MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

MAKERERE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT SCIENCES



NEWSLETTER

JULY-SEPT 2026

CoBAMS UGX 96.6bn Expansion Project kicks off



Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe autographs the artistic impression

It is impressive! When news reached the hill of endless possibilities (*Makerere University*) that the College of Business and Management Sciences (CoBAMS) had attracted government funding to the tune of UGX 96.6 billion, whispers filled the space.

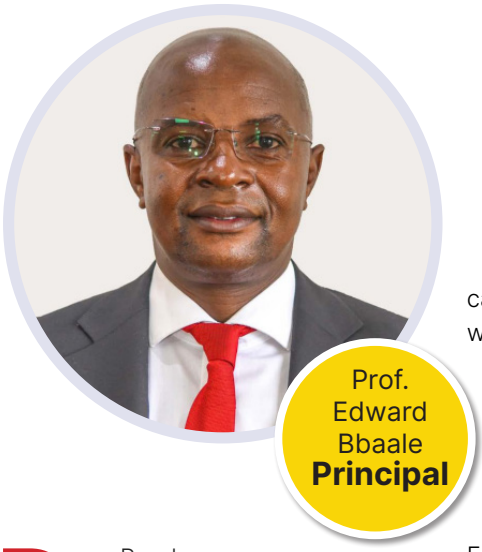


The groundbreaking of the CoBAMS Infrastructure Expansion Project.

On 4th September 2026, as the university and college leadership, the contractor, the consultant, the contracts committee, and invited guests convened to witness the site handover for the 15,000-square-meter expansion project, the heavens were pleased, and the rains came through to bless the commencement of the construction project.

"Handing over the site to the contractor, Roko Construction Company Ltd, the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe, highlighted that the project is expected to be completed within five years, with the first phase scheduled for completion within 18 months. The facility will house the CoBAMS headquarters, the School of Economics, the School of Business, the School of Statistics and Planning, research centres, and other facilities designed to enhance teaching, learning, and student welfare.

Message from the **Principal**



Dear Reader,
welcome to this edition highlighting the College's continued commitment to advancing research, graduate training, innovation, entrepreneurship, teaching and learning, and strategic partnerships.

I am pleased to inform you that the UGX 96.6 billion CoBAMS Infrastructure Expansion Project kicked off. It was with great joy that I witnessed the Vice Chancellor of Makerere University, Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe, handing over the construction site to the contractor, Roko Construction Company Limited."

On the global stage, Makerere University signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the World Association of Noonomy, positioning CoBAMS as the host of the first African Centre of Excellence in Noonomy.

Strengthening evidence-based policy engagement, CoBAMS developed policy briefs on natural capital, energy transition, land, water, and wood resources, and handed over the MONCAP model to the Ministry of Water and Environment.

In preparation for the October 2026 Uganda Entrepreneurship Expo, the College held an engagement meeting with Kampala City Traders Association (KACITA). The meeting also explored entrepreneurship training, student internships, specialised training, and joint resource mobilisation.

During the Makerere University Exhibition held on 16th September 2026, CoBAMS showcased over **20** research and innovation initiatives impacting Uganda's economic development, Uganda's Tenfold Growth strategy, and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Focusing on the students, the College leadership in collaboration with the Students leaders hosted the Makerere University-Capital Markets Authority Financial Symposium, the CoBAMS Career Day, and PhD Doctoral Forum to strengthen scholarly writing and publication capacity.

We remain committed to producing graduates, research, and innovations that respond to national and global needs and contribute to societal transformation.

Research Focus: **African Centre of Excellence for Noonomy**

Makerere University is set to host the first ever African Centre of Excellence for Noonomy. The strategic move was sealed with the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Makerere University and the World Association of Noonomy on 19th September 2026 in Rome, Italy.

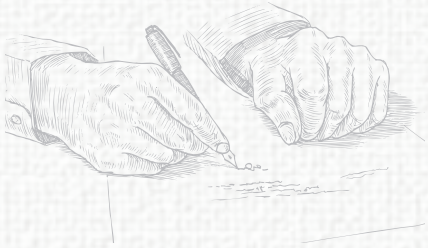
Signed by the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic Affairs), Prof. Sarah Ssali during the World Congress on Noonomy, the MoU paves the way for the establishment of the African Centre of Excellence for Noonomy at the College of Business and Management Sciences (CoBAMS).

