MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

NEWSLETTER

July- September 2026: Issue: 3

STI MINISTER VISITS MAKERERE, APPLAUDS SHOWCASED RESEARCH & INNOVATIONS



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Editorial



Research, Innovation and Impact: Makerere's Forward Momentum

> From the Science, Technology and Innovation Minister's maiden visit, where he applauded our showcased solutions in health, digital technology, veterinary sciences and enterprise creation, to concrete projects turning knowledge into action, our researchers and innovators continue to deliver solutions that matter.

Welcome to Issue 3 of the Makerere Newsletter (July–September 2026). This edition celebrates Makerere's growing impact through research and innovation. From the Science, Technology and Innovation Minister's maiden visit, where he applauded our showcased solutions in health, digital technology, veterinary sciences and enterprise creation, to concrete projects turning knowledge into action, our researchers and innovators continue to deliver solutions that matter.

Highlights include advanced climate and hydrological models to improve Lake Victoria water-level management, evidence-based interventions strengthening first-referral hospitals, and alumni-led recycling enterprises converting plastic waste into useful products and jobs. These efforts, alongside the new Strategic Plan 2026–2030 that prioritises research intensity, patents and commercialised innovations, reaffirm Makerere's role as a driver of national and regional development. On this same page, you can find links to the various College and unit Newsletters too.

We thank our scholars, students, partners and government for their commitment.

Enjoy the stories of impact and the highlights of the other events and activities of the Quarter as captured within these pages.

Eunice Rukundo
Deputy Chief, Public Relations.

EDITORIAL TEAM >>

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MUST Vice Chancellor Prof Pauline Byakika led a delegation from MUST on benchmark visit to Makerere University on 23rd July 2026

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LINKS TO COLLEGE NEWSLETTERS



CEDAT: https://cedat.mak.ac.ug/2026/11/11/cedat-unveils-third-quarter-newsletter-highlighting-research-innovation-and-creative-excellence/



CONAS: https://cns.mak.ac.ug/conas-newsletter-july-sept-2026/



COVAB: https://covab.mak.ac.ug/news-letter-july-september-2026/



SOL: https://law.mak.ac.ug/sol-newsletter-july-september-2026/



CHS: https://chs.mak.ac.ug/reports/makchs-newsletter-2026-q3



CHUSS: https://chuss.mak.ac.ug/en/wp-content/uploads/2026/10/CHUSS_Newsletter_July-September_2026_Issue_No._3.pdf



COCIS: cocis.mak.ac.ug



IGDS: https://igds.mak.ac.ug/sites/default/files/2026-08/mak-igds-news-letter-12th-aug-2026-2.pdf



CEES: https://cees.mak.ac.ug/cees-newsletter-july-to-september-2026



COBAMS: https://bams.mak.ac.ug/cobams-newsletter-july-september-2026

Foreword by the Vice Chancellor



Our new Strategic Plan 2026–2030 places research and innovation at the centre, targeting higher PhD enrolment, more patents and commercialised solutions aligned with national development goals.

Dear Members of the Makerere Community and Friends,

I am delighted to present this issue of the Makerere Newsletter, which showcases the University's impactful research and innovation from July–September 2026.

Makerere continues to translate knowledge into solutions that advance Uganda and Africa. The visit by the Minister for Science, Technology and Innovation highlighted the sophistication of our work in vaccine research, biomedical engineering, digital technologies, climate modelling and sustainable enterprise.

Projects such as the Lake Victoria Improved Water Level Management models, the AFRHiCARE initiative improving first-referral hospital care, and alumni innovations converting plastic waste into jobs and products demonstrate research that serves society.

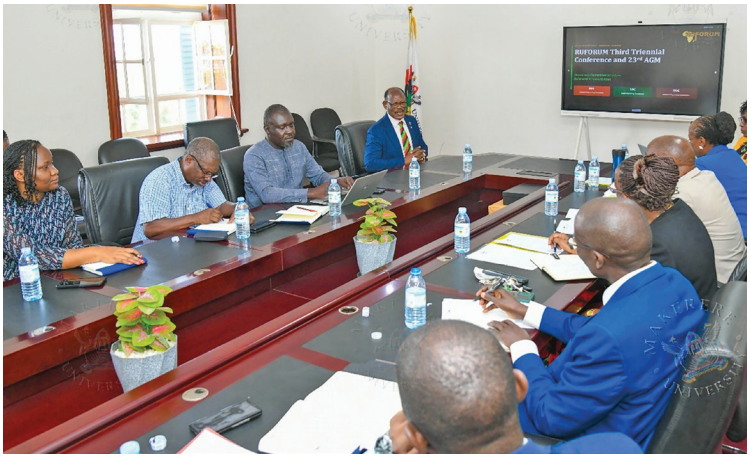
Our new Strategic Plan 2026–2030 places research and innovation at the centre, targeting higher PhD enrolment, more patents and commercialised solutions aligned with national development goals. Partnerships with institutions in China, the United States and across Africa, together with strong graduate training and ethics capacity, further strengthen this trajectory.

I congratulate our researchers, innovators, students and partners whose dedication produces these outcomes. Makerere remains committed to building for the future through knowledge that transforms lives.

Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe
Vice Chancellor
Makerere University

MAKERERE TO HOST RUFORUM 2027 CONFERENCE

Makerere University is the Government-appointed institution to host the 3rd RUFORUM Triennial Conference and 23rd AGM in 2027. Vice Chancellor Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe has elected a committee, and preparations are already underway to deliver a successful and memorable event in August 2027.



Preparations at Makerere University to host the 2027 RUFORUM Triennial Conference & 23rd AGM are already underway.



The Makerere Organising Committee, along with members of the RUFORUM Secretariat, which is hosted at Makerere University.

VC TO THE PRESS

Makerere is moving in the right direction

VC'S Q1 PRESS CONFERENCE: *The Vice Chancellor holds quarterly press conferences to update the public on key happenings around the university through the media. In Quarter Two, the VC's Press Conference was held on September 15.*

Updates shared at the Press Conference included the following:

1. Improved University Rankings, graduate completion rates

With graduate completion numbers nearly doubled, the University is also reporting improvements in academic management and infrastructure. We have moved up 295 places in the global University Webometrics rankings, rising from 1,071st position in 2025 to 776th in July 2026. This progress automatically shifts Mak's position in Africa, from 13th earlier in the year to 11th.

