

MAKERERE



UNIVERSITY

VICE CHANCELLOR'S MONTHLY MEDIA BRIEFING, MONDAY 30TH OCTOBER 2017

COMMUNICATION FROM THE VICE CHANCELLOR, PROF. BARNABAS NAWANGWE

1.1. Welcome Statement

I welcome you to the Vice Chancellor's monthly media briefing, a platform that will enable us to interact with the media and to share vital information focusing on the University's core functions of teaching and learning, research and innovations, as well as knowledge transfer partnerships and networking. To the media team, I reiterate that you are valuable partners, and the University Management is set to partner with you through engagements of this nature. We will continue to share with you statements on pertinent issues and/or key developments, in addition to holding special press conferences and according specialized media interviews, among others.

1.2. Makerere University Communication Policy

The Makerere University Communication Policy stipulates that Members of the University Management shall be responsible for communicating issues within their jurisdiction.

During my tenure as Deputy Vice Chancellor (Finance and Administration), I maintained an open door policy and I would officially share vital information and/or key developments within my jurisdiction with the media. With my appointment as Vice Chancellor of Makerere University, I intend to double the efforts!

The Vice Chancellor is the Chief Public Relations Officer of Makerere University. Together with my team, we will set the pace by ensuring that every Member of the University Management provides timely information on matters/issues within his/her jurisdiction to students, staff, the media and other stakeholders.

In execution of the aforementioned duty, we will take into consideration that the Makerere University Communication Policy tasks each member of the University community to cross check the accuracy of the information before communication within and outside the University.

1.3 Issuance of Makerere University Transcripts

As the Uganda Police continues with its investigations aimed at bringing the individuals involved in the alleged alteration of marks to book, the University Management instituted an internal mechanism to verify academic results.

You will recall my communication that the University Management tasked the respective Colleges/Academic Units to verify the marks for students that had earlier on been submitted to the Academic Registrar. The verification process involved synchronizing the online marks with the hard copy marks. It was a tedious exercise but worthwhile for it helped the institution to ensure that each verified student has the right marks.

With the completion of the internal verification, we resumed issuance of Makerere University Transcripts to our graduates.

To ease service delivery, the University Central Management has decentralized the issuance of Makerere University academic transcripts. With this arrangement, the Academic Registrar will send printed Makerere University academic transcripts to the Office of the Principal in the respective Colleges. The graduates will be in position to receive Academic transcripts from the respective Colleges. The Academic Registrar is making modalities to ensure the successful implementation of this decision.

1.4 Online Viewing of Student Results

The online viewing of marks that had been disabled due to the investigations has been restored. Students are now able to view results online on the Result Management System. The Directorate of ICT Support (DICTS) has ensured that users are not able to change results via this web portal.

To view Makerere University online results, we advise our students to follow the link below:

<http://www.ar.mak.ac.ug>

The current Result Management System is a stop-gap solution, as DICTS designs a new system for the University.

The user interface of the online results view web-portal was adopted from the Department of the Academic Registrar and all future systems development that DICTS has embarked on, are in consultation with the Department of the Academic Registrar.

1.5 Vice Chancellors' Strategy for a better Makerere University

In my acceptance speech as Vice Chancellor, I noted that we must reposition Makerere University to more decisively contribute to Uganda's development agenda. I am still totally convinced that Makerere University is the essential engine required for the total transformation of Uganda from a peasantry to a middle-income society. In order to achieve this goal, Makerere will have to more than double her research output, integrate a culture of innovation and streamline her relations with Government departments.

I shared our strategy which is embedded in the following four strategic directions:

1. Rebranding and Quality of service delivery
2. Academic Reform
3. Administrative and Financial Restructuring and Sustainability and
4. Institutional and Human Resource Development

Under **Rebranding and Quality of service delivery**, our goal is to redevelop the main sports grounds into a multipurpose stadium, starting with an indoor stadium to accommodate the 3rd FISU World University Netball Championship, which Makerere University will host in September 2018 on behalf of Uganda. Invitations have been sent out to 170 countries to participate in the 3rd FISU World University Netball Championships.

I am the President of the Local Organising Committee. Since the inauguration of the Local Organizing Committee on 4th August 2017, work kick started with subcommittees drawing activity plans and timelines to ensure a successful event come September 2018.

Makerere University is engaging different partners to construct a state of art indoor multipurpose facility with a seating capacity of 5000 where the championship will be staged. It's an uphill task, but we are on course. This facility will be open to the public and the sporting world. This will be another milestone as far as Makerere's community service is concerned leaving a lasting legacy in the country. The detailed design of the facility is almost complete and the process of procuring a contractor is ongoing. We hope that the facility will be ready for use by August 2018. The University has earmarked UGX 3billion to the Organisation of the Netball Championships and the development of the facility. The Government and the Ministry of Education and Sports, have also been approached to support the Netball Championships. We are currently fundraising for this very important facility and I once again call upon all our stakeholders to support the project.