Uganda was the only African country represented at the World Congress on Noonomy, with the Makerere University delegation comprising Prof. Sarah Ssali, Prof. Edward Bbaale, Dr Peter Babyenda, and Mr. Tonny Mayambala Sebbaggala, a Ugandan Economist based in Russia.

Commenting on the development, the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe said: "By signing the MoU, the African Centre for Noonomy has been established at Makerere University. This adds to the growing number of African continental research centres coordinated by Makerere University."

The MoU builds on the inaugural conference on Noonomy, held in Uganda on 20th August 2026 at Makerere University under the theme, "**The Theory of Noonomy and its Role in Resolving Modernity Issues: Pathways to Sustainable Social and Economic Transformation."**

Editor's Note





CoBAMS is the heartbeat of Makerere University. This edition has been carefully curated to demonstrate the centrality of the college within the wider university spectrum! It is a centre of innovation, research, entrepreneurship, and policy engagement. Happy reading as you appreciate the impact of CoBAMS on the Makerere University journey.

Ritah Namisango

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Pictorial

NOONOMY AT A GLANCE



Prof. Sarah Ssali signing the MoU on behalf of Makerere University



L-R: Prof. Sarah Ssali, Mr. Sergey Lobanov-Head of Mission, Russian Embassy in Uganda, Prof. Nikolay D. Dmitriev, Prof. Edward Bbaale, Dr. Robert Ngobi, Mr. Davis Vuningoma and Prof. Ibrahim Mike Okumu with Dr. Peter Babyenda and CoBAMS Students (Standing) on 20th August 2026.

NOONOMY AT A GLANCE



Prof. Edward Bbaale, Principal of CoBAMS delivers a presentation titled: "The Role of Noonomy in Addressing Development Challenges in East Africa."



Makerere University delegation at the World Congress of Noonomy

Panel Discussion:

The Theory of Noonomy and its Role in Resolving Modernity Issues.



L-R: Prof. Edward Bbaale with Panelists-Mr. Davis Vuningoma, Dr. Robert Ngobi, Prof. Robert Wamala and Prof. Nikolay D. Dmitriev.

Vice Chancellor commends the author of Noonomy for Choosing Makerere



R-L: Assoc. Prof. Ibrahim Mike Okumu, Prof. Dmitriev, Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe, Ritah Namisango

Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe thanked Prof. Sergey D. Bodrunov, author of the Theory of Noonomy and Prof. Dmitriev for choosing Makerere out of all African Universities as partner in advancement of future collaborations and research. He noted that setting up a Centre of Excellence in Noonomy at the School of Economics would bolster the University's aspirations to become Africa's thought leader in knowledge generation for societal transformation and development.

GIZ CALLS FOR THE institutionalization of the MONCAP model



The GIZ Country Director, James Macbeth, described the MONCAP model as a major scientific achievement by Makerere University, and a positive outcome of the long-standing partnership between Germany and Uganda.

"The Makerere University research team has worked closely with government to translate the complexity between natural capital, climate change and the macro economy into a tool that can be used in policy analysis. It's a sophisticated and impressive model," Macbeth said.

"The significance of the model- MONCAP- goes beyond environmental protection because water and forests constitute a significant part of Uganda's productive economic base," he said.

RESEARCH

Mak EfD develops MONCAP Model for the Ministry of Water and Environment



Some of the key stakeholders and partners at the handover of the MONCAP model developed by CoBAMS, EfD and MoFPED to the Ministry of Water and Environment.

The College of Business and Management Sciences (CoBAMS) through its research team at the Environment for Development (EfD) Initiative in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, has developed the Model for Natural Capital Policy Assessment (MONCAP) for the Ministry of Water and Environment.

The College Principal, and Director of the EfD initiative, Prof. Edward Bbaale explained that the Model for Natural Capital Policy Assessment (MONCAP) was developed to support analysis of natural capital within the economy in order to inform policy decisions. The new modelling tool was designed to help the government to assess the economic consequences of investing in, or failing to protect natural resources such as forests and water.