Another area of growth is graduate training. The number of graduate students completing their studies has risen steadily over the past four years, from 1,588 in 2023 to 1,874 in 2024, 2,199 in 2025 and 2,922 in 2026. The Vice Chancellor attributed this growth to factors including continued government support, such as funding, and deliberate internal interventions, such as digital systems set up to support student progress.

2. Improving the Academic Environment

The VC informed the media that several quality assurance measures have been put in place to improve the university's core functions of teaching and learning. Academic Management Information System (ACMIS) enables supervisors, colleges and University Management to identify delays in student progress and take corrective action.

The system currently empowers students to track their academic progress and print their own testimonials, and in future, transcripts, without having to queue up.

3. Infrastructure Development

The University has undertaken extensive infrastructure expansion and renovation projects, funded by government, philanthropists and donors. These include the building that will house the graduate school, among others.

- Full story on MakNews

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Makerere's 2026-2030 Strategic Plan launched

Makerere Strategic Plan 2026 - 2030 lays a clear roadmap to strengthen research, innovation, transformative education, as well as national and global development over the next five years.



The Minister of Finance Hon. Henry Musasizi officially launched the Mak Strategic Plan 2025-2030.

Launched on July 2nd 2026, the strategic plan positioned the University as a research-led institution aligned with Uganda's national development goals.

Given his central role in formulating and executing the Plan, Professor Herny Alinaitwe, the Deputy Vice Chancellor in charge of Finance and Administration, guaranteed that the development followed careful consultation, review and participation of all stakeholders.

Some of the Strategic Projections

Professor Barnabas Nawangwe, the Vice Chancellor, together with the Chairperson of the Makerere University Council, Dr. Lorna Magara, presented possible targets in the strategic plan. Among them are increasing PhD student enrolment from 15% to 35%, registered patents from 15 to 45, commercialised innovations from 25 to 65, STEM enrolment from 32% to 55%, postgraduate enrolment from 3700 to 7000 by 2030, and raising graduate employability from 45% to 65%within six months of graduation.

The previous Makerere University plan had a 10-year term. However, around 2019-2020, the National Planning Authority advised adjusting to the five-year National Development Plan (NDP IV), ensuring that the University contributes directly to the country's development.

Government's commitment

The Chief Guest, Hon. Henry Musasizi, the Minister of Finance, Government of Uganda, revealed Uganda's ambition to expand its economy from approximately USD50 billion to over USD500 billion by 2040. He said this will require sustained investment in research, innovation, industrialisation, and human capital development, with universities playing a central role in achieving these aspirations.

He commended Makerere for aligning its strategic priorities with national development goals, and affirmed the government's commitment to continue working with the University.

Full story on MakNews

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

2026 Makerere Marathon

Proceeds from the sixth edition of the Makerere University Marathon held on September 27, 2026, are dedicated to equipping the Makerere University Disability Support Centre and supporting a sustainable financing fund for economically disadvantaged students.

Braving the morning downpour, participants gathered as early as 5:00 AM, colouring the track in green and gold kits worn by thousands of runners at the Hill, eager to take part in the 6th edition of the Makerere Marathon, which took place on September 27 2026, under the theme "Run the Hills for the Future". This year, the target was to further equip the Makerere Disability Support Centre.

Attendance was representative, with students, alumni, corporate teams and distinguished guests present to run under the featured race categories, including the 5km, 10km, 21km, and 42km, alongside a 3km wheelchair race. These options gave persons of different abilities and fitness levels the opportunity to take part.

All races were officially flagged off at the Makerere Main Building parking lot by various dignitaries from Makerere and partnering institutions, led by the Chief Runner, the Speaker of Parliament, Rt. Hon. Jacob Marksons Oboth. He was joined by the Chancellor of Makerere University and Second Deputy Prime Minister, Hon. Dr. Crispus Walter Kiyonga.

The other dignitaries who graced the event included Dr Lorna Magara, the Chairperson of Makerere University Council; Mr Mark Anthony Muyobo, CEO of NCBA Bank Uganda; Mr Phrase Lubega, Managing Director of MTN Mobile Money (U) Limited; and Dr Maggie Kigozi, the Board Chairperson of the Makerere University Endowment Fund (MakEF). Representatives from partner institutions and sponsors were also present to witness the lively flag-off ceremony.

Full story on MakNews



READY! SET! GO!!!!!!! And off they went.

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES



L-R: Rt. Hon. Jacob Oboth, Hon. Dr Crispus Kiyonga, Dr Lorna Magara and other officials receive a guided tour of the Disability Support Centre from Ms Elizabeth Rwabu (R) on 27th September 2026.



Vice Chancellor, Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe, receives the Chief Guest, Speaker of Parliament Rt. Hon. Jacob Oboth, for the Mak Marathon.



L-R: The Chancellor Hon. Dr Kiyonga, the Speaker of Parliament Rt. Hon. Jacob Oboth, the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe, and Chairperson, Makerere University Council, Dr Lorna Magara at the Marathon.

