puts both children and parents at ease.

I was drawn by the clean and airy environment, the bright cartoon characters adorning the white walls and the sparkingly clean tiled floors. In one of the rooms, are four beds with brightly coloured, cartoon-character blankets arranged in a straight line.

The center has a kitchen, toilet, bathroom and a big room where mothers can relax and breastfeed their babies.

In the kitchen is a fridge, where feeding bottles with expressed milk for the babies are kept and their packed food.

"As of now we do not prepare foods for the baby we just give them



UNDP's Mr. Ian King (Centre) flanked by Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe and H.E. Churchill James Ssentamu cuts the tape to launch the center.

what their parents pack for them. We have a microwave for warming the baby's food," Ms Keirungi, said.

In the bathroom, there is a bathtub where the babies are bathed and a washing machine where babies bedsheets are washed on a daily basis.

A day at the center

Structured play is integrated into the daily schedule, ensuring that each child receives holistic care. The center opens at 7:00am and closes at 5:00pm, when you bring in the baby, you pay 5000 Ugandan shillings as a student and sign in the book to show the time the baby came in and who received him or her. If it's a staff and graduate student, you are supposed to pay 10,000 Ugandan shillings per day. The center can accommodate five to eight babies at a go.

"We do not allow in sick children in the center but if we get an emergency like a child developing temperatures, we rush the baby at the University hospital for first aid," Ms Keirungi, said.

Ms Solome Kusasira, a mother and beneficiary of the facility, says the Baby Centre has been instrumental in enabling her to continue with her doctoral

studies. As a PhD student, balancing the demands of academic work with motherhood would have been nearly impossible without reliable childcare support.

"Without this place, I don't know if I would still be studying. Knowing that my child is in a safe, nurturing environment allows me to attend lectures, focus on my research and meet academic deadlines without constant worry. The caregivers here treat our children with so much care and love and that peace of mind makes all the difference." Ms Kusasira, said.

History

The journey to establish the centre began in 2022 with support from the UNDP, including benchmarking at a well-established Daycare Centre in Parliament. The centre is open to children aged three months to three years.

During the launch, Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe, the Vice Chancellor, noted that the centre will be crucial in supporting breastfeeding mothers particularly students and staff to continue their academic and professional pursuits. Recalling a time when women were

barely represented in the University Senate.

"The majority of graduates are women, but there are still issues of equity at the graduate level. I think there are still issues that we must solve, and one of them is helping mothers who are students and members of staff to continue with what they do, even when they have got babies to look after because that's one of the reasons, I think, why many students drop out just because they become mothers," he added.

In her speech, Prof. Sarah Ssali, the deputy Vice Chancellor Academic Affairs, highlighted that the Day care describes Makerere University's history and its commitment to gender equality and inclusion.

She highlighted that the University has over 20 gender policies and interventions with some directly impacting gender equality and others improving the work ecosystem for example, digitization, quality assurance programmes and scholarship programmes.

"This is the first that directly addresses the needs of both students and staff mothers and fathers alike through a shared space for child care," Prof Ssali, said.

Makerere-Tsinghua Belt and Road Lab Targets **Natural Disaster Early Warning**



A group photo of Participants at the official launch of the China-Uganda Belt and Road Joint Laboratory on Natural Disaster Monitoring and Early Warning.

Makerere University and Tsinghua University on 17th December 2025 launched the China-Uganda Belt and Road Joint Laboratory on Natural Disaster Monitoring and Early Warning, a groundbreaking collaboration under China's Belt and Road Initiative. The laboratory, hosted at Makerere University, marks the first and only facility of its kind in Africa within this framework. It was officially inaugurated during the Makerere-Tsinghua Symposium on Public Safety and Natural Disaster Management, by the Minister of State for Higher Education Hon. Dr. John Chrysostom Muyingo.

The initiative aims to bolster Uganda's and Africa's resilience against natural disasters, including floods, landslides, droughts, epidemics, soil erosion, and land-use changes. By combining Tsinghua University's advanced technological expertise—such as satellite monitoring, AI-driven analytics, geospatial analysis, integrated early warning systems, and risk prediction modeling—with Makerere's deep regional knowledge and policy engagement, the laboratory will

drive multidisciplinary research, innovation, and practical solutions tailored to African contexts. In so doing, it positions Makerere as a continental hub for disaster risk reduction.

The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe and Ugandan Co-Director of the laboratory, highlighted its origins in a 2018 delegation visit to Tsinghua and the Hefei Institute for Public Safety Research. He described it as a competitive grant success that aligns with Makerere's ambition to become a research-intensive institution. "This Laboratory will significantly enhance Makerere University's ability to generate evidence-based research that directly informs government policy and public safety interventions. It will serve not only Uganda, but Africa at large," he stated.

Prof. Yuan Hongyong, Dean of the Hefei Institute and Chinese Co-Director, emphasized the partnership as a milestone in South-South cooperation, transcending borders to address shared challenges through science-driven responses.

Government representatives,

including Mr. Frederick Edward Walugembe from the Office of the Prime Minister and Mr. WANG Jianxun, Commercial Counsellor at the Chinese Embassy in Uganda, acknowledged the laboratory as a pillar of national resilience, multi-agency coordination, and the China-Uganda Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. They added that it extends beyond infrastructure to science diplomacy, technology transfer, and sustainable development.

Expected outcomes include improved early warning systems, faster emergency responses, stronger policy coordination, and enhanced scientific capacity to build resilient communities. An interim multidisciplinary coordination committee has been commissioned to operationalize the facility, drawing from fields like public health, engineering, AI, climate science, and social sciences, while engaging regional partners like Nigeria and Côte d'Ivoire.

