



NEWSLETTER

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND EXTERNAL STUDIES | March 2024



Stories by Betty Kyakuwa

Prepared by Raymond Sekyewa



Over 600 awarded UBTEB certificates

Over 600 students of Makerere University Centre for Lifelong Learning and Makerere University Jinja Campus have graduated with diplomas and Certificates from the Uganda Business and Technical Examinations Board (UBTEB).

Speaking during the graduation ceremony on Feb 3, 2024, at Makerere University Yusuf Lule Auditor-

"This academic achievement has launched your real beginning in higher education academics and career growth. For those who had challenges with Advanced Level as a prerequisite for University or academic progression, the diploma comes handy and will enable you to now register for your desired degree course," Prof. Mugagga said.

He cautioned the graduands against reckless behavior which could lead to sickness and early death. "Be very cautious and protective of your lives. You have one life; therefore, you cannot afford to waste it. Hold your life very precious and jealously!"

Mr. Geoffrey Kawanguzi, the Deputy Executive Secretary, admonished educational institutions against illegally awarding qualifications to students.



Makerere University Centre for Lifelong Learning and Makerere University Jinja Campus graduation of Diplomas and Certificates from the Uganda Business and Technical Examinations Board (UBTEB), 3rd February 2024, Yusuf Lule Central Teaching Facility Auditorium, Makerere University, Kampala Uganda, East Africa.

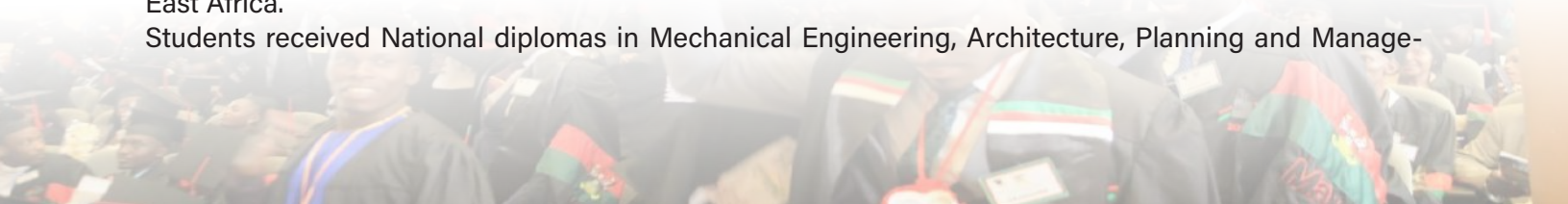
Mr. Kawanguzi, said many institutions are hoodwinking students and awarding them certificates and diplomas which are not recognized by the government.

Mr. Kawanguzi urged parents to be cautious while selecting higher institutions and to check that the institution qualifies to provide national exams.

"Before you pay school fees to an institution where you want to take your child, first ask whether that institution offers national exams. Certificates offered by illegal Institutions end in that school, you cannot take them anywhere," Mr. Kawanguzi said as he conferred 613 students from the university's main campus and Jinja campus with national certificates and diplomas in technical and business education.

Makerere University Centre for Lifelong Learning and Makerere University Jinja Campus graduation of Diplomas and Certificates from the Uganda Business and Technical Examinations Board (UBTEB), 3rd February 2024, Yusuf Lule Central Teaching Facility Auditorium, Makerere University, Kampala Uganda, East Africa.

Students received National diplomas in Mechanical Engineering, Architecture, Planning and Manage-



ment, Business Administration and Management, Civil Engineering, Procurement, Electrical Engineering and Logistics, among others.

Mr. Kawanguzi said it is only UBTEB national exams that are recognized by the National Council for Higher Education (NCHE) and the National Curriculum Development Centre (NCDC).

He encouraged graduands to make good use of the knowledge they have acquired from their respective disciplines to develop their communities and create job opportunities for their communities.

Makerere University Centre for Lifelong Learning and Makerere University Jinja Campus graduation of Diplomas and Certificates from the Uganda Business and Technical Examinations Board (UBTEB), 3rd February 2024, Yusuf Lule Central Teaching Facility Auditorium, Makerere University, Kampala Uganda, East Africa.

"The world has a lot of opportunities for each of us to explore according to our talents and gifts. Let's put to good use our knowledge and skills to fulfill the use and continue to pursue the journey of acquiring more knowledge to better our areas for professional growth and development."

The Deputy Director of the Graduate School, Dr. Wamala Robert, who represented the Vice Chancellor urged graduands to apply the skills and knowledge they have gained to face the world and solve its challenges.

"The world you have entered is dynamic and ever challenging. Use the education and the experience

you have gained here to navigate the complexities of the global landscape," he said.

Makerere University Centre for Lifelong Learning and Makerere University Jinja Campus graduation of Diplomas and Certificates from the Uganda Business and Technical Examinations Board (UBTEB), 3rd February 2024, Yusuf Lule Central Teaching Facility Auditorium, Makerere University, Kampala Uganda, East Africa.

He added: "As you step into this new chapter of your lives, I urge you to continue embracing curiosity, pursuing knowledge for excellence. Be bold in your ambitions, compassionate in your endeavors, and always mindful of the impacts you can have on the world around you. Remember that the values instilled in you during your time at Makerere will serve as a compass guiding you through the diverse path that lies ahead of you."

Prince Immanuel Oluka, a graduand of a diploma in Civil Engineering, said he doesn't regret taking up the course because he has acquired the necessary skills to go out and address world challenges.

"We have been doing real life projects which are hands-on, even now there is a site we are working on. We are confident we can go for government contracts of constructing buildings and roads," Oluka said.

Risper Atwine Twinomugisa, a graduand of a national diploma in Architecture, said she has specialized in drafting and drawing plans for houses and her future is bright with the skills at hand.





CEES graduates 1,000 students as best researchers are awarded

The College of Education and External Studies has today January 30, 2024, the 2nd day of the 74th graduation ceremony, graduated 1,019 students. At the same function, five of the college's senior researchers received the Vice Chancellor's Research Excellence Award 2023.

The researchers, Prof. Paul Muyinda Birevu, Dr. Sekatawa Kenneth, Assoc. Prof. Jude Ssempebwa, Dr. Nambi Rebecca and Dr. Bateganya Lukoyaa Najib, were recognized for having the highest number of publications, in the last 5 years, in the college.

This year's graduation saw 7 people graduate with PhDs, 51 with Masters, 81 with Post graduate diplomas and 880 with undergraduate degrees from the College of Education and External Studies. Of these 618 are female while 401 are male representing 60.6% and 39.4% respectively.

During the course of the 74th graduation ceremony, a total of 12,913 graduands will receive degrees and diplomas of Makerere University. Of these, a total of 132 graduands will graduate with PhDs, 1585 with Masters degrees, 11,016 with Bachelor's degrees, 156 with postgraduate diplomas, and 24 with undergraduate diplomas.

53% of the graduands are female and 47% are



male. In the category of PhD graduands, 46 are female and 86 are male. In the category of students graduating with Master's degrees, 699 are female and 886 are male.

74th Graduation Ceremony, Day 2, College of Education and External Studies (CEES), 30th January 2024, Vice Chancellor's Research Excellence Awards 2023, Plot 34 Edge Road, Makerere University, Kampala Uganda, East Africa.

While addressing the graduands, the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe, said the university's goal is to graduate at least 200 PhDs per year in response to the World Bank's call for at least 100,000 PhDs for Africa over the next 10 years, to pull the continent out of poverty.

He also congratulated the college upon the various milestones achieved in the last one year. He appreciated the Institute of Open, Distance and e-Learning (IODeL) which has continued to provide backstopping support services to all Colleges in the University for transforming the classroom-based course content into well-instructionally designed online course content for blended teaching and learning.

"In the last year, with support from the Government of Uganda, and development partners such as Mastercard Foundation, Norad, DIKU and among others, the College of Education and External Studies has supported and mentored lecturers in developing 1,300 quality and inclusive online learning courses across all colleges. By June 2024, more than 3000 courses will have been transformed. The University has acquired five (5) multimedia studios to aid in the production of multimedia content for pedagogy," Prof. Nawangwe said.

Makerere University Transcripts and Certificates

In the past two years, Makerere University has come up with measures aimed at making the issuance of academic transcripts and certificates very fast and convenient by shortening the clearance process. In November 2022 the university organized the Public Fair on Transcripts and Certificates during which more than 4,650 certificates and 4,113 transcripts were issued. This year, with the support of the University Council and Senate, the Department of the

Academic Registrar, the Directorate of ICT Support Services, and the leadership at the Colleges, the academic transcripts for students graduating during the 74th graduation ceremony were printed before graduation. "The academic transcripts are ready and they are due for issuance to graduands who have satisfied the academic and financial obligations. I therefore urge all our graduands to pick their transcripts from their respective colleges," the VC said.

