

The **MAKEREREAN**

91st GUILD MAGAZINE

POLITICAL **GODFATHERS**

The invisible
hands in guild
politics

BETWEEN A ROCK & RESIGNATION

A guild president's
dilemma



2026 **POLLS**

Former student leaders
shaping National politics

SAFEGUARDING STARTS WITH ME AS A STUDENT

My safety and your safety
is our collective responsibility



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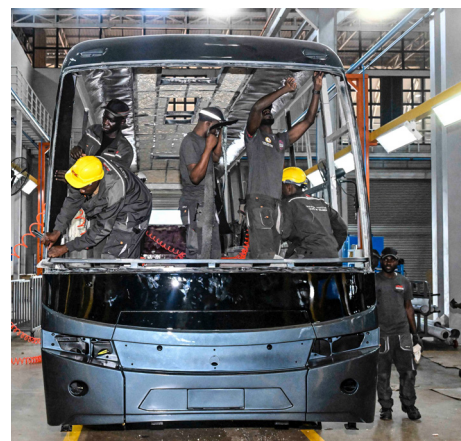
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EDITORIAL

All information, views, thoughts and opinions shared in this publication are solely those of the authors and mere appearance of content in this magazine does not imply endorsement by the editorial board. The board is not responsible for any opinions expressed in this magazine.

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Editorial Team



Tumwebaze Alex
Chairman Editorial Board



Orishaba Patience-
Member



Bwengye Marthar
Member/Writer



Atatureka Prossy
Writer



Arineitwe Charity
Member



Ainamani Jim
Member



Mpugga Eddy
Member



Murungi Dan
Member



Nalumansi Deborah
Member



Amumpaire Sheena
Writer



Nkuruziza Precious
Writer



Ikongo Ahmed
Writer



Nsereko Aidah
Writer

Other Contributors

Babirye Lovisa
Dickson Ainamaani
Sarah Musumba
Anselm Muduku
Monika Meme
Ruth Kitamirike

Kabengwa Eric
Luyombya Kelvin
Dr. Ssewanyana Nelson
Dr. Ivan Ssempijja
Kato Martins
Judith Nalukwago

Margaret Nattabi
Kasasa Trevor
Kabuulwa Muzafaluh
Katumba Salim
Mukisa Joseph
Ndyamuhaki Allen

Photography

Mpindi Akram
Mak Press

Design & Layout

Nickson Maberi
0781194621



MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

A very jovial welcome to you all to this special issue of The Makererean Magazine – the second of its kind. This edition comes to set the record as a true annual testament to the timeless gifts and raw talent that is the definition of a true Makererean.

In here, is only but a summary of the great strides we have taken as a group – as the current breed of Makerereans and the ardent custodians of the towering legacy inherited from the great men and women who walked this hill long before we did.

As a norm, our standard has always never been upholding the status quo but rather disrupting the narrative for the betterment of the lives we lead and the people we serve. The Guild has, throughout this mandate, done everything within its reach to deliver on the promises made to the electorate. Sure, you will attest to this as you flip the pages of this amazing beauty.

As the Guild Editorial Board, we have not been any exception to the rule – we have bent our tenure on selfless service from the day we ascended into office to date. By the grace of God and the tireless work of our entire team, this year has seen us launch tremendous Guild website updates to fit it for the current tech ecosystem. We have shone a spotlight and rewarded the outstanding honourables of the different months – a meagre but significant initiative in inspiring and motivating performance in the guild. We have rolled out several media reviews on the latest happenings on-campus to keep every Makererean abreast of every bit of information and communications far and beyond, to mention but a few.

Saving the best for last - to crown this remarkable year, the MAK Guild Editorial Board officially presents to you the Second Edition of the Makererean Magazine to put everything in context for you, in the most easy-on-the-eye-way possible.

Enjoy the read!



As the Guild Editorial Board, we have not been any exception to the rule. we have bent our tenure on selfless service from the day we ascended into office to date.

Tumwebaze Alex

Chairman, 91st Editorial Board
Chairman Nsibirwa Hall

91ST GUILD CABINET



H.E. SSENTAMU CHURCHILL JAMES

GUILD PRESIDENT



Kadondi Gracious

Vice Guild President



Nsobyha Hanington

Prime Minister



Nkurunziza Precious

Deputy Prime Minister



Mpindi Akram

Minister of Finance



Bbosa Sharif

Health Minister



Keinembabazi Comfort

Minister of gender, ethics & integrity



Bazirake Aggrey

Minister of Justice & Constitutional Affairs



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Aisha Farouq

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Akankunda Rhinah

Minister for Information, Research, and Computer Technology



Ssekabira Joseph

Minister of Culture & Social Affairs



Kiganda Julius

Academic Minister



Aniku Anthony

Minister of Student Affairs



Akankunda Donitah

Minister of Students with Special Needs



Hunghuna Edmond

Security Minister



Elijah Ajak Bul

Minister for international affairs

Message from the Guild President

I congratulate the 91st editorial board for its tireless efforts in the production of this second edition of the Makererean Guild Magazine. This year's board has outdone itself and delivered beyond expectation. This magazine, a product of the editorial board, captures some of the achievements we have registered as a government. When we assumed office on March 21st, 2025, we inherited a legacy of excellence, and I am proud to say that we have built upon it to even greater heights. During the course of our campaign, we promise you that your voices will get heard once we assume office, and we have delivered our best. One of our most significant achievements is the return of open-air campaigns. For the past three years, this tradition has been absent, and we worked tirelessly to revive it. Many past governments had tried to revive open-air campaigns and ours was to add a voice and negotiate better for their revival. We have also managed to bring the guild government closer to the students' community. During our tenure, students have had unlimited access to their leaders which was never the case in recent years.

We were equally able to negotiate for more time for social gatherings and now students can party on campus till late in the night. Through our efforts, management promised to return our dearly missed porridge nights and we are optimistic that students are yet to experience this before we handover office to the 92nd government. Another milestone achievement is the return of the campus radio which has been defunct for over a decade. With its return, our brothers and sisters at the department of journalism will be in best position to attain more practical skills that will enable them compete favourably in the job market.

This year, we also launched of the Safeguarding Policy. We recognized the need to create a safe and inclusive environment for all students and staff, and this policy is a testament to our commitment to protecting the rights and dignity of every individual on campus. This policy provides a framework for addressing issues of harassment, abuse, and exploitation, and we are confident that it will contribute significantly to creating a campus community that values respect and empathy.

As Guild leader, I want to thank the management and staff for their support and trust. We are committed to creating a safe and inclusive environment for all students and staff, and this policy is a testament to our commitment to protecting the rights and dignity of every individual on campus. This policy provides a framework for addressing issues of harassment, abuse, and exploitation, and we are confident that it will contribute significantly to creating a campus community that values respect and empathy.

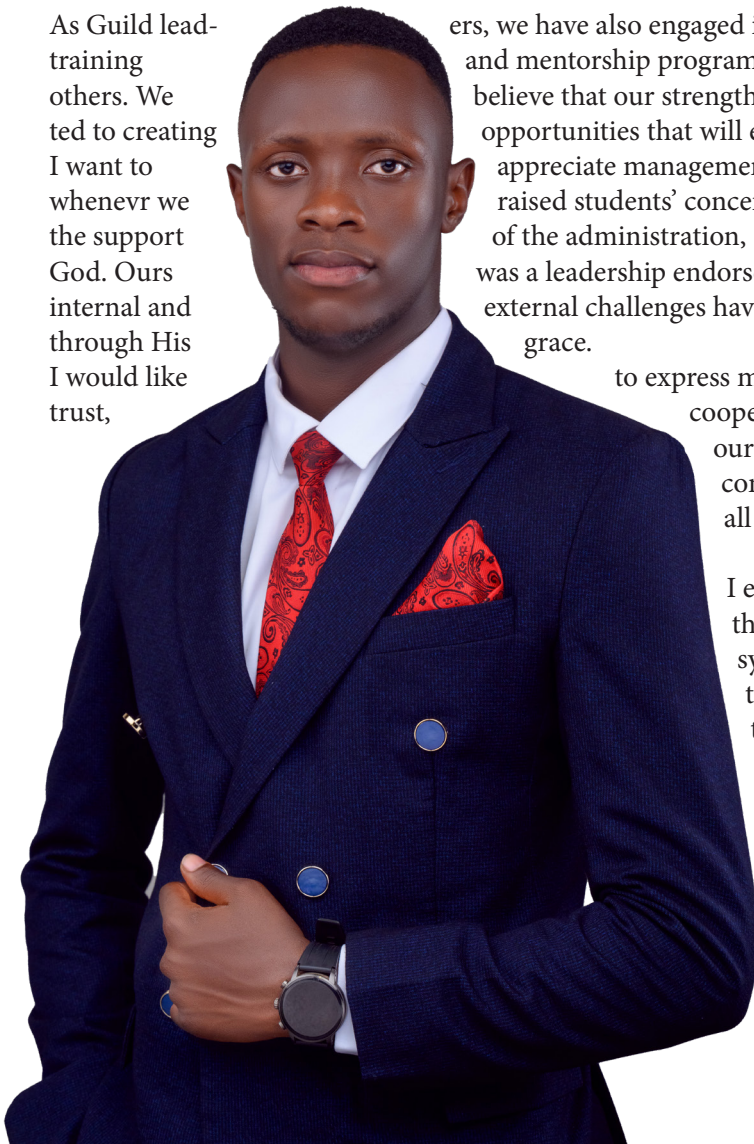
ers, we have also engaged in various capacity-building initiatives, including leadership and mentorship programs on climate change, HIV awareness, and drug abuse among others. We believe that our strength lies in our ability to empower each other, and we are committed to creating opportunities that will enable students to reach their full potential. In a special way, we appreciate management for supporting our initiatives and giving us a listening ear to raised students' concerns. Our achievements would not have been possible without the support of the administration, staff. One of our biggest pillars as a government has been a leadership endorsed by God and this has been evident in our journey. Many external challenges have come our way, and we have successfully dealt with them in His grace.

to express my deepest gratitude to each and every Makererean for your cooperation, and unwavering support during our tenure. However, our journey is far from over. We have more work to do, and we are committed to continuing to serve and represent the interests of all students.

I equally appreciate my cabinet for its tireless efforts to delivering the best to the students. The cabinet has been my biggest support system throughout this journey, standing by me in all trials, not to forget personal battles. Every single achievement we registered was because we worked as a team. I pray that we continue to lead with vision and integrity in our future leadership roles.

LET'S GET HEARD

Ssentamu Churchill James



Between a rock & a resignation

a guild president's dilemma

Only a few weeks after his oath, the 91st Guild President, H.E. Ssentamu Churchill James, was faced with a dilemma of having to choose between leadership and family. His father Fred Nyanzi, the then chairman of mobilization of the National Unity Platform, called for his resignation from office. Why the resignation? His son had taken a picture with President Yoweri Museveni which had sparked widespread controversy.

The picture taken on 8th April 2025 at the launch of the research and innovation week created a heated debate among netizens, with many questioning Ssentamu's loyalty to his family which is a staunch hold of Uganda's opposition. While some defended Ssentamu, citing his role as Guild President and the official nature of the event, others viewed the photo as a betrayal of the opposition's values.

To Nyanzi, his son had sat with a man who had made him, his uncle Bobi Wine, and many other Ugandans to 'suffer' through 'arrests and torture'. He urged his son to make a public apology to Ugandans or resign from his position as Guild President and focus on his studies.

The controversy highlighted the challenges faced by young leaders navigating Uganda's complex and often polarized political landscape. Many awaited Ssentamu's response which was bound to have far-reaching consequences.

Following the mounting pressure, Ssentamu was forced to call for a press conference on the 11th of April to respond to his

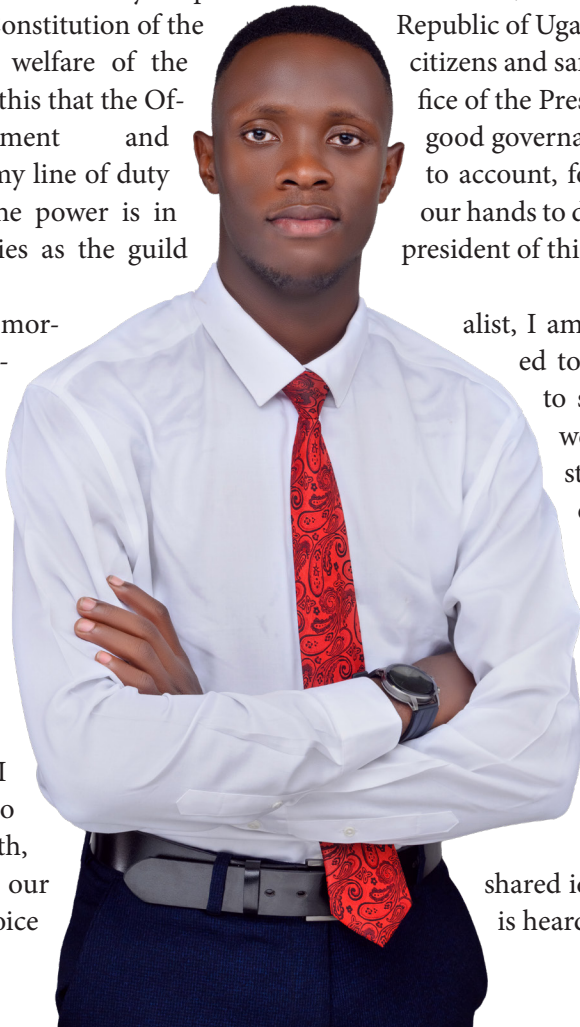
I WILL NOT RESIGN

father. Below is the quoted speech as **Ssentamu responds to dad**

I want to clarify on the photographs circulating on social media of me and Gen. Museveni. These pictures were taken while I was on my official duty as Guild President at the launch of the research and innovation week, representing over 32,000 students with diverse political beliefs. Unfortunately, they have stirred a storm among the general public, my family, and my fellow students. Some opportunists are also using them to tell blatant lies for their benefit.

Makerere University is a public institution, and Gen. Museveni, by virtue of his office as stipulated in Article 99 (3) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, which vests the Executive Authority in him being responsible for the welfare of the citizens and safeguarding the Constitution and Laws of Uganda, among others. It is from this that the office of the President derives its mandate of providing leadership in public Policy management and good governance. It's in my line of duty to account, follow up, and question Gen. Museveni's day-to-day business behaviour hands to do so, not only as a student but as a Guild president. Relenting from cause the power is in our hands to do so, not only as a student but as a Guild president. Relenting from my duties as the guild president of this institution makes me a populist, not an executor.

As a mortibut-tributing having Lest of the inter- I urge tions in this should conse- When I were to of truth, light of our every voice



alist, I am equally disturbed by the prevailing injustice in our country attended to the current regime. However, in my line of duty, I find myself to share the same workspace with unpopular government officials. we forget, I am Guild President because of the will of God and that students of this great university. That means I must put students' interests above my personal and political beliefs.

the general public not to blame or condemn my family for my actions as a guild president. My family has stood firm against oppression in this country, and I honour their courage. The pictures in circulation not be interpreted as a betrayal of our shared values but as a consequence of balancing personal beliefs with public responsibility. I took up this responsibility, I was well aware of the burdens that come along with it. Therefore, I remain committed to the values of justice, and servant leadership. I will continue to walk in the shared ideals and work tirelessly for a better Makerere and Uganda where every voice is heard, respected, and protected.



M7 launches research & innovation week

Speaking at the launch, VC Architect Professor Barnabas Nawangwe highlighted that conducting credible research that could be applied within society and developing the skills of graduates and researchers are some of the university's strengths.

"The latest ranking by the Times Higher Education ranked Makerere as the best university as far as impact on the community is concerned. Our researchers are in the communities helping the farmers, helping those in fisheries and other services. Our institute of infectious diseases caters for almost 30% of all HIV/Aids patients in the whole country who need antiretroviral treatment," he said.

Nawangwe said Makerere had supported more than 1,300 research projects using funds from government.

"In the past four years that we have received funding, we have supported more than 1,300 research projects and, of those, 560 have actually come up with products that can go out into the market," he added.

Mrs. Lorna Magara, chair university council, said research and innovation are the engines for realizing the vision for wealth creation and economic prosperity.

"At Makerere University, we strongly believe that research and innovation are the engines for realizing the vision for wealth creation and economic prosperity. We have charged our scholars and researchers with a clear mandate to prioritize research that addresses the most urgent needs of our society," she noted.

"We hold that the true worth of a public university lies in its capacity to positively transform the lives of its citizens. Our exhibitions confront critical challenges in health and environmental sustainability and other vital areas that contribute to our country's long-term prosperity," she added.

President Yoweri K. Museveni was the chief guest at the launch of the research and innovation week. The launch was held on April 8th, 2025 at the Freedom Square. He said the lagging progress in science and technology was one of the main reasons Africa suffered colonial exploitation.

Museveni said the innovations exhibited by Makerere prove that the Uganda academic community is awakening from its slumber. He also defended the position of the ruling government to allocate more funds to scientists in comparison to the arts, noting that arts will be more appreciated when the foundation of the country is secure.



