MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

College of Education and External Studies CEES

NEWSLETTER

July-September 2026



CEES students showcasing research and practical solutions

STUDENT INNOVATION:

Impacting Farming and Human Health

The students pursuing the Bachelor of Science with Education (Biology and Chemistry) embody the true epitome of a scientist.

This came to light on 16th September 2026 when CEES students demonstrated two innovations to the Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI), Hon. Eng. Dr Jonard Asiimwe, and the Vice Chancellor of Makerere University, Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe.

Under the guidance of Dr Marjorie Sarah K. Batiibwe, Associate Professor and Head, Department of Science, Technology and Vocational Education (DSTVE), the student innovators harness organic materials to produce solutions such as pesticides that are free from chemicals and toxins hence protecting the crops and the farmer as well as minimizing risks to human health.



Message *from the* Principal

Dear Reader,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to this edition, celebrating our students' creativity, staff dedication, research, and partnerships that advance education and transform communities.

In a special way, I appreciate the University Council, Senate, Appointments Board, and University leadership for reappointing me as College Principal. I remain committed to academic excellence, research, innovation, and service delivery.

I acknowledge the outgoing Deputy Principal, Prof. Ronald Bisaso, for his dedicated service and valuable contribution to the College. In the same vein, I congratulate Associate Prof. Nicholas Itaaga upon his appointment as Deputy Principal.

I take this opportunity to thank the College staff and students who participated in the Makerere University Exhibition held on 16th September 2026. Interacting with the exhibitors, the Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI), Hon. Eng. Dr Jonard Asiimwe appreciated the innovative and scientific minds at the College. The Minister tasked Makerere University through CEES to develop an online model for Competency-Based Education targeting all teachers in Uganda.

Advancing the Competency-Based Education, I commend the members of faculty at CEES for training staff in other units of the University. Some of these engagements include curriculum development workshops aimed at aligning academic programmes with CBC.

At the national level, the College is partnering with government institutions (UPDF), local governments, and community leaders in strengthening national resilience and community engagement.

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Prof. Anthony Muwagga Mugagga

Principal

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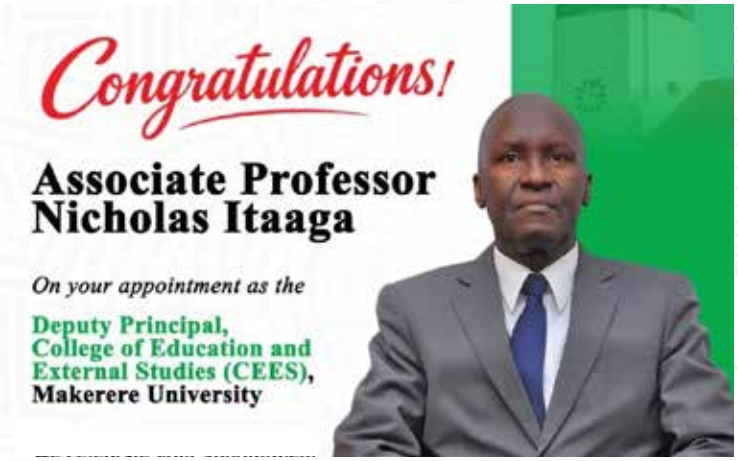
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C E E S

LEADERSHIP & RECOGNITION

Celebrating a new chapter of service and leadership





"Your re-appointment as the Principal is a reflection of your transformative leadership and commitment to Makerere University."



Staff Message of Goodwill to the New Leadership

As the celebration of Prof. Mugagga's re-appointment spread like a wild fire, the staff in his office chilled and waited for their turn. Consequently, on 8th September 2026, the staff presented to Prof. Mugagga, a message full of love and goodwill.

"Your re-appointment as the Principal is a reflection of your transformative leadership and commitment to Makerere University. We are incredibly honored to serve under your direction and remain fully dedicated to supporting your strategic goals for the College. We wish you a fruitful, successful and historic second tenure. We Build for the Future."

STUDENT INNOVATION / 01

Protecting Crops: Minimizing risks to human health and the Farmer



CEES Student Innovators presenting the innovations to the STI Minister, Hon. Eng. Dr. Jonard Asiimwe (1st R), members of the Makerere Management and CEES faculty members.



Extraction of Natural Organic Growth Bacteria and Hormones from Plant and Animal Tissues

The innovation harnesses readily available natural raw materials, including African bamboo shoots and sweet potato vines, to produce an organic bio-stimulant.