74th Graduation Ceremony, Day 2, College of Education and External Studies (CEES), 30th January 2024, Freedom Square, Makerere University, Kampala Uganda, East Africa.

The Vice Chancellor congratulated all graduands and called on them to Cherish the knowledge and experiences they have received, but remember that learning never ends.



Over 500 graduate with vocational skills from CEES



Over 500 students have received certificates following a 3 months training in vocational skills. The training was conducted by the Department of Adult and Continuing Education at Makerere University's College of Education and External studies with support from Love Binti International.

The Adult Education Graduates were tipped on honesty in the employment and job creation market, lest they risk losing credibility. This was during their graduation, on December 21, 2023, in vocational training at Makerere University, that saw over 500 students graduate with different vocational skills including tailoring, designing, among others. The training is supported by Love Binti International in partnership with Makerere University.

The Founder/Executive Director for Love Binti International, Ms. Elle Yang, who was represented by the Board Member, Pastor Martin Ocheng, applauded the graduates for their commitment to obtaining practical skills and thanked the Management of Makerere University led by Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe and the College of Education and External Studies (CEES) led by Prof. Anthony Muwagga Muggaga for the continued support to the Love Binti Community Empowerment programme. Ms. Yang also recognized the invaluable contributions of all stakeholders in making the program a resounding success. With profound

gratitude, she pledged to persist in her efforts to secure funds, ensuring the program's expansion to reach a broader demographic. This commitment reportedly underscored Love Binti International's unwavering dedication to empowering communities through education and skills development

Dr. Stella Achen, The Department head who was represented by Philemon Kirunda called upon the graduates to emphasise honesty in their work.

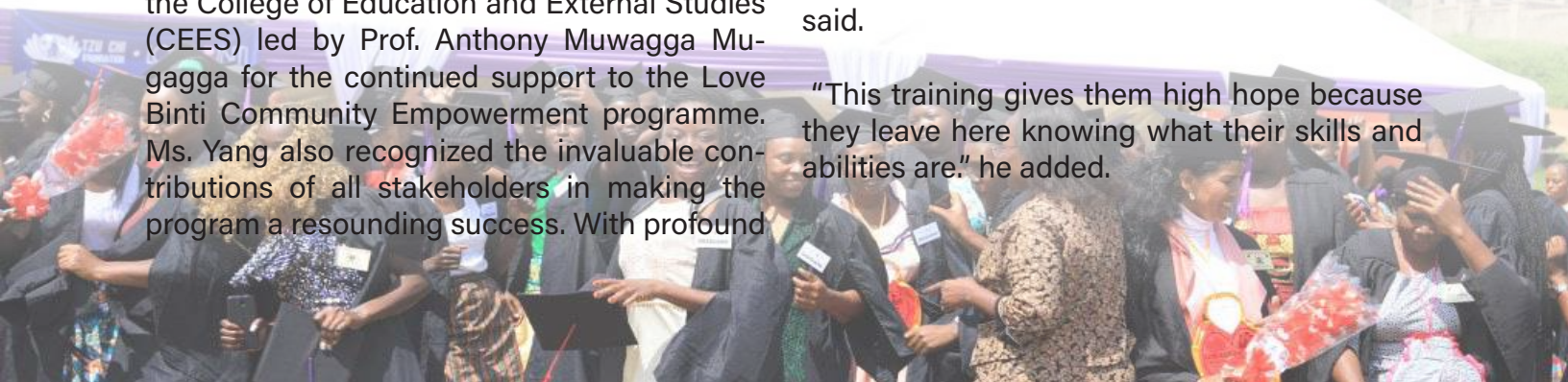


"You have done us proud, but we urge you to be honest with the time that you can deliver; be honest with profits and what you can and cannot do," she said.

Lubowa Ssebina Gyaviira, the Makerere University Assistant Bursar commended the Skill-ing program as the way to curb unemployment in Uganda's job market.

"This initiative is what the country needs because as you have seen, we have people graduating from here with degrees and you ask them what they can do and there is none," he said.

"This training gives them high hope because they leave here knowing what their skills and abilities are," he added.



Gyaviira emphasized the importance of honesty in delivering services and managing profits. He also highlighted the significance of the Skilling program in addressing the issue of unemployment in Uganda. According to him, many graduates lack practical skills and this training provides them with a clear understanding of their abilities and potential career paths.

Dr. David Kabugo, the Deputy Director MITER, who was the Chief Guest lauded the training program where many women trainees were equipped with a range of skills to create their own jobs.

“The idea is not to just give learners degrees in theory alone. Our children are creative when they are still young but in secondary school, they lose direction. That is why we want to vocationalize higher education,” he said.

Dr. Kabugo emphasized the importance of equipping learners with practical skills, as many graduates often struggle to find employment due to a lack of hands-on experience. He highlighted the need for vocationalizing higher education to nurture and harness the creativity of students, ensuring they have clear career paths and the ability to create their own jobs.

The Skilling program was under the Love Binti Initiative under Makerere University Department of Adult and Community Development.



Call For Applications: 8 Masters Scholarships under CABUTE Project

Makerere University, Kyambogo University, Uganda National Institute for Teacher Education (UNITE), University of Bergen and Western Norway University of Applied Sciences are implementing a project titled, Capacity Building for Research Based Teacher Education (CABUTE).

In 2024/2025 Academic Year, eight (8) masters scholarships will be competitively awarded to qualifying Ugandans as one of the activities.

For the detailed advert and application process, please visit the URL below.

<https://www.uib.no/en/cabute/167375/cabute-masters-scholarships-20242026>

Please note that the scholarships are tenable at Makerere University and Kyambogo University but will include a 3 weeks stay at the University of Bergen during the course of study.

Love Binti program was founded in Kenya and introduced in Uganda in 2018, to empower women and girls in vocational skills.

The Love Binti program aims to address the issue of young people losing direction in secondary school by providing them with practical vocational skills. By equipping learners with a range of skills, they are empowered to create their own jobs and pursue entrepreneurial opportunities. This not only helps to foster creativity but also contributes to the overall development and empowerment of women and girls in Uganda.



Mr. Joseph Wakuleke, the Executive Director of Love Binti International, Makerere Chapter (Right) presents some of the candidates for the award of certificates.

Improving performance in Science subjects: Mak scholars translate science books into local languages



Makerere University scholars have translated science terms into local languages to ease learning of the students in lower primary classes.

The scholars include Dr Henry Busulwa, Dr Harriet Nabushawo, Dr John Ssentongo, and Dr Allen Nalugwa.

The quartet conceived the idea of translating learner's materials in 2020 after conducting research that showed that there was decreasing interest and performance by learners in science subjects.

They (scholars) therefore translated two resource books into Luganda and Lumasaaba languages following the thematic curriculum of lower primary to help learners easily grasp the content taught when they reach primary four. The lower primary curriculum directs teachers to teach children in their mother tongue from primary one to primary three and start learning in English only when they reach primary four.



Dr Henry Busulwa the Principal Investigator, Dr Busulwa, the Principal Investigator of the project found out that between 2015 and 2019, less than 5000 pupils got distinctions in science and over 1000 children failed completely.

"This is because these children are not given a chance to learn most of the terms in their mother tongue. They may be knowing something in English but cannot translate it to their local language which is not right," he said.

The scholars therefore conducted research in a project dubbed "inter-disciplinary enhancement of science education in the Uganda Primary thematic curriculum", a project funded by the government of Uganda through Makerere University Research and Innovations Fund

(Mak-RIF).

The innovators interacted with teachers, learners and elderly persons in Mbale, Manafwa, Mpigi, Lwengo, and Masaka districts to give them the suitable terms for the science terms.



Dr. Harriet Nabushawo, one of the scholars.

"We sampled 24 thematic curriculum teachers, 24 elders and used instruments like questionnaires and Focused Group Discussions. We were however surprised to find out that at least 80 percent could not translate science terms into their mother tongue," he noted.

The scholars also found out that there is no science subject in lower primary, they rather incorporate different terms in Literacy I and Literacy II subjects.

Out of the teachers who teach lower primary, the study revealed that very few teachers from the sample taken have taught for over four years.

He further explained that schools in the villages use local languages a lot unlike those in urban centers which do not follow the thematic curriculum.

"Many teachers are relatively young and they can't teach in local languages. A good percentage of teachers could not articulate the

science in the themes and yet some were not comfortable teaching science in local languages," he added

The books will help teachers to teach science comfortably without struggling.

Prof Anthony Muwagga Mugagga, the Principal of the College of Education and External Studies, lauded the principal investigator for having pulled through the project saying, "Last year, many Biology students in the country failed. We look at the failure of science students at Advanced level as having stemmed from primary school because students do not understand the meaning of what they study.

