



MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

College of Business and Management Sciences

NEWSLETTER

April- June Edition 2026: Issue 2

COBAMS



Harnessing the power of graduate training to change Africa's research trajectory

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Message from the Principal

I welcome you to this edition of our newsletter, which showcases the College's continued commitment to advancing research, graduate training, innovation, teaching and learning, and strategic partnerships that contribute to national, regional, and global development.

This edition underlines our progress in strengthening international collaborations, promoting evidence-based policymaking, expanding graduate research, and enhancing student employability. It reflects our efforts to translate partnerships into impactful research, knowledge exchange, and capacity-building initiatives that address contemporary development challenges.

I am pleased to present to you the highlights of the Vice Chancellor's engagement with staff on graduate training, which focuses on changing Africa's research trajectory.

In pursuit of inclusive education, the College conducted an entrepreneurship and business management training for youth with hearing impairments, a strategic approach aimed at reducing the unemployment rate in Uganda.

During the Students' Recognition and Career Day, the College in partnership with ACCA Uganda, awarded the best nine (9) First Class Honours graduates of Bachelor of Business Administration, and Bachelor of Commerce.

In addition, the College conducted capacity building programmes for staff and early-career researchers. These include: Cloud Computing and Artificial Intelligence (AI), Data Modelling, Visualization, and Analysis, and the Essential Public Investment Management Training for government officials.

We remain committed to producing graduates, research, and innovations that respond to society's needs and promoting sustainable development. I invite you to explore this edition and learn more about the initiatives shaping the future of CoBAMS.

Prof. Edward Bbaale,
Principal, College of Business and
Management Sciences

Harnessing the power of graduate training to change Africa's research trajectory

Research and innovation remain critical drivers of sustainable development, economic transformation, and global competitiveness.

“Africa which accounts for approximately 16% of the world's population contributes only about 3% of the global research output.

This disparity underscores the need for universities to strengthen graduate training, research capacity, and innovation to produce the knowledge and skilled human resources required to address the continent's development challenges.

To advance this agenda, the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe held a strategic meeting on 15th June 2026 with the College leadership and staff to maximize the graduate research potential and accelerate Makerere University's transformation into a research-led institution.

Highlighting graduate training as a key pillar in the University's research-led agenda, the Vice Chancellor emphasized that graduate students constitute a critical mass of researchers who should be nurtured, mentored, and supported to generate high-quality research outputs and innovations for Uganda and Africa.

Prof. Nawangwe urged colleges to work closely with the Directorate of Graduate Training and key stakeholders to increase enrolment at Masters' and PhD levels. He encouraged colleges to establish more Centres of Excellence to support research, mentorship, and postgraduate training in specific fields.



Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe,
Vice Chancellor, Makerere University



The Vice Chancellor, University officials central to graduate training and research, College Principal, Deputy Principal, Deans, Heads of Department, and Staff commit to strengthening graduate training and research-15th June 2026.



Participants from Better Tomorrow for the Deaf Ltd and sign language interpreters with CoBAMS faculty members: Dr Cathy Mbidde, Dr Sarah Bimbona, Assoc. Prof. Ibrahim Mike Okumu, Dr Jude Mugarura, Dr Kasimu Sendawula, Dr. Marion Nyanzi, Dr. Betty Tuhaise.

Impacting Lives: Entrepreneurship for Youth with Hearing Impairments

Over **40 youths** with hearing impairments were trained and equipped with entrepreneurship and business management skills.

Facilitated by CoBAMS through the Makerere University Entrepreneurship and Outreach Centre, in partnership with the Department of Marketing and Management at the School of Business, the training enhanced the capacity of youths with hearing impairments to start and manage sustainable businesses.

The training conducted on 28th and 29th May 2026, equipped the youth from **Better Tomorrow for the Deaf Ltd** with practical entrepreneurial

skills through modules on starting and growing a business, the Business Model Canvas, creativity and innovation, financial literacy, and resource mobilisation.

Mr. Ssempe Wilson from Better Tomorrow for the Deaf Ltd thanked Makerere University for the training extended to youth with hearing impairments.

Challenging the stereotypes about disability and entrepreneurship, he traced the organization's 1992 origins to befriending a ridiculed deaf classmate Timo: "I told myself, when I grow up, I will start a school... The deaf and others with impairments can do what we do."