Natural plant-based pesticide to promote fruiting and ripening

The students showcased the Chili Insect Control, a natural plant-based pesticide, alongside complementary organic extracts such as mango juice formulation derived from ripe mangoes, particularly the epicarp and endocarp, designed to promote fruiting and ripening.

Chili Insect Control contains capsaicin, an alkaloid that acts on the central nervous system and cell membranes of soft-bodied insects and their larval stages, providing crop protection throughout the growth cycle.

The formulation is applied at a rate of 10 ml per 10 litres of water. It is fully organic, soil-friendly, and designed to provide a safe alternative for protecting crops while minimising potential risks to human health and the farmer.

STUDENT INNOVATION / 02

Innovation in Early Childhood Education: Material Development for Children



Innovator-Rebecca Kitibwa, a third-year student pursuing the Bachelor of Early Childhood Care and Education displays the Material Development for Children

Developed under the Material Development course, the innovation provides sustainable, interactive learning aids for children aged 0-8 years, using locally available materials.

According to Ms. Kitibwa (the Student Innovator), the learning boards enhance numeracy, colour recognition, and social interaction while fostering self-directed learning and the development of cognitive, fine motor, language, and socio-emotional skills.

The initiative offers a cost-effective alternative to imported educational materials while supporting holistic child development.

COMPETENCY-BASED EDUCATION

Minister tasks Makerere to develop an online CBE model for teachers in Uganda



The Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI), Hon. Eng. Dr Jonard Asiimwe, tasked Makerere University-through the College of Education and External Studies (CEES)-with developing an online Competency-Based Education (CBE) model targeting all teachers in Uganda.

The Minister made the call on 16th September 2026 while touring the Makerere University Exhibition in the Main Building Senior Common Room. The event featured researchers and innovators from the College of Education and External Studies (CEES), the College of Business and Management Sciences (CoBAMS), the Institute of Gender and Development Studies (IGDS), the Makerere University Institute of Social Research (MISR), and the Makerere University Press (MakPress).

Taking note of the ongoing strides by the College of Education and External Studies (CEES) to champion the Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC), the Minister guided that an online CBE programme would enable a critical mass of teachers to enroll and be trained as they continue to serve the learners.

He thus implored the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe; the College Principal, Prof. Anthony Muwagga Mugagga; the Dean of the School of Education, Associate Prof. Mathias Mulumba Bwanika; the experts in the Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC) and e-Learning at CEES to expedite the process.



Research in the spotlight

Research output: L-R Dr Julius Shopi Mbulankende (Principal Investigator), Ritah Namisango, Dr Mathias Mulumba Bwanika (Associate Professor & Dean, School of Education), Dr Nancy Rose Nabiryo displaying the Teacher Educator Support Training (TEST) Manual that guides the teachers on aligning their teaching methods with the Competence-Based Curriculum (CBC)

The MiSeT Framework



Illustrating its innovation potential, Dr Dianah Nampijja presented research on **"Mindset Change & Socio-Economic Transformation from People's World (MiSeT)"** framework. She underscored that mindset shifts are essential to advancing socio-economic transformation and innovation in communities.

Resilient Communities for Quality Primary Education in Uganda



Dr Joseph Watuleke, Head of the Department of Adult and Community Education presented the **"Resilient Communities for Quality Primary Education in Uganda (ReCoPE)"** research. The study highlights community resilience as a foundation for quality primary education in Uganda.



Dr Julius Shopi Mbulankende presents research on capacity building for teacher educators in Competency-Based Curriculum at selected universities

Dr. Julius Shopi Mbulankende, researcher and CEES faculty member, presented research on Capacity Building of Teacher Educators in Competency-Based Curriculum at selected universities. The study demonstrates how the Teacher Educator Support Training (TEST) manual can be aligned to develop a national online Competency-Based Education model for training teachers.

The members of faculty presented the following research projects:

- Capacity Building of Teacher Educators in Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC) at Selected Universities
- Championing Digital Transformation at Makerere University and the Theory of Change

  Mindset Change and Socio-Economic Transformation from People's World (MiSeT)
- Resilient Communities for Quality Primary Education in Uganda (ReCoPE)
- Critical Virtual Exchange in Artificial Intelligence (CVEinAI)
- Unlocking the Potential for Enhanced Teaching and Learning of the Impaired in Uganda's Public Universities
- Enhancing Behavioural Change of Boda-Boda in Uganda Using Mobile Learning (EBoML)
- A Contextualised Evidence-Based Blended Learning Framework for Makerere University.