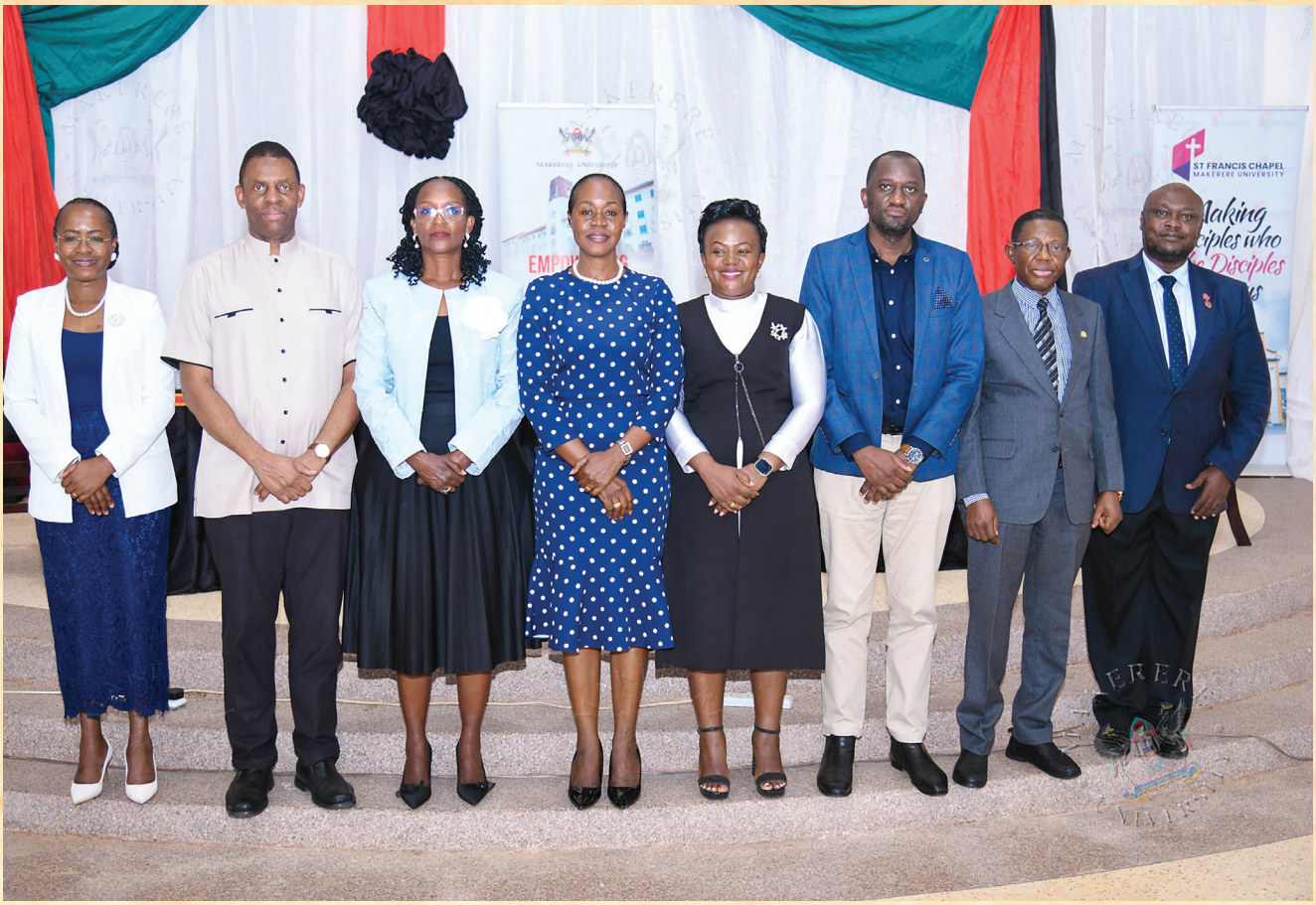


Revellers braved the morning rains to take part in the Marathon.



The Run attracted participants from all walks of life.

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES



Members of Management, led by the Makerere Council Chairperson, Dr Lorna Magara, at the Annual Staff Prayer Breakfast, held at St. Francis Chapel on 31st July 2026.

COVER STORY



STI Minister Visits Makerere: Makerere Impresses with its Research & Innovation

During his 3-day visit anchored by the theme Research Infrastructure, Emerging Technologies and Enterprise Creation, the Minister engaged faculty, researchers, innovators, and students from the different Units, Colleges, and Departments at Makerere.

The Minister for Science, Technology and Innovation (STI), Hon. Eng. Jonard Asiimwe Akiiki, conducted his maiden visit to Makerere University. The Minister visited to explore the University's research and innovative outputs in relation to the country's development goals and gaps.

During his 3-day visit anchored by the theme Research Infrastructure, Emerging Technologies and Enterprise Creation, the Minister engaged faculty, researchers, innovators, and students from the different Units, Colleges, and Departments at Makerere. The visit ended on 16th September 2026 with an exit meeting, where the Minister shared his takeaways.

"Makerere's history gives it prestige, but its future must give Uganda prosperity."
– Hon. Jonard Asiimwe, Minister for STI.

During the tour, Makerere University put up an impressive exhibition at various stations, showcasing research outputs in health sciences, biomedical engineering, advanced digital technology, humanities, and critical veterinary innovations. The University also exhibited vaccine research progress, business models, sustainable educational learning proposals, drone projects, publication initiatives, and vital inclusive development frameworks.

The Minister expressed great surprise at the scale and sophistication of the showcased innovations and called for strategic avenues to commercialise them as homegrown solutions to drive national economic transformation.

Full story: makwebsite

PICTORIAL

STI Minister Visits Makerere

















SETTING THE PACE

Makerere as a Model for other Institutions



MUST Vice Chancellor Prof Pauline Byakika led a delegation from MUST on benchmark visit to Makerere University on 23rd July 2026

MUST Receives Blueprints on Grants Management

For tips on managing externally funded research projects, a team from Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST), led by Vice Chancellor Professor Pauline Byakika Kibwika, visited Makerere on 23rd July 2026 to learn from the University's experience.

During the meeting, Makerere Vice Chancellor Professor Barnabas Nawangwe revealed that while MUST managed research grants worth about UGX 13 billion in the last financial year, Makerere's research portfolio is bigger.

Makerere University Bursar Mr Evarist Bainomugisha told visitors that grant funds do not appear directly in the University's main financial statements, but they are fully disclosed in the accounts and audited annually before reports are submitted to Parliament.

Full story:makwebsite

Gulu University tipped on Management of Mature Entry Examinations

Makerere welcomed a delegation from Gulu University on July 21 2026, for a benchmarking visit. Led by Dr Helen Christine Amongin, the delegation was received by Mr Thomas William Baguma, Principal Registrar and Personal Assistant to the Academic Registrar, on behalf of the Academic Registrar, Prof. Buyinza Mukadasi.

They drew on the University's long-standing experience in administering and managing Mature Age Entry Examinations.