He noted the isolation deaf entrepreneurs face: "Each person you see here has a story, and we have over 100 more... If people without hearing impairments struggle, what about them? They have nowhere to turn."

He urged the trainees to grow: "This is our day to learn how to live in our communities, run our small businesses, and grow them bigger... so we can lift ourselves alongside the hearing community."

According to the feedback interpreted by their sign language specialist, the participants said they benefited significantly from the sessions.

Dr Susan Namirembe Kavuma Promoted to Associate Professor

Congratulations Assoc. Prof. Namirembe Kavuma!



CoBAMst through the school of Economics, Department of Policy and Development Economics celebrate Dr Susan Namirembe Kavuma on being promoted to the rank of Associate Professor effective 5th June 2026.

This promotion is a testament to your significant contribution to the body of knowledge in Uganda and beyond through research, scholarship, publication, and community service. May you continue to groom and inspire the next generation of researchers.

Dr. Susan Namirembe Kavuma is an Academic Leader serving as the Head, Department of Policy and Development Economics.

PIM Centre of Excellence to Benefit from USD 8 million grant

The Public Investment Management Centre of Excellence (PIM CoE) is set to benefit from a grant under the World Bank-supported PIM-Plus Project, an initiative aimed at strengthening Public Investment Management Systems and enhancing the capacity for effective project planning, appraisal, implementation, and monitoring in Uganda.

Through the project, the Centre is expected to receive funding of

approximately USD 8 million to support the construction of a modern teaching and residential facility.

The proposed infrastructure is intended to enhance the Centre's capacity to deliver high-quality training, research and technical advisory services in Public Investment Management (PIM) to government institutions and other stakeholders across the region and beyond.

The Strategic Role of Graduate Training



“Graduate training is the cornerstone of a research-intensive and innovation driven university,” highlights Prof. Edward Bbaale.

- CoBAMS significantly contributes to Makerere’s research-led agenda.
- CoBAMS hosts market-driven and policy-relevant graduate programmes.
- CoBAMS graduate programmes attract working professionals and practitioners.
- CoBAMS proposes to conduct the Executive MBA in a project mode.

Research Outputs

- Research Outputs
- Over **60** Working Paper Series were launched in December 2025.
- Majority of the 60, were published in internationally recognized journals.

2026 Research Targets

- Over **80** Working Paper Series lined up
- PIM Centre of Excellence attracts **USD 8 million grant**



COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT SCIENCES

COLLEGE FACTLINE

Schools:

- School of Business
- School of Economics
- School of Statistics and Planning

Centres of Excellence:

- Centre of Excellence for Africa Climate-Sensitive Macroeconomic Modelling (CEACM)
- Centre for Population and Applied Statistics (CPAS)
- Environment for Development Initiative (EfD) at Makerere University
- Public Investment Management Centre of Excellence (PIM)
- Makerere University Entrepreneurship and Outreach Centre (MakEOC)
- Tumusiime Mutebile Centre of Excellence

College Staff

Academic Staff	Male	Female	Total
Professor	02	00	02
Associate Professor	08	01	09
Senior Lecturer	21	06	27
Lecturer	24	14	38
Assistant Lecturer	24	17	41
Graduate Fellows	04	04	08
Administrative Staff	05	14	19
Support Staff	14	18	32
Total	102	74	176

Building Research capacity



Light Moment: The Deputy Principal, Assoc. Prof. James Wokadala (4th L) with some of the facilitators and academic staff who participated in the training

In April 2026, CoBAMS in partnership with the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) launched a **five weeks** intensive training programme to empower young researchers with advanced Data Modelling, Visualization and Analysis Skills. A total of **14** academic staff participated in the first cohort.

The programme responds to the growing demand for high-quality research outputs that meet international publication standards, particularly in high-impact journals indexed on platforms such as Scopus and Web of Science.

MakPress and CoBAMS: Institutionalising a strong publication culture

In addition to publishing in internationally recognized journals, the College maintains a strong working relationship with the Makerere University Press (MakPress), including holding meetings aimed at institutionalizing a strong publication culture through development of discipline-based journals.

Citing the College by College Indexing Roadmap matrix, MakPress Managing Editor, Assoc. Prof. William Tayeebwa explained that CoBAMS will feature the following disciplines: Economics, Finance, Accounting, Marketing, and Management.