Mak hosts First African Symposium on Natural Capital Accounting and Climate-Sensitive Macroeconomic Modelling



African economies are increasingly exposed to climate-related shocks that threaten development gains, fiscal sustainability, and macroeconomic stability. From extreme weather events and biodiversity loss to the depletion of natural capital, climate risks are reshaping economic realities across the continent. Yet many macroeconomic frameworks used in public finance and planning continue to overlook climate and nature-related risks and the long-term benefits of resilience and adaptation investments.

To address this emerging reality, over **250** participants from Africa, Europe and beyond, convened at Makerere University-Kampala, on the 12th and 13th of February 2026, to participate in the First African Symposium on Natural Capital Accounting and Climate-Sensitive Macroeconomic Modelling. Hon. Henry Musasizi, Minister of State for Finance (General Duties) and Hon. Beatrice Atim Anywar, Minister of State for Environment graced the opening ceremony.

Following the theme, “**Climate-Sensitive Macroeconomics: Rethinking Growth in Africa’s Natural Resource Base**”, the hybrid symposium organized by Makerere

University through the Centre of Excellence for Africa Climate-Sensitive Macroeconomic Modelling (CEACM) under the College of Business and Management Sciences (CoBAMS), the EfD-Makerere Centre, and the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (MoFPED) in Uganda, brought onboard ministers, leading economists and planners, researchers, policy makers, the academia, development partners, climate change experts and the media.

The Symposium being the first of its kind on the continent, reflected Africa’s growing determination to work collectively in confronting shared development challenges, building on recent momentum such as the formation of Pan-African Finance Ministers Forum for Climate Action (PAFMCA).

Universities to lead innovation and collaborative research

The Vice Chancellor-Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe emphasized that universities must lead innovation and collaborative research efforts to support collective climate change mitigation across the continent. Advocating for strong collaboration between universities

in Africa and government ministries, Prof. Nawangwe revealed that the collaboration between Makerere University and the MoFPED has strengthened macroeconomic modelling, fiscal policy analysis, technical capacity within government, and in August 2025, led to the establishment of the Centre of Excellence for Africa Climate-Sensitive Macroeconomic Modelling, bridging academic scholarship with real-world policy application.

Vice Chancellor- Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe, Ministers- Hon. Henry Musasizi and Hon. Beatrice Atim Anywar, Keynote Speaker- Paul Jonathan Martin, Prof. Edward Bbaale and partners pose for a photo during the Symposium, 12th Feb 2026.

Climate and Economic transformation are inseparable

The Vice Chancellor highlighted the critical intersection between economic transformation and environmental sustainability, noting that economies in Africa, heavily dependent on natural resources, face unprecedented pressures from climate shocks, biodiversity loss, and environmental degradation. He stressed that economic growth cannot be pursued in isolation from climate and environmental realities.

Minister calls for Integrating Climate into Fiscal Policy

The Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Hon. Matia Kasaija underscored the urgency of embedding climate considerations into economic planning. In a speech read by Hon. Henry Musasizi, the Minister guided that traditional macroeconomic models focusing only on growth, inflation, and fiscal balance are inadequate in an era of climate shocks. He stressed that traditional macroeconomic frameworks must evolve to systematically incorporate environmental degradation and climate shocks, whose consequences can no longer be ignored in policy analysis.

The Makerere Marathon that's quietly rewriting student stories

Imagine a student with visual impairment seated in a lecture hall, listening attentively yet unable to access printed handouts that classmates skim through with ease. For years, such barriers made academic competition uneven. Today, that reality is changing.

Through assistive equipment acquired by Makerere University's Disability Support Unit, funded from proceeds of the Makerere Marathon, printed text can now be transcribed into braille, ensuring that learning is not limited by circumstance. It is stories like this that illuminate the true meaning of the Makerere Marathon: every step taken by a runner becomes a step forward for someone else.

Organized annually by the Makerere University Endowment Fund together with a growing network of partners, alumni, students, and well-wishers, the Makerere Marathon has evolved into far more than a race. It is a flagship platform that blends fitness, philanthropy, and community spirit in support of Makerere University's mission of excellence, inclusion, and innovation. What began as a fundraising initiative has steadily transformed into one of the institution's most anticipated signature events, attracting thousands of participants from across Uganda and the region.

The impact of the Makerere Marathon is both measurable and meaningful. Funds raised have primarily supported the University's Disability Support Unit, enabling it to acquire specialized equipment and resources that enhance learning access for students living with disabilities. From assistive technologies to adaptive learning tools, these investments are helping level the academic playing field and ensure that every student has



a fair opportunity to succeed. Each edition of the run reflects growing confidence in the initiative, with participation numbers steadily increasing and partners deepening their commitment to advancing inclusive education at Makerere.

Partnerships, in particular, have played a defining role in the Makerere Marathon's expansion. Corporate organizations, alumni bodies, and institutional collaborators continue to rally behind the initiative, recognizing its value as both a social investment and a unifying national platform. A notable milestone came last year when NCBA committed UGX 1.45 billion over five years to support the marathon, a landmark endorsement that signals strong belief in the run's vision and long-term impact. Such sustained backing not only strengthens the event's organizational capacity but also ensures that its benefits reach more students and programs each year.

As the Makerere Marathon continues to grow, so too does its vision: **to cultivate a sustainable culture of giving, wellness, and collective responsibility for Makerere's future.**

With each upcoming edition, the aim is not only to attract more runners but also to deepen partnerships, expand reach, and multiply the number of lives transformed through the initiative.

Team Makerere Claims Bronze at 2025 AUUS Games

The Makerere University Games Union crowned their 2025 calendar by claiming Third Place at the 20th edition of the Association of Uganda University Sports (AUUS) games. The games were hosted by the Uganda Christian University (UCU) Mukono Campus from 18th to 23rd December.

Although Makerere at seventeen medals had the same tally as first place finishers Ndejje University, the difference was in gold medals won, where Ndejje had ten and Makerere had four. In the other categories, Makerere claimed eight silver and five bronze, while Ndejje had four silver and three bronze. Hosts UCU finished second place with nine gold, six silver and three bronze medals.