Full story:makwebsite

Gambia Benchmarks the COBAMS Public Investment Management Model

Led by Mr Baboucarr Jobe, a Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance, a delegation from the Gambia visited Makerere University's Public Investment Management (PIM) Centre of Excellence. The delegation intended to learn approaches to project conceptualisation, appraisal, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

Held on August 28 2026, the visit was part of wider reforms in The Gambia to strengthen its systems, with public investment management identified as a critical area for improvement. The delegation was welcomed by the Principal of the College of Business and Management Sciences (CoBAMs).

Full story:makwebsite

WINNING MOMENTS

Makerere's Inaugural Conference on Noonomy Paves way for Centre of Excellence in Africa

Theory of Noonomy is an emerging political economy paradigm. It describes a future, non-economic stage of human civilisation where knowledge, advanced technology, and human potential completely replace traditional market mechanisms and the unrestrained pursuit of material production.

Under the theme "Theory of Noonomy and its Role in Resolving Modernity Issues: Pathways to Sustainable Social and Economic Transformation," Makerere University hosted a historic inaugural conference on the Theory of Noonomy on 20th August 2026.

Organised by the Makerere College of Business and Management Sciences (CoBAMS) in collaboration with the S.Y. Witte Institute for New Industrial Development, St. Petersburg Polytechnic University, Russia, and with support from the Makerere University Research and Innovations Fund, the discussions proposed establishing a Centre of Excellence in Africa at CoBAMS.

Prof. Sergey Bodrunov, Director of the S.Y. Witte Institute and author of the theory, addressed the conference virtually. He argued that gradually removing humans from direct material processes opens a path to a non-economic mode of satisfying rational human needs.

In his remarks, Prof. Nawangwe thanked Prof. Bodrunov and Prof. Dmitriev for choosing Makerere, among African Universities, as a partner in advancing this model.

The Theory of Noonomy is an emerging political economy paradigm. It describes a future, non-economic stage of human civilization where knowledge, advanced technology, and human potential completely replace traditional market mechanisms and the unrestrained pursuit of material production.



Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe shakes hands with Prof. Nikolay D. Dmitriev

Full story on MakNews

Prof. Sergey Bodrunov, argued that gradually removing humans from direct material processes opens a path to a non-economic mode of satisfying rational human needs.

WINNING MOMENTS

Makerere University Students Admitted to 2026 Millennium Fellowship

The programme aims to make the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and UN Academic Impact Principles a reality on campuses, in classrooms and throughout communities. Millennium Fellows are engaged in projects that collectively advance all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and all 10 UN Academic Impact Principles.

72 undergraduate students at Makerere University have been admitted to the Millennium Fellowship Class of 2026, an initiative of the Millennium Campus Network (MCN) and United Nations Academic Impact. Makerere's Fellows were selected from a record-breaking 76,000 applicants from over 6,000 campuses across 174 countries to participate in the ambitious programme.

Millennium Fellows are university undergraduates selected for their leadership on sustainable development projects in their communities. As Fellows, they complete a semester-long leadership development programme that strengthens their student organising, partnership-building and community-impact skills.

Makerere University's 2026 Millennium Fellows are:

Name
Aber Okee
Ainomugisha Precious
Akello Milthy
Apio Hellen
Atuma Kisaala
Abigaba Praise
Ajollo Javuru
Allen Babirye
Arnold Esoku
Awate Brown
Ainebyoona Innocent
Akambona Anold
Angel Nuwaha
Asinde Proscovia
Babirye Patricia
Tusiime Caroline
Victoria Mulago
Vicent Ssebunya
Waswa Andrew
Victor Musana
Baguma Solomon
Basemera Grant
Blessing Abaasa
Claire Omodo
Diphas Kuchana
Esther Nantambi
Haulat Nampijja
Joan Namugalu
Julian Atim
Malinga Anthony
Mukisa Ezra
Mutebi Willy
Nansubuga Gloria
Baingana Patrick
Benardete Nakwirisa
Bulyaba Halimah
Dedeng Lochul
Emmanuel Opori
Evas Akello
Iyundhu Kisame
Joshua Mugwanya
Kibenge Shafic
Mariot Kabarungi
Mukisa Mayende
Nabirye Kiirya
Nasasira Seezi
Barbara Akwiacwiny
Billy Garvin Ssemyalo
Cherotich Emmanuel
Denise Kainomugisha
Esther Kiire
Gift Nagasha
Janet Acaye
Jovet Turyatunga
Mable Apwot
Mercy Akampurira
Murungi Marion
Nahson Kahangwa
Nyamuganya Kiconco
Yuda Tadeo Katusiime
Shadia Nambasa
Sheila Murungi
Shamirah Kisuule
Sherina Kirabo
Seida Jackline
Sharifah Kasa
Tumusiime Markline
Rogers Abonga
Rose Peter Taban
Rashidah Nampiima
Prisca Akello
Precious Nakiryowa

Prof. Henry Alinatwe, appointed Board Chairman of the 21st ERB



Makerere University Deputy Vice Chancellor, Prof. Henry Alinatwe (Centre), was appointed Board Chairman of the 21st Engineers Registration Board (ERB). The Board provides strategic oversight, upholds professional standards, and contributes to a safe, ethical, and progressive engineering sector. Other Board members: Eng. Kayanga Joan D. Mutiibwa, Eng. Tutu Cara Tibaleka, Eng. Dr. Namuli Rachel, Eng. Magezi Benon Denis, Col. Eng. Namudongo Robert, Eng. Magembe Kenneth, Eng. Namugera Ronald – Registrar.

WINNING MOMENTS



Owekitiibwa Charles Mayiga, flanked by Convocation Chair, Mr George Turyamureeba Mugabi, who was accompanied by the Vice Chair, Ms Grace Cherotich Ruto (3rd L), Dr Claire Cheromoi, the Manager, Mak Convocation Cooperative (2nd R) and Ms Justine Namuddu, the Chairperson of the Mak Convocation Cooperative Board of Directors.

Makerere Convocation strengthens partnership with the Kingdom of Buganda

The programme aims to make the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and UN Academic Impact Principles a reality on campuses, in classrooms and throughout communities. Millennium Fellows are engaged in projects that collectively advance all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and all 10 UN Academic Impact Principles.