Shakespeare will not heal someone who is dying. The arts will be more appreciated when the foundation of the country is secure. The fundamentals of life; shelter, food, locomotion, defence, are the basic needs of society.

President M7 said at the launch



THE SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Makerere University launched the safeguarding policy to promote the safety of staff and students. The policy, drafted and passed in 2024, was launched on April 4th, 2025. Safeguarding champions from each college were also certified at the launch to promote the policy among their colleagues.

Speaking at the Launch of the Safeguarding Policy today, Rt. Hon. Nakadema, noted that the policy is more than just a document, it represents a commitment to change, a pledge to protect, and a foundation for the future.

“I applaud the Makerere University Council and Management for the openness to acknowledge the existence of safeguarding risks within the institution, and the commitment to enhance the safety and well-being of all Students, Staff and associated stakeholders,” she said.



Mrs. Lorna Magara, chair university council said the policy will help Makerere reinforce a zero-tolerance stance on abuse and commit to building a community where equality and respect thrive.

“With this policy we reinforce our zero-tolerance stance on abuse and commit to building a community where equality and respect thrive, and where every individual feels seen, supported and secure. Today marks a new chapter. We expect Management to ensure that every Campus member understands and lives out these principles. Violations will be met with strong disciplinary and legal action and survivors will receive the support, care and justice they deserve,” Mrs. Magara said.

Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe, the Vice-Chancellor, reassured that the launch of the Policy is not just a ceremonial event but a call to action. He called upon staff and students to ensure that every member of the University community knows their rights and has access to channels where they can report cases without fear of retaliation.

“Makerere is an equal opportunities institution and we are intentional in maintaining a safe environment for our students, staff and visitors. On the African continent, we are pioneers in establishing the gender mainstreaming policy, the anti-sexual harassment policy, the policy on students with disabilities and others, and I want to assure you Your Excellency Mr. Ssentamu that this policy will be implemented,” he said.

H.E Ssentamu Churchill James said the policy is a bold declaration that enough is enough. That silence is not an option. That every student matters. That every complaint will be taken seriously. That perpetrators will be held accountable regardless of title, status, or office.

“To my fellow students: Safeguarding is not about punishing people; it is about protecting everyone. Speak out against misconduct. Support your colleagues. Educate yourselves about your rights. Use the reporting systems. Let us build a culture of respect,” the Guild President highlighted.

RATIONALE

University has of safeguarding students, staff, and its stakeholders. The University has a moral imperative to ensure that students, staff and other stakeholders are safe, and treated with dignity and respect regardless of their role or status. There are National Policies and Laws that require

Mary Stuart Hall reopened

Mary Stuart Hall was officially reopened on August 15th, 2025, by the First Lady and Minister of Education and Sports Mama Janet K Museveni. The renovation works, funded by the government of Uganda, cost about 10.5 billion shillings and were done by the National Enterprise Corporation (NEC).

Janet Museveni attributed the renovation works to God, saying God has seen Makerere rebuild and lay new foundations, such as that for the main administration block.

“Standing here today is a testament to the faithfulness of God. He says in His word that “My people will rebuild the ancient ruins and places long devastated”. We have seen God rebuild and even lay new foundations at this great institution. We not only laid a new foundation for the main administration block, but we have also witnessed its completion,” she said.

Vice Chancellor Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe noted that the students at Mary Stuart, commonly known as Boxers, will enjoy a new modern lift among other facilities.

“The 521 students who are accommodated in this Hall can now enjoy a modern new lift, well-lit corridors, well-designed pantries, modern washrooms, laundry, a cozy reading room, and a fabulous senior common room for relaxation. We are also modernizing the kitchen and dining area to meet international standards, but we have yet to identify the necessary resources,” he said

Mrs. Lorna Magara, Chair of the Makerere University Council, said that while we celebrate the renovation of Mary Stuart, there is a significant accommodation gap due to the rapidly growing student population, currently at about 30,000.

“ While we celebrate today’s achievement, we must acknowledge the reality facing our growing university community. With over 30,000 students, we currently accommodate only 13% of our total enrollment. The majority of our students seek accommodation in external facilities, some of which are distant from the campus or fail to meet required health and safety standards.”



The 91st Guild President noted that Mary Stuart is more than ‘brick and mortar. It is a historic home of resilience, excellence, and sisterhood.

“This opening is more than physical rehabilitation, it is a restoration of pride and purpose, a reaffirmation of the visionary and resilient spirit that has carried this institution for generations.

Ampaire Anthea, the hall’s 91st chairlady said the renewal of the hall goes beyond walls and roofs; it is about rebuilding their spirit and community.

Kiira Motors: From Students' project to Vehicle plant



The story of Kiira vehicle plant started at Makerere University with the launch of the Kiira EV, Uganda's first electric vehicle. The story began with a group of students at Makerere University—who envisioned creating a vehicle that would symbolize Uganda's technological advancement. With support from the Ugandan government and partnerships with local and international organizations, the team designed and developed the Kiira EV named after River Nile's traditional name.

The Kiira EV was unveiled on November 24th, 2011 by president Yoweri Museveni, marking the start of Uganda's transformative journey in vehicle manufacturing. This hybrid vehicle demonstrated Uganda's capability to produce innovative, environmentally friendly vehicles. The success of the Kiira project led to the establishment of Kiira Motors Corporation in 2013, with the goal of mass-producing vehicles for both local and international markets.

Kiira Motors Corporation is Uganda's first vehicle manufacturer, and its story is one of innovation and national pride. The company was established in 2007 as a project of Makerere University's College of Engineering, Design, Art, and Technology. The initiative aimed to develop a domestically designed and manufactured vehicle, showcasing Uganda's potential in automotive engineering.

Kiira Motors has since become a source of national pride, symbolizing Uganda's potential in technological innovation and industrialization. The company's mission goes beyond manufacturing vehicles; it aims to develop a skilled workforce, promote technological transfer, and contribute to the country's economic growth. Kiira Motors continues to evolve, exploring new technologies and partnerships to enhance its products and services. The company's journey serves as an inspiration to young engineers and innovators in Uganda and beyond, showcasing the potential of African ingenuity and determination.

On September 26th, 2025, president Museveni commissioned the Kiira Vehicle plant. He congratulated Makerere University upon the achievement noting that it proves success is possible and breaks down the barriers of doubt.

"The demand for electric vehicles highlights our need for lithium, which we are blessed to have in substantial deposits in Ntungamo and other regions. Congratulations to Makerere University, Kiira Motors, and the National Enterprise Corporation. Their achievements prove that success is possible, breaking down the barriers of doubt and demonstrating that we can indeed realise our potential," he said.



Makerere acquires 3 buses from Kiira Motors

Following the launch of the Kiira Vehicle plant, Makerere University acquired three buses from Kiira Motors in a move that VC Prof. Nawangwe said aimed to strengthen Makerere's partnership with Kiira Motors Corporation.

"I am pleased to announce that on September 27th, 2025, we strengthened our partnership with Kiira Motors Corporation through the acquisition of three modern buses. Of these, two are diesel-powered while the third is an electric bus, specifically brought to ease mobility of students and staff with special needs across campus," Prof. Nawangwe said while handing over one of the acquired buses to the Dean of Students.



"This initiative speaks directly to our core values of inclusivity, equity, and care for all members of the university community. By ensuring that every student and staff can fully participate in academic life, Makerere continues to create a learning environment where everyone can thrive," he added.

He noted that Makerere's partnership with Kiira Motors Corporation reflects Makerere's support for Uganda's homegrown innovation ecosystem. That Kiira Motors was founded on research from within our own College of Engineering, Design, Art and Technology (CEDAT), is a demonstration of how university knowledge can be translated into practical solutions that serve society.

The bus handed over to the dean of students will be used to transport students, especially those with special needs, to their residences. The bus are equipped with modern facilities such as ramps to enable students with special needs to board with ease.



91ST GUILD CABINET VISITS KIIRA MOTORS

On May 21st, 2025, Makerere University 91st guild cabinet made an oversight visit to Kiira Motors vehicle plant. The delegation was led by the 91st guild president H.E. Ssentamu Churchill James.

The visit was aimed at identifying challenges faced by the vehicle plant and have them addressed in order to ensure that the plant creates more employment and internship opportunities for Makerere University students.

The delegation also paid a courtesy call to Makerere University Jinja campus where students raised several concerns such as inadequate lecture rooms, internet, library services among others.

Outstanding students win big at the 25th annual media convention



The 2025 Annual Media Convention was a grand celebration of journalistic excellence and creativity. The event, held on October 8th at Yusuf Lule Central Teaching Facility (CTF2) auditorium, brought together students, alumni, administrators, and media professionals to recognize and reward outstanding achievements in journalism and communication.

This year, the event was held under the theme: “Responsible Media Reporting & Communication During Elections.” Speaking at the convention, Dr William Tayeebwa, a senior lecturer in the Department of Journalism and Communication and head of Mak Press at Makerere University, said there is need for journalistic professionalism in the election season. “I stand on the solid footing of the principles of the journal-

ism profession. Whether content creators, influencers, there should be a certain degree of professionalism when covering elections.”

The highlight of the day was the awards ceremony, where students from the Department of Journalism and Communication were honored for their exceptional work. The best student in journalism was Turi Elizabeth, and she won the Tebere-Mudin Journalism Award and a cash prize of one million Uganda shillings.

Boy Fedel was recognized as the best communication student, earning a free membership in the Public Relations Association of Uganda (PRAU).

Other notable winners included Ahurira Bridget, who took home the Cranimer Mugerwa award for emerging as the best student in photography. She also received a cash prize of one million Uganda shillings from New Vision.

The awards

The Tebere-Mudin Journalism Award was established in memory of Richard Tebere, Sunday Editor, and Rashid Mudin, Sports Editor, both from the Daily Monitor. They tragically died in a car accident in Karamoja while participating in a Cannonball Car Rally in 1998. The award is presented annually to the top journalism student

THE CRANIMER Mugerwa Photography Award is presented annually by The New Vision to the best performing photo journalism student at the Journalism and Communication department at Makerere University

The PRAU award is presented to the best student in communication.



Hon. Rhinah Akankunda speaking at a panel during the media convention



Ahurira Bridget (Middle)



Boy Fidel (second right)

Campus Radio returns on air

After a period of uncertainty of about 14 years, Campus radio station was revived, bringing back the vibrant sounds and voices that had once defined the university's airwaves. The announcement was made by Dr Aisha Nakiwala, head of the Department of Journalism and Communication, during the 25th Annual Media Convention.

Campus FM went off air in 2009, and the Uganda Communications Commission (UCC) later revoked its license in 2011, leaving behind a dormant studio and a generation of students with no practical broadcast experience.

The Department of Journalism has, over the past decade, engaged several stakeholders to have the radio revived. However, the radio will now run as an online radio as the department works towards gaining a frequency.

Prof Saudah Namyalo, dean of the School of Languages, Literature and Communication, said the revival of Campus radio was just the beginning. She said the university is looking forward to establishing a Television station in the next one or two years.

"Recently, the vice-chancellor, the principal, and I visited Al Qasimia University in Sharjah, in the Emirates. We visited their School of Journalism and Media Studies, their radio and TV stations, and they are far more advanced than any media station in Uganda. I'm sure that in the next one or two years, we shall have that TV also running," she noted.

With a revamped format and new talent, campus radio is poised to reclaim its position as a hub for creative expression, entertainment, and information dissemination.

The station's shows would cater to a diverse range of interests, from music and culture to news, sports, and academic discussions.

The revival of the radio is a sigh of relief to the many students who have been struggling to acquire practical knowledge in broadcast media.



Nkrumah Day Celebrations



The second Nkrumah Day celebrations were a grand affair, held on September 26, 2025, at Nkrumah Hall grounds with a public lecture held at Yusuf Lule Central Teaching Facility auditorium.

The theme of the public lecture, “Transforming Young African Minds: Lessons We Can Draw from Kwame Nkrumah’s Ideas,” resonated deeply with the audience. Maj. Gen. Kahinda Otafiire, the Chief Guest and keynote speaker, emphasized Nkrumah’s dream of a unified African continent, inspiring the audience to work towards this goal.

Otafiire urged the youths to embrace Pan-Africanism and unite Africa following Nkrumah’s dream, therefore re-

instating that if youths rise as Ugandans in oneness altogether, they shall be unbreakable. He added that we are living in a continent that encompasses countries that are democratically poor, thus cannot do great things like going to the moon, inventing high-end machinery, and so on.

Maj. Gen. Kahinda emphasized that youths should do away with their cultural and religious beliefs and differences to develop the desire for the unity of Uganda, East Africa, and Africa. Showing his worry, he stated that youths should wake up and stop being used fighters hence uniting the good as opposed to the bad ones. “I want you, young people to be Africans because I am an African and will be enough for me to go to my grave and rest,” he made a call to the youths.

He articulated that Africa shouldn’t confine itself in the colonial borders forced on it by the colonialists but rather a border-less continent for all Africans thus cherishing in being a mayor in Africa than being a minister in Uganda.

Nkrumah Hall’s 91st chairman, Mr. Arinaitwe Peter, aptly described the hall as a “temple of ideas, innovation, and research,” underscoring the significance of Nkrumah’s legacy in shaping young minds.

“Nkrumah Hall is not just a building but a temple of ideas, innovation, and research,” he added, highlighting the remarkable importance of Nkrumah’s legacy. With this spirit, Nkrumah Hall’s leadership made it a responsibility to organize sports and charity works to the needy, aiming at building brotherhood and lifting one another.

Dr. Winfred Kabumbuli, representing the Vice Chancellor, highlighted the university’s focus on inspiring students in leadership and honoring Nkrumah’s legacy by raising a generation that respects African values.

Through the Nkrumah Day celebrations, Makerere University continues to uphold the ideals of Pan-Africanism, unity, and progress, inspiring students to become leaders and change-makers in their communities. The Nkrumah Day celebrations serve as a reminder of the power of unity and collective action in shaping Africa’s future.

Nkrumah hall residents were treated a feast in celebration of the day. The Nkrumah day is celebrated annually at Makerere University.



Makerere University Ranked East Africa's Best

Makerere University was ranked number one in East Africa in the Times Higher Education rankings of October 2025. The rankings were testament to the fact that Makerere has always been a beacon of academic excellence.

According to the rankings, Makerere was placed in the 801-1000 band globally. The ranking considers five performance indicators, namely: Teaching; Research environment; Research quality; International Outlook; and Industry. Makerere's overall score was 37.2, significantly outperforming peer institutions in the Region that average scores of 18.8. On the continent, Makerere University ranked 8th in the 2024 Sub-Saharan African University Rankings.



VC Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe said in a statement that Makerere continues to thrive in research quality and international outlook and equally continues to hold steadfast as the regional leader in higher education.

"We would like to reassure all stakeholders and well-wishers that Makerere University continues to hold steadfast as the regional leader in higher education. Our commitment to deliver excellence in our teaching, research, and socioeconomic impact has not wavered," he said.



Clean and Pad Up

The 91st minister of off campus Aisha Farouq and minister of gender Keinembabazi Comfort teamed up to promote menstrual hygiene and sanitation in Kikoni. The duo provided sanitary pads to residents in Kikoni and also engaged in a clean up activity in the community.

The event that was attended by the Dean of Students Dr. Winifred Kabumbuli and her deputy Dr. Rodney Rugyema as chief guests attracted several student leaders and partners such as Kampala Capital City Authority and IRISE. The Dean of students commended the initiative.

The event also featured training sessions where students were educated on menstrual hygiene practices, importance of using sanitary pads, and how to maintain a good reproductive health.

Male students were encouraged to support their female friends and understand the menstrual cycle of their partners. They were also given free condoms to protect themselves from sexual transmitted infections.

Makerere Students Win UNHCR Students Challenge

The 91st Minister for information, Hon. Rhinah Akankunda, and two other students won the 2025 UNHCR students' challenge. Their team, Unstoppables, was announced the winner at the CIEE Global Internship Conference held in Singapore in June 2025. The conference featured a panel discussion on capacity-building of IHEs and employers for work-based learning.

The winning team, which included Shalom Nyirimana Ishimwe (Team Captain), Sasha Achola, and Akankunda Rhinah, all from Makerere University, was awarded a summer 2026 global internship facilitated by CIEE and the opportunity to share their solution with UNHCR and its international partners.

The team was tasked to develop innovative, actionable solutions that increase access to higher education and sustainable livelihoods for refugee and forcibly displaced youth. The 2025 Challenge drew 123 student team proposals from institutions around the world. Each submission addressed urgent barriers to education and employment for displaced youth.

From that group, 36 semifinalist teams—representing 47 universities and 24 countries—were invited to refine their proposals and present them virtually before a panel of expert judges.

The judging panel included leaders from organizations deeply engaged in refugee advocacy and higher education access:

“At first, it felt like we couldn’t make it because I had the whole inferiority complex of, we are Ugandans...we hadn’t even seen other people’s presentations. My teammates on the other side believed we would make it. We did overnight practice while at Conrad Singapore Orchard hotel before the D-day. Made enough research and had our facts right. On the day of the event, we stepped on that stage with confidence in ourselves and in what we had.

Honestly speaking, us making it to the top 3 for the finals and making it to Singapore was already a win, but at the end of the day, God had bigger plans for us, and that’s still being the winners at the finals,” Rhinah exclaimed.