A total of twenty-four (24) Universities participated in the 2025 AUUS Games. Makerere University was represented by a contingent of 220 students, 13 coaches and 3 tutors. The students were selected from a pool

of over 500 athletes following a rigorous qualification process that included a residential camp in Lumumba Hall from 9th to 17th December.

Team Makerere was captained by Ms. Namutebi Rhonah Majoline also a member of the National Woodball Team, with Mr. Katsirabo Donic a member of the Makerere Enzymes Football Team and Mr. Nuwagaba Phillip also a member of the National Swimming Team as Vice Captains. The Team Doctor and GRC Games Union was Mr. Kavule Edrine a Fifth Year Medical Student.

Makerere Rugby Team Members show off their Bronze Medals at the 20th Edition of the Association of Uganda University Sports (AUUS) Games 2025 hosted by UCU Mukono from 18th-23rd December 2025.



Combating Child Malnutrition in the Face of Climate Change:

Mak-CAES healthy soy initiative offers hope



The project team led by Prof. Benedikte Grenov and Prof. Phinehas Tukamuhabwa during the inception meeting at CAES on 15th August 2025.

Child malnutrition remains one of the most pressing public health challenges worldwide. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), more than 148 million children under the age of five were affected by stunting in 2023, a condition caused by chronic under-nutrition that impairs both physical and cognitive development. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 2 aims to end all forms of malnutrition by 2030, but climate change, rising food insecurity, and deepening inequality are making this goal increasingly difficult to achieve.

Expert reports indicate that as the global climate crisis accelerates, its ripple effects are being felt most acutely in the Global South. Prolonged droughts, erratic rainfall, and frequent natural disasters are reducing crop yields, diminishing nutrient density in food, and driving up food prices. For smallholder farmers, who form the backbone of food production in many developing

countries, these changes are devastating. Without the resources to invest in irrigation or climate-adaptive technologies, they are hit hardest by agricultural losses.

The burden of climate-induced food insecurity and malnutrition is not shared equally. Children are particularly vulnerable, as their growth demands a consistent intake of high-quality nutrients. Women, meanwhile, are doubly impacted. They are often both food producers and the primary caregivers responsible for child nutrition. These gendered and generational inequalities are deepening as food systems falter under environmental stress.

Stunting and the Need for High-Quality Protein

Stunting in children is one of the most visible forms of malnutrition. Once it occurs, reversing it is challenging, though not impossible. For children affected by stunting to catch up in growth, their diets must

include high-quality proteins, which are essential for muscle and tissue development.

Animal-source foods such as milk, eggs, and meat provide proteins with the highest biological value. However, in low-income settings, these foods are often prohibitively expensive or unavailable. Soybeans offer a promising alternative – they are a plant-based source of relatively high-quality protein, widely grown and consumed in many parts of the world. However, soy is not without limitations. Its protein bioavailability can be reduced by natural compounds known as anti-nutrients, which inhibit digestion and absorption.

The Healthy Soy Project: A Science-Based Solution for Sustainable Nutrition

In response to this challenge, Makerere University, in collaboration with partners and with funding from the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs through the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) in August 2025 launched an innovative research project titled

“Climate-resilient soybean for improved growth and health of children in Uganda (Healthy Soy)”.

This multi-year project seeks to develop sustainable, affordable, and nutritious soy-based food solutions to help combat stunting in Uganda and other climate-vulnerable regions. The University of Copenhagen, Denmark is leading the project, with Makerere University and RECO Industries Limited as partners. The overall PI of the Project is Prof. Benedikte Grenov from the University of Copenhagen. At Makerere University, the project is coordinated by Prof. Phinehas Tukamuhabwa.

CoBAMS: The Powerhouse of Research and Knowledge Production

In the strategic plan, Makerere University commits to being a research-driven institution. The College of Business and Management Sciences (CoBAMS) is a key player and dominant force that significantly contributes to the realization of the University's research agenda. The college research plan is well aligned to the Universitywide research agenda especially of creating an enabling and harmonious environment for research and innovation, while cultivating strategic partnerships to enhance research capabilities.

CoBAMS Working Paper Series: A boost of over 60 research outputs

The CoBAMS Working Paper Series, is a perfect addition to the Makerere University research and publications landscape, courtesy of the College leadership, researchers, faculty, in partnership with Government

Ministries, the business community, and private sector, who dared the long hours during day and night, to undertake research aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Uganda's 10-fold National Economic Growth Strategy (ATMS), and the Makerere University Strategic Plan.

With over 60 high quality research outputs, the majority accepted in internationally recognized peer-reviewed journals, the 2025 CoBAMS Working Paper Series has enriched the Makerere University research profile. The Working Paper Series covers a broad spectrum of national priorities, including unemployment, climate change, population dynamics, taxation, entrepreneurship, public investment, corruption, gender, refugee livelihoods, the green economy, as well as examination processes and systems in institutions of higher learning.

Impressed by the CoBAMS Working Paper Series, the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic Affairs), Prof. Sarah Sali commended the College leadership and staff for championing Makerere's research agenda. She urged the College to transition the Working

Paper Series into homegrown journals. "Journals raise our visibility, raise our H-index, and ensure that anyone researching on Uganda finds homegrown scholarship."