The Makerere University Convocation held a strategic engagement with the Katikirro of Buganda, Owekitiibwa Charles Peter Mayiga, at the Lukiiko in Bulange, Mengo. In his remarks, the Katikirro emphasised that leadership is the lifeblood of every institution and must match the task of addressing emerging challenges, which are necessary catalysts for institutional progress. He received and commended the delegation's detailed strategic plan and pledged to support its implementation, including facilitating engagement with the Buganda Kingdom's Minister of Education.

He further underscored the importance of cultural preservation, observing that local languages are repositories of communities' values, knowledge and identity. While encouraging continued learning from Western knowledge and experiences, he advised that such learning must be anchored in strong cultural foundations to guard against manipulation and the erosion of identity.

He also challenged Makerere University to uphold its distinguished position and remain recognised as the "Harvard of Africa." The engagement strengthened relations between the Makerere University Convocation and the Buganda Kingdom and created opportunities for collaboration in education, research, innovation, cultural preservation and community development.

WINNING MOMENTS



IGDS staff attended competence-based training facilitated by a quality assurance team led by Dr Cyprian Misinde, Director, Quality Assurance Directorate.





Dr Ruth Nsibirano (Right), Acting Director, Institute of Gender and Development Studies gives opening remarks at the occasion of conferment of diplomas and certificates in ICT related courses, on 8th August 2026, at the CTF 2 Auditorium.

STUDENT AFFAIRS

Makerere Welcomes Freshers

The new academic year started in September 2026, marked by a series of events to orient the freshmen into their new life at the Hill.



Members of the Academic Registrar's Office.



The Academic Registrar gives his welcome remarks at the Students' Orientation.





New students convene at the Freedom Square for the general orientation meeting.



The University Counsellor, Dr Henry Nsubuga.



A new student at the Freedom Square.



Dr Winnie Kabumbuli, Dean of Students, welcomes the new students.



A new student signs attendance book at the Freedom Square.



FRESHER'S PERSPECTIVE

Finding My Place at Makerere

A New Name on the Hill: *Told by Amaro Sonia, a freshman admitted to Makerere University in Year One for a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics, College of Business and Management Sciences.*

"I arrived at Makerere picturing grand lecture halls, purposeful students, and myself with a notebook full of plans. I didn't expect how quickly this place would change the way I see myself and the world.

As a freshman studying for a Bachelor of Arts in Economics at the College of Business and Management Sciences, my early days have been full of firsts: finding lecture rooms without looking lost, sitting among strangers, and hearing classmates speak with confidence I didn't yet feel. University, I'm learning, isn't just a place you attend—it's a place that asks you to grow.

The hill has a rhythm. Buildings carry history, paths buzz with movement, and conversations spill from classwork into politics and laughter. At first it felt overwhelming. Now it feels like home.

I wanted everything figured out from the start. Makerere taught me otherwise. You learn by asking for directions, admitting you don't understand, making mistakes, and trying again.

Economics has given me a new lens. It's no longer just graphs and markets. It's everyday choices—how families spend, how communities use limited resources, why opportunities aren't equal. Studying here makes those questions feel real and urgent.

There are hard days too: endless reading, piled-up deadlines, and the gap between who I am and who I want to become. It's easy to compare yourself to others. I'm learning not to. Freshman year isn't a race. It's a season of discovery. I'm allowed to ask questions, adjust slowly, and keep showing up.

The people make the difference. Students from different backgrounds turn classmates into friends and challenge the assumptions I carry. Lectures bring us together; real learning often happens outside them.

Being here is a privilege and a responsibility. Makerere is a community shaped by generations. I want to leave with more than a degree—a sharper mind, broader understanding, and the discipline to turn ideas into action.

So far, this place means possibility: new ideas, friendships, challenges that push me to grow, and a future that feels a little closer each week.

I came for a degree. I'm still working toward that. But Makerere is asking more—curiosity, resilience, and responsibility. Growth doesn't always arrive dramatically. Sometimes it's simply walking into class with a question you were once too afraid to ask.

The full story is still being written. That uncertainty no longer feels frightening. It feels like an invitation.

I'm proud to call myself a Makerere student. Belonging doesn't happen the moment you arrive. You build it—one lecture, one conversation, one small victory at a time. This is my beginning, and I believe it will be a story worth telling."

-As told to Philemon Akoragye

STUDENT AFFAIRS

One-On-One with the 92nd Guild President – Kadondi Gracious

Gracious Kadondi succeeded Ssentamu Churchill James as Guild President at Makerere University in April 2026. ***Philemon Akoragye*** *sits down with Hon. Kadondi for a heart-to-heart. Here are the excerpts:*

Q: To begin with, who's Kadondi Gracious beyond the title of Guild President?
A: Kadondi Gracious is a final-year student pursuing a Bachelor of Optometry at the College of Health Sciences, and a Christian. My journey at Makerere has been a political rollercoaster, and as the 91st Vice Guild President, I realised my potential and what I wanted Makerere to look like when I left.

Q: Which of the promises you made during your campaign are you most determined to deliver on?
A: We all know the biggest population of the student body is privately sponsored, and I am so determined to support them, to the point of creating a tuition fund for students who cannot sit exams because they cannot clear tuition fees. This would help them avoid missing exams, and they could clear the money afterwards. For finalists, I was interested in reinstating supplementary exams so they can graduate on time without waiting another year to retake one or two papers.

Q: What are some of the biggest challenges you have encountered since taking office, and how are you navigating them?
A: Balancing expectations because different people have different expectations from the guild president, starting from students, fraternity, GRCs, cabinet ministers, to administration.

Q: What do you consider the most pressing welfare issues facing Makerere students today?
A: The most pressing concern in student welfare is hunger because I have also experienced it in my first year. It's a challenge everyone faces, and parents may not know that prices fluctuate; sometimes we need things besides food, so money may not be enough, and food may not be available whenever we need it.



Q: How do you intend to ensure that every student feels represented in their varying cultures, backgrounds and disciplines?
A: The guild structure and constitution provide strong representation. Everyone is well represented; we have international students, a ministry, people representing PWDs, the games union, and everyone else.

Q: How do you personally unwind when the pressure of leadership becomes overwhelming?
A: The pressure is always there; I can't lie. But I have managed to contain it regardless. I get my time off, hang out with my friends, listen to music, and have fun like any other girl on campus.