The MakPress and CoBAMS partnership led to the production of the 2025 CoBAMS working papers series. Both entities are currently working on the 2026 CoBAMS Working Paper Series.

World Bank and CoBAMS Partnership Meeting



***L-R:** Cyril Despouts-Country Senior Economist, Hassan Zaman-Regional Director for East Africa, Prof. Edward Bbaale-Principal, Assoc. Prof. Eria Hisali-PIM Centre of Excellence, Liz Mukasa Samula-Country Economist, Assoc. Prof. Ibrahim Mike Okumu-Dean, School of Economics.*

Economic research is essential for informing public policy and addressing Africa's development challenges. However, gaps between research and policymaking continue to limit evidence-based decision-making on macroeconomic stability, productivity, climate resilience, and youth employment.

On 1st April 2026, CoBAMS and the World Bank reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening research partnerships, promoting policy dialogue, and bridging the gap between academic research and public policy. Both entities discussed the hosting of the African Meeting of the Econometric Society (AFES 2027) expected to attract over **400** participants including economists, policymakers, and development partners.

During the Partnership Meeting, the delegation from the World Bank expressed interest in collaborating with the Public Investment Management (PIM) Centre of Excellence.

Recognition of Out-standing Performance



“

Receiving this recognition motivates me to continue building my professional skills and strive for excellence in my career journey,” remarked one of the award recipients.

During the Students’ Recognition and Career Day, the following First Class Honours’ Division graduates of the Bachelor of Business Administration and the Bachelor of Commerce (BCom) received awards: **Agaba Ritah, Bakkabulindi Raymond, Makande Steven, Nalukwago Esther Racheal, Natuha Danison, Muyomba Regan, Nabulime H. Keziah, Asimwe Joreen, and Wamimbi Sadiki.**

Held on 14th May 2026, the event attracted several university and industry leaders. The graduates were delighted to interact with Ms. Charlotte Kukunda, the Country Manager-ACCA Uganda, and the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic Affairs) of Makerere University, Prof. Sarah Ssali.

Mr. Hussein K. Isingoma, a renowned accounting professional, emphasized integrity, professionalism, and continuous learning, describing accounting as a profession built on trust and responsibility.

Speakers called upon students to prepare for a rapidly evolving accounting and finance profession increasingly shaped by technology, ethics, and lifelong learning.

CoBAMS-MakRIF Research Dissemination

The Government of Uganda supports research through the Makerere University Research and Innovations Fund (MakRIF). The following Principal Investigators disseminated the project research findings to stakeholders.

Research Project	Research team	Date of Dissemination
Promoting Eco-Efficiency (EE) and Cleaner Production (CP) for sustainable development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Uganda.	Dr Marion Nyanzi Dr Kasim Sendawula Assoc. Prof. Peter K. Turyakira	15 th April 2026
Substance and Alcohol Use, Dating Violence, and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) among Students at Makerere University	Dr Stephen O. Wandera Prof. Sarah Ssali Prof. Betty Kwagala Mr. Fred Ngabirano Dr Eddy J. Walakira	23 rd June 2026



15th April 2026

The Research project team with some of the stakeholders who attended the dissemination workshop. It focused on presentation of findings and policy recommendations on **Promoting Eco-Efficiency (EE) and Cleaner Production (CP) for sustainable development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Uganda.**



23rd June 2026

The Research project team with some of the stakeholders who attended the dissemination workshop. It focused on the presentation of findings on **Substance and Alcohol Use, Dating Violence, and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) among Students at Makerere University.**

Re-thinking Global Assistance in Africa

Addressing the convening at Makerere University on Donor Aid Dynamics, Prof. Nathalie Ferrière observed that Aid has long been a cornerstone of development financing across Africa, but shifting global priorities, geopolitical changes, and evolving donor policies are reshaping the future of international assistance.



“If we look at the global landscape of development aid, we see a wide range of donors. The idea that only Western countries provide Official Development Assistance is incorrect,” she said. She advocated for a more diversified donor base to increase stability and reduce vulnerability to political shifts.

Prof. Nathalie Ferrière (seated 2nd R) with the College leadership, staff, researchers and students

Prof. Ferrière explained that donor competition is often driven by political and commercial interests rather than development effectiveness. “Competition from donors is not for aid effectiveness. It is for commercial aspects and political influence, which are not necessarily related to domestic needs.”