Software Engineering Students Win Award for Innovative Youth Entrepreneurship Platform



A team of three Year Two Software Engineering students from Makerere University’s College of Computing and Information Sciences (CoCIS) won an award for developing a web-based platform aimed at boosting youth entrepreneurship in West Nile and surrounding areas. The students — Aita Joshua Prince, Joshua Wamani, and Jovia Minallah Matata — represented Makerere University at the Entrepreneurship Booster Platform Hackathon, held on Wednesday, September 10, 2025, at Sheraton Hotel in Kampala. The hackathon was organized by the Youth Empowerment and Participation in Policy and Development (YEPPAD).

the students developed an interactive platform designed to empower youth through features such as a TikTok-style skills showcase, interest-based guilds, accessibility tools for persons with disabilities, mentorship connections, job postings, and a credit-based leaderboard system. A key component of their innovation was an AI-powered chatbot capable of helping users make strategic business and career decisions.

Aita Joshua Prince, one of the student developers said the he Makerere team emerged third overall, behind ISBAT and Muni University, and received a bag and an MTN MiFi device loaded with 17GB of data.

91st Guild Makes Courtesy Call to Buganda Kingdom

The 91st guild government, led by H.E. Ssentamu Churchill James, made a courtesy call to the Buganda Kingdom on August 15th, 2025, accompanied by leaders from Nkobazambo Makerere University Chapter.

According to Ssentamu, the visit was intended to discuss the involvement of Makerere University in the Kingdom's projects.

Speaking to the delegation, the Kingdom's premier, Owek. Charles Peter Mayiga urged students from Buganda to use their numbers to achieve their goals by voting for leaders who understand their needs. He noted that 'one who doesn't understand you can't fight for you.'

Owek. Mayiga further urged students to be disciplined, stay in school, and guard themselves against HIV/AIDS.

"Discipline is the master key. In all that we do, if you are not disciplined, you are going to be an underachiever," he noted.

Among the delegation was Guild President emeritus Lubega Vincent Nsamba, former Nkobazanogo president Ssemujju Brian, and his successor Ssaku Peter Simon.

Mak Guild, Electoral Commission Advocate for voter education, violence-free elections



The Independent Uganda Electoral Commission is set to partner with Makerere University Guild in voter education ahead of the 2026 general elections.

This partnership follows the 91st guild president's visit to the electoral commission on Friday, May 23rd, 2025. The president, together with the commissioners, agreed that violence



is the main cause of the decreasing youth participation in national politics.

"I had a discussion in regards to the decreasing youth participation in the country's general elections, and we all agreed its bestowed upon the violence during these electoral processes. Moving forward, we advocate for peaceful elections," Ssentamu said in a post after the visit.

The partnership in voter education comes at a time when Ugandans are gearing up for presidential and parliamentary elections. After the 2021 general election, Human Rights Watch noted that the Ugandan authorities should immediately end all forms of harassment and intimidation of journalists, opposition supporters, and leaders, including Robert Kyagulanyi, one of the contenders in the 2021 polls.

It further guided that Ugandan security forces should abide by the United Nations Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials, which require law enforcement officials to apply non-violent means and to use force only when strictly unavoidable to protect life. The principles also require governments to ensure that arbitrary or abusive use of force and firearms by law enforcement officials is punished as a criminal offense under national law.

Pictorial: 91st Guild Takes Oath



On March 21, 2025, the Makerere University community welcomed a new era of student leadership as Ssentamu Churchill James was inaugurated as the 91st Guild President. The ceremony brought together students, outgoing leaders, parents, and dignitaries, making the event one of a kind.



In his inaugural address, Ssentamu expressed gratitude, stating, “It’s been God’s grace all through.” He acknowledged the vital support of his family and mentors, reinforcing the importance of collaboration in leadership. “We have been entrusted with the responsibility to bring political, social, and academic salvation,” he declared, emphasizing his commitment to restoring Makerere’s status as Africa’s premier higher education institution.



Born in a politically active family, Ssentamu is the fourth of eleven children of Fred Nyanzi Ssentamu and Majorine Nyanzi. His father is a veteran political mobilizer and the former head of mobilization for the National Unity Platform (NUP), while his uncle, Robert Kyagulanyi Ssentamu alias “Bobi Wine”, is the party’s president.

Despite this political lineage, Ssentamu’s journey into leadership was not paved in privilege. He began his education at Mother Care Preparatory School, Bunamwaya, Cleveland Hill primary school, Kyebando, and completed primary seven at Little





Muheji School in Nansana.

He joined St Mary's S.S Kitende for S1 and S2 and later transferred to St Julian High School Gayaza from S4 to S6. This is where his leadership spark ignited but was met with serious resistance.

Ssentamu served as sports prefect at St.



Julian in his S.3 and in his Advanced Level, he was elected Head Prefect in the same school. At Makerere, he was elected secretary general of Makerere Nkobazambogo Chapter.

He defied odds and won with 3,459 votes against NRM's John Bosco Rukundo who polled 3,267, and NUP's Ismail Basalirwa who came third with 3,126 votes.

Ssentamu's journey to guild presidency was one filled with resilience, determination, prayer and hard work. He said his candidature was one that had been endorsed by God.

The Legislative Fingerprint: The 91st Guild House as Makerere's Guiding Mind.

The 91st Guild House undertook a profound responsibility to serve as the brain and nerve centre of Makerere University. As Lord Denning MR stated in the case of Bolton Engineering Co Ltd v Graham & Sons, “a company may in many ways be likened to a human body. It has a brain and nerve centre which controls what it does. It also has hands which hold the tools and act in accordance with directions from the centre.”

While the students’ body has always been the heart and hands of the university, our House sought to ensure that the directions from the centre were clear, strategic, and left a permanent mark and this is what I call our legislative fingerprint.

The 91st Guild House was of composition and determined. It comprised 114 dedicated members. Our record also notes an absence; we navigated our term without formal representation from Lumumba Hall the Hall of DAG, the latter being under renovation, as well as the East African School of Education Studies. Despite this, our mandate remained unwavering as we were a House dedicated -

unique nation. We out and ter well Higher this, our wav-

mined to represent everyone hence proving that resolve can bridge structural gaps.

This journey was first made possible by the Makerereans at large. Your individual decisions to vote committed leaders into the Guild House laid the foundation for this legacy. Therefore, without your trust, there would be no story to tell. The leaders chosen operated effectively under the Speaker’s Chambers and it is from this position that I do extend my profound gratitude to my Deputy Speaker for her invaluable partnership, the Guild Clerks for their behind-the-scenes efforts, and the Guild Tellers for upholding democratic integrity.

We focused on empowering the future. The Kyoto Series and the Emerging Leaders Programme were reinvigorated, transformed into a more vibrant platform through the caliber of guest speakers we attracted. Our vision was to see this initiative transcend Makerere, becoming a model for leadership development in other universities across the region. Legislatively, we have moved with purpose. We undertook a critical review of the Students’ Works Scheme, scrutinizing its efficacy to ensure it truly serves the students it was designed for. We applied our oversight to the rules and regulations drafted by the Debating Union in 2024, ensuring their robustness and fairness. A significant achievement that is still in the bed rock has been our successful advocacy for the total independence of the School of Public Health, securing its autonomy as a centre of excellence.

We were strengthened by invaluable partnerships beyond our internal mechanisms. Special recognition goes to the Julius Nyerere Leadership Training Center and the Makerere University Office of Advancement for their continuous support. The exposure and opportunities they provided were unparalleled, elevating the quality of leadership within the Guild House.

As our tenure concludes, we reflect on Lord Denning’s metaphor with pride. The 91st Guild House strived to be a thoughtful brain, a responsive nerve centre, and a steady pair of hands for the student body. Our legislative fingerprint is not just a list of accomplishments, but a testament to strategic, purposeful governance. It is a permanent mark on the university’s history, reminding all that when dedicated minds are entrusted with direction, the entire body moves forward with strength and purpose.

Kinkumu Isaac
Speaker, 91st Guild House

HONOURABLES

OF THE YEAR

Hon. Ssekabira Joseph
Min. for culture & social affairs

Organized a successful freshers' and bazaar



Hon. Woti Ambrose
Chairperson, College of Humanities & Social Sciences
Organized Kikoni Clean up & CHUSS Gala



Hon. Akwatwijuka Arthur
Chairperson, Debate Union
Organized intercollege Debate Tournament



Hon. Keinembabazi Comfort
Min. of Gender, Ethics & Integrity
Organized Kikoni Clean and pad up

Initiated Integrity Thursdays



Hon. Kiganda Julius
Min. of Academic Affairs
Organized library sessions for guild leaders
Advocated for extension of recess enrollment
Timely academic updates



Hon. Arinaitwe Peter
Chairperson, Nkrumah Hall
Organized Nkrumah Day celebrations

Installed security lights at Nkrumah Hall



Hon. Ojambo Romerus
GRC, School of Biomedical Sciences

Organized recess tournament
Supported all social events



Hon. Uwayisenga Gideon
Chairperson, College of Engineering

Organized CEDAT mental health day



Hon. Bbosa Sharif
Min. of Health

Organized National Health Conference
Organized HIV awareness symposium



Hon. Jim James Muhwe
Chairperson, College of Natural Sciences
Organized CONAS Leaders' induction & safe guarding awareness



Hon. Sagati Leticia
Min. of Env't, estates & production

Organized Climate change symposium
Organized Hatua Pamoja campaign
Timely distribution of shirts



Hon. Akampa Derrick
Chairperson, Games union
Organized freshers' intercollege games tournament

Organized inter-college basketball gala



THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF UNIVERSITY EXPERIENCE.

BY BABIRYE LOVISA

Meet Lillian, a bright and determined young woman who rose above her humble beginnings to excel in her academic pursuits. Growing up in a low-income household, Lillian learned the value of

hard work and resilience from a young age. Her parents, though struggling financially, instilled in her a love for education and a desire to succeed.

Campus Experience

Campus life is often described as one of the most transformative phases in a person's life. For Lillian, her time at university was not only about attending lectures and passing examinations, but also about discovering herself, building lasting friendships, and preparing for the journey ahead. Looking back at her campus experience, she recalls a mixture of challenges, joys, and lessons that shaped her into the woman she is today.

Lillian's first day on campus was a mix of excitement and nerves. As she navigated the sprawling university grounds, she felt a sense of pride and accomplishment. Despite coming from a humble background, she had worked tirelessly to earn a spot at this prestigious institution. Her campus experience was marked by late night study sessions, engaging discussions with peers, and supportive professors who encouraged her to reach her full potential.

Beyond academics, Lillian's most treasured memories were the friendships she built. Campus gave her a chance to interact with people from diverse backgrounds and cultures. These friendships became her second family, supporting her through both happy and difficult times.

She remembers the countless evenings spent chatting in the hostel, the group study sessions before exams, and the laughter shared during cultural events. Campus life was not only about books; it was also about learning from the people around her. Through clubs and associations, Lillian explored her talents and interests. She joined a debate club, which improved her confidence and public speaking skills. She also participated in community outreach programs, learning the importance of giving back to society. These experiences broadened her worldview and shaped her character.

Challenges

Like any student, Lillian faced her share of challenges. Financial constraints sometimes made it difficult to afford all her needs. There were days when she had to choose between buying handouts for class and saving money for meals.

Homesickness also weighed heavily on her, especially during the first year. She missed her family, their guidance, and the comfort of home. Over time, however, she learned resilience and built her own support system on campus.

Balancing social life with academic responsibilities was another challenge. There were moments when peer pressure tempted her to neglect her studies, but she always reminded herself of the reason she was at university: to secure her future.

Overcoming Challenges

Like many students from disadvantaged backgrounds, Lillian faced her share of challenges. She had to balance academic responsibilities with part-time jobs to support her family. However, she persevered, driven by her determination to create a better life for herself and those around her. Her experiences on campus helped shape her into a confident and capable individual, equipped with the skills and knowledge to tackle real-world problems.



Coping with Financial Constraints. At times, money was tight, and she had to make hard choices. Instead of giving up, Lillian found creative ways to manage. She budgeted carefully, cut unnecessary expenses, and sometimes shared resources with friends. She also took on small part-time tasks, like tutoring fellow students and helping in campus events, to earn some allowance. These efforts not only eased her financial burden but also taught her valuable money management skills.

Dealing with Homesickness. Being away from her family was difficult, especially in her first year. To overcome this, Lillian stayed connected with home through regular phone calls and visits during holidays. She also built close friendships on campus, which gave her a sense of belonging. Gradually, she realized that campus was a second home, and her new "family" of friends made the journey easier.

Balancing Academics and Social Life. At first, the freedom of campus life made it tempting to prioritize fun over studies. But after missing some deadlines and struggling during exams, Lillian decided to set a timetable. She dedicated certain hours to classes and revision, while still allowing herself time for social activities. By practicing self-discipline and setting priorities, she managed to strike a healthy balance.

Overcoming Academic Pressure. When coursework and exams became overwhelming, Lillian sought support instead of struggling alone. She joined study groups where she shared ideas and learned from others. She also built a habit of consulting her lecturers whenever she didn't understand a topic. These small steps made her studies easier and boosted her confidence.

Managing Peer Pressure. Campus life came with its share of distractions and influences. Lillian overcame peer pressure by reminding herself of her long-term goals and why she was at the university. She surrounded herself with friends who shared her values and encouraged her to stay focused. With time, she became

Lessons Learned

Lillian's journey teaches us valuable lessons about the power of resilience and hard work. Despite facing numerous obstacles, she remained committed to her goals and leveraged her campus experience to build a strong foundation for her future. Her story serves as an inspiration to others from similar backgrounds, demonstrating that success is within reach with dedication and perseverance.

Looking back, Lillian realizes that campus life was a training ground for the real world. She learned independence, self-discipline, and resilience. She discovered the importance of surrounding herself with the right friends, people who lifted her up instead of pulling her down.

Her experiences taught her that challenges are part of growth, and success is not achieved overnight but through persistence. She also learned that education goes beyond textbooks—it includes personal growth, emotional intelligence, and social awareness.

A Brighter Future

Today, Lillian is a shining example of what can be achieved through determination and hard work. Her humble beginnings have not held her back; instead, they have fueled her drive to succeed. As she looks to the future, Lillian is excited to apply the skills and knowledge she has gained to make a positive impact in her community and beyond. Graduating from campus was bittersweet for Lillian. She felt proud of how far she had come, yet her positive experiences about leaving behind the familiar routines, friends, and places that had become part of her life. She reflects on her past campus experience, she feels grateful for every lesson learned, every challenge overcome, and every friendship made. She carries those memories as a reminder that life is about growth, perseverance, and finding meaning in every season.

THE THEATRE OF DREAMS, THE PERFECT DOZE!

The world in a box, the campus of the future,
The world of dreams, and realities,
The world of diversity,
The world of peace, enthusiasm, empathy, love and ecstasy,
The center of knowledge and wisdom because it's the ancient of days.

We live, move, and dream of MAKERERE UNIVERSITY,
Because it's in our blood, DNA, vessels, bone marrows, and muscles.

It's a nightmare for millions of creatures both living and non-living,

The people, fresh air, beautiful birds, prolific canopies and nature that surround the "little flower", all prove it to be the promised land.

It's a real achievement to be apart that even if your tongue is off, you can still speak the common language.

Partly excited about the achievements?

Do not worry, because, this is the land of;

H.E Paul Kagame, H.E Yoweri Museveni, H.E Kabila Kambange, H.E Julius Nyerere, H.E Mwai Kibaki, Bobi Wine, H.E Benjamin Mkapa, Oginga Odinga, Ruhakana Rugunda, Anne Kansiime and other great minds that make us feel our breath.

Thus, its true calling it the generational super power since January 1922.

From the heart of hell and collapse to the frenzied and stimulant happiness that all comes with tears of joy yearly accompanied by wise, beautiful & handsome peoples ready to influence the political, socio-economic, and cultural future of the whole universe.

The home of incomparable achievements,

The land of unthinkable and unimaginable realities,

The land of your dreams, visit MUK and keep your dreams alive

DICKSON AINAMAANI



FORMER STUDENT LEADERS shaping national politics

Makerere University has been a breeding ground for Uganda's future leaders, fostering a culture of political activism, intellectual discourse, and public service. The institution has produced notable figures who have gone on to shape the country's political landscape. Among these figures is Assuman Basalirwa, Nobert Mao, Thomas Tayebwa, Anna Adeke, Doreen Nyagura among others.

From guild governments to student organizations, Makerere University provides a platform for students to develop leadership skills, engage in policy debates, and influence national conversations. This legacy of producing leaders who can think critically, act boldly, and serve selflessly continues to inspire and empower students to take on leadership roles, drive change, and shape Uganda's future. As we head into the 2026 polls, several notable former guild leaders have come out to represent their people at the national stage.

SHAMIM NAMBASSA



Nambassa shamim is a pharmacist by profession, an activist and public health advocate and former guild president at Makerere University. She served various positions while at the hill. Right from first year as a class coordinator of pharmacy class and then proceeded to serve as the 86th Guild Representative Councilor (GRC) for school of health sciences and at the same time she man-

aged to serve as the guild academic affairs minister. From there she was elected into the highest position in the student's politics, the 87th guild president (2021/22) and most definitely the first ever NUP guild president.