He added: "Abroad, science is taught in their mother tongue for example Britain, where their mother tongue is English. Your study does not only solve the problem of teaching science but also medicine. We have lost a lot of medicine because we don't know about them."



He thanked the team of scholars for rejuvenating the traditional learning and noted that their intervention at a lower level will make things better.

Ms Lovenance Napokoli, a teacher from Mbale who helped researchers in developing the Lumasaaba book noted that the book will be useful to the learners and teachers since it translates words from a local language to English.

"Many teachers have been finding it difficult to teach children because they don't understand what they teach in their mother tongue. The innovation is therefore timely and it will help teachers in conveying what they teach to learners."

Mr Michael Ssonko, the representative from Wakiso district noted the challenge they have is that elders who used to teach science had better knowledge than the people currently teaching science and noted that current learners are not getting the information required.

Ms Gloria Naggayi, the Research Support Officer who represented the Grants Management Committee said the innovation has a foreseeing impact on the education sector and if they are taken up by the Ministry of Education a lot will be changed.

The resource books are designed following the thematic curriculum of lower primary and if the government provides more funding to the project, the materials will be replicated into other local languages.

The National Curriculum Development Center (NCDC) asked the scholars to digitalise their resources such that it can be read by many people.

Dr Deborah Magera, the representative of NCDC noted that children can only understand science concepts in the language they understand.

Police approves new compulsory soft skills training course



The Uganda Police Force (UPF) in partnership with Makerere University have approved a new training course intended to impart soft skills in police trainees.

The program dubbed “Promoting community policing by integrating soft skills in Uganda Police training” funded by the Government of Uganda through Makerere University Research and Innovations Fund (Mak-RIF) is expected to be rolled out in 2025 and it will be part and parcel of the police training course.

SCP Anne Tusiime, the Deputy Director Human Resource Development, embraced the program and pledged support for the course.



“I believe with this project that is ongoing, we are heading to making the force better,” she noted

This idea was conceived in 2020 by Dr Badru Musisi, a senior lecturer at the College of Education and External Studies (CEES) and the Principal Investigator (PI) following the public’s outcry that police is brutalising people and the general feeling that police is anti-people.

SCP Tusiime revealed that they are facing challenges arising from lack of soft skills and those having the skills lack the tactics to use those skills.

“While we have put in much effort, we still have some challenges, especially from lacking skills or having skills and we don’t use them the way they are supposed to be used. And picking from our name, some of the skills are typically hard skills not soft ones. And so we end up losing out some bits,” She added after approving the course during the workshop which was held at the Police headquarters in Naguru, Kampala on November.



Members of the Research Team with SCP Kafeero Moses Kabugo, Commandant Police Senior Command and Staff College at Uganda Police Force.

She asked the team of the principal investigators to design a way how skills that may look to be hard, can be simplified and made a little bit softer.

“Let’s hold our hands to see that we pull it through. The pledge on behalf of the force is that we are committed to human resource development. We pray that this project will give us a serious backup in whatever we are doing,” SCP Tusiime emphasised

Dr. Badru Musisi (Right) with members of the Research Team. Makerere University Research and Innovations Fund (Mak-RIF) “Promoting community policing by integrating soft skills in Uganda Police training” program engagement, November 2023, Uganda Police Force Headquarters, Naguru, Kampala, Uganda, East Africa.

SCP Fred Enanga, the Police Spokesperson told the team of researchers that when passing out officers, they are trained in soft skills because in exercising their duties, they use negotiations but the practice has not been direct as this course is intending to do.

Dr Musisi revealed that the three-year project has finally started to bear fruits after soft skills taxonomy was approved by the top officers.

“We are going to use the soft skill taxonomy to develop a transformative framework for embedding soft skills in police training programs,” he noted.

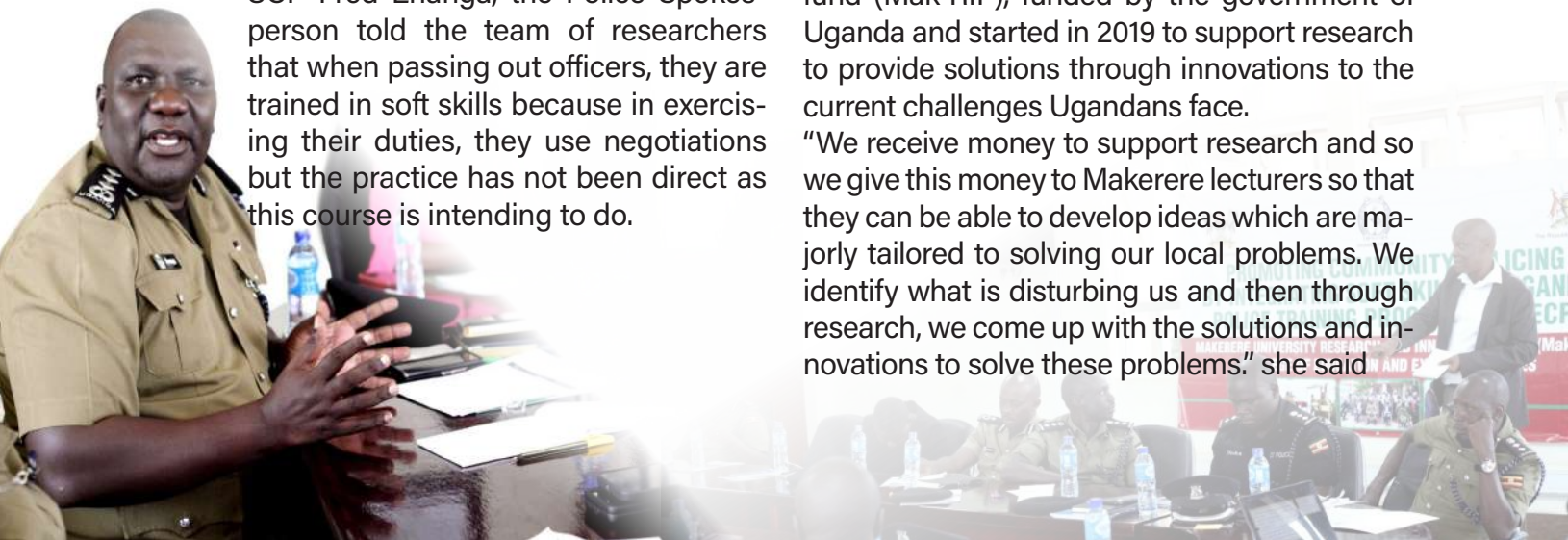
On this move, researchers believe that when they secure the balance between the hard and soft skill policing, community policing will ultimately be promoted saying, “We expect to have police officers that build a cordial relationship between the force and the community.”

After developing the transformative framework, Dr Musisi noted that they are going to train the instructors of all police training schools and colleges in the country how to use that framework to embed soft skills in their routine training programs.

“The soft skills taxonomy is going to give us a foundation of which soft skills are going to be embedded. And our next step is to develop the transformative framework for embedding soft skills that will be tested, refined, passed and thereafter in the third year, we shall be rolling it out,” he revealed.

Ms Evelyne Baelvina Nyachwo, the Research Support Officer from Mak-RIF who represented Prof Fred Masagazi Masagazi revealed that the Makerere University Research and Innovations fund (Mak-RIF), funded by the government of Uganda and started in 2019 to support research to provide solutions through innovations to the current challenges Ugandans face.

“We receive money to support research and so we give this money to Makerere lecturers so that they can be able to develop ideas which are majorly tailored to solving our local problems. We identify what is disturbing us and then through research, we come up with the solutions and innovations to solve these problems.” she said



Student teachers join hands to make a difference in the environment



On Thursday, November 9, 2023, students of the College of Education and External Studies (CEES), mobilized by the college chairperson, Mr Ssebina Solomon, united in a display of environmental conservation as they gathered to pick litter around the Makerere University premises under the theme "The teacher's walk against littering in Makerere University"

The main goal of the event was to rebrand the teaching profession and reawaken teachers as agents of social change. The teacher's walk also emphasized the critical role of teachers in shaping morals, values, and character, of their learners and those around them. "Teaching is a noble profession that shapes generations to come, yet often faces challenges and misconceptions," Mr Ssebina said.

To counter these stereotypes and create a positive image, the teacher trainees at Makerere University decided to come together in an activity that would not only benefit the environment but also highlight their dedication to their chosen profession.

Littering being a common and widespread

problem throughout the country that not only affects the aesthetic appeal of the environment but also poses serious health concerns, calls for intervention countrywide. The CEES Community took initiative to ensure a litter free Uganda starting with their very own campus grounds.