Q: Has this position changed you as a person? If so, how?
A: It has changed me a lot! The way I look at things now is totally different, and I feel like everything is possible if you put your mind to it. But you also learn to trust fewer people, so your circle of friends shrinks, because you can't just be with anyone, and it feels like your whole perspective on life changes every day. I have become quieter because society expects you to think a certain way, and you sometimes have to keep your personal opinions buried inside.

PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS

Makerere-Yale Celebrate Two Decades of Collaboration

The Makerere University–Yale University (MUYU) partnership is proud to celebrate two decades of collaboration in health education, clinical care, and applied research.

What began in 2006 as a focused connection between Yale's Department of Internal Medicine and the Makerere University College of Health Sciences (CHS) has transformed into a broader relationship that significantly enhances training and patient care in both Uganda and the United States of America.

To mark this milestone, co-directors Dr Tracy Rabin of Yale University and Prof. Harriet Mayanja-Kizza of Makerere University paid a courtesy call on Professor Sarah Ssali, the Deputy Vice Chancellor in charge of Academic Affairs, on 27th August, 2026. They shared a summary of their two decades of work and explored opportunities to expand the partnership beyond its original clinical focus.

Full story:makwebsite

Makerere, Southwest Minzu University and NARO Forge Strategic Partnership

Makerere and a delegation from Southwest Minzu University, China, took a significant step to strengthen international research collaboration by advancing a strategic partnership in animal husbandry, veterinary sciences, and agricultural innovation.

Held on 23rd July 2026, the meeting brought together representatives from Makerere University, College of Veterinary Medicine, Animal Resources and Biosecurity (CoVAB), the Advancement Office, Southwest Minzu University and the National Agricultural Research Organisation (NARO) to discuss a long-term collaboration aimed at enhancing livestock productivity, promoting scientific research and building institutional capacity.

The proposed partnership builds on an earlier study visit by NARO to Southwest Minzu University, where discussions identified opportunities to introduce high-quality goat breeds with superior genetic traits for crossbreeding with indigenous Ugandan breeds. This initiative positions Uganda as the first country in Africa to benefit from the introduction of these specialised breeds, with the goal of improving livestock productivity and supporting farmers' livelihoods.

Full story:makwebsite

Benchmarking for Industry-Responsive Geoscience Education - Makerere

As part of the curriculum review process, staff from Makerere University's Department of Geology and Petroleum Studies, together with a representative from the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development (MEMD), undertook a benchmarking exercise at leading geoscience and mining education institutions in the region. From 19th to 23rd July 2026, the team visited Copperbelt University (CBU) in Kitwe, Zambia, and the Zimbabwe School of Mines (ZSM) in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, to learn from approaches that could strengthen the relevance and quality of Makerere University's geology programmes.

Makerere University was represented by Dr Arthur Batte, Dr Denis Mutebi, Principal Investigator of the Mak-SDMU project, and Dr Joan Nakajjigo, while Mr Kevin Byamugisha represented MEMD. Mr Byamugisha's participation provided an opportunity to explore the government's role in strengthening geoscience and mining education through policy support, industry engagement, strategic partnerships, and resource mobilisation.

UNCST Accredits Over 90 Makerere Staff in Good Research Review Practice

The Uganda National Council for Science and Technology (UNCST) on 24th July 2026 accredited over 90 senior academic staff members who form Makerere University's Research Ethics Committees (RECs) in Good Research Review Practice (GRRP) after an intensive three-day Training. The closing ceremony was presided over by the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic Affairs)- DVCAA, Prof. Sarah Ssali, who was represented by the then Principal, College of Computing and Information Sciences (CoCIS), Prof. Tonny Oyana.

In his remarks, Prof. Oyana reiterated the core role research plays in Makerere University's mission and noted that excellence in research must always be underpinned by excellence in research ethics. "Research Ethics Committees play a vital role in fulfilling this responsibility," he stated.

Full story:makwebsite

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Makerere Impact: Research in Action

PROVIDING SOLUTIONS: *Makerere University researchers and alumni are spearheading sustainable solutions for the region, ranging from Climate modelling and advanced hydrological and climate models to enhance water-level management to waste-to-wealth recycling initiatives.*

Proposed Climate Modelling to Improve Lake Victoria Water Level Management

As part of the Lake Victoria Improved Water Level Management through Advanced Modelling (LIVWA) Project, the College of Engineering, Design, Art and Technology (CEDAT) unveiled newly developed tools during a dissemination workshop on August 26th, 2026. The project aims to develop advanced hydrological and climate models to improve water-level management in Lake Victoria, East Africa's largest freshwater resource.

The tools integrate remote sensing and reanalysis climate datasets with advanced hydrological modelling, enabling researchers and policymakers to better predict water-level fluctuations in the lake. By combining historical data with AI and Machine Learning forecasting, the models aim to provide actionable insights for sustainable water resource management.



AFRHiCARE Shares Evidence-Based Solutions for Uganda's First-Referral Hospitals



Stakeholders pose for a group photo during the AFRHiCARE Meeting held on 13th August 2026.

The Future of Africa's First Referral Hospitals: Innovation and Care (AFRHiCARE) research initiative on August 13, 2026 brought together stakeholders from five first-referral hospitals in Uganda to review research findings, reflect on persistent challenges and identify practical solutions to strengthen hospital performance and quality of care.

Funded by the Wellcome Trust through a 2023–2029 Discovery Award, AFRHiCARE is a partnership between Makerere University, the University of the Witwatersrand, the KEMRI-Wellcome Trust Research Programme and the University of Oxford. The initiative seeks to generate evidence to inform the future development of first-referral hospitals, focusing on service delivery, health workforce dynamics, leadership, management, governance, and technology.

In Uganda, the study is being implemented at Kawolo Hospital, St. Joseph's Hospital Naggalama, Adjumani Hospital, Kiryandongo Hospital and Masindi Hospital. The hospitals play a critical role within the Primary Health Care (PHC) system, linking lower-level health facilities to higher-level referral services.

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Makerere Alumni Turn Plastic Waste into Jobs and Usable Products

Through WastePlus Ltd, a waste management and recycling enterprise founded by BSc Conservation Biology, Makerere alumni from the Department of Plant Sciences, Microbiology and Biotechnology are turning plastic waste collected from the environment and water bodies into furniture and other useful products.