Shamim is now aspiring to be the woman lord councilor representing the people of Kawempe South as the National Unity Platform (NUP) flag bearer. Kawempe south is made of 9 parishes, Makerere 1, 2&3, Bwaise 2&3, Wandegaya and Mulago1,2&3.

Her experience in students' politics was more of nurturing experience where she was able to express her views but also shape her political career. She says she got training in various leadership skills hands on for example the art of public speaking, negotiating and activism. She emphasizes that these skills have been key in her transformation from student leadership to national politics. Student leadership also gave her an opportunity to be more political aware.

Her advice to student leaders who would like to join national politics is that training at university is fundamental and key. It gives you an opportunity to know what to expect but also to deal with situations and people and also adds on your experience.

NATTABI MARGARET



Nattabi Margret is the female youth councilor for Mukono municipality

under NUP ticket and holds a bachelors degree of science in Agriculture at Makerere University. While at Makerere university she held quite a number of leadership positions right from church to NUP Mak Chapter to student's guild. In student guild, she served as the 87th Guild Representative councilor (GRC) for Kabanyolo hostels and by the grace of God she managed to also serve as the 88th Guild Representative councilor (GRC) for complex hall. Still in the 88th students guild she was able to serve as the vice guild president and therefore represented students on the most prestigious university council.

Right now, she is running for the office of female youth councilor for Mukono municipality and she is incumbent for this position and therefore seeking for a second term under NUP ticket ahead of the 2026 elections.

Nattabi says she was already in national politics before joining Makerere university however university politics had different dynamics and experiences. She learnt a lot while at university, made so many friends, built system that is still holding her up till today. University politics taught her strategy, resilience, teamwork and the art of college elections and these pillars have been very fundamental in her decision to run again in national politics.

EZRA BYAKUTANGAZA



Ezra Byakutangaza joined Makerere University in 2017 where he earned

Bachelors of Arts in economics and a Master's degree in economic policy and planning. In 2018, second semester he became Guild Representative Councilor (GRC) school of economics, became 85th guild speaker in his second year and towards the end of his term became the interim guild president because elections didn't happen due to covid 19. During the same time he doubled as the 31st UNSA president. As UNSA president, he was elected to represent UNSA in the national youth council, the position he holds up to date. Ezra is now aspiring to be the western youth member of parliament under NRM ticket.

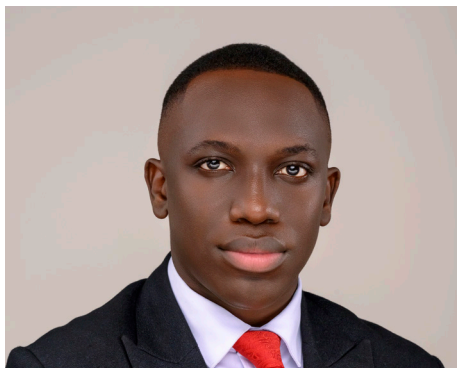
Being passionate about leadership and up to build for the future, he says Makerere gave him experience of leadership and dealing with complex situations. He says Makerere is Uganda summarized. His interaction with university politics, he was introduced to every culture, people coming from all walks of life. He had opportunity to interact with the complex governance at that level.

He says as the speaker he had opportunity to budget for the guild ten colleges and about 9 halls. At this level he understood the impact of finance in governance and appropriation of resources to meet service delivery. He was introduced to what money means in leadership. Being having less resources yet services must be delivered and this opened his eyes.

At UNSA level he got introduced to national affairs, the university opened him to many opportunities and this prepared him and he is able to speak up about things affecting the youth hence contesting for western youth member of parliament.

MASERUKA ROBERT

Maseruka Robert a resident of Nakisunga subcounty, Namiyenje village. During his time at Makerere he



served as the class representative for the journalism and communication class, served as the 88th GRC school of language and literature and communication and in his third year he attained the highest position in student leadership serving as the 89th guild president of Makerere University. He is the general secretary of NUP Mukono District and currently aspiring member of parliament Mukono District.

He says Makerere University provides a universal knowledge of the world's acts and is Uganda summarized. "What you see in Makerere University reflects in the economy, politics and in the social way of living" he says. As a resident of Nkrumah hall, the social life reflects how you are going to be with people. Politics, manifestos, working out with people to have your win, Makerere breeds and is a training ground and a nursery bed for would-be leaders in national politics. All requirements for nomination, what words are you supposed to say and what you have to do on the election day. At Makerere in year one you can't contest yet in national politics all they want is a form six certificate," he says, adding, "Makerere puts us at a pedestal, we cannot go sell tomatoes after being guild presidents however much they could be yielding. Makerere has been setting the ground and we build for the future is not just a statement."

His advice to the student leaders is that the best time to be judged is in the university whether you lose or win. It's at university where you figure out and it should not end at university. Come out of the furnace ready for use.

KATEREGGA JULIUS



Kateregga Julius is a graduate of Bachelor of Arts with Education English language and literatures studies and currently pursuing a master's degree in policy and planning. Kateregga served as the 85th guild president Makerere University and currently holds the position LC5 Lord councilor Kawempe South electoral area. He is also a member of the university council, representing KCCA at the governing council. He is a member of NUP and served as the deputy head of institution since 2019 until early this year. He made history as NUP's first guild president and is presently aspiring for the position of LC5 lord councilor Makerere University.

SSENTAMU CHURCHILL JAMES



The 91st guild president has equally expressed interest to represent the youth of central region in parliament. Ssentamu, who is running as an independent candidate is currently pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Social Sciences majoring in political science. He comes from a well established political family that is a stronghold of Uganda's opposition. His uncle Kyagulanyi Robert is the president of the National Unity Platform.

WHO ARE THEY?

Political godfathers: the invisible hands in guild politics

As aspiring leaders set the stage for political campaigns, a subtle yet powerful force often shapes the landscape: the political godfathers. These seasoned figures, usually alumni or influential figures, wield significant power and guidance, molding the next generation of leaders. Behind the scenes, they pull strings, offer mentorship, and provide crucial support, helping students navigate the complex web of campus politics.

These figures are perceived differently, and some students have branded them mafias. Ssemanda Mudarithu says these people can be termed as Eminence grise. He says as elections draw near, these people rally behind candidates, and when they win, they use their power to the extent that they dictate, as well micro-command what they do and their policies. But of what significance are these electoral engineers and can aspiring leaders deal away with them?

“In my opinion, I believe in a Latin maxim that suggests “Vox populi, vox Dei,” which means “God speaks through the people, and the people’s voices are God’s position”. But these people have systems and, in these systems, especially through strategy, they managed to sabotage and influence the students’ position or decisions, for instance, systems like Bakoto, Bapoto, New kids, Air force, who rally against a specific candidate.

In whatever case, a specific candidate who wins, especially in the guild races, GRC races, electoral college of deputy speaker and speaker races, it is always these systems that come up. This can be traced back as far as 10 years back where these systems have been operated. So, it is up to you as an individual to ask yourself whether your current GRC or leader subscribes to one of those systems or mafia groups.

On the other hand, it can also be attributed to individuals: In a way that, if such a person supports you and belongs to that system, your probability of winning heightens. It’s so alarming that they are too strong and deep rooted to some administrators for instance through professors or lecturers’ offices that operate with in this system, decisions that influence power are made to an extent of disqualifying candidates. This was witnessed when Natabi and Namyoya Sulayiman were disqualified in the race which was the doing of the so-called system people,” says Ssemanda Mudarithu.

According to Simon Wandukwa, ‘political godfathers’ help in providing information on what the best leadership in the university should look like. By having the experience, information, and expertise, they use it to mentor young leaders in the university on what most of them do. The other role they do is that they influence elections out of experience not because they are smarter but they have simply gotten a chance to stay longer in Makerere and have understood the art of that game, since they know what one needs to do to attain powers thus, they keep advising, running campaigns and helping to shape the campaign as well they prepare the products you later see like the guild leaders.



Guild Polls: Makerere reinstates open air campaigns

In an exciting turn of events, Makerere University management resolved to reinstate open air campaigns, a move aimed at restoring a vibrant students' community and enhancing freedom. For the past three years since 2022, Makerere University has conducted virtual campaigns to minimize the violence that was previously associated with guild campaigns. Many aspirants had decried the virtual campaigns saying they limit them from interacting with their voters.

On July 14, 2022, Makerere suspended its student guild campaigns following the tragic death of Michael Betungura Bewatte, a second-year law student from Uganda Christian University (UCU) who lost his life to a violent scuffle between National Unity Platform and Forum for Democratic Change supporters. Bewatte, who had shown up to rally support for FDC's Justus Tukamushaba, was fatally stabbed during scuffle.

In response to the incident, Makerere University Council suspended the elections and the entire Students' Guild government. Council also banned affiliation to political parties and hall brigades on campus. The clash between the two parties was also pinned to external influence from politicians.

Following the ban, Makerere University was castigated by many national political players who saw the ban as a suppression of students' freedom. These urged management to revise its decision and lift the ban on open air campaigns and political affiliation.

Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe said at a media briefing in October that the resumption of open air campaigns comes with a renewed understanding and agreement to balance freedom with responsibility, adding that the decision reflects Makerere's continued commitment to empower and nurture responsible future leaders.

"Makerere University continues to make deliberate and progressive efforts to enhance student freedoms and participation in leadership. In a development that reflects Makerere's continued commitment to empower and nurture responsible future leaders, the University recently made the decision to reinstate open guild campaigns, which had previously been suspended following the tragic loss of a student during campaign activities. This decision was reached after extensive consultations with the Student Guild leadership, guided by our shared desire to restore a vibrant, participatory, and safe democratic culture on campus.

The resumption of open campaigns comes with a renewed understanding and agreement to balance freedom with responsibility, emphasizing peaceful and respectful campaigns that do not disrupt academic programmes or endanger persons, property, or businesses within and around the University.

As an institution that values dialogue, democracy, and responsible citizenship, we recognize that a truly great university must not only nurture academic excellence but also provide a space for free expression and engagement in governance," Prof. Nawangwe noted.

While open air campaigns will return in the 92nd guild campaigns, voting will remain online as has been the case in the previous elections.



THE PURPOSE OF KNOWING GOD AT CAMPUS



Dr. Rev. Lydia Nsaale Kitayimbwa (R) at the Makfest worship evening 2025 (Photo: courtesy)

Makerere University is not just a space for academic excellence and intellectual growth but also a ground where spiritual life has flourished since its founding in 1922. In 'building for the future' and in the midst of rigorous academic pursuit, many students have found deeper meaning in their relationship with God, shaped by diverse religious groups, revival movements that emerged within the university's gates. These include: St. Francis's chapel for the Anglicans, St. Augustine's chapel for the Catholics, among others. Historically, many universities across the world have been birthplaces of countless divine callings.

Quite a number of pastors, prophets,

apostles, evangelists, missionaries, and other Christian leaders trace their ministries back to moments of conviction and surrender while still students. To give context, I'll give examples; Billy Graham, one of the greatest evangelist of the 20th century, while a student at Wheaton college in Illinois, he committed fully to Christ and sensed his lifelong call to preach the gospel to nations, John Wesley, a founder of methodism, while at oxford university, he and his brother Charles formed the holy club which laid foundation for the methodist revival, speaking of great women like Kathryn Kuhlman who received her callings while a teenager. Bringing this down and relating this to our dispensation, Apostle Grace Lubega, the vision bearer of Phaneroo Ministries International, in an editorial of Campus Revival Classics, gives a narrative of how his ministry started way back during his university days at the Uganda Christian University. He reechoed this in the latest Catch the Fire 2025 event in Makerere University, where he stirred holy emotions among university students. I could give example upon example, but all of this is to reveal that it was in the quietness of prayer rooms, late-night fellowships or chapel services that they heard the unmistakable voice of God. For them, the university years were not wasted in mere academics (which is equally important given the time and season) but invested in discovering God's purpose for their lives

Now, spiritually speaking, purpose is divine; it is in finding God that a man can find him or herself first, then their purpose on the earth and what their calling is. The bible says Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and the rest shall be added unto thee. So, when it comes to purpose, let it not be defined by the world, allow God to define your life, your purpose and you shall be amazed at the things He can do through you because then, the sufficiency shall not be yours to claim anything as coming from you but the sufficiency shall be of God, now unto him who can do exceeding abundantly than all that you can ask or think according to the power at work in you and to have the assurance that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. Even as a university student, you refuse to leave the university a normal man with just a degree on your head, something has to be defined in your life because you know that true purpose is found in God, He that knew you before you were formed in your mother's womb. So, I ask the question much as I ask myself, have you found your purpose yet? Do you know what your calling is?

Speaking of faith, as we walk this journey of life, situations will always arise, and this is where our faith is tested most, but as a child of God, it is important how you react to such situations. It could be a financial issue, an illness, an addiction, or any other thing. But in all of these, choose to see Christ and what He did at the cross when He said it is finished. Have the faith which is of God, that faith that works from the end. A case in point, a student struggling with tuition or probably retakes, whereas another person may have thoughts of dropping out of school over that, as a child of faith you should see yourself graduating, giving that emotional speech or probably enjoying your career days, the bible says in Philemon 1: 6 that the communication of your faith becomes effectual as you acknowledge every good thing which is in you which is in Christ Jesus, make it a lifestyle to always speak the most beautiful words over your life.

That is the faith of God because you are confident that you will finish well, judging God faithful and trusting His plans for they are good. If He did not deny you Christ, what is that can He not do for you? If any of you is struggling with an addiction,

it ends now as you read this, regardless of how long it has been going on, but also to re-affirm God's love for you.

The bible says in Romans 8:38-39-for I am sure that neither life nor death, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor the things to come, nor power nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

That is how much God has loved us, that nothing can cause Him to withhold His love for us, that even when we were dead in our trespasses, being rich in mercy made us alive together with Christ, and it is by grace that we are saved.

BY SARAH MUSUMBA



Rt.Hon Nsoya Hannington (L), Apostle Grace Lubega (M) & H.E. Ssentamu James Churchill (R)

For many students, university means stepping away from familiar routines, families, and church communities. The newfound freedom can be both exciting and overwhelming. In these transitions, campus fellowships provide a soft landing. With demanding coursework, social pressures, and the pursuit of success, faith can easily fade into the background. Christian community is a reminder that we are not meant to be alone, it provides a safe and supportive environment where believers can encourage one another in faith, prayer and godly living.

Within such communities, accountability takes root. When life becomes hectic or difficult, it is often fellow believers who remind us to stay grounded in Scripture and prayer. Proverbs 27:17 teaches, "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another." In a university setting full of distractions and competing beliefs, this sharpening is essential. It fosters spiritual maturity and the courage to live out faith boldly in a secular environment. Fellowship also inspires service. Christian campus groups often engage in worship, outreach, and acts of compassion—reminding students that faith is not private, but something lived out daily. These experiences cultivate character and stir students to live confidently as the "salt and light" of the world (Matthew 5:13–16), shaping lives of love, humility, and purpose.

In a generation that often prizes independence and superficial online interactions, true fellowship restores the human need for connection. Within this community, students find peers who share their values, understand their struggles, and celebrate their victories. Such friendships often last far beyond university walls.

Ultimately, Christian fellowship points students back to Christ and His Church. Amid the chaos of academic life, it reminds them of a higher calling—to know God deeply and reflect His love wherever they go. By and large, campus life whizzes by, but the lessons learnt and relationships established on Christian fellowship last a lifetime. It is in these casual fellowships of faith where many discover who they truly are—not just students on the way to diplomas and degrees, but disciples walking with God with the same heartbeat of faith.

By Anselm muduku

PRAY without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you

How Rotarians harness religious teachings in their Leadership

By Monica Meeme

The intersection of religion and politics often sparks complex discussions, with key scriptures offering guidance on how to navigate this relationship. One of the most frequently cited Bible verses in this context is Mark 12:17, where Jesus says, “Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and give to God what belongs to God.”

This statement, made in response to a question about paying taxes, highlights the delicate balance between political obligations and spiritual duties. The challenges of interpreting this scripture reflect broader difficulties in understanding the relationship between religious principles and political governance.

“Politics” refers to the processes, activities, and dynamics involved in the acquisition, exercise, and maintenance of power, particularly in governance and leadership. It encompasses the methods of influencing the decisions, actions, and policies of a government or ruling body, often through negotiation, persuasion, or competition for authority.

Politics can manifest at various levels: from family units and workplaces to national governments, and this involves the interaction of individuals, groups, or institutions aiming to manage public affairs, establish laws, and shape societal values. Ultimately, politics is concerned with the distribution and exercise of power, as well as the safeguarding of justice, equity, and societal well-being.

While “Religion”, as defined by the APA Dictionary of Psychology (2018), is “a system of spiritual beliefs, practices, or both, typically organized around the worship of an all-powerful deity and involving behaviors such as prayers, meditation, and participation in collective rituals.” Core principles



aged to emulate this selflessness, demonstrating humility and the willingness to sacrifice for the greater good. Additionally, integrity and accountability are central to Christian leadership, with leaders expected to live above reproach, reflecting their faith through actions that inspire trust and ethical behavior (1 Timothy 3).