The event kicked off at around 9:00am and was officiated by Dr. Muhammad Kiggundu, The Head Department of Languages. The students started by cleaning their very own college grounds and moved to Mary Stuart hall picking up any litter found along the streets. The trek continued to the western gate, CE-DAT, CONAS , CHUSS and ended at the Com-



plex hall. Here the students sang the national anthem, the Makerere University anthem and Buganda Anthem which depicted the nationalistic and patriotic spirit embedded in the teacher solidarity.

Mr Bakulumapagi Ibrahim, one of the event organisers noted, "Today was a testament to the strength of community spirit. We achieved a lot in just a few hours, and this is just the beginning of our efforts." The students came back to CEES where they were welcomed back and given lots of logistics to share.

The success of this cleaning picking event has inspired hope for future initiatives aimed at preserving the environment and fostering a strong sense of community responsibility. It showcased the power of collective action and community spirit in addressing environmental challenges. It was a reminder that small steps, when taken together, can lead to a cleaner, more sustainable future.

In summary, the litter picking event carried out by teacher trainees from Makerere University was not just about cleaning up the campus; it was a bold statement to the world. It demonstrated that the teaching profession is not confined to the four walls of a classroom but extends to the community and beyond. By taking the initiative to reshape public perceptions of teaching, these future educators are exemplifying the qualities that make teaching a profession of pride and purpose. They are proving that a teacher's influence is not limited to textbooks but extends to the hearts and minds of their students and society at large.





Youth & Innovation Expo to nurture financially stable teachers

The Makerere University Youth and Innovation Expo 2023 that kicked-off on Friday, October 06 with the grand opening ceremony presided over by key persons in the country ended on Saturday, October 07, with student innovators exposed to the market and ushered into how they can commercialize their products.

The two-day event attracted student- innovators from all walks of life exhibiting their products for the world to give them a go ahead after obtaining trademarks.

Prof. Anthony Muwagga Mugagga the Principal College of Education and External Studies (CEES) said they are intending to implement the competence based curriculum in the lower and upper secondary.

“The innovation of teacher trainees is a show of our support to government in implementing this curriculum. Students have manufactured shoe polish, soap, medicine, and snacks among others. These things are going to be replicated by the school children when they go back to the field,” he said.

He lauded the sponsors including the University, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), MTN and others for coming up to sponsor the expo.

“We don’t expect poor teachers who beg all the time. We expect teachers who make their own money. And even some are going to be self-employed. The students learn the usefulness of being innovative and how to market themselves. This is like teaching practice; we are monitoring what they are doing.” Prof Mugagga added.



Prof. Anthony Muwagga Mugagga (3rd Right) inspects some of the items at the CEES Exhibition Tent.

Prof Barnabas Nawangwe, the Makerere University Vice Chancellor noted that this is the first ever youth expo in the history of Uganda and showed hope of how this initiative shall breed youngsters helping government to create job opportunities for the poor Ugandans.

“We are all aware Uganda is a youthful country, majority of the people are youth and we must tap into their energies to move this country forward positively. Makerere University has resolved to be a leader in research and innovations because we realize we must empower these youths to create jobs for themselves and other people who are disadvantaged,” he remarked on Friday.

He said that with youths identifying the problems and going ahead to provide solutions to these problems in their societies through innovations, it will be a supplement to investors and there is hope many people will move out poverty.

He revealed that they are planning to establish an innovation hub that will provide support to these young innovators to have their dreams come true.

“UNDP is supporting us to come up with an innovation hub, the first of its kind I believe in East Africa and our youth will have the opportunity to come here and develop their ideas and move out of these gates with companies in their pockets to go out and create jobs for all the Ugandans.” He revealed before saying “we have already created the first university-wide innovation hub and young people with their good ideas will come to learn how to keep money, how to improve the products that they have come up with, and to improve the processes.”

The VC called upon all innovators to come and get support from professors to help them until they go out to commercialize whatever they have through their companies.

Patience Afoyorwoth, a student at CEES who came up with a cough syrup said her medicine is 98 percent effective.

“We used mango leaves, guava leaves, ginger, bottle brush and honey. The honey works as a preservative and it also makes it sweet. And it is also an antibiotic itself,” she noted.

Students from the Department of Science, Technical and Vocational Education (DSTVE) exhibit their liquid soap array. Youth and Innovation Expo, 6th-7th October 2023, Makerere University, Kampala Uganda, East Africa. Students from the Department of Science, Technical and Vocational Education (DSTVE) exhibit their liquid soap array. She started with 30 bottles of the cough syrup and plans to make more in the future with each bottle sold at Shs2500.

While opening the expo, Hon. Thomas Tayebwa, the Deputy Speaker pledged government support to innovation and lauded Makerere for transforming from training job seekers to job creators.



"I am really excited to see the transition that Makerere is going through," he said.

He asked other universities to emulate Makerere and revealed how innovation is widening the tax gap of the government as there is more tax payers who are going to emerge out of the institution.

"Makerere you are the leader in youth innovation, let other institutions follow this. Be creative and look at creative funding. Now let us look at commercializing the innovations. Write proposals and we as government, we shall give you money since you are doing a good job," he pledged.

He promised full support of the young innovators saying: "As government, we are looking at how we can support local innovators, we are going to update the copyright law so as your innovations are well protected under the law such that no one benefits from them."

Mrs Lorna Magara, the Chairperson of the University Council said Makerere is transforming from a second-Generation University to a third generation University.

"We are fully cognizant of our exploding youth population and the challenges that this poses so their creativity and numbers have to be put to productive use," she said.

It is our hope that the Youth and Innovation Expo will serve as an annual rallying point to foster entrepreneurship through the provision of master classes, inspirational lectures, access to financing, market opportunities through product launches and game-changing technology tools," she stressed.

Third generation universities are known to enhance competitiveness of enterprises. And the enhancement is born out of proficiency in the utilization of knowledge, and deeper connec-

tion between industry and universities.

Ronald Kiyimba, a student of Distance Education and an innovator from the Knowledge Rethink Bureau Uganda (KRBU) exhibited the mental health knowhow game, an innovation that helps boost mental abilities.

He said the game will help to realize the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) number three that deals with mental capacities.

"The game has come embracing knowledgeability and reasonability. There are so many people internationally who do not play any game. They are watchers, they are supporters so we are transforming the greatest majorities who do not play to become active players as the UN wants." He explained.

The mental health knowhow game has sessions including the vocabulary development. The component ensures that every learner or participant generates 10,000 vocabularies without cramming and copying.



School of Higher Education Honors Retiring Staff at Farewell Party



The East African School of Higher Education Studies and Development has bid farewell to two of its long-serving senior staff, namely, Prof. J.C.S. Musaazi and Dr. David Onen. This was at a colorful luncheon held at the University Guest House gardens on Friday 29th September, 2023. Spiced with music, dance, food, drinks, jokes, laughter and nostalgic speeches, the party started with Mass led by Fr. Anthony Lyazzi (of St. Augustine Chaplaincy), Prof. Fr. Joseph Kimoga (who is also the coordinator of the PhD program at the School), and Dr. Fr. Gerald Bwenvu (a lecturer at the School).

Attended by the School's staff and doctoral class of 2023, the party was graced by the Ag. Deputy Vice-Chancellor (FA), Prof. Frank N. Mwine, who represented the Vice-Chancellor; the Principal of the College of Education and External Studies, Prof. Anthony M. Mugagga; the College HR Officer, Ms. Janet Nabukera, who represented the Director of Human Resources; the Dean, School of Distance and Lifelong Learning, Dr. H. Twine Banuka; and the College Bursar, Mr. Stephen Kayima.

During his homily, Fr. Lyazzi remarked unequivocally that "no one is at Makerere University to stay", so people should serve but also be ready to move on when the time comes for them to do so.



Ag. DVCFA-Prof. Frank N. Mwine (2nd Left) presents a plaque to Dr. Tom Balojja (Right) on behalf of Prof. J.C.S. Musaazi as the Principal CEES-Prof. Anthony Muwagga Mugagga (2nd Right) and Ag. Dean EASHESD-Prof. Julius Kikooma (Left) witness.

In a speech given for him by Dr. Tom D. Balojja, Prof. Musaazi took credit in having spearheaded Makerere's first-ever taught PhD program and securing the deployment at the School, of Prof. Samuel Olajide Owolabi and Prof. Martin E. Amin by the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation. Over several decades, Prof. Musaazi served as a professor

at the School, head of department and founding principal of the College of Education and External Studies.

Dr. Onen said that he is leaving the University a happy man. "I am happy because this farewell party has been organized for me. But I am also nervous because this is the first time in many years when I am not at the center of organizing an activity of this nature at the School—because I am now retired," he said. Dr. Onen went on to narrate the highlights in his 37-year long experience at the University, starting as a BSc. student in 1986 until his retirement as a senior lecturer in June this year. In between, he did a PGDE, MA (Ed. Mgt.) and PhD in various units of the present day College of Education and External Studies. He expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve at the University, which enabled him "to supervise to completion of 14 PhD and 70 masters' students; publish 40 journal articles/book chapters; and to edit one issue of Makerere Journal of Higher Education (MAJOHE)."