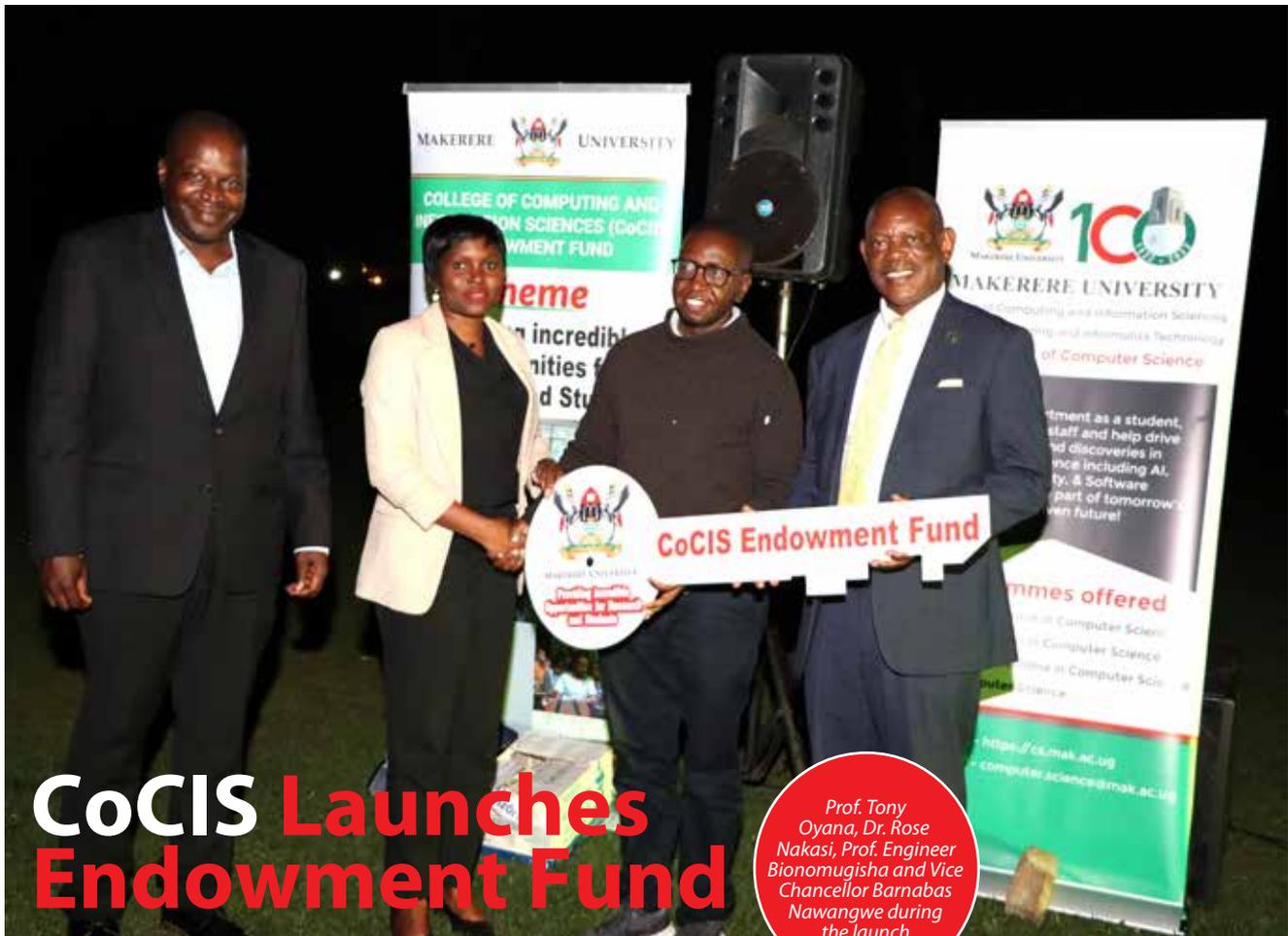
Collective College Achievement

The Principal of CoBAMS, Prof. Edward Bbaale, described the Series as a major achievement rooted in collective effort and consistent commitment to research excellence. "The Working Paper Series is a nursery bed for journal articles, book chapters, and future scholarly outputs."

Prof. Bbaale emphasised that the College's four research centres—in Entrepreneurship and Innovation, Statistics and Demography, Public Investment Management, and the Environment for Development Initiative—form a strong foundation for sustained knowledge production. "These centres anchor high-level research, policy engagement, and interdisciplinary collaboration. They are the backbone of our research ecosystem."

Sarah Sali launches the CoBAMS Working Paper Series.





CoCIS Launches Endowment Fund

Prof. Tony Oyana, Dr. Rose Nakasi, Prof. Engineer Bionomugisha and Vice Chancellor Barnabas Nawangwe during the launch.

The College of Computing and Information Sciences (CoCIS) at Makerere University launched an Endowment Fund on August 15, 2025, designed to provide sustainable financial support for student scholarships, research initiatives, and innovation. The launch took place during the CoCIS staff retreat at the Source of the Nile Hotel in Jinja, with Makerere University Vice Chancellor, Professor Barnabas Nawangwe, presiding over the event.

The Endowment Fund aims to ensure long-term resources for CoCIS to maintain its leadership in technology and academics. It was established to address the growing number of academically capable students who struggle with tuition fees, while also promoting research among early-

career faculty. The fund will help the college attract top talent, invest in cutting-edge infrastructure, and support continued technological advancement.

The initiative is backed by a commitment to reinvesting funds generated from successful research grants. At the launch, three exceptional researchers; Dr. Rose Nakasi, Dr. Joyce Nakatumba Nabende, and Professor Engineer Bionomugisha, were recognized for their outstanding contributions to the Endowment Fund. They were honored for writing successful research proposals that have significantly bolstered the college's resource pool.

The fund will support 18 students annually through four scholarship tiers: one

student will receive a full scholarship of USD 2,000, two students will receive USD 1,500 each, five students will be awarded USD 1,000 each, and ten students will receive USD 500 each.

The total annual investment in scholarships is USD 15,000, aimed at helping students from low socio-economic backgrounds. The scholarships are primarily for second- and third-year undergraduate students, with Software Engineering students eligible in their third or fourth year, provided they maintain a minimum CGPA of 3.6.