Referring to other notable leaders in the Bible, King David provides timeless lessons for today’s leaders. His courage, demonstrated by his victory over Goliath, encourages leaders to face challenges boldly. Additionally, King David’s compassionate treatment of Mephibosheth teaches us that all citizens, especially the marginalized, must be served with justice and care.

David’s repentance after moral failures, such as his sin with Bathsheba, underscores the importance of accountability, humility, and ethical governance. His leadership vision, particularly his efforts to unite Israel, highlights the need for leaders to make courageous decisions based on long-term goals, even when faced with adversity. By

Hinduism, presents Rama as the ideal king, steadfast in his commitment to dharma, even in the face of personal adversity. Leaders today can draw inspiration from Rama’s unwavering dedication to justice, fairness, and the greater good, placing ethical principles above personal interests and fears. Not forgetting Krishna, another central figure in Hinduism, embodies selfless leadership; his teachings in the Bhagavad Gita emphasize the importance of acting without attachment to personal gain, focusing on the welfare of others.

By practicing detachment and serving selflessly, political leaders can foster ethical governance, creating a system that prioritizes the well-being of the people over personal or party ambitions.

Religious teachings also emphasize the importance of love and compassion in leadership. In Christianity, the commandment to “love your neighbor as yourself” (Matthew 22:39) teaches leaders to serve others with empathy and respect. Similarly, Buddhism emphasizes compassion and loving-kind-

ness (metta) toward others, with Buddha asserting that “hate is not conquered by hate; hate is conquered by love” (Dhammapada, Verse 223). These values promote a leadership style that seeks peace, fosters harmony, and prioritizes the welfare of all citizens. Therefore, incorporating good religious practices into politics enhances ethical governance, promotes social justice, and fosters a compassionate society. By adhering to values such as honesty, integrity, justice, and compassion, political leaders can make decisions that prioritize the welfare of all citizens.

Religious teachings encourage leaders to act with moral responsibility, ensuring that policies address the needs of the marginalized, promote equality, and reduce corruption. Additionally, religious values promote social cohesion and tolerance, encouraging peaceful coexistence among diverse groups.

Leaders who embrace these principles create a foundation for governance that serves the common good, reduces inequality, and ensures that no one is left behind. Religious practices can also shape leadership by fostering a sense of civic duty, encouraging citizens to participate actively in governance and work for the common good.

By promoting principles of restorative justice, forgiveness, and healing, religious values can influence systems of justice that focus on rehabilitation rather than punishment. Ultimately, integrating religious teachings into political leadership can cultivate a more just, ethical, and compassionate society, where leaders prioritize the welfare of all, especially the most vulnerable.

Today, Rotarians and leaders in general can adopt a dynamic approach to leadership that promotes exchange and learning from others. Leadership should not be top-down but should involve active listening, where leaders learn from their teams or communities. Emphasizing mentorship, feedback, and collaboration strengthens relationships and creates more inclusive leadership structures.

By empowering individuals at all levels, leaders foster innovation and adaptability, ensuring that governance reflects the collective wisdom of the people. Furthermore, the Bible teaches the importance of grooming others to lead. In the case of Jesus and His disciples (Matthew 28:18-20), Jesus not only mentored His followers but also equipped them to carry on His work. Similarly, King David prepared Solomon for leadership, passing on wisdom and guidance before his death (1 Chronicles 28:9-10).

In modern times, Christian churches often reflect on this beautiful principle by providing platforms for young people to exercise leadership skills, both within the church and in

society. Through such mentorship, leaders ensure that their values and knowledge are passed down to future generations, creating a sustainable leadership model. The integration of religious teachings into leadership presents a powerful framework for fostering ethical, compassionate, and effective governance. The values of service, compassion, integrity, justice, and selflessness, drawn from religious traditions such as Christianity, Hinduism, and Buddhism, offer essential guidance for leaders striving to create a just society.

I appreciate the Rotary community for providing the opportunity to Rotarians to engage with these key leadership values and for their steadfast commitment to applying these principles. Rotarians consistently embody the essence of service-oriented leadership by prioritizing “service above self” and dedicating themselves to improving the lives of others.

Their global impact, whether through health initiatives, education, or peace-building efforts, stands as a shining example of what ethical leadership can achieve when it is grounded in compassion, justice, and a sense of shared responsibility.

As we reflect on these lessons, I urge today’s political leaders, both at local and global levels, to draw inspiration from these religious teachings and the model of service leadership set forth by Rotarians. In a world burdened with complex global challenges, we must approach leadership with a heart for the common good, not personal gain. Leadership must be rooted in ethical principles, and decisions should prioritize the well-being of all citizens, especially those who are most marginalized and vulnerable.



WEEP NOT WORLD

in loving memory of Ngugi Wa Thiong'o

On May 28th, 2025, the literary world wept not for the 87-year-old celebrated wordsmith who had succumbed to kidney failure. Ngugi Wa Thiongo, born in Kamiriithu, Kenya, as James Ngugi on the 5th of January 1938, was not the kind to be wept for. Even in death, the literary giant lived on through the beautiful literature he left behind. Ngugi had not only decolonized the mind but also death. He had changed his name as a way of embracing his native Kikuyu language and culture and had also left an indelible mark on African literature, and not even death could colonize his works.

Among those who grieved the demise of the renowned Kenyan novelist was the Makerere University community, where his writing was honed. While at the then Makerere College, Ngugi would rest his head in room 75 at Northcote Hall, thinking of weaving dreams. He wrote his first play, 'The black hermit', and his first novel, 'Weep Not, Child', while pursuing his Bachelor's of Arts in English Literature degree, a course that significantly shaped his literary voice and perspective.

In the Makererean published on November 22nd, 1962, Professor Trevor Whit lauded The Black Hermit as speaking to a continent and the production as the best thing the Makerere Dramatic Society had yet done, writes Ngugi in his memoir Birth of a Dream Weaver.

Before penning down his first novel, the celebrated author had written quite a number of plays, some of which had won him accolades during the

inter-hall drama competitions at campus. In 1962, his plays The Wound in the Heart and The Village Priest helped Northcote to win the inter-hall drama competitions.

Weep Not, Child, Ngugi's debut novel, explores the impact of the Mau Mau uprising on a Kenyan family, delving into themes of colonialism, identity, and the struggle for independence. Some of his other notable works include "The River Between" (1965), "A Grain of Wheat" (1967), "Petals of Blood" (1977), and "Wizard of the Crow" (2006), each offering unique perspectives on Kenyan history, culture, and society.

Some of his writings such as Petals of Blood were seen as a threat to the ruling class and resulted into his arrest. While in detention Kamiti Maximum Prison, Ngugi wrote his first novel in Kikuyu that later came to be translated into Devil on the Cross.

Ngugi wa Thiong'o's legacy will forever be etched in the annals of African literature. His contributions to the African narrative, his advocacy for indigenous languages, and his unflinching critique of colonialism and neocolonialism have left an indelible mark on the literary world. We pay tribute to his remarkable life and work, celebrating his courage, conviction, and commitment to telling the stories of Africa.

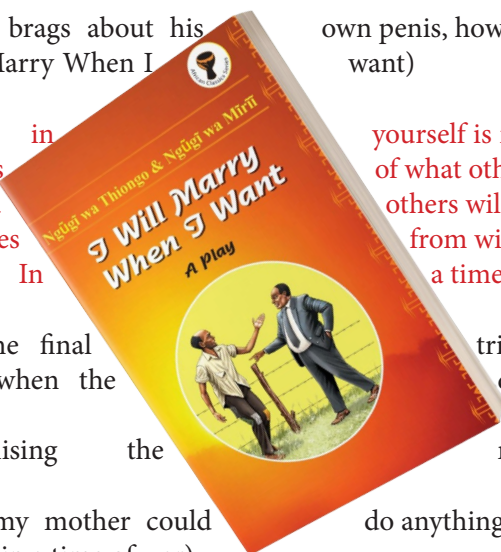
Several dignitaries across the world eulogized the deceased, holding his works in high regard. President William Ruto eulogized Ngugi as a courageous writer whose innovative work earned recognition and sparked dialogue among admirers and critics.

Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi said Ngugi stands tall as one of the most distinguished literary giants to have ever emerged from Kenya, and indeed, East Africa.



Ngugi's famous quotes

- The condition of women in a nation is the real measure of its progress
(Wizard of the Crow)
- Our fathers fought bravely. But do you know the biggest weapon unleashed by the enemy against them? It was not the Maxim gun. It was division among them. Why? Because a people united in faith are stronger than the bomb.
(A Grain of Wheat)
- Language, any language, has a dual character: it is both a means of communication and a carrier of culture.
(Decolonizing the Mind)
- If poverty was to be sold three cents today, I can't buy it.
(I Will Marry When I Want and Dreams in a Time of War)
- Stories, like food, lose their flavor if cooked in a hurry.
(Wizard of the Crow)
- Your own actions are a better mirror of your life than the actions of all your enemies put together.”
(Wizard of the Crow)
- The real aim of colonialism was to control the people's wealth: what they produced, how they produced it, and how it was distributed.-
(Decolonizing the Mind)
- In the end, it is the people who make history, not the rulers.
(Wizard of the Crow)
- A writer's duty is to help people see the world as it is -and to imagine it otherwise
- Written words can also sing
(Dreams in a time of war)
- A man brags about his own penis, however tiny.
(I Will Marry When I want)
- Belief in yourself is more important than endless worries about what others think of you. Value yourself and others will value you. Validation is best from within.
(Dreams In a time of war)
- It is the final triumph of a system of domination when the dominated start singing its virtues.
(Decolonising the mind)
- Surely my mother could do anything to which she set her mind.
(Dreams in a time of war)



EDITORIAL

Ngugi's works have inspired many young writers today especially at his alma mater Makerere University. We pray that his soul rests in eternal Peace, and may his legacy continue to inspire generations to come.

We pray that his Spirit finds eternal Solace, and his memory remains a guiding light in the world of literature. He will be deeply missed, but his words will live on, echoing through the hearts and minds of all who read him.

BIOGRAPHY

Ngugi wa Thiong'o was born on January 5, 1938 in Limuru, Kenya. He was baptized James Ngugi and later abandoned his christian name. He died on May 28, 2025 at Buford, Georgia, U.S.A.

He was a Kenyan writer who was considered East Africa's leading novelist. His popular Weep Not, Child (1964) was the first major novel in English by an East African. As he became sensitized to the effects of colonialism in Africa, Ngugi adopted his traditional name and wrote in the Bantu language of Kenya's Kikuyu people.

He studied at Alliance High School before joining Makerere College (University) where he received a bachelor's degrees in Arts in English Literature in 1963. He later joined Leeds University, Yorkshire, England, in 1964 for his graduate studies.

After doing graduate work at Leeds, he served as a lecturer in English at University College, Nairobi, Kenya, and as a visiting professor of English at Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, U.S. From 1972 to 1977 he was senior lecturer and chairman of the department of literature at the University of Nairobi.

IN MEMORIAM: NSHUTI BALAAM KABAASA

Nshuti Balaam Kabaasa was a shining star whose light touched the lives of everyone he met. Born on February 12th, 2001, to Mr. Bruce Balaba Kabaasa and Mrs. Blessed Kiconco, Balaam's life was a testament to the love and support of his family. At the age of 24, his candle blew off on June 22 when he was pronounced dead. Balaam was a graduand of Makerere University, having pursued a Bachelor's degree in Commerce. His passion and creativity knew no bounds. He was attached to Mitchell Hall and subscribed to Mitchellex Solidarity, fostering a sense of community and unity among students. His time in Livingstone Hall further enriched his university experience, shaping him into a well-rounded individual with a deep understanding of the world.

Balaam's passion for art was contagious, inspiring those around him to explore their own creative potential. He founded the Hadith Ya Mzizi group, a platform dedicated to celebrating black heritage and promoting Pan-Africanism through art. Through this group, Balaam aimed to redefine the narrative around Africa, showcasing the continent's rich history and culture.

His art was a testament to his innovative spirit and commitment to telling the stories of African people.

As an artist, Balaam's exhibitions reflected his creative genius and passion for storytelling. His exhibition "Tales of Black Excellency" in 2023 celebrated the life and legacy of Winnie Mandela, showcasing his ability to tell powerful stories through art.

The exhibition was a critical and commercial success, cementing Balaam's reputation as a rising star in the art world. In 2024, he organized "Hymns of the Nation," which explored themes of health, economics, and trade in Uganda through art, poetry, music, and performance. The event was



well-received, with attendees praising Balaam's innovative approach to storytelling.

Balaam had also planned to showcase his next exhibition, "Shades of the Economy," in August 2025. Tragically, his life was cut short on June 22, 2025. However, his friends, family, and well-wishers ensured that his legacy lived on by organizing the exhibition posthumously. The event was a huge success, bringing together artists, poets, and performers to celebrate Uganda's economy and culture. The Deputy Speaker of the 11th August House of the Parliament of Uganda, Rt. Hon. Thomas Tayebwa was the chief guest, underscoring the impact of Balaam's work on the wider community.

On the day of his passing, Balaam's mother, Mrs. Blessed Kiconco, expressed her grief but also her faith. "I pray we keep our eyes on God even during this time the Lord gave us, and he has taken our way," she said. "I thank all the friends who have come here. May he rest in peace." Her words were a testament to the family's strength and resilience in the face of tragedy.

Mr. Bruce Balaba Kabaasa, Balaam's father, also spoke about his son's legacy.

"As a proud father, I convey my gratitude and satisfaction with the man he had become"

Bruce Kabaasa (Dad)

"Although he died, I'm satisfied with the man he had become in twenty-four years. I want to thank him for the commitment and strength as he supported my endeavors. I'm also glad God gave us time to see him, enjoy him, and we shall find him in heaven." He comforted the mourners and asked them to disregard speculations, focusing instead on celebrating Balaam's life and legacy.

Balaam's sister, Nicole Grace Kabaasa, fondly remembers him as an inspiration. "He was an inspiration to me," she said. "He told me I deserved everything and inspired me to be a go-getter." Her words were a testament to the impact Balaam had on those around him and the legacy he leaves behind.

At the exhibition, friends and admirers paid tribute to Balaam's remarkable life and legacy. H.E. Joy Eve Serunjoji,

the 90th Vice Guild President and a close friend of Balam's, described him as an outgoing, vibrant person who respected everyone and brought joy wherever he went. "As we honor the legacy of Nshuti Balaam Kabaasa, we celebrate his time on earth and pray that the Lord grants him eternal rest," she said, urging students to emulate his life.

Professor Sara Sali, who considered Balam like a grandson, spoke from the heart about losing him. "When I heard of Balam's passing, I was shattered," she said. "He was a brilliant fellow who had deep insight and great humor. He lit up every room he entered, and his presence will be deeply missed." Despite the pain of losing him, Professor Sali expressed gratitude for the time she had with Balam, fondly referring to him as "Kaka," a term from western Uganda that translates into grandmother. Kaweesi Ethan, CEO of Mbio Za Mungu, a fashion Brand that deals with suit production in Uganda, paid tribute to Balaam's

visionary spirit, saying, "Balaam was someone who always shot for the stars. He believed in going for more and didn't want to limit himself to conventional norms. That's why he seamlessly merged his passion for art.

As we reflect on Nshuti Balaam Kabaasa's life and legacy, we are reminded of the profound impact he had on those around him. His passion, creativity, and commitment to his craft inspired countless individuals, and his memory will live on through the countless lives he touched.

We thank God for his life well lived, for the gift of his talent, and for the inspiration he brought to so many. May His Soul continue Resting In Peace until we meet again.



THE LATE NSHUTI BALAAM KABAASA (SECOND LEFT)

HADITH YA MZIZI

Nshuti Balaam Kabaasa was born on February 12th, 2001 to Makerere University Council Member, Bruce Balaba Kabaasa and Blessed Kiconco. He attended Entebbe Junior Primary School, St. Henry's College Kitovu, and St. Kizito Kabowa SSS before joining Makerere University, where he had just completed studying his Bachelor of Commerce in Accounting degree. Balaam was also a student volunteer with the Makerere University Endowment Fund.

On June 22nd, 2025, he was pronounced dead by his family. He was found dead in his bedroom at their family home where he had gone to support his father's campaign. The father, Bruce Kabaasa was then running for the Rubanda West Member of Parliament seat.

Hadith Ya Mzizi is a youth led initiative at Makerere University committed to celebrating Black excellence ,African identity, creativity,and heritage through art. Initiated by the late Nshuti, the group is currently under the patronage of Prof. Sarah Ssali.



Adromi Rodney (middle), speaker, NYF and 90th prime minister, Hymns of the Nation art Exhibition

The Role and Importance of Class Representatives

Class representatives are an integral part of student leadership at Makerere University. They serve as the link between students, lecturers, and university administration, ensuring that communication flows smoothly and student concerns are addressed effectively.

The primary role of a class representative is to represent the interests of their classmates. They gather feedback on academic matters such as course delivery, assessment methods, timetabling, and lecture attendance, then communicate these issues to lecturers or departmental heads. In doing so, they help foster dialogue and create solutions that benefit both students and staff.

They also play an essential role in the university's quality assurance process. The Directorate of Quality Assurance relies on them to monitor teaching standards and provide feedback on the learning environment. This ensures that Makerere maintains its reputation for academic excellence while responding to the evolving needs of students.