Held on 22nd April 2026, the seminar concluded with a call for African countries to strengthen domestic resource mobilization, deepen evidence-based policy research, and build more resilient and diversified development financing systems to reduce vulnerability to external aid shocks.

Guest Lecture: Re-Imagining Human Resource Management in Africa



On 10th April 2026, Dr Sizile Makola delivered a lecture to undergraduate and graduate students pursuing human resource management courses at Makerere University, focused on integrating indigenous knowledge and organizational practice.

Dr Makola observed the need for African-centered human resource management thinking, rather than just adding local case studies to Western frameworks. Her argument was informed by limitations of western human resource management frameworks, which

assume autonomous individuals, formal institutions, and technical organizations, which are separate from family and community.

Collaboration and Research: Mak and UNISA Partnership

Makerere University continues to strengthen its collaboration with the University of South Africa (UNISA) through the implementation of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that

promotes joint research, academic exchange, and institutional development.

In April 2026, Dr. Sizile Makola, a Visiting Scholar and Senior Lecturer from UNISA held stakeholder meetings with the University and College leadership, researchers at the College, and delivered a public lecture titled: *Re-Imagining Human Resource Management in Africa*.



L-R: Dr Zaina Nakabuye, Dr Jude Mugarura, Agnes Sansa, Dr Sizile Makola, Prof. Edward Bbaale and Dr Anthony Tibaingana after an interactive meeting held on 8th April 2026 in the Office of the Principal.

Message to researchers

“African scholarship must theorize from indigenous knowledge to build contextually grounded leadership systems,” Dr Makola stressed.

Mak-UNISA research

Dr Sizile Makola and Ms. Agnes Sansa are undertaking a comparative study in relation to how organizational and human resource management conditions shape the recognition and conversion of women leadership resilience in Uganda and South Africa.

The study is titled: Ubuntu/Obuntu Bulamu, Emotional Capital and Women’s Leadership Resilience: A Comparative Study Across Public and Private Sectors in South Africa and Uganda.

Capacity Building: Cloud Computing and Artificial Intelligence Training



On 16th April 2026, the School of Business hosted a high-impact educator training aimed at equipping lecturers with cloud computing and artificial intelligence skills to transform teaching, research, and innovation in higher education. Over **25** lecturers were equipped with skills during this training that brought together educators to explore how emerging technologies can reshape higher education in Uganda.

Inclusive Green Economy: 6th Cohort of Fellows to drive Climate Smart Agriculture

On 25th June 2026, the EfD- Mak Centre graduated **five** senior government officials under the 2025 Inclusive Green Economy (IGE) Fellowship Programme, equipping them with advanced knowledge and skills to champion

climate-smart agriculture (CSA) and sustainable development in Uganda.

The graduates included Eng. Thomas Epeet from the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries; Ms. Getrude Basiima, a Commissioner in the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development; Mr. Nicholas Magara from the Ministry of Water and Environment; Ms. Irene Kemigisha from the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development; and Mr. Boaz Tumusiime Mboijana from the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities.

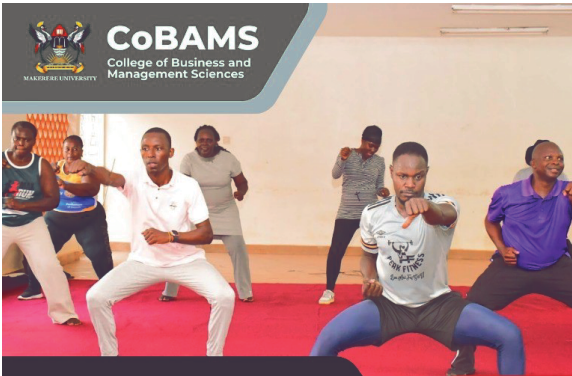


Graduates pose for a group photo with Prof. Edward Bbaale and Prof. Robert Wamala after the graduation ceremony.

Prospects in Soft Skills and Professional Competencies



On 17th June 2026, Makerere University College of Business and Management Sciences (CoBAMS), in partnership with Rounding Up The Edges (ROUTE) International and SLS Solutions Limited, held a productive engagement aimed at strengthening student capacity through targeted training programs, on Soft Skills and Professional Competencies. The trainings will enhance access to student opportunities, and empowerment in Career readiness, Creativity and Innovation.



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