The Centre for Lifelong Learning, at the College of Education and External Studies (CEES), in partnership with the Uganda Vocational Technical Assessment Board (UVTAB), provides opportunities to the youth in Uganda to access quality education. Students who successfully complete and excel in the various national diploma courses under this partnership, qualify to join Makerere University, and other degree awarding institutions.



This collaboration aligns with Uganda's National Development Plan IV and Vision 2040, which advocate for inclusive, equitable, and lifelong education. This strategic approach reflects the aspirations of H.E President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni and the Government of Uganda. In addition, it is anchored within the Makerere University Strategic Plan ethos of innovative teaching and learning, practical education, skilling, knowledge-transfer partnerships and community development.

This access to education model offers opportunities to youth and individuals who lack the financial means or academic qualifications to access Makerere's mainstream programs, to join UVTAB technical education programmes. The students enrolled in the program typically come from Advanced-level backgrounds or hold certificates from technical institutions.

The CEES Centre for Lifelong Learning, serves as a bridge between the university and the community. The trainings involve a practical and problem-solving approach with students holding collaborative discussions to identify problems within the community, and jointly undertaking projects to provide solutions.

In 2025, UVTAB technical students pursuing higher diploma courses in Civil Engineering and Architecture, in collaboration with the CEES Centre for Lifelong Learning and instructors from the College of Engineering, Design, Art and Technology (CEDAT), embarked on a real-life project to construct a wall fence at Makerere College School. 173 students out of whom 28 are girls, were enrolled in the Civil Engineering and Architecture higher diploma program. Some of the projects that the AVTAB technical students under CEES and CEDAT have worked on at Makerere College School include: a yard constructed at the boys' hostel, the wall fence, and a drainage system.

The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe noted that the newly constructed wall fence stands as a testament to the power of technical education, lifelong learning and practical teaching.

In a speech read by the Principal of CEES, Prof. Anthony Muwagga Mugagga, the Vice Chancellor observed that the partnership with UVTAB increases the number of students accessing quality education services, enhances lifelong learning, and promotes practical education. The Vice Chancellor commended CEES for implementing programmes through the Centre of Lifelong learning, which contribute to youth empowerment, job creation, and community transformation.

Congratulating the technical students upon this milestone, and in solidarity, the Vice Chancellor wrote: "I am an architect and courses in my profession go deep to my heart. Congratulations to the students, the engineers, and course instructors."



IoT Meets Agriculture:

CEDAT's Team Green Minds Triumph at GAIathon 2025

Team Next Generation Green Minds won the GEO Africa Incubator/Accelerator Innovation Challenge (GAIathon 2025), which was hosted at Makerere University's College of Engineering, Design, Art and Technology (CEDAT).

The competition, held under the theme "Empowering Innovation through Digital Literacy," brought together 12 university teams that showcased innovative solutions harnessing Earth Observation (EO) and Internet of Things (IoT) technologies.

The winning trio, all Master's students in Geographical Information Science and Technology, developed the **Smart Irrigation Advisory System**, a webbased IoT platform

that integrated satellite data and remote sensing techniques to guide farmers on irrigation. The system advised farmers on when to water crops, how much water to use, and which fields required attention. The innovation addressed a common challenge in agriculture where farmers often irrigated only after plants began to wilt, leading to reduced yields.

Team Geo Spec took second place, while Team Geo Smart finished third. The top three teams received cash prizes of **\$300**, **\$200**, and **\$100** respectively. One member of Next Generation Green Minds represented Uganda at the Africawide GAIathon finals in Ghana, which were held from **July 18–21**,

2025. At the continental stage, 15 teams from across Africa competed for grand prizes of **\$5,000**, **\$2,500**, and **\$1,500**.

Prof. Anthony Gidudu, Dean of the School of the Built Environment, congratulated the winners and urged them to continue developing solutions that addressed realworld challenges. He emphasized the importance of innovation that transcended language and cultural barriers, noting that the continental competition exposed the students to many Frenchspeaking participants.

GAIathon aligned with the African Union's declaration of 2024 as the *Year of Education*, reinforcing the role of technological innovation in shaping Africa's future.

Celebrating a Century of Excellence in Health Professions' Training



For one hundred years, the Makerere University College of Health Sciences (MakCHS) has stood at the heart of health professions training, research, and service in Uganda and the wider East and Central Africa region. From modest beginnings as a medical training school in 1924 to its present status as a comprehensive, multidisciplinary College, MakCHS has played a defining role in shaping health systems, producing generations of professionals, and advancing scientific knowledge. As the College marks its centenary, it reflects not only on a proud past but also on a future anchored in innovation, relevance, and impact.

The origins of MakCHS date back to 1924, when formal medical training was introduced at the then Makerere College to meet the growing demand for trained health professionals in East and Central Africa. Closely linked to Mulago Hospital, founded earlier in 1917, the medical school was conceived as a practical, hospital-based institution combining teaching, service, and research.

Through the times, the medical school grew in stature and influence, becoming the Faculty of Medicine and then MakCHS. The College has trained professionals not only for Uganda, earning a reputation as the oldest and one of the most respected

medical training institutions in sub-Saharan Africa. Our graduates have gone on to serve as clinicians, researchers, teachers, health administrators, and policy leaders across the continent and beyond.

Growth and Institutional Transformation

As health needs evolved, so too did the institution. Training expanded beyond medicine to encompass a wide range of health disciplines, including nursing, pharmacy, dentistry, biomedical sciences, and public health. The diversification reflected a growing recognition that effective healthcare requires multidisciplinary teams and strong health systems.

In 2007, as part of Makerere University's collegiate reorganization, the Faculty of Medicine and related units were transformed into the Makerere University College of Health Sciences, bringing together multiple schools under one academic and administrative structure. The College was officially launched in 2009, marking a new chapter in its development.

Today, MakCHS comprises four schools: School of Medicine, School of Biomedical Sciences, School of Health Sciences, and School of Dentistry. The College works closely with the School of Public Health which is now a standalone school

within the Makerere University System. Through these Schools, MakCHS offers a comprehensive range of undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral programmes designed to respond to national, regional, and global health priorities.

