

MAKERERE

P.O. Box 7062
Kampala Uganda
Website: www.mak.ac.ug



UNIVERSITY

Tel: +256-414 531 202
Email: pro@mak.ac.ug

VICE CHANCELLOR'S PRESS CONFERENCE

VC'S BOARD ROOM, MAIN BUILDING

July 15, 2026. 11.am.

PRESS STATEMENT

Makerere University Vice Chancellor's Updates

Wednesday, 15th July 2026. Good morning, ladies and gentlemen of the media, distinguished guests, and members of the Makerere University community. Thank you for joining us today for key updates on developments at the University as we prepare for the 2026/2027 Academic Year.

Introduction

As you may recall, we recently launched the second half of our 10-year Strategic Plan. This Plan prioritises academic excellence, research and innovation, infrastructure development, human resource strengthening, and societal transformation to position Makerere as a leading driver of Uganda's and Africa's development.

As our updates today will demonstrate, Makerere University is steadily progressing towards implementing our Strategic Plan 2025–2030.

My first update will be on our staffing situation:

1. Makerere promotes and hires 153 lecturers

People remain at the heart of our Strategic Plan, as beneficiaries but also as key implementers, who are largely the staff. The University continues to make significant strides in building a robust and motivated workforce through strategic recruitment, appointments, and promotions.

In the last year, the Appointments Board collectively approved multiple appointments across academic leadership, fresh academic hires, and numerous administrative and support staff positions. These include several high-level academic leadership roles like Deans and Heads of Department, as well as fresh appointments.

SEE NUMBERS IN TABLE ON PAGE 2.

We are dedicated to a merit-based recruitment process to fill critical gaps and to investing in both academic excellence and efficient service delivery. We congratulate all newly appointed and promoted staff and reaffirm our dedication to creating an enabling environment that attracts, develops, and retains top talent.

As expected of any such institution, the University deals with staffing challenges arising from retirements, resignations, and other specialised needs. We have always managed these through targeted

recruitment, contract appointments, post-retirement contracts for professors, and staff development programmes.

SUMMARY: JULY 2025 - to date

TOTAL PROMOTIONS		81
Non-Academic Promotions		16
Total Academic Promotions (as below)		65
From	To	Count
Assistant Lecturer	Lecturer	16
Lecturer	Senior Lecturer	16
Senior Lecturer	Associate Professor	25
Associate Professor	Professor	8

NEW RECRUITS/HIRES	240
Breakdown	
Academic	88
Assistant Lecturer	62
Lecturer	26
Non-Academic	152

For other updates:

2. 2026/2027 Academic Year Calendar

We are pleased to announce that the University is fully prepared for the new 2026/2027 Academic Year, which will commence and progress as follows:

- Fresher's Orientation Week: Saturday 1st August to Friday 7th August 2026.
- Semester One: Saturday 8th August to Saturday 5th December 2026.
- Semester One Examinations: Monday 16th November to Saturday 5th December 2026.
- Semester One Holiday Break: Saturday 5th December 2026 to Friday 15th January 2027.
- 77th Graduation Week: Monday 11th to Friday 15th January 2027.
- Semester Two: Saturday 16th January to Saturday 15th May 2027.

All newly admitted students (undergraduate and graduate) can now access their provisional admission letters via their individual application portals. We urge students to settle any outstanding payments promptly to ensure a smooth registration.

3. CCE (Complex) Hall Renovation

World-class infrastructure is a cornerstone of our Strategic Plan and hence remains a top priority for us. Last month, Makerere University handed over the CCE (Complex) Hall of Residence to the National Enterprise Corporation (NEC) for comprehensive renovation and overhaul works at a cost of UGX 12 billion, fully funded by the Government of Uganda. This historic female hall, built in the 1950s, will undergo major structural improvements and a facelift. Works are expected to be completed within 12 months. This renovation will significantly improve living conditions for female students and further enhance the University's residential infrastructure.

We are confident that NEC will deliver quality work that restores this important facility to modern standards for our students. This is the fourth major project undertaken by NEC at Makerere, following the renovations of the perimeter wall, Lumumba Hall, and Mary Stuart Hall.

4. Makerere to host the East African Universities Debate Championships

We are proud to announce that Makerere University will be hosting the East African Universities Debate Championships (EAUDC) 2026 from 26th July to 1st August 2026.

Hosting this flagship regional event reaffirms the University's position as an intellectual powerhouse and leader in higher education in East Africa. It also enriches student life and nurtures leadership skills. The championships will bring together top debaters from universities across the region for high-level intellectual exchange, fostering cross-cultural dialogue and preparing the next generation of thought leaders and policymakers.

5. Research, Innovation and Societal Transformation – Makerere's Leadership in the Ebola Response

One of the strongest expressions of our Strategic Plan is the University's impactful engagement in solving real-world problems. Through the Infectious Diseases Institute (IDI), Makerere has become Africa's new nerve centre in the fight against the current Ebola outbreak. On June 26, 2026, we proudly hosted the launch of the Joint Continental Incident Management Support Team (IMST) — a partnership between Africa CDC and WHO Africa — at IDI's McKinnell Knowledge Centre.

The launched command hub enables real-time, cross-border coordination of surveillance, logistics, and response efforts, as Dr. Andrew Kambugu, Executive Director of IDI, will explain. IDI's contributions include laboratory strengthening, clinical support in treatment units, infection prevention, community engagement, and active research on diagnostics and therapeutics. This work not only addresses the immediate Ebola crisis but builds long-term health system resilience across the continent.

Makerere's role in the fight against infectious diseases such as Ebola - from on-the-ground support in treatment units and community engagement to hosting this continental nerve centre - exemplifies how the University is leveraging its research strengths to address pressing global challenges while nurturing the next generation of leaders.

This is fully consistent with our commitment to advance research and innovation that drives societal transformation by, for example, translating academic expertise into tangible public health impact and long-term resilience across Africa.

Conclusion

These developments affirm Makerere University's commitment to the Strategic Plan 2025–2030. We are building a stronger institution that delivers excellence in teaching and learning, cutting-edge research, modern infrastructure, and meaningful contributions to national and continental development. We thank the Government of Uganda, our development partners, staff, students, and the media for your unwavering support.

AS WE BUILD FOR THE FUTURE.

Thank you.

For media enquiries:

Public Relations Office | inquiries@mak.ac.ug

IDI Media Contact:

Fred Ouma | fouma@idi.co.ug | +256 752 844 400

Ends.