Strides in Competency-Based Education (CBE)

As Uganda implements the competency-based education model, CEES continues to provide leadership reaching out to teaching staff at Makerere and at the national level.

- Over 400 Luganda teachers equipped with CBE Skills
- CEES experts in CBC train CoBAMS members of faculty
- CEES Academic Staff Competence-Based Education (CBE) training

COMPETENCY-BASED EDUCATION

Strengthening teaching across Uganda

Every year, CEES in collaboration with key stakeholders in the education sector, hosts the Luganda Teachers' Conference, which brings together teachers from the different parts of the country. This year, over 400 teachers

Over 400 Luganda Teachers in Uganda equipped with CBE skills

participated in the Annual Teachers' Conference (23rd to 24th July 2026) organized under the theme "Analysing Competency-Based Assessment and Authentic Task Formulation in Luganda Language Learning at Ordinary and Advanced Levels. The conference focused on equipping Luganda language teachers with practical knowledge, skills and strategies to effectively implement Uganda's Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC)

The Principal of CEES, Prof. Anthony M. Mugagga commended the conference for its role in strengthening the teaching and learning of Luganda. "Through language education, teachers play a critical role in helping learners understand, appreciate and uphold their cultural identity and values," he said.

During the plenary, Ms. Harriet Namubiru, from Buikwe Secondary School stated that the conference presented to the teachers practical guidance to understand and implement the new curriculum.

CEES and CoBAMS Engagement: Aligning the content of academic programmes with CBC



Faculty members from the College participated in the CECAP II Inception Curriculum Development Workshop, held on 16th July 2026 at the College of Business and Management Sciences (CoBAMS). Dr Julius Shopi Mbulakende delivered a presentation on aligning university programmes with Competency-Based Education (CBE.

Dr Julius Shopi Mbulakende and Dr Michael Walimbwa also presented copies of the Teacher Educator Support Training (TEST) Manual on Competency-Based Education to Dr Margaret Banga, Dean of the School of Statistics and Planning at CoBAMS.

COMPETENCY-BASED EDUCATION

Competence-Based Education Training for Academic Staff



On 7th September 2026, the academic staff at the School of Distance and Lifelong Learning participated in the Competence-Based Education training aimed at strengthening their capacity to equip graduates with practical skills required to address real-world challenges.

The academic staff appreciated the facilitator, Dr Timothy Tebenkana (Associate Professor) for delivering an informative presentation titled: Aligning academic courses with Competence-Based Education and training. Dr Tebenkana implored the academic staff to balance academic content with learning activities to promote critical thinking, creativity and problem-solving.

"Higher education must move beyond content-heavy teaching to develop competent, adaptable, innovative and employable graduates," he emphasized. He guided that the transmission of content should focus on what the learner can actually do with the knowledge, skills and values acquired.

Dr Tebenkana explained that Competence-Based Education training should begin with identifying the competencies graduates are expected to demonstrate in the workplace. "These competencies should then guide the development of learning outcomes, content, teaching strategies, learning activities and assessment methods," he explained.

Acknowledging the role of learner-centred and inclusive pedagogy, Dr Tebenkana said the courses should provide flexible teaching approaches and multiple opportunities for learners to demonstrate competence while maintaining the required programme outcomes.

During the training, the College Principal, Prof. Anthony M. Mugagga, urged academic staff to continue mentoring the junior staff in order to sustain the college's academic achievements.



Research in the spotlight

Critical Virtual Exchange in AI

Makerere University, in collaboration with a consortium of 21 partner institutions from 13 countries across Europe and Sub-Saharan Africa, is implementing the CVEinAI project (2025-2027), to reshape how students and staff engage with Artificial Intelligence (AI) while strengthening their critical thinking skills. In Uganda, Makerere University is the only participating institution.

LEADERSHIP TRANSITION

CEES Deputy Principal's Transition



Incoming Deputy Principal Receives Mantle from Former

On 8th September 2026, Prof. Ronald Bisaso, the outgoing Deputy Principal-College of Education and External Studies (CEES) at Makerere University, officially handed over the office of the Deputy Principal to Associate Professor Nicholas Itaaga.

Prof. Bisaso served as the Deputy Principal of CEES from April 2022 to March 2026, providing four years of leadership focused on strengthening academic programmes, digital pedagogy, competency-based approaches, and postgraduate education. At the end of his tenure, he was appointed Acting Deputy Principal effective 1st April 2026, a position that he has held until August 2026.