Leadership in Research and Innovation

Throughout its history, MakCHS has been a leader in health research in Africa. The College has made notable contributions in infectious diseases, like HIV/AIDS, nutrition models, cancer among others.

Some of the notable research innovations registered at the college include:

- In the late 1950s, Dr. Denis Parsons Burkitt published on a previously unrecognized tumour affecting the angles of the jaw — later named Burkitt's lymphoma. The research was among the first to show that certain cancers could be caused by external agents like viruses, reshaping understanding of viral oncology.
- Also during the 1950s, Makerere Medical School helped develop the Mwana Mugimu Nutrition Centre at Mulago Hospital, which became one of East Africa's leading nutrition research and training units, advancing understanding of dietary and infant health issues in the region.
- Development of Preventive Medicine & Public Health Research in the 1950s at the Faculty of Medicine introduced preventive medicine as a discipline, which led to the establishment of the School of Public Health. This laid the

groundwork for systematic community health research in Uganda.

- The Kasangati Health Centre, established with Rockefeller Foundation support, became a model for integrated care, research, and community-based teaching and health service evaluation — a significant early initiative in field health research.
- In 1985, young doctors/ researchers from Makerere University Medical School led by Dr. Nelson Ssewankambo, Dr. David Sserwadda and others were among the earliest in Africa to document the ‘Slim’ disease later defined as the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Their published research informed and shaped clinical care models, as well as contributing to global scientific understanding of the disease.
- MakCHS research helped demonstrate that using nevirapine significantly reduces mother-to-child HIV transmission, influencing global prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission (PMTCT). This was a major breakthrough for PMTCT strategies.
- Clinical trials at MakCHS showed that male circumcision can reduce HIV acquisition by about half, a finding that informed HIV prevention policy in Uganda and beyond.

Beyond HIV/AIDS, MakCHS has produced influential research in maternal and child health, non-communicable diseases, mental health, health systems, and emerging infections. Studies at the college have served as foundation observations to future health science discoveries. Strong partnerships with national and international institutions— including government agencies, research councils, universities, and multilateral

organizations—have positioned the College as a hub of collaborative research and postgraduate training.

The establishment and continued publication of African Health Sciences, a peer-reviewed journal based at MakCHS, has further strengthened the College’s role in knowledge generation and dissemination on the continent.

The College has also nurtured the establishment of Centres of Excellence for health research like the Institute of Infectious Diseases (IDI), Makerere University Lung Institute (MLI), Makerere University Joint Aids Programme (MJAP), Makerere University Biomedical Research Centre (MakBRC) and others.

MakCHS has been a leader in educational innovation through approaches that have shifted training away from purely theoretical instruction toward learner-centred, skills-oriented and community responsive education. An example is through the introduction of the Community-Based Education, Research and Service (CoBERS) where students are placed in real-world health settings in communities. This has ensured that our graduates are not only clinically competent but also socially accountable and also aware of the health needs of underserved communities.

Service to Nation and Beyond

The College has been a cornerstone of Uganda’s national health system beyond the classroom and laboratory, with its staff and alumni serving as Ministers of Health, Permanent Secretaries, Directors of Health Services, hospital leaders, and senior advisors to government.

During public health emergencies—most recently during outbreaks of Ebola and the COVID-19 pandemic—MakCHS faculty played critical roles in surveillance, policy

advisory work, and clinical care. The College’s close relationship with referral hospitals including Mulago National Referral Hospital, Kiruddu National Referral Hospital, Kawempe Regional Referral Hospital, and Butabika National Referral Hospital among others continues to strengthen the integration of teaching, research, and service.

By attracting major global partnerships with international organisations and partners like World Health Organisation (WHO), Centres for Disease Control (CDC), foreign universities like John Hopkins has helped sustain high-impact research and influence health policy internationally.

Shaping the Future: The Next Century

A hundred years on, MakCHS is a testament to the enduring power of education, research, and service in advancing human wellbeing. The college’s story is inseparable from the story of modern healthcare in Uganda. As it celebrates a centenary of existence, the College renews its commitment to excellence—honouring its past, serving the present, and boldly shaping the future of health for generations to come.

Entering the second century, MakCHS does so in a rapidly changing health landscape marked by demographic shifts, technological advances, climate change, and emerging diseases. The College’s future priorities include: Strengthening specialist and sub-specialist training; Expanding research capacity and doctoral education; Leveraging digital technologies in teaching and healthcare delivery; Deepening community engagement; and Enhancing regional and global partnerships

First-Ever United States Studies Centre in the Great Lakes Region launched at Makerere



Prof. Buyinza Mukadasi and the US Ambassador H.E. William Popp officially unveil the centre in the Main Hall.

Makerere University, in partnership with the U.S. Mission in Uganda officially launched the first-ever United States Studies Centre in the Great Lakes region. Launched on March 25, 2025 the center operates within the Department of Political Science under the School of Social Sciences, College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHUSS) and, seeks to enhance academic collaboration and research on U.S.–Uganda relations.

U.S. Ambassador to Uganda, William W. Popp, who presided over the launch, described the initiative as a testament to the strong partnership between the United States and Makerere University, one of East Africa's leading higher education institutions. "This Centre provides a platform for rigorous study and engagement on the United States' role in the Great Lakes region, fostering mutual understanding and academic exchange," he said.

The Centre is designed as a hub for interdisciplinary research, guest lectures, virtual dialogues, and collaborative initiatives with American academic experts. Its primary focus is to analyze U.S. foreign policy, cultural influence, and international relations while promoting scholarly partnerships between Ugandan and U.S. institutions.