Beyond academics, class reps are key to promoting student welfare. They help address challenges related to access to resources, guidance on administrative procedures, or referrals for counselling and financial support. By mediating between students and authorities, they enhance student well-being and strengthen the sense of community belonging.

Despite their importance, class reps face challenges such as inadequate facilitation, heavy workloads, and limited recognition. Many use personal resources like airtime and data to coordinate their duties, while balancing their own academic responsibilities. Without proper support, their effectiveness can be reduced.

To strengthen the system, Makerere University could provide training, facilitation, and formal recognition for class reps. These measures would empower them to serve more effectively while also nurturing leadership and communication skills that are valuable beyond university life. Finally, class representatives are vital pillars of student leadership at Makerere University. By amplifying student voices and promoting accountability, they contribute significantly to a better academic and social experience.

By Kabengwa Eric

Chairperson, Makerere University Association of Class Representatives



Eric Kabengwa takes oath as Chairperson of class representatives

Academic associations as catalysts for change

Joining Makerere University after the Covid-19 pandemic brought numerous challenges for me and many others, as we had to adjust our expectations. Beyond online lectures and exams, there remained a strong hunger for association. The university implemented a blended learning system, where some colleges and cohorts studied from home online while others attended classes on campus.

This created a discontinuity in many aspects of university life as opportunities to receive mentorship from senior students became scarce. This ushered in a period of uncertainty for the major academic associations that had traditionally served as grounding centers for students in their respective fields. These associations provided a platform

for transforming classroom theory into practical solutions that benefit society. Having witnessed the impact academic associations can have through my experience with the Debate Clubs at my alma mater, Gombe SS, I was convinced that my focus as Minister for Academic Affairs should be to create a platform for these associations to revitalize their roles and take center stage in transforming academia.

Using this platform, the first-ever Open Day for Academic Associations was organized, where over 50 associations from all ten colleges showcased brilliant solutions derived from the theories taught in class. To top it off, we invited students from selected secondary schools to experience what it means to live a purposeful life at the university.

I am confident that these student attendees will join academic associations when they eventually enroll at Makerere University.

Makerere University has made bold moves to foster innovation, such as launching the Makerere Innovation Pod at Yusuf Lule and funding research through the Makerere Innovation Fund, among others. However, to involve as many students as possible, the university management and student leadership must find ways to actively engage students through their academic associations. Doing so will unlock the university's hidden potential and put us on the path to becoming Africa's leading innovation hub.

Luyombya Kelvin Joshua

88th Guild Minister for Academic Affairs

The cry of an evening student

Unlike morning students, evening students have to multitask in order to meet their academic goals. Theirs seems like an invisible world where their presence is recognized by none but themselves.

Writes Asiiimwe Tracy Joy

sacrifice.

While most students are heading back to their hostels, they are rushing through Kampala's busy traffic. Most of them have just signed off at their workplaces, their minds already shifting from office reports to lecture notes. By the time they step into the lecture hall—sweaty, tired, and sometimes slightly late—the class is halfway gone.

Many evening students juggle jobs, businesses, and family responsibilities before showing up for class. Even those without much to do desire to keep busy. Their days start earlier and end much later than most, with little time left for rest.

Most times, it feels like they are ghosts on campus who are at the mercy of their lecturers. Despite these challenges, evening students keep pushing to match their colleagues who study in the morning. They are the embodiment of resilience—fueled by ambition, sacrifice, and hope. For them, education is not just a choice but a lifeline to a better future.

Their cry is not one of despair but of a recognition plea: to be seen, to be heard, and to be supported. Providing fair access to resources, extending services, and recognizing evening students as full members of the academic family is not a favor—it is a right.

As the sun dips behind Makerere hill and the lecture halls begin to empty, another chapter of campus life quietly unfolds. The silence becomes too loud and you can hear the mosquitoes buzzing around. The last study shift has just started. The evening students, you may call them part-time or night students, are opening their books.

This is the world of the evening student—a world often unseen, often unheard, yet full of determination and



Asiiimwe Tracy Joy

The Hidden Struggle

Evening students face numerous challenges that go beyond and these include:

- Time & Access:** Offices are closed by the time their lectures end. Simple services like access to the library, photocopying, or seeking academic support become mountains to climb.

- Campus Life:** Guild events, sports, and discussions happen when they are at work. The “university experience” is something they only hear about.

- Health & Energy:** Skipping meals, battling exhaustion, and walking home at unsafe hours become a norm.

- Discussion:** Because they are always busy during the day, it becomes hard for them to meet and discuss like the rest of the students do.

- Unattended to:** Sometimes lecturers get tired and are forced to call off the evening classes leaving students unattended to.

- Networking:** There is little or no time to network with other students at campus.



Class Representatives pose for a picture after their swearing-in ceremony

Being a celebrity student

into the life of Hannah Karema



Being the most talked-about student on campus is not easy; one has to be extra careful because everything they do may attract public criticism. Such is the life of **former Miss Uganda Hannah Karema**, who is pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Social Science at Makerere University.

From attending lectures with mentees to seeking guidance from lecturers, Hannah has to put off her crown and forget her social status to blend in. She shares how she copes with this challenging lifestyle.

Who is Hannah Karema Tumukunde?

Hannah Karema Tumukunde is a purpose-driven young Ugandan woman passionate about positive transformation, education, and women's empowerment. I am Miss Uganda 2023 and Miss World Africa 1st Runner-Up, but beyond the titles, I see myself as a voice for the voiceless and an advocate for change, especially for girls who face challenges such as early marriage and limited access to education. I believe in using my platform to inspire and uplift others while pursuing personal growth through education and service.

How did winning Miss Uganda impact your life?

Winning Miss Uganda was truly life-changing. It opened doors for me to represent my country on global platforms and allowed me to use my voice for meaningful advocacy. It also helped me grow in confidence, discipline, and purpose. Most importantly, it reminded me that beauty with a purpose is not just a slogan; it's a responsibility to create impact and be a role model for others, especially young girls who need to believe that they, too, can rise above their circumstances.

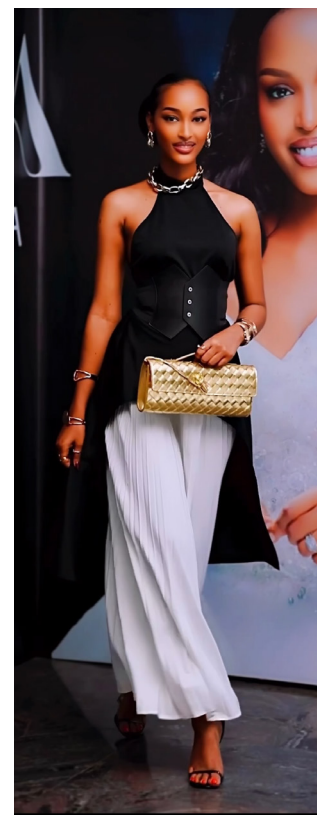
Why did you choose Makerere as your dream university?

Makerere University is not just an institution; it's a symbol of excellence, resilience, and leadership in Africa. I chose Makerere because I wanted to be part of a legacy that has produced some of Uganda's and Africa's greatest minds.

As someone who believes deeply in education as a tool for transformation, Makerere was my dream university because it aligns perfectly with my vision of combining academic knowledge with practical advocacy to create real change.

As a celebrity, how does it feel having to share a class with those who look up to you?

It's a humbling and beautiful experience. I see it as an opportunity to connect, learn, and grow alongside my peers. I never want fame to create a barrier between me and others; instead, I hope it inspires openness, mentorship, and collaboration. We are all students working toward our dreams, and being in class with those who admire me reminds me to always lead by example with humility, focus, and kindness.





What challenges have you faced as a celebrity student on campus, and how have you overcome them?

One of the main challenges is maintaining balance between academics, public responsibilities, and personal time. There's also the pressure of public scrutiny; people expect perfection. I've learned to overcome these by staying grounded, setting clear priorities, and reminding myself why I'm here: to learn, to grow, and to serve. I also surround myself with supportive friends and mentors who help me stay true to my values.

What advice would you give to young girls who aspire to participate in pageants or pursue careers in the public eye?

My advice is: know who you are and why you're doing it. Pageantry and public life are not just about glamour; they are platforms for influence and purpose. Be confident in your uniqueness, stay true to your values, and never compromise your integrity. Education, discipline, and humility will take you further than beauty alone ever could. And remember, your voice and story matter; use them to uplift others.

How do you stay motivated and focused on your goals, both academically and professionally?

I stay motivated by constantly reminding myself of my "why" my purpose. I know that education is the key to empower-

ment and that my success can inspire others to believe in theirs. I set clear goals, stay organized, and practice consistency even when it's difficult. I also draw strength from my faith, my family, and the young girls who look up to me knowing that I represent hope for many keeps me grounded and focused.

How do you handle criticism or negative feedback, especially as a public figure?

Criticism is part of being in the public eye. I've learned to view it as a tool for growth rather than a source of discouragement. I listen, reflect, and take what's constructive and let go of what's not. I understand that not everyone will see or understand your journey, but what matters most is staying authentic and aligned with your purpose. My peace and growth come from within, not from public opinion.

Besides academics, how else do you plan on spending your time at campus?

Beyond academics, I plan to engage in mentorship programs, outreach activities, and initiatives that promote girl child education and leadership. I also hope to work with student associations to raise awareness about issues like early marriage and gender inequality. Campus life is a great space to inspire and empower, and I want to use my time here to connect with fellow students in meaningful ways.

How do you think your experiences as a celebrity student can benefit others, and what message do you hope to convey to your peers?

My experiences show that it's possible to balance fame with focus to be both ambitious and grounded. I hope my journey encourages others to see that success doesn't mean abandoning education or humility. I want my peers to know that dreams are valid, and that no matter your background or spotlight, learning and self-improvement remain the greatest forms of empowerment. My message is simple: shine with purpose, lead with grace, and never stop learning.

Dance, Vibes, and Viral Fame

Yunus Lubega: The Kinyanya Nyanya King

There are so many trends that have made the year 2025, and at Makerere University, one of these is the viral Mitchel Hall kinyanya nyanya dance video that later turned into a meme most of us frequently use as an expression of excitement. While there are so many dancers in the video, one cannot miss the dance strokes from Yunus Lubega, a celebrated elder, architect student and dancer at campus. Yunus shares insights on how the dance went viral, his personality and academic life.

Take us back to the day the video went viral – what was going through your mind?

Haha, that viral video man, it was just classic Mitchell Hall energy. That night felt like any other campaign night where I made sure me the boys and I had the time of our lives. I always brought in our go-to student DJ, Agaba Messi, and once he dropped Kinyanya Nyanya, the vibe just exploded. You could feel it in the air, pure, unstoppable fun.

Honestly, when I posted the video a few days later, I didn't expect much. It was just a snapshot of our usual madness. But the way it blew up? Unreal. The views kept climbing, and I was like, "Wait, people really felt that vibe through the screen?" It was just Mitchell Hall doing what we do best, living in the moment, no filters, no pretenses. And that's the thing: when we're in the middle of all that fun, I'm not thinking about going viral or making headlines. I'm just thinking, "Let's make this night unforgettable." Turns out, the world agreed.

Did you expect the video to blow up like it did?

Of course, I didn't expect it to blow up like that!

What's the story behind the dance moves in the video?

The dance moves in that video? Pure Mitchell Hall energy. It wasn't choreographed or planned—it was just us doing whatever it took to turn up the vibe and make the night unforgettable. That's how it always is in the Hall

How did your friends react when they saw the video going viral?

I've got a lot of friends, and honestly, each one reacted in their own way. Some were hyped, laughing, sharing it, tagging me nonstop. They loved seeing Mitchell Hall's energy go global like that. Others were more low-key, just dropping a "bro, you did that" kind of message. I can't say for sure if anyone was annoyed or felt some type of way, but the majority were genuinely happy about it. It felt like a win for all of us, not just me. That video captured a vibe we've lived so many times; it was cool to see the world catch a glimpse, really. Lost the girl of my dreams, too, haha.

If you could go back in time, would you do anything differently regarding the video?

If I could go back in time, I'd definitely create even more moments like that .full of energy, fun, and Mitchell Hall vibes, to help push my candidate's campaign. That video showed how powerful a good vibe can be, and if I had leaned into that momentum earlier, who knows. Maybe it could've swayed the

guild race in his favor. It wasn't just about going viral. It was about using that spotlight to make something bigger happen.

You're known for being carefree and doing what makes you happy – how do you maintain that mindset?

I maintain that carefree mindset because I genuinely believe that's how life is meant to be lived. As we grow older, challenges and responsibilities only multiply—there's no escaping that. But instead of letting the weight of it all drag me down, I choose to focus on the little joys that make life beautiful. Whether it's a laugh with friends, a good song, or a spontaneous moment of fun, those small bits of happiness are everything. They're the escape, the fuel, and the reminder that even in chaos, there's always something worth smiling about. That's the mindset I carry with me: live light, stay real, and never miss a chance to enjoy the moment.

What's that one thing you love doing that might surprise people?

One thing that might surprise people about me is how much I genuinely love creating things and watching them come to life.

As a graphics designer and architect, I've had the chance to turn ideas into real-world projects, things you can actually walk through, interact with, and experience. There's something deeply satisfying



about starting with a blank canvas or an empty plot and transforming it into something functional, beautiful, and meaningful. Whether it's a digital design or a physical structure, that process of creation is what fuels me. It's not just work.... it's passion in motion.

How do you handle criticism or negative comments about your dancing or style?

Haha, I've got that "Bebamanyi" mentality, so criticism doesn't really faze me. When it comes to my dancing or style, I do what makes me happy and keeps the vibe alive.

People will always have something to say, but I've learned that staying true to myself is way more powerful than trying to please everyone. If I'm feeling the moment, that's all that matters. The energy, the confidence, the fun...that's what defines me, not someone else's opinion.

What's your favorite way to express yourself creatively?

One of my favorite ways to express myself creatively is through design both graphic and architectural. There's something powerful about starting with a concept in your mind and then shaping it into something tangible that people can interact with.

What's your favorite hobby outside of architecture and dancing?

Soccer(Playing and watching) it.

If you could have dinner with any historical figure, who would it be?

If I could have dinner with any historical figure, it would hands down be Le Corbusier, the visionary who reshaped modern architecture.

Why Le Corbusier?

He wasn't just an architect; he was a philosopher of space. Born Charles-Édouard Jeanneret-Gris in Switzerland in 1887, he later adopted the name Le Corbusier and became one of the most influential figures in the International Style of architecture. His work was

bold, functional, and deeply expressive.

What's your favorite music genre and why?

I love reggae because it's rich with meaning and powerful messages. The lyrics often speak to real-life struggles, peace, and unity, making it more than just music....it's a voice for truth and consciousness. That depth is what keeps me connected to it.

Do you have a favorite spot in Kampala to explore?

Absolutely, Yujo Izakaya is a gem in Kampala. Nestled in the heart of Kolo-lo, it's more than just a Japanese restaurant; it's a beautifully crafted space that blends culture, design, and atmosphere effortlessly.

What advice would you give to students who want to pursue a creative field?

Go for it fearlessly. Creativity opens doors you didn't even know existed. I came into university for architecture, and now I've mastered multiple trades from graphics design to real-life project execution. That's the beauty of a creative field: it's not a straight path, it's a journey full of discovery, growth, and reinvention.

If you could dance with any celebrity, who would it be?

If I could dance with any celebrity, it would definitely be the Triplets Ghetto Kids—I absolutely love their craft. Their energy, precision, and passion for dance are unmatched. What makes them even more inspiring is their journey from the streets of Katwe to global stages like Britain's Got Talent

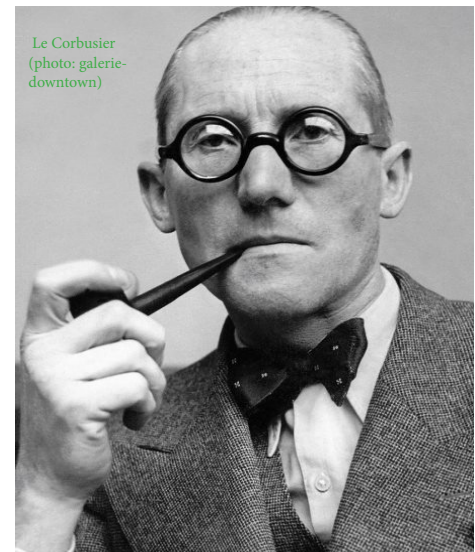
What's your go-to dance move when no one's looking?

Mpere Mpere Mpereee

Have you ever had a dance fail? Share the story!

Oh yes Mr. Caltec competition in O-Level was that moment. I gave it my

all, brought the energy, the moves, the vibe... but someone else just came in sharper, smoother, and snatched the win. It stung a little, not gonna lie, but it was also humbling. That loss taught me that sometimes, even when you bring your best, someone else might shine brighter and that's okay.



What's the most important lesson you've learned from your experience as a viral sensation?

The most important lesson I've learned from going viral is that authenticity always wins. That video wasn't staged or polished, it was just me and the Mitchell Hall boys living in the moment, doing what we love. And somehow, that raw energy connected with thousands of people. It taught me that you don't need to chase trends or try too hard to impress.