Speaking during a visit to Makerere University, Sinan Kitagenda, the CEO and Co-Founder, explained that the initiative grew out of the founders' experiences at the University, where they were involved in waste management before venturing into the private sector with his Co-Founder, Daniel Kayemba.

The initiative seeks to promote a closed-loop recycling system in which plastic waste is collected, sorted, recycled, and converted into new products rather than discarded into the environment.

The founders noted that completely eliminating plastic from society may not be realistic, given its widespread use in everyday products such as clothing, shoes, toothbrushes and mattresses. Instead, they advocate for responsible management, recycling and reuse of plastic materials.



The founders of WastePlus Ltd, led by Mr Sinan Kitagenda, with their former Lecturers, Dr Jamilu E. Ssenku (C) and Dr Samuel Ojelel (R) from the Department of Plant Sciences, Microbiology and Biotechnology, as well as Dr Godfrey Kawooya Kubiriza, Head of the Department of Zoology, Entomology and Fisheries Sciences. The green table is one of the products made by the alumni out of plastic waste

Training Researchers for Africa

Newly admitted postgraduate diploma and master's students have been challenged to take ownership of their academic journey, produce knowledge that addresses Africa's challenges and use their training to create opportunities for society.

The call was made on Tuesday, August 11, 2026, during the orientation of postgraduate diploma and master's students held at the Main Hall, Main Building, Makerere University. The orientation was conducted under the theme "Harnessing the Power of Graduate Training to Transform Africa's Research Trajectory."



L-R: Dr. Mike Barongo, Dr. Kizito Ongaya, Prof. Julius Kikooma and Prof. Sarah Ssali.

Addressing the students, Prof. Sarah Ssali, Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, said admission to postgraduate education marked an important transition from undergraduate study and should come with greater independence, critical thinking and responsibility.

"Postgraduate study is not just the accumulation of knowledge. You are now active researchers, critical thinkers and creators of your own knowledge," Prof. Ssali said.

She said postgraduate training should enable students to deepen their expertise, strengthen their analytical abilities and develop solutions to real-world problems.

TEACHING & LEARNING

First Writing Summer School Launched

Professor Sarah Ssali, the First Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, officiated the official launch of the First Mak Writing Summer School on 6th July 2026.

The week-long training program was designed to equip students and staff with the practical writing skills needed to compete in today's job market. The official unveiling took place at the Makerere Main Building and was streamed online to accommodate more than two hundred participants.

This school is a joint initiative of the Makerere University Writing Centre and the Makerere University Press, known as MakPress. The occasion saw support from Professor Fredrick Muyodi, Head of the Makerere University Writing Centre, and Associate Professor William Tayeebwa, Director of MakPress, both of whom addressed participants.



L-R: Dr. Mike Barongo, Dr. Kizito Ongaya, Prof. Julius Kikooma and Prof. Sarah Ssali.

Two taught PhD Programmes in Management, Accounting and Finance Launched

New doctoral students urged to pursue research that delivers solutions to Uganda's socio-economic challenges."

Makerere University has launched two new taught Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) programmes, namely: The PhD in Management (by coursework) and the PhD in Accounting and Finance (by coursework).

Launched on 4th August 2026 under the School of Business at the College of Business and Management Sciences (CoBAMS), the programmes are among the first taught PhD programmes in these two disciplines in Uganda.

Makerere University Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Prof. Sarah Ssali, presided over the launch during a three-day orientation programme for the inaugural PhD students, running from 4th to 6th August 2026.

Prof. Ssali challenged the new scholars to pursue evidence-based research addressing pressing challenges facing Uganda and the wider world.



Prof. Sarah Ssali and Assoc. Prof. Godfrey Akileng with COBAMS Staff and the first cohort of PhD Students at the launch on 4th August 2026.

SCHOLARSHIPS CORNER

Africa Climate Collaborative welcomes 50 New Masters Scholars

The Africa Climate Collaborative at Makerere University, an initiative supported by the Mastercard Foundation, awarded scholarships to 50 young people to pursue master's studies as part of its continued investment in developing the next generation of African climate leaders, researchers, and innovators. After a competitive process that attracted 483 applications, 50 scholars were successful. Of the 483 applicants, 182 were female, 301 were male, and 64 were international applicants. This group is Cohort Two of the initiative, which received its awards at a colourful ceremony held on 20 August 2026 at the Makerere University School of Public Health Auditorium.

Another group of 50 was also admitted to the Group One Youth Skilling Program as Africa Climate Collaborative trainees at Makerere University. The 50 young people, recruited from Rakai, Yumbe and Lwengo districts, are undergoing a three-month practical training in the poultry value chain at Makerere University Agricultural Research Institute Kabanyoro. They will then proceed to a three-month industrial attachment before being assessed by the Uganda Vocational and Technical Assessment Board (UVTAB).



Cohort Two of the Africa Climate Collaborative scholars pose for a group photo after the scholarship award ceremony held on 20th August 2026 at Makerere University.

258 Mastercard Foundation Scholars welcomed to Makerere

Makerere University welcomed another cohort of 258 recipients of the prestigious Mastercard Foundation scholarship for the 2026/2027 academic year. The colourful Scholarship Award Ceremony was presided over by the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe, represented by Prof. Ibrahim Mike Okumu, Dean of the School of Economics and Chairperson of the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program's Scholars Selection sub-committee at Makerere University. Cohort 9 Scholars pose for a photo with officials shortly after getting their award letters.



Cohort 9 Scholars pose for a photo with officials shortly after getting their award letters.

PROFILE

Served and Retired with Grace:
Mr Ssentongo's 26 years in the AR Office

Mr Ssentongo served without fear or favour, and he enjoyed his service at Makerere University: ***Elvis Lubanga*** *speaks with him about his career journey from start to retirement in the Academic Registrar's (AR) Department.*

Who is Mr Sentongo?
"I am currently a senior citizen who used to work here at Makerere until I retired on the 9th of September this year." Before joining Makerere in January 2000, Mr Sentongo spent nine years as a secondary school teacher, serving in various administrative capacities. He says this background laid the foundation for his long service at the university.