Prof. Paul Omach serves as the Centre's Director, assisted by Prof. Apuuli Kasaija, while Dr. Sylvestre Kaweesi leads the research program as Principal Investigator. Central to the Centre's academic work is the concept of "Civilizational Relationality," through which six selected researchers are examining the historical and contemporary dimensions of Uganda–U.S. relations since 1945. The findings are being compiled into a forthcoming book, scheduled for publication in August 2026.

Research themes span security, culture, and governance. Dr. Charlotte Mafumbo and Dr. Kibirige

Nakaiza are investigating Uganda–U.S. counter-terrorism cooperation, analyzing hard and soft power strategies in combating extremism. Dr. Benard Luwerekera is exploring the Peace Corps' contribution to people-to-people diplomacy and cultural exchange.

Other projects include Fulbright scholarships as a vehicle for educational and cultural engagement, led by Itah Patience; constitutionalism and the rule of law in bilateral relations, by Dr. George Okiror; the influence of American jazz on Ugandan popular music, by Dr. Nicholas Sempijja; and democracy promotion, researched by Mr. Bwire Lumumba.

By combining rigorous research, public engagement, and international collaboration, the United States Studies Centre at Makerere aims to become a leading regional hub for scholarship on U.S.–Africa relations, strengthening academic ties and understanding between the two nations.

CoNAS Hosts TRUEFISH East African Regional Workshop on Aquatic Animal Health & Biosecurity



Prof. Winston Tumps Ireta (c) launching the NutriFishPlus project. Left-Right: Dr. Dorothy Nakimbugwe from Nutreal Ltd; Dr Jackson Efitre, the Project PI; Dr. Edidah Lubega Ampaire, Senior Programme Specialist at the IDRC; Dr Godfrey Kawooya Kubiriza, Head of the Department of Zoology, Entomology, and Fisheries Sciences at Makerere University; and Ms. Lovin Kobusingye of Kati Farms Ltd.

Aquaculture is one of the fastest-growing food production sectors globally and plays a crucial role in food security, nutrition, and sustainable development. Since 2022, aquaculture supplies more than half of the world's fish consumption.

In Africa, the sector has rapid expansion. Between 2000 and 2020, aquaculture production in Sub-Saharan Africa increased by over 400%, with annual growth rates reaching 10–20% in several countries. Projections suggest regional production could exceed 2 million tonnes by the mid-2030s if current trends continue. Uganda has emerged as one of the region's aquaculture leaders. From producing just under 1,000 tonnes in the early 1990s, the country scaled up to an estimated 120,000 tonnes by 2020, making it the second largest aquaculture producer in Sub-Saharan Africa after Egypt.

This growth has positioned aquaculture as a key driver of livelihoods, economic development,

and food security, core goals of the Sustainable Development Agenda. However, the sector faces growing risks related to disease outbreaks, poor-quality inputs, antimicrobial misuse, and weak biosecurity infrastructure. Experts warn that outbreaks such as tilapia lake virus (TiLV) and streptococcosis could significantly impact production and regional trade if not adequately addressed.

In response to the growing challenges in aquatic animal health and biosecurity, the Lake Victoria Fisheries Organisation (LVFO) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), implementers of the TRUEFISH Project, in collaboration with Makerere University held a five-day workshop in Kampala from 18th to 22nd September 2025 to develop practical strategies for managing aquatic animal diseases and improving biosecurity across the region.

The workshop, hosted by Makerere University and held at the Kampala Kolping Hotel, was organized under the European Union-funded TRUEFISH project, a

component of the 11th European Development Fund (EDF). It brought together a diverse group of stakeholders, including technical experts, government officials, researchers, and private sector representatives from across East Africa.

Facilitated by Dr. Melba Bondad-Reantaso, Team Leader – Food Safety, Nutrition and Health at the FAO's Fisheries and Aquaculture Division; Mr. Jose Parajua, Fisheries Technical Advisor at FAO; and Dr. Peter Akoll from Makerere University, the workshop provided a platform for countries to review national strategies, align regional efforts, and address critical challenges in the aquaculture sector. Key topics discussed included emergency preparedness for sudden fish mortality events, regional pathogen surveillance and disease reporting, regulation of fish movements, quarantine protocols, waste management, enhanced biosecurity measures, and the prudent use of antimicrobials in aquaculture systems.



Makerere Constructs a Modern Hostel at Buyana Farm

A Strategic Investment in Student Welfare



Makerere University secured UGX 980 million to construct a modern student hostel at Buyana Stock Farm in Mpigi District. The project, executed by the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF), is more than a building, but a commitment to student welfare and academic excellence. For years, veterinary students and staff stationed at the farm have struggled with inadequate housing. This new facility promises to ease that burden, creating a conducive environment for study, research, and community engagement.

Boosting Research Capacity

Buyana Stock Farm, spanning 3,900 acres, is a vital research hub under the College of Veterinary Medicine, Animal Resources and Biosecurity (CoVAB). With modern accommodation, students and staff will be able to spend extended periods at the farm, closely monitoring livestock, conducting experiments, and engaging in long-term projects. This proximity to research facilities enhances productivity, fosters innovation, and strengthens Makerere's role as a leader in veterinary science.

Enhancing Teaching and Learning

Veterinary education thrives on practical exposure. The farm provides a living classroom where theory meets practice. By eliminating housing challenges, the hostel ensures students can fully immerse themselves in

fieldwork, laboratory sessions, and collaborative projects. This continuity enriches the learning experience, equipping graduates with hands-on skills essential for Uganda's agricultural and veterinary sectors.

Strengthening Outreach and Community Impact

Beyond academics, Buyana Farm serves as a bridge between the university and surrounding communities. Students stationed at the farm often participate in extension services, offering veterinary care and sharing innovations with local farmers. With improved accommodation, Makerere can expand these outreach programs, reinforcing its role in rural development and national capacity building.