Makerere University officially handed over the MONCAP tool to the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Water and Environment, Dr Okot Okidi on 11th September 2026 at a colourful ceremony, held at Golden Tulip Hotel, Kampala.

RESEARCH:

Uganda's Natural Capital Accounts:

CoBAMS-CEACM produces Policy Briefs



Minister of State for Environment, Hon. Beatrice Atim Anywar launching the Policy Briefs as the College Principal, Prof. Edward Bbaale witnesses.

The Minister launched the following policy briefs:

- Uganda's Energy System at a Crossroads: The Unsustainable Reliance on Biomass and the Need for Energy Transition
- Integrating Natural Capital into Development Planning in Uganda: Insights from the Ecosystem Services and Asset Accounts (1990-2015)
- Leveraging Land Natural Capital to Drive Uganda's Sustainable and Inclusive Growth
- National Water Accounts Development: Tracking Uganda's Progress amidst Climate Change
- Uganda's Wood Stock on a Declining Pathway to Extinction: A Call for Policy Review and Action

Developed by the research team at the Centre of Excellence for Africa Climate-Sensitive Macroeconomic Modelling (CEACM), the Policy Briefs address Uganda's energy transition, declining wood stocks, natural capital integration into development planning, sustainable land use, and national water accounting amid climate change.

Makerere Exhibition:

CoBAMS showcases research and innovations

On 16th September 2026, CoBAMS showcased its milestones in research and innovation to the Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI), Hon. Eng. Jonard Asiimwe and the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe.

Interacting with over **20** exhibitors and innovators, the Minister gained a deeper understanding of CoBAMS' valuable contribution to Uganda's economic development, Uganda's Tenfold Growth strategy, and the Sustainable Development Goals.

CoBAMS presented research, innovations and sustainability models impacting the economy, agriculture, the energy sector, e-mobility, climate change, entrepreneurship, the inclusive green economy, natural capital accounting and planning, and among others.



Dr Aisha Nanyiti presents research findings on Information Dissemination Strategies for an Inclusive Energy Transition in Uganda's Agricultural Sector



The Minister of STI, Hon. Eng. Jonard Asiimwe shares a light moment with the College leaders and some of the exhibitors.

Editor's Note:
For details on the exhibition of CoBAMS research and Innovations, follow the link below
https://bams.mak.ac.ug/makerere/

Graduate Training:
Widening the Scope of Student Choices

This academic year (Aug 2026/2027), the College introduced two (2) taught Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) programmes namely the:

- PhD in Management
- PhD in Accounting and Finance

Launching the graduate programmes on 4th August 2026, the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic Affairs), Prof. Sarah Ssali tasked the first cohort of the scholars to pursue research that delivers solutions to Uganda's socio-economic challenges.

"Uganda faces many challenges, but every challenge is presents an opportunity for research," she said.

The College Principal, Prof. Edward Bbaale described the launch as a major milestone in Makerere University's agenda to strengthen its position as a research-intensive institution. "These are among the first taught PhD programmes in these disciplines in Uganda, and we are very proud of this achievement," he said.

The Dean, School of Business, Associate Professor Godfrey Akileng, welcomed the students and described the programmes as part of the school's continued growth in graduate training.



The DVC-Academic Affairs, Prof. Sarah Ssali (7L), Assoc. Prof. Godfrey Akileng (8L), School of Business Faculty members and the first cohort of the PhD students at the launch.

Shaping the content of Graduate Programmes

On 16th July 2026, the School of Statistics and Planning convened a curriculum development workshop to engage stakeholders on the following proposed graduate programs:

- Masters in Gerontology
- Postgraduate Diploma in Gerontology
- Master of Science in Civil Registration, Vital Statistics, and Digitalization
- Postgraduate Diploma in Civil Registration, Vital Statistics and Digitalization

The curriculum development workshop supported under CECAP 11 provided a platform to staff and experts in the different fields to contribute to the shaping of graduate academic programmes.