The Ag. Dean of the School, Prof. Julius Kikooma, said that "The East African School of Higher Education Studies and Development is using this opportunity to tell the entire university community that we are starting a new chapter at the School." He thanked Prof. Musaazi and Dr. Onen for their many contributions to the development of the School and

Higher Education. Higher Education, Prof. Kikooma noted, is a crucially important unit of the university, the country and the East African region, so it deserves management's strongest support.

Ag. DVCFA-Prof. Frank N. Mwine (2nd Right) with Left-Right: Ag. Dean EASHESD-Prof. Julius Kikooma, CEES HR Officer-Ms. Janet Nabukeera and Dr. David Onen.

In his trademark humorous style, Prof. Muggaga thanked Dr. Onen and Prof. Musaazi for their contribution and wished them well in their future endeavors. He also thanked Prof. Kikooma for pacifying the School of Higher Education of which he is not only a principal but also a proud alumnus.

Prof. Mwine thanked Dr. Onen for his exceptional achievements and congratulated him on reaching his retirement. However, he expressed regret that budgetary constraints delay the promotion of staff, resulting into people like Dr. Onen retiring before reaching their full potential. "In [the Makerere University] Council, some of us suggested that the University [expediently] promotes staff even if it is not possible to increase their salaries immediately but the suggestion could not be adopted because it would present a legal challenge," he explained.



Dr. Jjinggo flying CEES flag high



Dr. Caesar Jjinggo, who is on a fellowship in the USA, was on September 29th and 30th sharing knowledge with other researchers during the South-East African Languages and Literature Forum at the University of Florida. In this forum which brought together African language practitioners – researchers, teachers and graduate students mainly from the USA, Dr. Jjinggo presented a paper titled “Towards a modular curriculum for Kiswahili speech sounds and pronunciation focused instruction in Uganda’s lower secondary schools”.

Most of the papers presented in the forum focused on the issues of integrating culture and language as well as the concept of backward curriculum design



International Exchange Opportunity for Master Students UiA, Norway



The School of Distance and Emerging Learning, Department of Adult and Community Education, Makerere University, in collaboration with the Faculty of Social Sciences, Department of Global Development and Planning, University of Agder, Norway announces 2 Erasmus+ global mobility Scholarship (5 months) for Master Students of Adult and Community Education for the Autumn semester, tenable at the University of Agder in Norway.

The autumn semester starts 14th of August and ends in the middle of December. The semester starts with an orientation day for international students. Students should preferably arrive in Kristiansand, Norway on the 10th of August.

One semester at the University of Agder is 30 ECTS and includes typically 3 courses. Master students may choose to combine coursework and master thesis work. A list of courses offered by the Faculty of Social Sciences in the Autumn Semester can be found on their web page. Details will be provided to the successful candidates.

To qualify for the scholarship, one must meet the following conditions: Be a fully registered student of Makerere University in the Master of Adult and Community Education pro-

grammeShould have completed coursework by 1st August 2023Should have at least a research proposal and be in position to have collected data from the field by 1st August 2023The successful candidates will be required to sign a contract committing to return to Uganda after the exchange period to complete their studies at Makerere University.

Application Deadline: 27 March 2023

Scholarship per Month: Euros 900 x 5 months

Travel: Euro 820 turn/return

Visa and travel insurance: Expenses will be covered

How to Apply:

Qualifying candidates should submit an application cover letter indicating the level of their studies and a motivation statement to the Dean School of Distance and Lifelong Learning on Email: twineb@gmail.com and Copy to: Exchange Coordinator, Mr. Joseph Watuleke on Email: joseph.watuleke@yahoo.com and to Chair, DACE on email: rahmansanya@gmail.com, And the Postgraduate Coordinator DACE at: nampijjadianah@amugalu

Selected candidates will then be nominated by the exchange coordinator for admission by the International office at the University of Agder and will receive more information about the visa process, housing, and orientation.



Love Binti Women Empowerment Project Welcomes Record Number of Participants in Latest Intake

Saturday, September 30th, 2023 marked a significant milestone for the Love Binti Women Empowerment Project, which focuses on equipping communities with valuable fashion and design skills. The project, a collaborative effort between Love Binti International, an international NGO operating in Uganda, and Makerere University's College of Education and External Studies in the Department of Adult and Community Education, has been providing training since 2018, offering four intakes annually.

Overflowing Enthusiasm:

The customary orientation for the October-December intake was held at the Lecture Theatre of the Department of Adult and Community Education, the venue of previous orientations. However, what made this particular event stand out was the overwhelming turnout. The venue, which had accommodated orientations for years, was no longer sufficient to accommodate the surge in attendance. Participants spilled into corridors and stairways as the attendance list revealed a staggering 415 attendees out of over 1,000 applicants.

Mr. James Kirinya, the Love Binti Field Assistant, addressed the fortunate attendees during the orientation. He explained that due to the unprecedented number of applicants, not everyone could be invited, and those present were the select few. The atmosphere was charged with optimism and anticipation.

Empowering the Girl Child:

Ms. Hope Katushabe, a trainer in the

Love Binti Fashion Course, also assumed the role of Mistress of Ceremony for the day. Her motivational words resonated with the audience as she emphasized the project's mission: "We are a women's empowerment project. We care not only about the needs of a woman, but we also know that a woman is a mother, a sister, a wife, and if you empower a woman, you have not only empowered the family, but the entire nation."

Endorsement from Principal:

Professor Anthony Mugagga Muwagga, the esteemed Principal of the College of Education and External Studies at Makerere University, has played an instrumental role in championing the Love Binti project. His unwavering support and dedication to the program have been crucial in its success. Professor Muwagga's efforts extend beyond the College, as he passionately advocates for the project to higher authorities whenever inquiries are made.

Adapting to Demand:

Mrs. Okae Suzan Abello, the Country Manager for Love Binti International, informed the participants of the significant impact their attendance had on the Love Binti project. Initially, each intake accommodated a maximum of 60 learners divided into four sessions per week. However, due to the overwhelming response for the October-December intake, a crisis meeting was held to devise a new schedule. The outcome was a new schedule featuring six sessions per week, accommodating a total of 100 learners.

Mrs. Abello assured those unable to secure a place in the current intake that they would automatically be registered for the January-March 2024 intake, following the same schedule.

Expanding Horizons:

Mr. Joseph Watuleke, the Focal Person of Love Binti at Makerere University, also highlighted additional opportunities available at the College of Education and External Studies. Participants with a minimum qualification of senior four and senior six could choose to enroll in the accredited certificate or diploma program in Fashion and Garment Design, examined by the Uganda Business and Technical Examination Board (UBTEB). Mr. Watuleke also introduced accredited undergraduate and postgraduate programs offered by the College.

A Dream Come True:

To the elation of the audience, Mr. Watuleke revealed that upon completing their three-month fashion and design training, participants would receive a Certificate of Training from Makerere University. This announcement was met with overwhelming joy, with one parent sharing his lifelong dream of holding a certificate from Makerere University, an aspiration he never thought possible until now.

Conclusion:

The Love Binti Women Empowerment Project's October-December intake orientation witnessed an unprecedented surge in attendance, reflecting the program's growing popularity and impact. With an expanded schedule, new opportunities, and the promise of Makerere University certificates, participants are poised to embark on a transformative journey towards empowerment. Love Binti International, under the steadfast support of Principal Professor Anthony Mugagga Muwagga, and Makerere University are committed to nurturing the aspirations of those who seek to better their lives through education and skills development.

Staff Development: CEES Lecturers get Graduate Supervision Training



Staff of the College of Education and External Studies (CEES) concluded a two-day training in graduate supervision, with a call to ensure students graduate on time. The call was made by the Principal of the College, Prof. Anthony Mugagga while opening the training on August 10, 2023. Prof Mugagga said the college has previously had a low completion rate for graduate students a thing attributed to delays in feedback from both the lecturers and students. "We need to put in place a system that can prompt students and staff to give research feedback in time to allow more students to graduate," he said. He said for Makerere to achieve her strategic goal of becoming a research-led University, the staff ought to contribute to this by improving graduate training for it is at the heart of this goal.

Prof. Mugagga said the college has introduced a graduate training accountability form, which will be used to track the progress of all students in an effort to see more students complete their studies.



Prof. Anthony Muwagga Mugagga addresses the participants. His remarks followed a presentation from the Deputy Principal, Prof. Ronald Bisaso, on the status of graduate training and CEES. Prof Bisaso shared that the college has between 2012 and 2023 had 114 students graduate with PhDs and has over 200 in the pipeline. He, however, noted that supervision has got some challenges which ought to be addressed by the senior staff of the college.