If you could create a dance challenge, what would it be called?

Kinyanyanyanya Dance challenge anytime anyday

What's next for Lubega Yunus – any upcoming projects or performances?

I'm all in on building my architecture career and securing that Architect title and of course, dropping some fresh dance videos on TikTok along the way to keep the vibe alive.

Balaam: From events promoter to cabinet minister

Born on July 28, 1979, at Mbarara Hospital, Dr. Balaam Barugahara Ateenyi popularly known as Balaam is a Ugandan businessman, events promoter, and politician who currently serves as the State Minister for Gender, Labour and Social Development in charge of Children and Youth Affairs. Appointed in March 2024, he embodies the blend of entrepreneurship and leadership, balancing a thriving business empire with a ministerial role that places him at the center of youth empowerment and national development.

Early Life and Student Days

Balaam grew up in a large family as the fifth of fourteen children to the late Engineer David Balaam Byenkya Akiiki and Gladesi Byenkya Abwooli. The loss of his father in 1991 shaped much of his resilience and determination. His education journey saw him through Namasagali College, St. John Bosco Senior Secondary School, and Original Progressive Senior Secondary School for A-Level before he joined Makerere University.

At Makerere, Balaam pursued a Bachelor of Commerce in Marketing. Although he was not heavily involved in student politics, he demonstrated leadership potential by serving as a treasurer in an association under the College of Business. He later advanced his academic pursuits, earning an MBA from Cavendish University Uganda and an Honorary Doctorate in Humanity from Zoe Life Theological College in the USA in 2023, recognizing his social and business impact.

Childhood Dreams and Makerere Experience

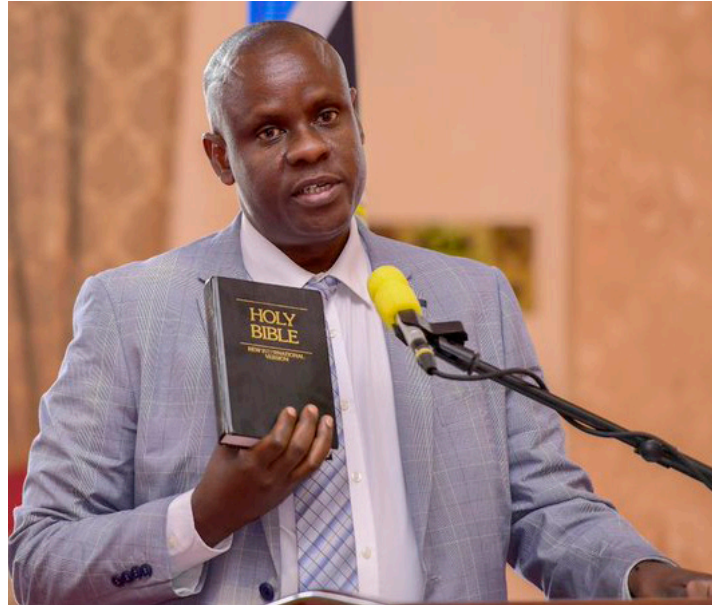
Asked about his childhood aspirations, Balaam says he always wanted to be a businessman. He takes pride in living that dream today, even as he balances it with the responsibilities of his ministerial position. At Makerere, his university life was less about politics and more about developing entrepreneurial skills, laying the foundation for his future ventures.

Starting Out in Events Management

His journey into events promotion began as a student, where he organized small shows and later bigger concerts. His first major breakthrough came with a Juliana Kanyomozzi concert, marking the start of a vibrant career that would see him become one of Uganda's top event promoters. Over time, he managed large concerts, the annual Sheraton fireworks display, and other high-profile events, cementing his reputation as a key player in the entertainment industry.

Entrepreneurship and Job Creation

Beyond events, Balaam is the founder and CEO of Balaam Group of Companies, with investments across broadcasting, manufacturing, real estate, hospitality, and water produc-



tion in both Uganda and South Sudan. His enterprises, including Radio4, Radio7, Original Best Water Company, and a five-star hotel in Masindi, have created jobs for hundreds of young people. He often emphasizes that his companies are not just about profit but about providing employment and empowering Uganda's youth.

Ministerial Role and Public Service

In March 2024, Balaam's business acumen and passion for youth development culminated in his appointment as State Minister for Youth and Children Affairs. Since assuming office, he has pledged to mobilize, empower, and support young people to become job creators rather than job seekers. His accessibility and approachable personality make him one of the most youth-friendly ministers, often engaging directly with young people through open-door policies and active use of social media.

Balancing Business and Ministry

While he now holds public office, Balaam has not abandoned his entrepreneurial side. He believes leaders should have independent sources of income to serve with integrity. This philosophy keeps him grounded, ensuring he balances government service with private business.

Advice to Students

Dr. Balaam Barugahara's life reflects resilience, determination, and vision. From humble beginnings to the height of Uganda's business and political landscape, his journey proves that passion and persistence open doors to greatness. His advice to students is simple yet powerful: follow your dreams, develop entrepreneurial skills, and maintain integrity. In his words, the future belongs to those who create opportunities, not just for themselves but also for others.



Makerere has always been a microcosm of Uganda.

Back then, Makerere was not just an academic institution, it was a grooming ground for holistic development, especially in leadership.

From as low as the SCR, to schools, colleges, and the Guild itself, leadership structures were semi-autonomous. Halls of residence had their own leaders, Speakers, Deputy Speakers, Ministers, Chairpersons, who would sit with their SCRs and plan activities engaging the entire student community at that level. Similarly, colleges and schools had their own leadership and associations, many of which were vibrant and culture-based.

To illustrate, I often liken it to Mulago Hospital. Within Mulago, you find the Uganda Cancer Institute or the Uganda Heart Institute. These are semi-autonomous, yet still part of the bigger hospital system. Makerere leadership worked the same way. A Finance Minister of a hall, for instance, left with real financial management skills. A Speaker of a hall understood what it meant to preside, to make tough decisions, and to safeguard the welfare of fellow students. Those experiences built capacity in ways that shaped future national leaders. Sadly, much has changed. Many of these leadership bodies have been weakened, some even dissolved, leaving today's student leaders more spoon-fed compared to back then. In our time, leaders were thrown into challenges and had to devise solutions. Now, structures like the Electoral Commission have been redesigned in ways that, in my view, disempower students.

For example, previously anyone could contest for the Commission, but now restrictions, such as barring those with prior leadership experience, deny continuity. This risks putting novices in charge of complex elections, which undermines the principles of natural justice and the continuity of service.

Makerere has always been a microcosm of Uganda. Many of today's national leaders were first tested and refined through the Guild and other organs of the university. That grooming role is what made Makerere unique, and it is what I fear is being eroded."

Ivan Sempijja

86th Guild President, Makerere University



THE GOOD OLD

The good old Makerere was something else. Life in the halls meant pride and identity. If you belonged to a hall, you carried it with honor. If I found a Mitchellite and I was a Mitchellite, that was a bond beyond brotherhood. We had so many activities that brought us together, prayer nights, morning joggings, and assemblies, all those things made us know each other, socialize, and build that bond of unity.

We used to have porridge nights. We would go to Garden Courts, and even Garden Courts would come to University Hall. We also had chimezas, and

those were very important for internal cohesion. You would get to solve all your problems there and then. If someone had a complaint, it was handled right there. It was a way of bringing the leaders closer to the people. When a chimeza was announced, it was a must for everyone to attend. You began with self-introduction, who you are, what you do, where you come from, so that you got to know your neighbor very well, and you also got to know your leader and the hall administration. After that, we would sometimes have a courage night, a get-together, and it used to be a very good thing.

There was also the Naked Mile. I think it was in 2019. At least some people

witnessed it for a while before it was banned. And every week, or at least every two weeks, we used to gather without fail. Those were truly the good old days.

Students were powerful then. Even student leaders themselves had to bring for us gigs. We would strike, we would fight for what mattered. I remember in my year one, I joined at a time when the tuition policy was being enacted. There was a strike. I barely knew anything about campus, but everyone was concerned, both government and private students. The solidarity was there anyway."

MUKISA JOSEPH

88th Guild Speaker, Makerere University.

During my time at run for presidency. didn't know I I got to know year 2, first they would You would vice-chancellor's first class. So, my and told me "you vice-chancellor's list".



Makerere, I wanted to But before that, I had a first class. when I was in semester, when put up results. be put on the list if you had a friends called me, man, you're on the

So, I go back to the module and I see first class was 4.40 and above. I think I had 4.56 in year one. So, I went in the manual and saw what we needed to do to remain in with a first class. If you have 75% and above, that is 4.5. So, it will be 75% in all papers.

Now, in year two, Dr. Professor Otaka is now handling political science, I talked to them. They told me if I ran for presidency, I would lose my first class. I told them no, I can't manage, I can't do it. So, I talked to another person, Dr. Crowley. He told me "You see, the funny thing is, if your teachers are still teaching you, you should listen to them, I'm not saying they will fail you, but you cannot work at this level". So, they told me, to go for a different position, GRC, and they would give me training. So that was how my mission in presidency went down. I had a team which was ready. They just saw me do posters for GRC and they were all mad. But I had nothing to do. I remember that moment. And I'm not regretting that decision.

KATUMBA SALIM

One of the most unforgettable experiences was sitting for online exams during COVID-19. Exams were sent out at 9 a.m., and we had about three to four hours to respond. It was chaotic but also deeply collaborative, students would check in on each other, making sure everyone had received the paper. If the system delayed, and all you saw was "good things take time!," the pressure was real!

But looking back, I admire how quickly Makerere and the students adapted. The other was graduation.

The excitement was unmatched. For many, it was the first time singing the Makerere anthem with such pride.

Clearing for graduation used to be stressful, you had to go to so many offices.

But during our time, it all changed. Suddenly, we only needed to clear with the library and a few other places. Everything was smoother, and the joy of seeing all your classmates graduate was something else.

But if you ask me what truly defined the Makerere experience, it was life in the halls.

"I am a proud alumna of Makerere University. Back then, before review, the leadership structure was very different from what students see today. At the time, each school and college had its own positions, we had Presidents, Vice Presidents, Information Ministers and so many others who ensured that students' voices were heard within their units.



of Makerere University. the constitution ership structure different from see today. At school and own leadership had Presidents, Speakers, Infor- and so many others

I still remember with pride that in my very first year at Makerere, I contested and became the Information Minister at the College of Humanities and Social Sciences during the 87th Guild. It was not easy stepping into leadership as a fresher, but it was an opportunity that tested my courage and gave me a platform to grow. Communication was my biggest responsibility, passing on updates, mobilizing students, and ensuring that matters of concern were not only known but acted upon.

Later, during the 88th Guild, I went on to serve as the GRC for the School of Women and Gender Studies. That was yet another step that broadened my experience in student politics. I engaged with different leaders, took part in heated debates, and learned how to balance my academics with the demands of leadership. The energy, the late-night meetings, the constant mobilization, those are memories that still stay with me.

NDYAMUHAKI ALLEN

I stayed in F19, a room that somehow became a collection point for student leaders.

The hall was a hub of mobilisation and activism.

Whenever power or water went off, Mitchell and the Lumumba Boys would run through campus shouting, "We want power!" or "We want water!" It was chaotic, hilarious, and full of energy.

Sadly, those moments are rare now. , many students miss out on that unique campus culture.

Honestly, if you've never

stayed in a hall, I don't think you've had the full Maker



RUTH KITAMIRIKE
FORMER GRC SCHOOL OF LAW
FORMER MINISTER OF GENDER,
ETHIC AND INTEGRITY.

When the halls fell silent

by MUZAFALUH KABUULWA
88th information minister

At the peak of its influence, Makerere University was more than a higher institution of learning. It was a kitchen where ideas, solidarities, and leadership were cooked and served to the nation. Central to that tradition were the halls of residence: Lumumba, Nkrumah, Mary Stuart, Mitchell, Livingstone, Africa, Nsibirwa, University Hall, and others, which functioned not as sleeping quarters but as schools of power, protest, and civic awakening. These halls nurtured leaders who went on to shape Uganda and Africa, and in their decline lies a story of a nation losing a womb that mothered the great that there is.

Lumumba Hall roared with militant chants and fearless activism, shaping outspoken student leaders. Mitchell Hall, the “Rats,” prized mobilization tactics, projecting their over-dominant stature and strategic location of the hall, hence boasting of a capital city status. Nkrumah Hall carried a Pan-African spirit, hosting debates and ideological discussions that nurtured students to think beyond Uganda’s borders. Mary Stuart Hall, the “Box,” was a harbor for women, blending talent shows and social gatherings into lessons in women empowerment and solidarity thus paving way for renowned figures like Miria Matembe, Winnie Byanyima, etc. Livingstone Hall, known as the “Gentlemen,” took a quieter yet strategic approach. The residents favored measured critique over strikes, with persuasive debate and independent judgment. It is thus undisputed that Hon. Robert Kyagulanyi Ssentamu reminisces on how this impacted his journey of powerful activism. Africa Hall, being neighbours to the Livingstone diplomats, fostered cosmopolitan awareness and diplomacy, while University Hall and Nsibirwa Hall emphasized loyalty, leaderless mobilisation and collective resilience.



The ponderous toll of the mantle the halls bestowed on various leaders underscores their impact. Ruhakana Rugunda, who later became Prime Minister, lived in Nkrumah Hall, where the Pan-Africanists nurtured thoughts of regional integration. Stella Nyanzi, who resided in Complex Hall, embodied the hall’s rebellious and outspoken ethos projected in solidarity and tight arms of Mitchell Hall, developing into a fearless advocate and public intellectual. For each of these leaders, the hall was more than accommodation.

Halls maintained both permanent alliances which were most notably with female residences and temporary ones, shaped by elections, strikes, and social events. Hall rituals such as guard brigades, parades, porridge nights, jogging, and bimeeza kept spirits high and nurtured discipline. Yet these traditions have been systematically eroded. The once-vibrant chants, including the famous “Wee Wee,” have lost their cultural significance, dismissed by authorities. Incidents such as the disqualification of Nattabi Margret and Namwoza Sula from the guild presidential race for attending a kimeeza at Mitchell Hall illustrate how political interference has stifled hall culture. If an untrained bodyguard can be abducted and later slapped with trumped up charges, one can only imagine the fate of Lumumba Hall, whose MGB guard brigade once manned quarter guards so formidable that even the police could not pass through unnoticed.

The erosion of hall culture is nothing but a national loss. Uganda loses a generation trained in public speaking, resilience, solidarity, and critical debate. The guild presidents, activists, and thinkers who once emerged from hall rivalries are fewer today, and with them goes a tradition of independent-minded leadership. It’s not surprising that what was the bimeeza where intellectual debates carried the day, has now been replaced with meet and greets where guild leaders meet to discuss nothing and only play games and loud music in the guise of social networking. Guild presidents like Nambassa Shamim, who were always on national media platforms opining to national issues, have now been replaced by guild leaders who ply TikTok and its mixed credible users. Notwithstanding digital transformation, which would still carry the same but in vain. However successful it might appear that they were silenced and the culture was quashed, it’s just a matter of time. Just as Buganda’s cultural practices survived colonial suppression and were later revived after the kingdom’s restoration in 1993, the spirit of Makerere’s halls endures. The legacies of Gongom, Maama Kakyala, Livingstone, Kwame Nkrumah, Nsibirwa, and Mitchell linger in the corridors of the hill. They will once occupy a sober mind to do house cleaning, and no storm shall block the endeavour.

MUZAFALUH KABUULWA
88th information minister

During my time at Makerere University, I had the honor of serving as Vice Guild President, GRC for the School of Health Sciences, Equipment Secretary for the Games Union, and Sports Minister for Mary Stuart Hall.

Through these roles, I stood for social justice, good governance, accessible and quality education, and affordable health care, values that guided my most memorable experience: the 2019 “15% Must Fall” campaign.

In 2018, the previous guild government signed a policy to increase tuition by 15% annually for five years,

which would have raised tuition by more than 100%. By the second increment, we knew students could no longer stay silent. Together with 14 other determined young women, we organized Black Tuesday, a peaceful protest against the increment.

Wearing black, carrying placards, and holding our petition, we marched from campus to deliver it to the Ministries of Education, Finance, and Constitutional Affairs. At the main gate, we were confronted by mambas and heavily armed officers, arrested, and taken away on

police trucks.

Our arrest sparked a wave of solidarity. For two weeks, students across the university protested, and lectures were suspended. During this period, we held high-level meetings, including with the Minister of Education and in Parliament, to push our case.

In the end, we won: the cumulative increment was removed, protecting thousands of students from unaffordable tuition hikes.

This remains one of the proudest moments of my life, not because we protest-



ed, but because we stood firm, faced fear, and achieved change. It taught me that students, when united and courageous, can shape the future for generations to come.

JUDITH NALUKWAGO
85th Vice Guild President

One of the most outstanding moments for me was during my time at the University Council. There had been a report lying around about the renovation of Kabanyolo hostels, but no one had given it serious attention. I had just come from Kabanyolo after my second year, and I had experienced firsthand the bad conditions there. I carried that report back with me, and when council visited the hostels, everyone accepted that the situation was terrible for students to be living and studying there. Within no time, money was passed, and renovations started.