Dr Margret Banga, Dean School of Statistics and Planning, Dr Allen Kabagenyi-HOD Population Studies and other faculty members at the curriculum development workshop

RESEARCH DISSEMINATION:

Clean Energy for Development: Makerere Hosted the CEDCA Uganda Policy Conference to Accelerate Low-Carbon Technologies for Agricultural Modernization



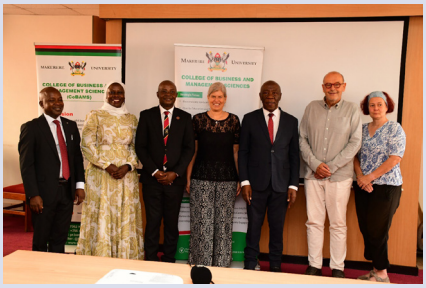
Some of the policymakers, researchers, academia, development partners and clean-energy stakeholders at the National Policy Conference on 25th September 2026.

Makerere-Europe's Civic University Alliance Research Partnership

Makerere University through CoBAMS and CAES is implementing a research project titled: Enhancing skills in Polycrisis management: African and European Approaches. In September 2026, the European facilitators and students visited Makerere University to interface with polycrisis management scenarios.

Research Dissemination Workshop:

Boosting Women's Access to STEM Programmes



Mak DVCFA, Prof. Henry M. Alinaitwe with the programme facilitators – Dr. Anthony Tibaingana, Dr. Kamatara Kanifa, Prof. Edward Bbaale, Prof. Gudrun Zagel, Dr. Roman Puff, and Dr. Sabine Hennig.

Preparing future leaders for complex challenges

The programme seeks to enable learners to identify, assess and manage polycrisis situations in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), while building competencies in addressing the social, environmental and economic dimensions of crises.

It also aims to develop practical skills in designing and evaluating integrated policies and polysolutions, including effective communication and public awareness strategies.

Held under the PolyCIVIS network, the programme, titled Enhancing Skills in Polycrisis Management: African and European Approaches, brings together participants from Makerere University, the University of Salzburg, the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, and Universidad Autónoma de Madrid.

It was competitively secured under the 6th Call for CIVIS Blended Intensive Programmes by the Makerere PolyCIVIS team, comprising Prof. Edward Bbaale from the School of Economics, CoBAMS; Dr. Anthony Tibaingana from the School of Business, CoBAMS; and Dr. Kamatara Kanifa from the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CAES).



The Participants at the Kiteezi Landfill-a case study for waste management in polycrises



L-R: Mr. Derrick Mbalule (NPA official), Dr Peter Babyenda, Dr Lillian Tukahirwa, Assistant Prof. Saloni Chopra, Prof. Edward Bbaale, Mr. Charles Ssentongo, Ms. Nuluyati Nalwadda, Associate Prof. Marjorie S.K. Batiibwe, Dr Ruth Nsibirano, Ms. Ritah Namisango at the research dissemination workshop held on 14th September 2026

Makerere University College of Business and Management Sciences (CoBAMS) in collaboration with Baylor University, International Growth Research and Evaluation Center (IGREC) and the University of St Andrews, convened a research dissemination workshop titled: Re-thinking Merit-Gender, Quotas, and the making of STEM access at the University.

The hybrid dissemination workshop brought together stakeholders from the education field, experts in gender and planning, media and communication practitioners, as well as undergraduate and graduate students at Makerere University to interface with the findings of the research and to examine how gender quotas and affirmative action are reshaping access to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) programmes at the university.

The presentations and the plenary discussion focused on the Makerere University gender quota policy, which ring-fences 40 percent of student enrollment places in all STEM disciplines for female students. The policy approved by Makerere University Council in 2019 was informed by the desire to increase the number female students studying STEM courses.

The study revealed that gender quotas increased women's access to and participation in STEM without compromising academic performance, while highlighting the need to address barriers to girls' participation before joining the university.

The research team included Assistant Professor Saloni Chopra, Assistant Professor Isaac Ahimbisibwe from the University of St Andrews, and Professor Edward Bbaale, College Principal.