He said the 114 students had been supervised by a few staff, a thing he said needs to change to have more senior staff supervise students and ensure an increase in graduation/completion levels.

He urged the staff who recently acquired PhDs to engage in more research so that they too can help their students.



Prof. Ronald Bisaso makes his presentation.

He noted that a needs assessment had showed that the most successful researchers are those that engaged in inter-disciplinary research.

“A good number of recent PhDs in CEES including those recently promoted have a trans-disciplinary experience. This has potential for creating multi-disciplinary teams to conduct research,” Prof. Bisaso said. It is envisioned that this will also give an opportunity for graduate training scholarships for students.

Speaking at the opening of the training, Prof. Edward Bbaale, the Director, Directorate of Research and Graduate Training (DRGT), appreciated the college management for the training, saying it is in line with the University’s strategic plan of being a research-led university. As the university moves into a research-led arena, it is envisioned that by 2030, the university will have an increase of 30% graduate students, 10% of whom are expected to be international students, Prof. Bbaale said.

He called for the establishment of research entities at college level to allow for joint proposal writing and inter-disciplinary research.



Prof. Edward Bbaale speaks at the opening of the Graduate Supervision Training.

The Makerere University Innovation Centre, he mentioned, will be in charge of spurring innovation, patents and commercialization of the products developed from the research.

Prof. Bbaale informed the staff that DRGT was in the process of revising the graduate handbook and digitalizing graduate students’ records in an effort to track their progress. He also said the university has gotten a donor to fund the construction of a graduate building which will have offices and study facilities. He said the university was moving into aligning graduate training with the university almanac so that exams and completion are done at the same time.

He appreciated the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe, for steering the university into internationalization through the various collaborations and MoUs established.

During the training, one of the trainers, Prof. Betty Ezati said it was important for supervisors to understand that supervision is not conducted in a vacuum but it is a consequence of our ideologies, values and conceptions.

She called on them to help the students develop expertise that should eventually exceed that of the supervisor, work to grow friendships and professional links, help a candidate gain

a wide range of perspectives by creating opportunities for mingling with other professions with the same cause and guard against sharing the student's weaknesses with colleagues.

Prof. Ezati advised against taking a one-size-fits-all approach to students, saying the individuality of a student must be acknowledged. She also advised against focusing only on the intellectual issues at the expense of the student's emotional needs, being patronizing, undermining the student's culture and religious affiliations and being too rigid.

Dr. Twine Bananuka shared with the trainees some best practices in supervision, which included; be purposeful in the task, balance formality and informality in the relations with the student, mind the social-cultural differences, have agreements and contracts, be value driven and accept your weaknesses and limitations.

While closing the two-day training, Dr. Misinde Cyprian, the Director, Quality Assurance Directorate (QAD) called on the staff to help students, saying many find it difficult to transition from the theoretical class of research methods to actually writing the research thesis, emphasizing that many need the help. He pledged DRGT's support in organizing refresher courses for supervisors.



Resurrecting forgotten history: African Slave trade & modern-day slavery



The Centre for Teaching and Learning Support, CEES in collaboration with the University College London, UK organized an Educational webinar entitled: Omissions in Sloane's Jamaican collections: African slave trade and modern slavery building shared futures. The webinar held on 28th July, 2023 saw over 40 participants; lecturers, students from Makerere University and other Public and Private universities engaging in debates on addressing contemporary challenges as such Modern Slavery.

The Educational webinar was spearheaded by Dr. Dorothy Sebbowa and panelists; Dr. Mary Kakeeto and Dr. Zaid Sekitto all from Makerere University.

Dr. Dorothy Kyagaba Ssebowa who is a Sloane Lab Community Fellow began the webinar with a citation from William Wordsworth who once said: 'Let us learn from the past to profit by the present, to live better in the future.'

Dr. Kyagaba noted that, Sir Hans Sloane (1660-1753) was a significant historical figure of the 18th Century who collected artifacts (flora & fauna) from Jamaica on the enslaved Africans during the Transatlantic Slave trade. Upon his death in 1753, Sloane bequeathed his collec-

tions which laid the foundations for the establishment of the world's first free national and public museum, the British Museum. That is why his role as a pioneer cataloguist is remembered in museum, archival research and history education scholarship. Dr. Kyagaba argued that, although Sloane frequently included information about how locals such as African Slaves used objects, herbal medicine, cultural and life experiences, this information is not only filtered and interpreted through Western lenses, but it is often viewed and dismissed as misinformation substantiating superstitious practices. Additionally, the history of slavery and the experience of enslaved people in museum, archival and history education scholarship has been largely un-investigated with notable gaps and omissions as reflected in the Specialist Guide to the Sloane Jamaican Database. Using Sloane's guide as a key unit of analysis, the project examined the historicity and methodologies through the lens of Sloane's involvement in the local of Jamaica the African Slave trade and enslavement (previously ignored or marginalized histories).



Left to Right: Dr. Harriet M. Nabushawo, Dr. Harriet Najjemba and Dr. Dorothy Kyagaba Ssebowo with other participants during the Educational Webinar on 28th July 2023.

Okra and Kola Nut

To this end, two objects identified from Sloane's Herbarium: Okra and Kola all from the West African origin. The rationale for obtaining the two plants/objects were transported by the enslaved Africans from Africa to America as during the Transatlantic Slave trade. They are

catalogued as Sloane's Herbarium collections 1687-89 (Natural History Museum, London). Okra particularly bears a West African name 'Okuru.' Okra is rich in vitamins B, C and it a source of lubrication among women.

Kola (*Cola ntilida*) from West African origin also bears an indigenous name 'Bichy.' During the Transatlantic slave trade, it was used as a herb and medicine for taking away poison. It is currently useful in different parts of Africa as a medicine, trading commodity and the nuts help the body to get rid of excess water. These plants attach significance to African plant knowledge transfer and medicines. Such local medicines have since been useful in managing COVID 19. Accordingly, Historical hermeneutics emphasizes the conversation, relevance between the past, present and anticipated future

Dr. Kyagaba in her study of Sloane's works found that Sloane does not recognize that plants such as Kola Nut and Okra were brought into Jamaica by slaves from West Africa during the Transatlantic Slave trade.

She contends that "although Sloane frequently included information about how locals such as African slaves used objects, herbal medicine, cultural life, and experiences, this information is filtered and interpreted through the Western lens. It is also often dismissed as misinformation substantiating superstitious practices."

Okra, as she discovered originated from west Africa and was called Okuru. It is to this day still being eaten as a soup in west Africa. Okra is rich in vitamins A and C, as well as antioxidants that help reduce the risk of serious health conditions like cancer, diabetes, stroke, and heart disease. Okra is also a good source of Magnesium.

The research speaks to a relationship between the past, the present and the future.

The other herb that was investigated was Kola Nut, which is also said to have originated from West Africa.

In Igbo Culture in Nigeria Kola Nut is the first thing to be served to a visitor as they believe that it symbolizes peace and shows one is welcomed in peace. It symbolizes peace, unity, reconciliation, integrity, life, fraternity, hospitality, goodwill and kindness.

Dr. Kyagaba said that there is an argument that non-European peoples may have served on projects of imperial medicine, but the full extent of their pharmaceutical and medical knowledge was concealed, ignored, and sometimes lost. This contribution by the slaves ought to have been documented, Dr. Kyagaba argues.

The researchers found that Sloane's writings were biased and prejudiced. The contribution of African slaves or their names were omitted from Sloane's catalogue and yet they had a big role to play in the civilization of the Americas.

Between 1517 and 1867, about 12.5 million Africans were forced into slavery. These Africans were purchased by Europeans and sold in the Americas for a profit. In spite of their contributions to civilization, there is not enough documentation of the same. Dr. Kyagaba in her submission called for documentation of these forgotten history. 'It is important for African historians to write and reconstruct and deconstruct history that has been given to us. Above all let the learners together with their teachers engage in a collaborative interpretation of the historical narratives presented to them.'

Dr. Kakeeto Mary a key panelist of the webinar joined the conversation and conceptualized Modern Slavery. She said that Slavery is not only historical, today over 50 million people are victims of modern slavery which is mainly affecting the Global South.

She defined modern slavery in a number of ways: when an individual is exploited by others, for personal or commercial gain. Whether tricked, coerced, or forced, they lose their freedom. That manifestations of modern slavery include but is not limited to human/child/drug trafficking, forced labour, debt bondage, force marriages, sex slavery among others.

Many people who joined the online discussion through the metimeter link chats agreed with Dr. Kakeeto that modern slavery exists in many countries citing the enslavement of Ugandans who travel to the Arab world in search of employment. 'Unlike the historical slavery, Modern slavery is disguised!'