The Bigger Picture

This hostel is more than infrastructure, it is a catalyst for transformation. By investing in student welfare, Makerere is simultaneously advancing research, enriching teaching and learning, and deepening outreach. It is a bold step that cements the university's reputation as a center of excellence and societal impact.

Expanding Legal Skills beyond the Degree: Short Courses at MakSoL



Established in 1968, Makerere University (Mak) School of Law (SoL) is the oldest legal education institution in Uganda and recognised as a centre of excellence in the country and beyond. In addition to the degree programmes: Bachelor of Laws (LL.B); Master of Laws (LL.M) and Doctor of Laws, the School is working to build a portfolio of short courses designed to respond to the practical, evolving needs of professionals beyond the legal sector. It is intended that the short course programmes provide a vital bridge between legal theory and everyday decision-making for administrators in government, private sector and civil society organisations

In 2024, Mak and Uganda Prison Services (UPS) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that paved way for the SoL to undertake short trainings in administrative law for UPS staff. The collaboration arising from the MoU provided to equip UPS officers with knowledge and skills in administrative law, improving their legal understanding and service delivery within the institution. This milestone is aligned to the University' strategic direction of becoming a research-led institution leading to innovations, knowledge transfer partnerships and providing solutions to national challenges. In 2025, a total of 125 UPS staff were trained.



Participants of Administrative Officers' Law Short Course at the Fort Portal Centre cut cake at Certificate Award Ceremony



UPS Officer receives certificate at end of training while Makerere University and UPS Officials look on

The short courses at the SoL are designed to be practical and structured to serve working professionals who require legal knowledge to perform their duties effectively but may not necessarily be lawyers.

The School' flagship short course is the Administrative Officers' Law Short Course offered at SoL since 2011 leading to the award of a Certificate in Administrative Law, with participants including administrative officers, civil servants, local government officials, political leaders, and anyone interested in understanding administrative law in Uganda. The duration of study is 2 months and the minimum admission requirement is A 'Level certificate or its equivalent. We have centres in Kampala (Makerere University) and several outreach regional centres across Uganda including Jinja, Mukono, Tororo, Masaka, Arua, Gulu, Lira, Moroto, Hoima, Mbale, Soroti, Kiboga, Mbarara, Kabale, Rukungiri, Kyenjojo, Masindi, and Fort Portal. Over 450 participants were trained across the various centres in 2025.

New short courses have been developed and some expected to start in 2026. The courses are Alternative Dispute Resolution, Employment and Industrial Relations Law, Taxation and Revenue Law, Intellectual Property and Copyright Law, Refugee Law and Forced Migration, and Human Rights Law.



Dr. Patricia Atim P'Odong (left) – Coordinator, SoL Short Courses hands over award to from the UPS Official

Makerere University Business School celebrates institutional growth & Excellence



As Makerere University Business School (MUBS) marks another milestone in its academic journey, the year under review stands out as one of steady progress, institutional strengthening, and renewed commitment to excellence. From governance reforms and strategic staffing appointments to notable advances in research, infrastructure, partnerships, and quality assurance, MUBS continues to position itself as a leading centre of business and management education in the region. The highlights below reflect a year of purposeful leadership, scholarly productivity, and forward-looking investments aimed at enhancing teaching, learning, and societal impact.

Governance

A new School Council, chaired by Ms. Olive Birungi Lumonya and including the Deputy Governor of the Bank of Uganda, was constituted to guide the institution for the next 5 years, with a strong commitment to good governance and excellence. In addition, key appointments were made in the year, including Associate Professor. Rachel Mindra Katoroogo as the Ag. Deputy Principal, Dr. Francis Yosa, as the School Secretary, and Associate Professor. Ernest Abaho as the Chief of Quality Assurance.

MUBS remains committed to merit-based advancement and excellence in teaching, research, and administration. The School promoted staff across academic, administrative, and support ranks; 2 staff were promoted to full Professor, 5 staff to Associate Professor, 18 staff to Senior Lecturer, 12 staff to Lecturer, 47 staff to Assistant Lecturer, 30 staff to Senior Administrator, and 12 staff were also promoted to different ranks at the support staff level.

Research And Publications

The School recorded a total of 103 research outputs across 16 interdisciplinary thematic areas, demonstrating strong scholarly productivity and alignment with national, regional, and global development priorities

Infrastructural Development

The School has undertaken to improve existing teaching spaces to accommodate the increasing numbers and provide modern facilities for learners. A three-floor extension to the building is currently underway and should be ready for use by August 2026. We thank the Government for the support

CONFERENCES

MUBS hosted and participated in National and International Conferences, including the MUBS 29th

Annual International Management Conference, the 4th Women in Climate Change Conference, the 17th ORSEA Conference, the Climate Finance Conference, and the 14th Annual Conference of the African Accounting and Finance Association (AAFA).

Partnerships & Collaborations

MUBS has continued to strengthen its inter-institutional relations, spread of Knowledge, and also equipped students with work-related experiences, and by this, MUBS signed a number of MOUs and collaborations

This year, MUBS marks 20 years of the Drake-MUBS partnership, and the President of Drake University, Prof. Earl F. Martin, will be in Uganda and deliver a keynote address at the MUBS Graduation in May 2026.

ISO 9000: 2015 Certification

In an effort to improve efficiency across its systems and processes, MUBS has initiated certification with the Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS).



**MAKERERE
UNIVERSITY
ENDOWMENT
FUND**

Please join hands with the Makerere University Endowment Fund as it works towards attracting & retaining the best faculty, providing scholarships, and investing in cutting-edge research and technology.

DONATE TODAY!

with minimum donation of:

Shs **10,000 UGX** \$ **5.0 USD**

To donate, please visit endowment.mak.ac.ug



 Makerere University Endowment Fund

 @makerereendowmentfund

 ef@mak.ac.ug

 @MakEndowmentFnd



MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

The Research-Led University of The Future



**BE PART OF
THE FUTURE:**

    @makerere

www.mak.ac.ug

