

## 1819 students awarded at 73rd graduation ceremony

It was merrymaking at the Freedom Square as 1,819 students of the College of Business and Management Sciences received PhDs, masters and undergraduate degrees on the third day of the 73rd graduation, February 15, 2023. Of these, 891 are male while 928 are female. The college graduated 3 PhDs, 376 Masters students, 11 post graduate diplomas and 1429 undergraduate students.

During the celebrations, one of our partners, Prudential Uganda, rewarded the best 5 performing students from the Bachelor of Science in Actuarial Science with USD500 and a professional study scholarship. The students recognized include Nanfuka Rebecca Rosette with 4.55, Mukiibi Cyrus with 4.15, Angura Kupa Abraham with 4.02, Mwesigwa Mark Lewis 4.00 and Akumu Gloria Agnes 3.99.

One students of the college under the MasterCard Foundations scholarship received an award for exceptional performance. Nanyunja Fatumah, with a Bachelor of Business Administration got a first class degree and was awarded a plaque in recognition of her excellent performance. Other high performing students rewarded by UBOS were Nassali Tendo who got a CGPA of 4.7 after completing a Bachelor of Science in Business Statistics, Ariong Emmanuel with a CGPA of 4.62 in Bachelor of Statistics and Okiria Eric Junior who scored a CGPA of 4.62 with Bachelor of Science in Quantitative Economics.

The Economic Policy Research Centre also rewarded the best Masters of Economics student Namuleme Hilda with a CGPA of 4.91. Namuleme is to receive a yearlong young professionals program opportunity tenured at EPRC.

A total of 13,221 graduands will receive degrees and diplomas of Makerere University during the course of the 73<sup>rd</sup> graduation ceremony. Of these, a total of 102 graduands will graduate with PhDs, 1,378 with Masters, 11,598 with Bachelor's degrees and 143 with undergraduate and post graduate diplomas. 52 per cent of the graduands are female while 48 % are male. **41** of the **102** PhD graduands and **563** of the **1,378** Masters graduands are female, representing **40%** and **41%** respectively.

The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe, congratulated the students, parents and staff of the college. “I also congratulate the members of staff that are graduating today as well as children and spouses of members of staff and their parents or spouses,” the Vice Chancellor said.

Prof. Nawangwe congratulated the Chairperson of Council, Mrs. Lorna Magara and the Vice Chairperson of Council, Rt. Hon. Daniel Fred Kidega upon their re-appointment.

The Vice Chancellor congratulated COBAMS staff upon the resarah being carried out in the college, saying Makerere strives to transform into a research-led University. “The Research and Innovations Fund, that was made possible through a Government grant of UGX 30 billion annually, has transformed Makerere tremendously, with very many innovations in agriculture and food security, health, engineering, education, veterinary medicine, artificial intelligence, economics and business management, and the social sciences that are already changing the lives of our people,” he said.

The Vice Chancellor informed the graduands that the university has developed measures to fast track the issuance of transcripts and certificates. Previously, for one to receive the academic documents, he or she was required to clear at more than 10 offices. “We have reviewed this and one is now required to clear with only two (2) offices,” the VC said. Prof. Nawangwe pledged that going ahead, the university would issue transcripts after one month. The VC called on the students to be good ambassadors, to trust in God and to remember that the gates of Makerere will always be open for those that seek more knowledge.

The Chancellor, Prof. Ezra Suruma, who presided over the ceremony congratulated the graduands and commended the PhD research undertaken by the awardees.

Prof. Suruma commended the researcher on his research on how we can improve educational attainment in UPE and USE where learning outcomes have continued to be below standard. The study recommended improving internal financial controls in schools.

“Two other studies in the College of Business and Management Sciences attracted

my attention; one was on the demand for healthcare and health insurance in Uganda and the other was about the impact of technical vocational training on employment. There is no doubt that both healthcare health insurance and employment are leading national concerns. I am therefore very pleased to see research coming from Makerere tackling issues that are at the heart of our country's social and economic welfare," Prof. Suruma said.

He commended the spirit of hard work, endurance, self-control and discipline among the students, adding that the degrees being awarded are testimony to the hardships, the discipline, the commitment, the pain and the tears the students have shed over decades of academic struggle.

He also appreciated the parents for the financial support to the students despite the economic hardships.

To the graduands, the chancellor said, "the hour has now come for you to go out to the field, to fight the good fight, to run the race for which you have been preparing. I appeal to you to remember love in the middle of the tough battles ahead. Remember love. Pray for the possibility of joy in a sad world. Ponder the possibility of godliness and contentment in a broken world. Remember love in an apparently loveless world."

### **Highlights of the year 2022 as we celebrate**

Government, through the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development accepted to take over support of the Public Investment Management Centre of Excellence at the College. The Centre supports government to provide advanced practical oriented training in Tools for Public Investment Analysis as well as research.

The Environment for Development Centre won funding to the tune of 400,000 US dollars from SIDA to support capacity building for senior government officials in the area of Inclusive Green Economy. This is part of the ongoing efforts globally to ensure inclusive and sustainable economic growth. The Center also successfully hosted the Joint Cross Country

Workshop of the global network of EfD Centers at an event that took place in Kampala in July 2022.

The quality of Programmes at the College has continued to attract valuable partnerships. The ACCA Global accredited our Bachelor of Commerce Degree program and in so doing has given an exemption of eight of the possible thirteen papers to students graduating from our Bachelor of Commerce Degree Programme. The College also partnered with Prudential Assurance Uganda Limited to recognize outstanding students of Actuarial Science Programme. The leading five students graduating from the Programme will receive a full scholarship to pursue the Professional Actuarial qualification in addition to a cash prize of USD500.