Additionally, Dr. Zaid Sekitto remarked that, youths are taken to the Arab world by labour companies that pay little or no attention to them, their health insurance once they get to the homes of their employers. That, the Business and Human Rights Resource Centre recently reported a family of a Ugandan lady that had allegedly been physically harmed by her employer in Saudi Arabia until her death. That, the most vulnerable groups are: women, young girls and children.

Discussants of the Webinar proposed solutions for addressing modern Slavery by calling on the government to create employment for Ugandans, enforce skills as reflected in the Competency based curriculum at the secondary level, empowerment, respect for cultures and women, create awareness and sensitization about the modern slavery and its ills, as well as implement anti-slavery laws and promote fair labor laws and practices.

DETA Conference: Researchers discuss transformation of e-learning



The Distance Education and Teacher Training in Africa (DETA) Conference opened yesterday July 24, 2023 at Makerere University with a call to embrace distance and e-learning and address the challenges associated with emerging Information and Communication Technologies. The 4-day conference will run until July 27, 2023.

Under the theme “A Paradigm Shift towards innovative, resilient and transformative teacher education” the conference is being attended by over 150 distance education scholars from across the globe.

Speaking during the opening ceremony, the Acting Vice Chancellor, Prof. Umar Kakumba said while it is important to revolutionize Distance Education, it is also important to address the issue of curriculum for it needs to be designed to address emerging issues in the environment. The curriculum he advised must address quality and inclusivity. Prof. Kakumba reminded the delegates that digital technologies have got deficits which out to be addressed.

The Acting Vice Chancellor said it was import-

ant for teachers to get the best training, arguing that the quality of a nation is dependent on its human capital.



L-R Prof. Kakumba, Dr. Tony Lelliott, from the South African Institute of Distance Education, Prof. Waako, the VC of Busitema University, Prof. Sehoole the Dean, Faculty of Education, university of Pretoria and Dr. Mary Ooko, manager, Distance Education University of Pretoria

He thanked the Institute of Distance and e-learning (IoDEL), led by Prof. Paul Muyinda Birevu, which is spearheading the mainstreaming of ODEL in all academic programs at Makerere University. Pointing to the Covid-19 outbreak which forced institutions of higher education into online learning, Prof. Kakumba said this was a learning point which left an indelible mark on all institutions.

The conference is organized by IoDEL in collaboration with the University of Pretoria and Busitema University. Speaking on behalf of the organizing committee of Makerere University, Prof. Muyinda thanked all the participants for making the time to travel to Kampala as well as submit papers for the conference. He thanked Dr. Harriet Najjemba, the chair of the Makerere Organizing committee for her commitment to the event.

Prof. Muyinda shared with participants the birth of Distance education in 1991, saying however, that it only became popular during the Covid-19 lockdown. "It has proved to be a sustainable mode of teaching and learning which will propel our countries to the attainment of SDG4," he said.

SDG4 aims to Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. He called for synergies to help advance distance education.

The Vice chancellor of Busitema University Dr. Paul Waako cautioned on the quality of education offered in the course of distance education delivery. How do we harness the affordances given by the existing digital technologies such as AI?



Prof. Paul Muyinda Birevu- Institute of Distance and e-learning (IoDEL)

He called for the consolidation of the achievements made during the pandemic because the pandemic showed the world the importance of distance education.

Food for thought

Prof. Anthony Muwagga Mugagga also challenged the participants to critically discuss the issue of AI especially with the emergency of robotics, which human qualities.

"Can technology replace a good teacher? How can we interest the young generation into taking up distance education? Can we train people with special needs and animals using distance education?" he questioned.

He made a plea for the different universities attending the conference to share online resources such as libraries and journals such that they can share the knowledge they have.

Prof. Mathias Mulumba, the Dean of Education, who chaired the Pan African Deans Forum said the deans had formed a committee to discuss the quality of teacher education in Africa.

Teacher education defines the quality of education in any country and ultimately dictates the speed at which social and economic transformation takes place.

The knowledge, skills and values teachers receive and develop during training has far reaching implications on the teaching and learning process in the class room and the resultant competences acquired by the learners.

The conference it is hoped will help teacher trainers harness all opportunities in preparation of teachers. Distance education he said has enabled people get an education that they previously would not have got because of access. This has been facilitated by the affordances of Technology.

Prof. Sehoole Chika, the Dean Faculty of Education, University of Pretoria shared with the

audience what the discussions of the 4 days will centre on.



Some of the Conference participants at the opening ceremony on 24th July 2023.

Some of the Conference participants at the opening ceremony on 24th July 2023.

He said the conversation will be around learner support in Distance Teacher Education as learner support plays an important role in the success of students in both contact and online delivery modes. "It ensures that the customer-satisfaction dimension of quality in the online learning delivery is clearly explored and well implemented," he said. Day 2 of the conference saw researchers discuss and present papers on Curriculum development to fit modern learning, integrated learner support services such as Learner intake support, Information support, Academic advising, Technological support, Health and wellness as well as learner engagement.

Researchers find innovative ways to teach history

History teaching and learning is perceived by many to be boring. This according to students is because history is often presented in such a way that students have to memorize names, dates, and events. Others argue that it is not relevant anymore. But scholars have argued that people who think that history is irrelevant aren't getting the message that history can repeat itself and by not learning from the mistakes of the past, one is likely to repeat them in the future.

For this reason, scholars at the College of Education and External Studies have worked with their counterparts from Gulu University and Kabale University to find innovative ways of teaching history studies. Headed by Dr. Harriet Nabushawo, the team has identified the use of ICTs in history as one way of spicing up the teaching and learning of history.



The Head of the Research Team, Dr. Harriet Nabushawo addresses participants.

During the final dissemination of their research findings on Friday July 7, 2023, Dr. Nabushawo said the research team had discovered that history teaching can be spiced up by using VOKI and Screencast -O-matic applications.

Voki, is a software which allows for the teacher to create avatars to replace the teacher in voice and form while Screencast-O-Matic is used to make videos, images, illustrations, animations and maps. The two applications help kill monotony of text and voice. The research team under their title, Using Emerging Technologies to innovate the Teaching and Learning of Public Universities in Uganda (eHistory) have trained lecturers in Makerere University, Gulu University and Kabale Universities in using these ICTs. The team has also developed an application where all the teaching content has been uploaded. The same has been uploaded on the different learning



Seated Left to Right: Dr. David Kabugo, Dr. Dorothy Sebbowa, Dr. Harriet M. Nabushawo, Dr. Harriet Najjemba and Dr. Twine Bananuka with other officials at the research dissemination on 7th July 2023 in the AVU Conference Room, CEES.

platforms of the respective universities such as MUELE.

The team recognizes the fact that the 21st Century students are digital natives who prefer learning experiences that involve ICT enhanced tools such as audios, visuals and audio-visuals.



Dr. David Kabugo represented the Principal of CEES, Prof. Anthony Muwagga Mugagga.

While officiating at the final dissemination, Dr. David Kabugo, who represented the Principal of CEES, encouraged the team to extend the

innovation to secondary schools as well, saying the innovation is important for the country and large and will rejuvenate interest in history learning.

He called for adoption of this mode of teaching for humanities subjects for the innovation has allowed a blend of sciences into humanities.

The Dean of the School of Distance and Life-long learning, Dr. Twine Bananuka congratulated the research team and emphasized the importance of history.

Dr. Godfrey Mayende who represented the Director of IODEL said the project gives the institute hope that e-learning is the way to go. He said the institute is moving towards institutionalizing e-learning for all courses within the university.

The representative of MAK-RIF, the funding agency of the research, Mrs Phoebe Lutaaya Kamyia, encouraged the research team to apply for the 5th MAK-RIF call which will focus on commercialization of innovations. This she

said can help in the extension of the project to secondary schools.

ScreenCast-O-Matic <https://screencast-o-matic.com/>

This is an Application that allows one to easily create, edit and communicate with videos and images. Educators and students turn to ScreenCast-O-Matic for easy video communication. Videos are used in the classroom for flipped/blended learning, Video Messaging, student assignments, feedback and more! The App has simple and intuitive tools to share ideas.



Dr. David Kabugo addresses participants.

VOKI <https://l-www.voki.com/>

This App allows one to create Avatars, dress them up, give them the words to say and share with the learners. It is an engaging, collaborative, empowering and fun way to teach and learn.

eHistory App

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1KI3RRcVP-W4AvmLg5IKhe-UylfFGII42X/view?usp=sharing>

This is a groundbreaking educational tool that seamlessly integrates eLearning platforms from three universities to enhance and enrich the teaching of history.

It also provides a friendly learning environment for the 21st Century student who wants to study anywhere, any time.

The app aims to provide students and instructors with an immersive and collaborative learning experience.