HUMAN RESOURCE:

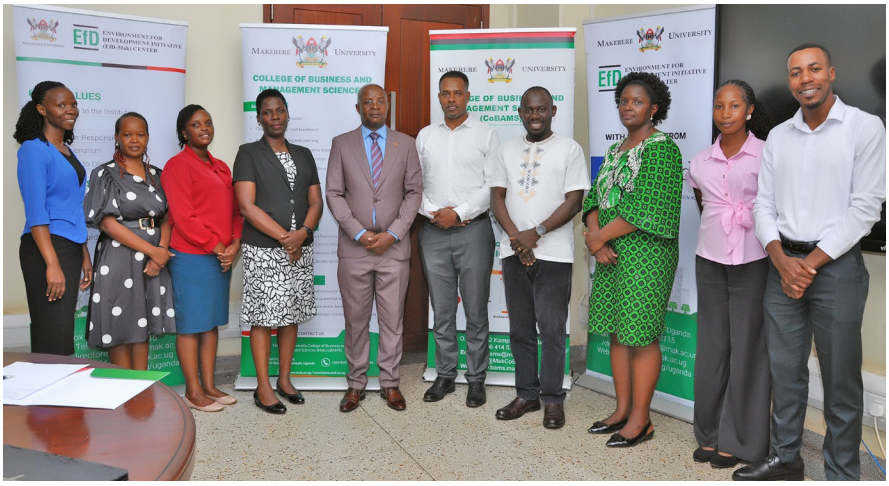
College Bursar: From Mr. Peter Mubiru to Mr. George Lusiba



Mr. Peter Mubiru (2R) hands over the office to Mr. George Lusiba (2L) on 31st August 2026 in the presence of the Prof. Edward Bbaale- CoBAMS Principal and Mr. Patrick Akonyet, Mak Director of Internal Audit.

Mr. Mubiru reached the mandatory retirement age on 25th August 2026, marking the end of a career spanning nearly three decades in Makerere University's audit and financial management functions. In his 28 years of service, which he described as a rich and rewarding experience, Mr. Mubiru held the following positions: Assistant Internal Auditor, Head of Revenue and Expenditure Office, Principal Accountant, and College Bursar.

Celebrating Excellence: CoBAMS hosts Farewell Event



Dr. Gemeda Olani Akuma (5R), Prof. Edward Bbaale (6R) with CoBAMS, CEACM and EfD staff at the Farewell Event

The College and the Environment for Development Initiative (EfD) at Mak Centre hosted a farewell event to celebrate the outstanding contributions of Dr Gemeda Olani Akuma as he concluded his postdoctoral fellowship at Makerere University on 2nd September 2026.

Dr Gemeda Olani Akuma from the University of Cape Town, South Africa served as a Postdoctoral fellow at Makerere University from July 2025 to September 2026.

During the Postdoctoral fellowship, Dr Gemeda has made significant contributions to research on water systems, biodiversity, and ecosystem services in Uganda. He has collaborated closely with Makerere faculty members on several research projects, with two scientific manuscripts currently under review for publication.

MUBS-Annual International Management Conference



Delivering a keynote address on 22nd September 2026, the Dean, School of Economics Assoc. Prof. Ibrahim Okumu urged MUBS doctoral students to prioritize research rigor, originality and intellectual integrity.

CoBAMS Doctoral Forum holds a

Manuscript and Publications workshop



Held under the theme "From Research to Publication: Developing High-Quality Manuscripts for Scholarly Impact," the workshop (8th to 9th September 2026) targeted PhD Scholars preparing manuscripts' for publications



The Mak-Capital Markets Authority (CMA)

Financial Symposium



Makerere University Accountancy Bureau (MUAB) Management Committee Members at the Financial Symposium held on 22nd September 2026. The symposium focused on harnessing capital markets for wealth creation, financial planning and Uganda's economic growth.

MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

Makerere University College of Business and Management Sciences

CoBAMS 2026 undergraduate Students Orientation Program



Mak DVC (Academic Affairs), Prof. Sarah Ssali (6R), Prof. Edward Bbaale (7L), University & CoBAMS officials with some of the students who participated in the College Orientation held on 4th August 2026.

Over 800 first-year undergraduate students participated in the orientation. The College Principal, Prof. Edward Bbaale, urged students to prioritize their academics, remain focused, and embrace hard work. The Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic Affairs), Prof. Sarah Ssali guided the students on excellence, academic integrity, the right set of values, discipline and character, seizing opportunities, and networking.