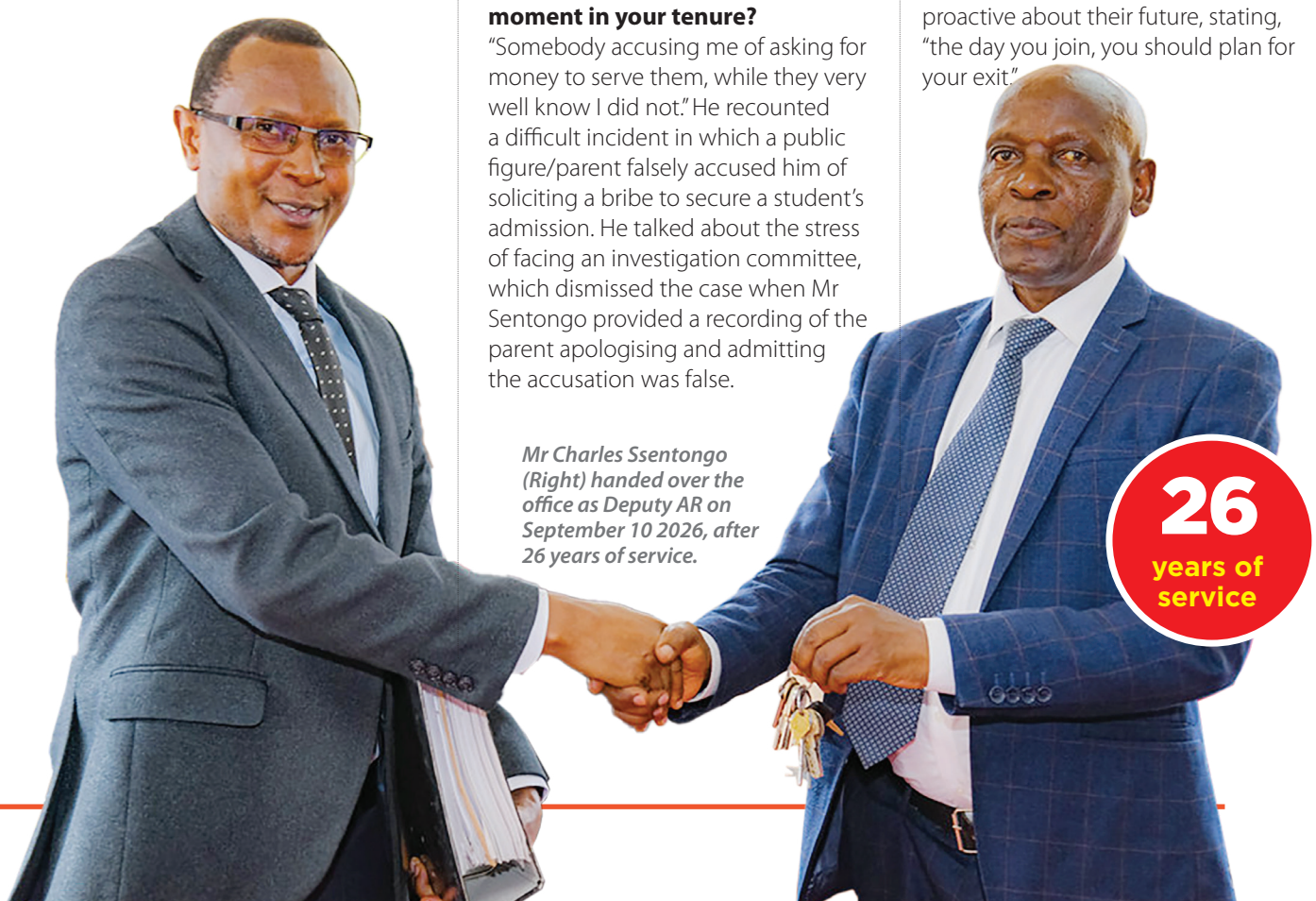
How did the admissions and records department change during your tenure as Deputy AR?
Mr Sentongo highlights the significant shift from manual processes, where students lined up to pick up and return forms, to an automated application system. The University is currently working toward issuing transcripts online.

What was your logic for balancing efficiency, fairness, and compassion?
He said that by following established policies, the department handled complaints and ensured equitable treatment of all applicants.

Share your most challenging moment in your tenure?
"Somebody accusing me of asking for money to serve them, while they very well know I did not." He recounted a difficult incident in which a public figure/parent falsely accused him of soliciting a bribe to secure a student's admission. He talked about the stress of facing an investigation committee, which dismissed the case when Mr Sentongo provided a recording of the parent apologising and admitting the accusation was false.

What are you doing now that you have retired?
"I'm a farmer. I also do some consultancy with schools." Beyond this, Mr Sentongo continues to serve as the treasurer for his church's construction committee.

Advice to those still in employment
Mr Sentongo advises those still in employment to "like their work" rather than acting as if they were forced into employment. He stresses the importance of diligence, noting that "you need to know that you are serving the public." He also advises staff to be proactive about their future, stating, "the day you join, you should plan for your exit."



Mr Charles Ssentongo (Right) handed over the office as Deputy AR on September 10 2026, after 26 years of service.

26 years of service

PICTORIAL



Vice Chancellor Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe and Members of management welcomed H.E. Ambassador Takahashi Misako and her delegation to Makerere University on September 28, 2026, to discuss ways to deepen their academic and technical collaboration.



Makhosted the 2nd National Inter-University Debate Competition on September 29, 2026 where Makerere emerged second.



On July 6th, the Accountant General met with Top Management and was presented with Makerere's digital finance system, MAKFMS.



Makerere University welcomed Mrs. Anne Twinomugisha Muhairwe, the Deputy Inspector General of Government (DIGG) and her delegation for a courtesy visit to commemorate the International Ombuds Day 2026 under the theme "Ombuds: Office of Options."



Minister of State for Health in Charge of General Duties, Hon. Anifa Kawooya, graced the Annual Makerere Guild Medical Camp 2026 on 17th September. The event also marked the aunch of the national University and Tertiary Institutions intensified screening, testing and case finding for malaria, HIV/AIDS, and sickle cell disease.



Members of the search committee at the public presentations by candidates vying for the positions of College Principals and Deputy Principals in August.



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