

## Stakeholder Workshop on Engineering Professionals Bill 2024

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### Concept Note

#### Contribution to Development of Engineering Sector in Uganda

The School of Engineering is hosted under the College of Engineering, Design, Art and Technology (CEDAT), one of the constituent colleges of Makerere University. The School of Engineering is headed by the Dean and currently hosts four Departments, each headed by a Departmental Chair. The Departments are: (1) Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering; (2) Department of Computer and Communications Engineering; (3) Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering; and (4) Department of Mechanical Engineering.

As a key stakeholder in the training of past, present and future engineering professionals, the School of Engineering (SoEng) embarked on a multi stakeholder consultative process to bring the voice of the academia and other stakeholders to the legislative process for the proposed Engineering Professionals Bill 2024. The consultations were carried out at both individual and institutional levels, encompassing a cross section of stakeholders.

In early 2025, the memorandum was presented to Parliament and a number of matters arising emerged. It should be acknowledged that owing to the broad extent of the consultations carried out, this memorandum, in a sense, represented the views of Uganda's engineering academia as well as a wide cross-section of industry stakeholders. Following submission of the memorandum on the Engineering Professionals Bill 2024 to the Parliament of Uganda, the School of Engineering at Makerere University is facilitating this follow-up meeting with the Ministry of Works and Transport—the originators of the Bill. The engagement seeks to provide a platform for dialogue on key issues and recommendations raised during stakeholder consultations and the parliamentary presentation. It is an opportunity, as academia, to work collaboratively to contribute to the Bill and align it with broader needs of the engineering profession and Uganda's national development priorities.

## Strengthening Collaboration among Engineering Programs in Uganda

In the spirit of strengthening our collaboration as universities offering engineering programs, we shall also take advantage of our gathering to further discuss a compelling need for the Deans of Schools of Engineering across the country to regularly meet and engage in discussions around key policy issues, academic standards, joint projects, and collaborative strategies for enhancing engineering education and research.

It is thus proposed that a Forum of Deans of Engineering Schools (or Engineering Programs, where school not in place) be convened and operate under the guidance and endorsement of the Engineers Registration Board (ERB). As the official regulator of the engineering profession and a highly respected institution in the country, the involvement of ERB would lend legitimacy, structure, and gravitas to this initiative.

Among the proposed objectives of the Forum are:

- Strengthening the academic training of engineering professionals
- Harmonizing research and innovation approaches
- Facilitating peer review and benchmarking mechanisms
- Enhancing industry-academia collaboration to address national development challenges

### Initial Initiative: Structured Model for Industry-Academia Linkages

It is further proposed that one of the Forum's first actions would be to develop a structured model for industry-academia linkages. This would respond to growing concerns from both sides – industry seeking more practical and responsive academic outputs, and academia seeking better understanding of industry needs.

A key idea under consideration is the establishment of a Bureau of Industry-Academia Linkages, which would:

- Serve as a national clearinghouse for documented technical and operational challenges from industry
- Facilitate their dissemination to academic institutions for integration into research, student projects, and innovation programs

Key Considerations for the Bureau might include:

- Staffing and Equipment: The bureau would require competent technical staff, a digital repository, office space, and coordination tools for engagement between academia and industry.
- Funding Model: A multi-stakeholder approach could be adopted involving ERB, government, industry associations, and development partners.

Key Results Indicators (KRIs) for the Forum might include:

- Number of industry challenges documented and shared with academia
- Number of student/research projects aligned to real-world industry problems
- Joint publications, patents, or prototypes emerging from industry-academic collaboration
- Growth in internship and graduate placement opportunities arising from the engagements
- Stakeholder satisfaction and repeat engagement from industry players

## Meeting Agenda

### Engagement with Ministry of Works and Transport and with Deans of Engineering in Ugandan Universities

Venue: CEDAT Boardroom (Old Building), Makerere University

Date: Thursday 3 July 2025

Time	Session
9:30 – 10:00am	Arrival and Registration
10:00 – 10:10am	Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Principal, CEDAT</li></ul>
10:10 – 12:30pm	Working Meeting on Proposal for a Forum of Deans in Engineering at Universities across Uganda
<b>12:30 – 2:30pm</b>	<b>Lunch &amp; Networking</b>
2:30 – 4:30pm	Working Meeting on Matters Arising from Presentation of Memo to Parliament
4:30pm	Departure at leisure