The Principal CEES, Prof. Anthony M. Mugagga congratulated the outgoing Deputy Principal-Prof. Ronald Bisaso upon the successful completion of his tenure. He acknowledged Prof. Bisaso for his contribution to the advancement of the College. He wished him God's blessings as he continues to serve the College and Makerere University at the rank of Professor.

Congratulating the incoming Deputy Principal, Associate Professor Nicholas Itaaga, the Principal urged him to embrace the role with humility, integrity, patience and commitment. "

Applauding University Leadership and College Community

Prof. Ronald Bisaso lauded the University leadership for entrusting him with the opportunity to serve the College. He appreciated the Principal, Prof. Anthony Muwagga Mugagga, College management, academic and administrative staff for the support and cooperation accorded to him throughout his tenure.

Commitment to Serving the University

Accepting the office, Associate Professor Nicholas Itaaga appreciated the Search Committee, University Senate, University Council, and the University Appointments Board for entrusting him with the responsibility, describing his appointment as an opportunity to contribute to the continued growth of the College.

Reaffirming his commitment to serving the College, Associate Professor Itaaga assured the College community of his readiness to work closely with staff and other stakeholders to implement the University's strategic plan.

Associate Professor Nicholas Itaaga (left), will serve the College as Deputy Principal for a four-year leadership tenure that started on September 8, 2026.

STUDENT LIFE / ORIENTATION

CEES Undergraduate Students Orientation



Over 900 first-year students joined the College leadership, University Officials, staff, and student leaders at the Yusuf Lule Central Teaching Facility Auditorium for the CEES 2026 Students Orientation

On 6th August 2026, the College leadership, staff and student leaders hosted welcomed the newly admitted first year undergraduate students to CEES and Makerere University. The speakers tipped the students on academic and professional growth, integrity, safety, discipline, time management, meeting deadlines and responsible AI usage.



Some of the Speakers who participated in the CEES Orientation: R-L (Seated): Dr Godfrey Mayende, Mrs. Joanna Kayaga Kiwana, Dr Harriet Nabushawo, Prof. Anthony M. Mugagga, Prof. Ronald Bisaso, Ms Frascesca Musimenta, Mr. Anthony Bakashaba. R-L (Standing): Ms. Ritah Namisango, Mr. Moses Wang'koko Ebil, Dr Benon Kigozi, Ms. Molly Nantongo, Dr Joseph Watuleke, Dr Dianah Nampijja, Mr. Godfrey Wasikye, Mr. Sanderson Acati.

The College orientation was aligned with the specialized orientations namely: The School of Education orientation held on 5th August 2026, and the School of Distance and Lifelong Learning Orientation held on 7th August 2026.

STUDENT LIFE / ORIENTATION

CEES Graduate Students Orientation





Graduate students at the School of Education participating in the Orientation held on 14th August 2026

CEES staff welcoming the newly admitted graduate students pursuing the Postgraduate Diploma in Education and Masters' degree programmes.

Building a safer Uganda

CEES and UPDF Partner to Prevent Crises Before They Begin



Some of the key partners who participated in the engagement held on 7th July 2026 at CEES

In a significant step toward strengthening national resilience, the College of Education and External Studies (CEES), in partnership with the Ministry of Defence and Veteran Affairs-Department of Military Operations under UPDF, Office of the Chief of Defence Forces (CDF), local governments, and community leaders, is implementing the Uganda Youth Civic Responsibility and Urban Resilience Programme (UY-CRURP).

The initiative is built on: building a safer Uganda by preventing problems before they become crises. This will bridge UY-CRURP academic research, national security, and community engagement.

CULTURE / PEOPLE / COMMUNITY

CEES Choir performs at the 250th Anniversary of American Independence



In solidarity, the CEES Choir delivered a special performance as the US Embassy Uganda held a celebration commemorating the 250th anniversary of American independence.

CEES Choir Showcases Talent at the National Anthem Competition Launch







With voices raised in harmony and pride, over ten (10) students from the CEES Choir, under the guidance of Dr Benon Kigozi, a faculty member, participated in the launch of the National Anthem Competitions at the Uganda Media Centre on 10th July 2026.

Their performance highlighted the College's commitment to nurturing talent, and providing students with opportunities to showcase their abilities on national platforms.

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