Under **Academic Reforms**, I appointed a seven-member College Review Committee headed by Prof. John David Kabasa, Principal, College of Veterinary Medicine, Animal Resources and Bio-security (CoVAB). The other members of the committee are Prof. Fredrick Muyodi, Dr. David Onen, Dr. Kiryabwire Winnie, Prof. Elizeus Rutebemberwa, Dr. Eddy Walakira and Dr. Allen Kabagenyi. We look forward to receiving the committee report before the end of the year.

Under **Administrative and Financial Restructuring and Sustainability**, we have introduced;

- i. The Central University Management Committee consisting of 16 members,
- ii. The Top University Management Committee which in addition to the Central Committee also includes the 10 College Principals, and
- iii. The University Management Consultative Forum which in addition to the Top Management Committee includes the Chief Security Officer, 3 MUASA Representatives, 2 MASA Representatives, 2 NUEI Representatives and 3 Guild Council Representatives.

With these committees in place, we are positive that we will implement a transparent communication framework.

Under **Institutional and Human Resource Development**, in addition to the continued staff development programmes, we are in the final stages of operationalising the Management Information System developed by the College of Health Sciences across the entire University.

1.7 Vice Chancellor Issues Statement on Student Hooliganism at Busitema University

In the 3rd week of the month of October 2017, a group of our students, who accompanied our football team for a football game at Busitema University, tarnished the image of our University.

The students who allegedly were infiltrated by non-students, engaged in activities, which are not expected of a student of our great University, one of the top universities on the African Continent. As a result of the behaviour of our students, Makerere University has been suspended from the inter-university games for two years!

Over the last decade, there has been a serious decline in discipline among students, who are ironically the top brains in the Country and the Continent. Some students have engaged themselves in activities which bring disrepute to the University, including looting of property from businesses neighbouring the University and setting up illegal ‘road blocks’ to demand for money from motorists. This kind of behavior is not compatible with intellectualism and has led to loss of respect and confidence by the public in Makerere University graduates. If this kind of behavior is not checked, it is bound to have grave consequences not just for the future of our students, but also the entire University.

I condemn in the strongest terms hooliganism among our students and call upon the majority of our gallant students, who are law abiding and are here to pursue a career for a bright future for themselves, their parents, and the entire Country, to discourage hooliganism among the student community. Together, let us restore respect and dignity for Makerere’s students and graduates, on whose shoulders lies the responsibility to transform our Country into a modern society.

1.8 Inauguration of the Makerere University Students’ Disciplinary Committee

In line with the Makerere University Students Regulations 2015 (The Uganda Gazette No.39, Volume CV111, dated 16th July 2015), the Chairperson of Council, Eng. Dr. Charles Wana-

Etyem is scheduled to inaugurate the University Students Disciplinary Committee on Wednesday 1st November 2017.

Section 5 of the Makerere University Students Regulation stipulates the Membership. The University Students Disciplinary Committee shall be composed of the following members appointed by the University Council.

- i) A member of the Public at the level of a judge;
- ii) Two representatives of academic staff;
- iii) A senior member of the Administrative Staff;
- iv) And a member from the public

Terms of Reference

- i) To handle disciplinary cases directly brought to it;
- ii) To handle cases referred to it by Hall Disciplinary Committee;
- iii) To handle appeals from parties dissatisfied with the ruling by the Hall Disciplinary Committee; and
- iv) Any other functions assigned by the University Council.

The Dean of Students may refer a case of breach of the University Regulations to the University Students Disciplinary Committee directly without the same having been brought before the Hall Disciplinary Committee.

The University Students Disciplinary Committee has powers to do any or several of the following:

- Uphold the decision made by the Hall Disciplinary Committee;
- Dismiss the case against the student;
- Reprimand the student;
- Demand an apology from the student;
- Ask the student to pay for the cost or part of the cost of damaged or lost University property;
- Ask the student to be a non-resident;
- Remove or recommend removal of the student leader from office;

- Suspend the student for a specified time;
- Recommend to the University Council that the student be dismissed;
- Suspend the student for a specified period of time not exceeding four months pending approval of the recommendation to Council that the student be dismissed; and
- Any other punishment that the Committee may deem to be appropriate.

The Committee's decision shall be communicated to the student in writing within seven days of the day of conclusion of the hearing.

.....**I thank you for listening to me**.....