The research team
 Dr. Harriet .M. Nabushawo
 Dr. Harriet Najjemba
 Prof. Paul .B. Muyinda
 Dr. Dorothy Sebbowa
 Mr. Jonathan Kizito
 Mr. Joab Mumbere
 Ms. Hope Musiime



Left-Right: Prof. Birevu Muyinda, Dr. Godfrey Mayende and Dr. Harriet Najjemba during one of the trainings at Makerere University. Students in one of the computer labs at the College of Computing and Information Sciences (CoCIS). Makerere University, Kampala Uganda.

Students in one of the computer labs at the College of Computing and Information Sciences (CoCIS).

The existence of computer facilities in public universities has made it possible to embrace this new technology.

Mak Equips 65 Ghetto Youths with Entrepreneurial Skills



At least 65 ghetto youths from the five Divisions of Kampala were equipped with entrepreneurial skills following a three-month training course.

The youths from Kawempe, Makindye, Nakawa, Rubaga and Central Divisions on Tuesday 27th June, 2023 graduated with certificates at a ceremony that was held at Makerere University. The training was fully funded by the government of Uganda through Makerere University Research and Innovation Fund (Mak-RIF).



Dr. Badru Musisi (Right) with Dr. Sabrina Kitaka (Centre) and Mr. Louis T. Kakinda (Left) at the ceremony.

Dr. Badru Musisi, the mastermind of the training revealed that he conceived the idea in 2020 following the political riots sparked by ghetto youths that claimed lives of more than 50 Ugandans.

"I studied the situation that may be these youths were misbehaving because they were unemployed, angry, unoccupied, frustrated and hungry," he said.

This he noted followed the training he had in Germany dubbed Students training for entrepreneurial promotion. "This is an entrepreneurship programme meant for young people who are starting up businesses and my personal initiative is training people who have businesses that are not moving on well," he added.

Dr. Musisi explained that his initiative was successful and he was able to conduct a fact finding report he used to apply for funds from the government through the Makerere University Research and Innovations Fund. "The university gave us UGX300 million which we have been using"



Some of the male ghetto youth prepare to receive their certificates.

This training commenced in February 2023 and ended this month. He highlighted that the trainees were being met once in a week for a three-hour session and they concentrated on their businesses the rest of the days.

“They were divided into groups of five and each was given a startup capital of UGX250,000. These engaged in businesses like soap making, restaurants, petroleum Jelly making among others. And we considered those who were able to read and write such that we give them knowledge and they go back on the ground and train others.” he said.

Prof. Anthony Mugagga, who represented the Vice Chancellor congratulated the youth upon their certificate award and encouraged them to utilize the knowledge they have acquired. He decried the high crime rate in the ghetto and called for a mindset change as well as be-

havior change reminding them that HIV still exists and is a main cause of death among the youth. “Avoid engaging in reckless sexual behavior. It is your time to change and also change your peers for a better Uganda,” Prof. Mugagga said.

He called on the political leaders to engage the youth in patriotism training.

Hajjat Hadijah Namyalo, on behalf of the National Chairman of NRM pledged support to the youths with startup tools like sewing machines, dryers, welding machines among others and asked them to act as examples to their fellow ghetto youths. She made a cash donation of UGX3 million to the ghetto businesses.

Hajjat Minsa Kabanda (Centre) is joined by Left to Right: Dr. Badru Musisi, Prof. Anthony Mugagga and Hajjat Hadijah Namyalo to present a certificate to one of the female ghetto youth at the graduation ceremony. Yusuf Lule Central Teaching Facility Auditorium, Makerere University, Kampala Uganda.

Hajjat Minsa Kabanda (Centre) is joined by Left to Right: Dr. Badru Musisi, Prof. Anthony Mugagga and Hajjat Hadijah Namyalo to present a certificate to one of the female ghetto youth at the graduation ceremony.

Hajjat Minsa Kabanda, Minister for Kampala and Metropolitan Areas Affairs presided over the event as the Guest of Honour and thanked Makerere University team that pioneered the initiative.



Mr. Swalik Balyejjusa, who was the leader of the ghetto youth in the training, testified to the skills he gained. "Before the course, I used to spend more than I earned but now, I save from the little I get."

Mr. Swalik Balyejjusa testifies during the graduation ceremony. Yusuf Lule Central Teaching Facility Auditorium, Makerere University, Kampala Uganda.

Mr. Swalik Balyejjusa testifies during the graduation ceremony.

He asked the government to support the ghetto youths with funds such that they can expand their various businesses.

Dr. Caesar Jjingo wins Fulbright Award to promote the teaching of Kiswahili in Uganda



As Makerere University intensifies efforts to promote the teaching of Kiswahili, Dr. Caesar Jjingo has also joined efforts to gain more knowledge in exploring the Kiswahili using teaching competence-based curriculum and related approaches

Dr. Jjingo is among those who will be flying to the United States of America in August to conduct post-doctoral research in competence based curriculum at the University of Arizona. This after winning a five-months Fulbright African Research Scholar Grant aimed at enhancing curriculum development in relation to competence-based language – Kiswahili – teaching at Makerere University and Uganda at large.

Fulbright African Research Scholar Program is a U.S funded program directed at faculty from African Universities to support them conduct postdoctoral research at U.S academic research institutions or universities

The program is expected to contribute to the development of new courses, curricula, or programs upon the participant's return to his or her home institution.

During the orientation of all the beneficiaries of the U.S Embassy scholarships, the public engagement Officer at the U.S Embassy Kampala, Amy B. Petersen said, "We are proud to sponsor the Fulbright program which is an academic exchange program and each year we send 10 to 12 Ugandans students on the differ-

ent academic exchanges”

She said Makerere University has previously been the biggest benefactor of the Fulbright program. She, however, noted that this year, only one staff of the university is benefiting from this program unlike last year where about three of them benefited.

The program is fully funded by the U.S. Government and has been happening for over 75 years.

“This is one of the flagship programs for international understanding, mutual cooperation exchange that brings countries together through academic exchange,” Petersen said.

She explained that the students before departure are given an orientation to equip them with the necessary knowledge and understanding of the United States of America.

“This orientation prepares them for life in America, it is hard to be in another country not of your origin, especially when you are a student, but the orientation helps to prepare them academically, how to live, so that they can thrive while doing their academic work,” she said.

Amy B. Petersen (Left) with Dr. Caesar Jjingo (Right) during the orientation of all beneficiaries of the U.S Embassy scholarships. Kampala, Uganda.

Amy B. Petersen (Left) with Dr. Caesar Jjingo (Right) during the orientation of all beneficiaries of the U.S Embassy scholarships.

She advised them to always prepare for their travels by doing some sort of reading, preparing for their studies, understanding the situation and also embrace personal orientation in addition to being in connection with the people in charge of them in the United States of America.

While attending the orientation at the American Centre at the Embassy Plaza in Nsambya, Dr. Jjingo said he specialises in Kiswahili language particularly in syllabus designing and curriculum development.

“I am the second Kiswahili specialists to have won this award, the first being Prof. Ruth Mukama who got it in 1993 almost 30 years ago. I am happy that I was also able to get it as a Kiswahili specialist,” Dr. Jjingo said.

“I will be going to the University of Arizona specifically to study more and also do research on competence-based language teaching which was introduced in Uganda a few years back,” he added.

He explained that despite the introduction of competence-based teaching in Uganda, a section of Kiswahili teachers who are in service do not know much about it.

“Given that some of us who are teacher trainers were ‘never’ trained on how it works, the principles and the theories behind it, I felt it was wise to go to the country where it originated from and learn from the experts.”

While at Arizona University, for the five months, Dr. Jjingo hopes to learn how to develop a training manual such that his coming back will mean training other teacher trainers with regards to Kiswahili or languages in general such that they can be at par in regard to training teachers.

Dr. Jjingo cited a general gap with the competence-based curriculum which was launched in Uganda saying many Kiswahili teachers complain of not knowing how the projects are done or evaluated etc.

“Much as the National Curriculum Development Centre retools teachers, you find that there is a gaps which I want to contribute ad-

dressing," Dr. Jjingo emphasized.

He said, while at Arizona University, he will develop a training manual which can be contextualized to different teacher training institutions in Uganda especially for those that produce Kiswahili teachers," he said.

He said on his coming back, he expects to teach students the different components, rationales, theories and models behind the competence-based language teaching which currently he does not have and they have been missing.

This comes at the time when the country introduced Kiswahili as a compulsory subject in primary and secondary schools as a way of integrating fully with the other EAC partner states.

Uganda joined Rwanda in the list of regional countries seeking to boost their language use as they seek opportunities in the integrated EAC where English and Swahili are the main languages of communication.

Dr. Brian Semujju, a senior Lecturer at the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication also an alumni of the Fulbright program said the program has helped him make professional friends and taught him how to teach science communication.

He implored more university staff to apply for the scholarships so that they can build a strong research base and alumni.



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