Held for four days (4th to 7th August 2026), the orientation featured a series of presentations, speakers, and activities aimed at equipping the newly admitted students with the knowledge and skills required to smoothly transition into university life.

CoBAMS Careers' Day: Innovation meets Opportunity



CoBAMS students following the proceedings of the Careers' Day held on 28th September 2026 in the Main Hall at Makerere University. The students listened to insightful presentations from professionals and practitioners from the world of work and industry.

Seminar on Commercial Property taxes, firm behaviors, and fiscal externalities



Mr. Nathan Sunday, PhD student presenting the policy findings.

On 11th August 2026, Mr. Nathan Sunday, PhD student at the Department of Economics, University of Michigan engaged researchers, faculty members and graduate students at CoBAMS on ***Commercial Property Taxes, Firm Behaviour and Fiscal Externalities.***

PIM and the Gambia Engagement: Advancing the Public Investment Management Model



On 28th August 2026, PIM Centre hosted a delegation from the Gambia-Ministry of Finance, led by Permanent Secretary Mr. Baboucarr Jobe, to benchmark Uganda's Public Investment Management (PIM) model. The engagement focused on project conceptualisation, appraisal, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, contributing to the Gambia's broader efforts to strengthen its economic, judicial and institutional systems.

Upholding Economic Appraisal and Stakeholder Analysis



The PIM Centre trained officials from Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) in Economic Appraisal and Stakeholder Analysis, strengthening their capacity to prepare, assess and make informed decisions on public investment projects.

The two-weeks training, held in Jinja from 24th August to 4th September, 2026, was conducted under the Public Investment Appraisal and Risk Analysis Module II (PIAR II) programme.

PIM Centre of Excellence to Benefit from USD 8 million grant

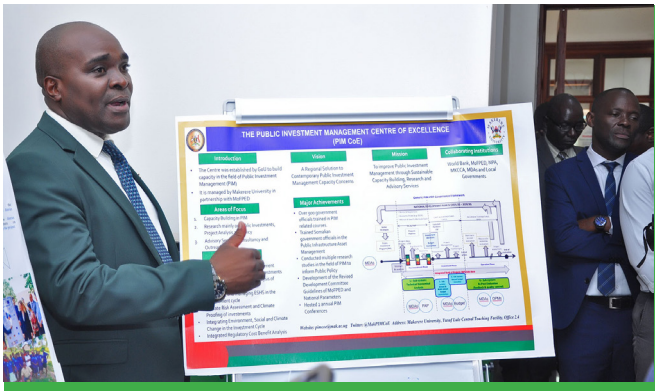
The Public Investment Management Centre of Excellence (PIM CoE) is set to benefit from a grant under the World Bank-supported PIM-Plus Project, an initiative aimed at strengthening Public Investment Management Systems and enhancing the capacity for effective project planning, appraisal, implementation,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

PICTORIAL: CoBAMS RESEARCH AND INNOVATION EXHIBITION

Some of the CoBAMS Researchers who participated in the exhibition.



L-R: Dr. Martin Bakundana, Associate Prof. James Wokadala, Associate Prof. Susan Namirembe Kavuma, Dr. Nicholas Kilimani, Dr. John Sseruyange, Dr. Kasimu Sendawula, Dr. Sarah Bimbona.



Dr John Sseruyange presented the Public Investment Management Centre and its impact on research, teaching and learning, governance, and policy engagement.



Dr Stephen Ojiambo Wandera presented research on-Dementia and Ageism among Older Persons in Eastern Uganda.



Dr Sarah Bimbona presented some of the research products from the Makerere University Entrepreneurship and Outreach Centre.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP: CoBAMS and KACITA Engagement



As CoBAMS prepares for the Entrepreneurship Expo and Congress in October 2026 at Makerere University, a high-level meeting involving the Makerere University Entrepreneurship and Outreach Centre, the School of Business, and Kampala City Traders Association (KACITA) was convened on 22nd July 2026 focusing on five (5) key areas:

- Organizing the 2026 Entrepreneurship Expo and Congress
- Teaching and Entrepreneurship Training
- Internship Opportunities for Students
- Specialized Training by KACITA members
- Joint Resource Mobilization

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Makerere University College of Business and Management Sciences

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