It might not be the best, but I saw the changes take place, and for me that stands out. That issue had been there for years, but because CAES had never had a guild president or vice president on council, no one had ever pushed it with urgency. I felt proud knowing I had sparked something that finally got worked on. Today, whenever I pass by, I feel glad.

The other thing is the buses. Back then, the bus we used to take from CAES to Kabonyolo was in very poor condition. I pushed for a new one because students were literally traveling every week, and the old bus was unsafe. It took time and came through another guild house, but when I see that new bus at CAES, I feel a sense of contribution.

Even at Complex, where I was GRC, I fought for improvements. The water pipes were rusty, and those were replaced during my time.

Margaret Nattabi
88th Vice Guild President

During my time, I was deeply involved in student leadership. I served as a GRC at the School of Biosciences, Information Minister, and P.R.O. of the Electoral Commission in 2018–2019. I have always been passionate about leadership and mobilization, which is why most people call me the ‘Principal of the New Kids Academy,’ where I have mentored over 40 young leaders.



But what really stands out when I look back is how life at Makerere carried a unique culture, one that today’s students may never fully experience.

Two things defined Makerere in those days: graduations and guild elections. Graduation was always electric, full of excitement and pride. But it was the guild elections that truly brought the entire university to life. They were not just about voting, they were a whole season. We had rallies in almost every hall of residence. Each hall became a battleground of influence, and elections often turned into a ‘war between homes.’ Candidates were carried by the strength of their halls.

The rallies were breathtaking. Every evening from five o’clock, you would see processions, chants, drums, and students flooding open spaces. The climax of everything was the final rally at Freedom Square. That day, the entire university gathered. Candidates didn’t just show up to speak; they came in massive processions, singing and drumming their way around campus before entering the Square. It wasn’t about the speeches—it was about strength, numbers, and energy. The crowd told you who the next Guild President would be even before the polls.

Martins Kato

When I joined Makerere University, life in the halls of residence was vibrant. We had meals in the dining halls, which created a strong sense of community among students. Older students, especially those active in leadership, would “rank” freshers, commenting on who had potential and who didn’t.

I had come to campus with some money from an organization that rewarded me for excelling in my exams, money my parents didn’t even know I had. One day, a group of older students asked me to buy them a crate of soda, testing my generosity. I did. They were impressed and started hyping me: “We’ve never seen a fresher like this. He can even be Deputy Disciplinary!”

Now, Deputy Disciplinary was the smallest political position in the hall, but even being considered meant I had made an impression. I wasn’t in a rush to take any post, though. I was thinking ahead.

During the December break, I thought carefully about where I could serve meaningfully. I noticed the Deputy Speaker role held influence, especially in organizing elections. So when I returned in Semester Two, I declared my interest.

A student named Kitono Daniel, who hadn’t stayed in our hall, also entered the race. His strategy was to get financial backing and “sort things out.” I told him, “If you enter this race, I’ll crush you.” And I went on to do as I had said. By semester two, I had built enough popularity and trust among students to go unopposed.

As Deputy Speaker, I overperformed. At the time, we only had one physical copy of the hall constitution, I led the process of digitizing it. I also organized corridor meetings for every subdivision in the hall, mobilizing and engaging students on key issues.

That leadership laid the foundation for my journey. I later became Speaker, Minister, ran for Guild President, and eventually became Vice President. It all started with standing for something bigger than myself

By Sewanyana Nelson

87th vice guild president.



“TWASULA NGA MUNGATO”

Fast forward to 6th August 2018, I was a fresher who wanted to attend everything and heard about the Mitchelllex BAZAAR. This event happens every first week of the academic year to give freshers a chance to buy goods at a discount. There was good music, food, and interactions till late in the night (TWASULA NGA MUNGATO). New friendships, interactions, and relationships were born from that place with people I can’t mention but still hold dear.

The following week, by default, was when lecturers had to start teaching (if God is on your side and they are not on strike). Luckily for us, they weren’t. From 8am to 12pm is when lectures for day students at Psychology happened, but I stayed around because we had an ice cream and popcorn spot (which I dearly miss) nicknamed “EKIMEEZA.” Different students, politicians, and activists sat there (this is where I met my political mentor, Sulait Gamukama). If you wanted to hear any news in the MAK political space or all the gist at campus, that was the place. Later we would walk and slope to Club 5, which was around Law School (where the current new Law building sits). We would eat some muchomo, and the boys played pool as we had a few drinks and jazz (EMBOOZI YABANGAWO). That place introduced me to many amazing people.

So that was Monday to Wednesday. Thursday entered us into the “IT’S A FRIDAYYYY” kind of vibe, with a few lectures happening and an evening walk to the MDD gardens where students gave us JAM SESSIONS with amazing performances. We would later leave at 9pm for the mighty PORRIDGE NIGHT PARTIES (oh how I loved Makerere before COVID). Different associations, schools, and sometimes aspirants sponsored them. Sound equipment would be brought, hosts made us yummy porridge using ebyoto (a traditional fireplace), lights would be switched off, and we vibed to music with our cups of porridge and buns.

The social events brought group cohesion and made networking easy, a student from CEES could easily connect with one from COVAB. So many events happened that I will not go into detail: from cultural nights to KELELE poetry nights to the Lumbox carnival. In short, Makerere was a conglomerate of all walks of life and accommodated everyone’s passion. For those who loved sports, different events happened at the basketball court or rugby grounds.

Now, diving into politics: I met my mentor at the Kimeeza and he casually told me, “You will be the 86th GRC of this school.”

I laughed because I didn't envision myself in politics. He encouraged me to run for International Students Affairs Minister at Psychology since I was Vice President of MUSSSA and attached to helping fellow international students.

Fast forward to October 2019, the twist in my journey. The tuition increment demonstration against the 15% annual tuition increment policy was introduced to me by my predecessor, Ms. Siperia Mollie Ssasiraabo, who was mobilizing girls to SAY NO. It was a genuine cause that resonated with me as a private student. We made placards on that rainy day, gathered at Mary Stuart, but were dispersed and ended up at Complex where we held a small press briefing before marching to the main gate.

After this, I realized that plain as I was, I couldn't make a change without joining elective politics. If the policy was introduced by leaders, it had to be stopped by leaders. That's how I ended up running for GRC. Thanks to my President, H.E. Dr. Ssalongo Ivan Ssempijja, who saw genuine competence in this girl from South Sudan, I was appointed Guild Vice President.

I have listed the events above throughout my campus journey, but my greatest happiness was finishing what we started, halting the 15% annual tuition increment policy with my President in 2021 and fulfilling our promise of the "MELTING MAGMA" government. Being in the guild cost me my mental health and restricted me in many ways, but whenever I have regrets, that council meeting in September 2021 that halted the tuition increment policy gives me relief. It reminds me that many can now access education through my effort.

NOELLAH AWAL JUACH

86th vice guild president and former grc school of psychology



Photo credit Kenlink comprehensive Institute

There is that saying of "MAK choosing you when you don't know." At first, I thought it was just a statement, but over time, I have come to realize it is true. I am Kasasa Trevor, the 87th GRC School of Psychology, former Secretary General of UYD, Information Minister, and now a student of Law. Interestingly, Makerere was not even my first choice. I had wanted to study Law at UCU, but my mother insisted on Makerere because of her traditional and historical attachment to it. Looking back, I can say ending up here was divine.



I joined at a time when activism and student struggles were at their peak. There were tuition increment strikes, Dr. Stella Nyanzi and Dr. Deus Kamunyu had just been suspended, and the People Power wave was beginning to sweep through the country.

Youth everywhere were restless, eager to create change both within Makerere and nationally. As a fresher, my rise came from curiosity, mentorship, and luck. I found myself in the circles of strong activists like Gen Obedgiu Kwokuboth, Judith Nalukwago, Kato Martins, Rugumayo Roy, Lawel Muhwezi, Siperia Mollie, Juach Noella, and Gamukana Sulait. These people changed my perspective from being just an ordinary student to someone deeply concerned about reforms. With their guidance, I learned media engagement, constructive argument, and the courage to speak out.

Through UYD, which was then a strong platform for nurturing youth leaders, I became Secretary General. It was not easy, the space was very competitive, filled with radical and brilliant minds, but the fire of those challenges made me stronger. I even ran my first election with only one banner, without money, and still emerged top. Later, I was appointed the 87th Information Minister purely on merit, despite not supporting the winning president.

My six years at Makerere have been about speaking up when others feared. I have learned that in every struggle, the system fears you just as much as you fear it. And to those coming after us, I say: guard your integrity, stay firm in your convictions, think beyond campus, protect your mental health, and above all, remain hungry for knowledge. Those values are what defined my journey back then at Makerere"

Kasasa Trevor.

87th GRC SCHOOL OF PSYCHOLOGY

87th MINISTER OF INFORMATION

WHEN LEADERS WEAR BOOTS



Every fortnight, under the Makerere golden sun, the Impis University grounds transform into more than a pitch. The air buzzes with chants, vuvuzelas, whistles, laughter, and the echo of boots striking the ball. This is not just football-it is the Mak-Guild League, where past and present Makerere guild leaders trade suits and manifestos for jerseys and teamwork.

The pitch becomes a stage where history, leadership, and vision collide. Every tackle, every goal tells a story, not of politics, but of legacy. Leadership here is not tested by speeches but by stamina and teamwork

The MakGuild league began three years ago, born from a vision to unite the Guild family across generations.

Since then, three seasons have been played, each bringing shared purpose.

Over the years, different guild houses representing as league's spirit forward. The league has had over twelve pioneer season to the current season with the oldest 79th Guild in the first seasons and in the previous oldest house joined by the 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, Guild houses together with MUBS Guild.

Every match is more than a game; it is a story of leadership. Mak-Guild reminds us that "Leadership never ends, it simply Chairperson, Mr. Katumba Salim.

a milestone of growth, competition, fun, and a

teams have subscribed and carried the (12) houses participating from the houses as the 77th Guild and the third season the 80th Guild was the 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th and 91st

ship handed forward. The Mak-evolves", remarked the current

In football, the impossible is possible

Katumba Salim, Chair Mak Guild League

leadership continuity.

On the sidelines, current student leaders pick up lessons mantle, while alumni are reminded of the fire and vision rekindled, networks strengthened, and the Guild family grows

The MakGuild League is chasing something bigger than to renovate and expand the Makerere Guild Offices, giving

It brings former current alumnus pass, and even capacities, al political private en-spirited, but and trophies.

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phies.

together a vibrant mix, imagine a guild president defending against a guild minister, or a GRC turned setting up a perfect goal-scoring people from different occupational students, civil servants, national figures, those from priorities, and NGOs. The matches are league's heartbeat goes beyond goals football becomes the language of

those who once carried the same once drove them. Friendships are with every kick of the ball.

Its primary dream goal is to generations to come a better



space to champion ideas and review policies. As football timeless truth reminds us: “In football, the impossible is possible”, so too is the vision of the MakGuild league.

The league’s heartbeat has also been fueled by several sponsors and partners such as Makerere University administration, NBS Sport, Aquafina, Next radio 106.1 FM, Lianka Fashion and Design, Maurice Cakes and Events, Tayebwa tours and travel, Clbits and Tales bar Bukoto, whose generosity lights up the pitch and keeps the vision alive. They’re not just funding football, they’re planting seeds in the garden of leadership, where every harvest is a future president, legislator, innovator, or a nation builder.



This league would not be possible without the vision and dedication of our current MakGuild leadership headed by the Chairperson, Mr. Katumba Salim from the 80th Guild, who also doubles as (leadership in other leagues and CHAN. He replaced Mr. Kato Martins from the 80th Guild.

The leadership mandate in the league is three years, having a belief can take it forward. Before celebrating the current champions for season of past seasons; Season one Champions being the 80th Guild house Season Two Champions.

that since it’s a league for leaders, many son three, we recognize the trailblazers and the 88th Guild emerging as the

This season’s climax was nothing short of legendary. at Kisumu by Prof. Nyang Nyong, the governor of President at Makerere University (1969- played at Moi stadium, Kisumu together with Public Dialogue, cleanup of Kibuye planting, a tour around Kisumu, and closed off with Dinner. As Liverpool FC famous- ly chants, “You’ll MakGuild league, no leader plays alone; every victory is built on shared spirit of the Guild.



The grand finale was hosted Kisumu and former Guild 1970). The games were other engaging activities market in Kisumu, Tree an Awards Ceremony Guild Never Walk Alone”, in the teamwork, unity, and the

And so as the dust of Season Three settles, the whistle of To our sponsors, both current and those yet to come, here etch your name into the heartbeat of Makerere. When League, you’re not just backing football; you are backing marketplace of ideas, and a fortress of unity.

Season Four already beckons. lies your stage, your chance to you invest in the MakGuild a living museum of leadership, a

And to the Guild Family, past, present, and those laughter, your legacy, and space to socialize, network, for it, and build it. Each goal scored, each jersey won, is legacy and the achievement of dreams.

com- and a stone

ing next; this is your league, your draw lessons. Be part of it, cheer laid in the foundation of a

The MakGuild League is not just a game; it is thun- it is leadership reborn every fortnight, every season,

der-bottled, forever.

it is poetry in motion,

Trade Bazaar

Western Uganda's darling vocalist T Paul 256 (Kakoba Boy), real name Taremwa Paul, lit up the Makerere Varsity freshers bazaar with his beautiful vocals.

The artist, dressed in white from top to bottom, performed his hit songs Sawa Sawa and SuperNova, before rallying students to come support him at his show slated for August 22nd at Lugo-go Cricket Oval.



His vocals didn't only excite students from western Uganda, but also those from other re-

gions. T Paul's lyrical flow spoke to hearts of many freshers, especially those searching for their first campus love.



The d-day also featured performances from students and ancestors such as Sparrow Dox who performed his Engala song that speaks of hunger among students at campus.

During the Bazaar, musician Rickman Manrick also put up an energetic performance on Thursday as NRG Radio made an activation for Blue Band's CHOCO.

To the vendors, the bazaar was good business as most of them made huge sales. This followed the change of venue from Impis Rugby Grounds to Pool Road Gardens, a venue that is closer to the student community.

The Bazaar was organized by the 91st Minister for Social Affairs, Hon. SSEKABIRA JOSEPH.



Pictorial: Freshers' Ball



The 2025 Freshers Ball was a night to remember, a vibrant celebration of new beginnings organized by the 91st Guild government under the Ministry of Social Affairs.

The evening was filled with exciting performances from energetic performers such as Ritah Danchall, Dax Vibes, Feffe Bussi, Ava Peace, and Ray G. As the evening turned into night, the energy remained high, with students singing along to their favorite tunes and enjoying each other's company.



The event featured an amazing and well-lit stage that added colour to the event's new venue, the Teargas Arena. The event set a high standard for future events and was appreciated by management as one of the best-organized parties in recent years.

Recess Tournament

The 2025 recess tournament brought together students from different colleges in a holiday thriller that kept them engaged during their leisure time.

The tournament organized by Ojamba Romerus attracted over twenty teams. BSTAT and Civil Engineering students made it to the finals with the former defeating the later.

The finals and awarding ceremony was witnessed by Mr. Rivan Muhereza Peter, the warden of Nsibirwa hall who thanked the organizers of the tournament for coming up with the initiative.



CAES Wins Inter-College Basketball Tournament

The College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences (CAES) emerged winner of the 2025 inter-college basketball tournament. CAES beat the team from the College of Health Sciences.

CAES and CHS advanced to the finals of the Inter-college Basketball tournament after their impressive wins in the semi finals. CAES beat the College of Computing and Information Science while CHS beat the College of Engineering, Design, Art and Technology.

Uganda Rugby Cup: Impiss Makes Impressive Start

Makerere Impis Rugby club defeated Victoria Sharks, 24-19, in a Uganda Cup game opener played at the Graveyard (Rugby grounds).

The game was the first of its kind as Impis and Victoria Sharks met for the first time in a 15s rugby game.

The Impis went ahead in the opening three minutes of the game, thanks to the quick reaction of Edwin Muhumuza. Off a scrum penalty, Impis elected to kick for poles, with the attempt from Darren Aine that went wayward across the left pole being picked up by Muhumuza to dot.



Makerere Wins Bronze at FASU Tennis Slum

Makerere University won bronze at the fourth Federation of Africa University Sports Tennis slum. Makerere was represented by Ojiambo Emmanuel (captain), Matsiko Elvis and Kasule James in the mens' double.

Makerere Sharks advance to semi-finals of FUBA Division one

Makerere Sparks won the playoff series of the FUBA Division one for the first time since 2018 after defeating MUBS Lady Jills 53-31 in game 2 played at Hamz stadium.

The sparks applied the press and forced Lady Jills into 38 turnovers. As a result, they scored 38 points from turnovers.

Faridah Nakyanzi led the scoring for Makerere with 12 points while Mercy Ageno had 9 points, 14 rebounds, 3 assists and 5 steals. Florence Konga scored 2 3-point shots on the buzzer and had 10 points plus 4 steals.

Afua Nabawanga also scored double digits, 10 points and 6 steals plus 4 assists. Doreen Atukunda was the top performer in this game with 10 points and 20 rebounds for Lady Jills.





