

03 degrees, Lubega's relentless dream

As Makerere University marks its 76th graduation, Latif Lubega's story stands out—not for spectacle, but for sacrifice. From a modest background to earning multiple postgraduate qualifications in just a few years, his journey is a testament to discipline, resilience, and the belief that true success is built in the silent seasons of hard work.

BY MONITOR REPORTER

As Makerere University prepares for its 76th Graduation Ceremony scheduled from February 24 to 27, the spotlight turns to Latif Lubega. Lubega will be graduating for a third time from Makerere University with a Master of Science in Accounting and Finance on February 26. This milestone adds to an already remarkable academic journey that began in 2013 when he was admitted to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Business Statistics, which he completed in 2017.

Driven by an enduring commitment to professional growth and academic excellence, Lubega returned to Makerere University in 2020 to pursue a Master of Business Administration (MBA), graduating in 2023, and immediately enrolled for another master's degree at Makerere University Business School, undertaken concurrently with a postgraduate Diploma in Monitoring and Evaluation from Uganda Management Institute which he will also graduate from early this year.

Today, Lubega stands out as a trainer, research professional, and an emerging business leader and management consultant whose academic path reflects discipline, sacrifice, and a deliberate pursuit of excellence.

Defying the odds

At a time when public discourse, reinforced by reports such as the Auditor General's 2025 findings, points to low completion and graduation rates for postgraduate students at Makerere University, Lubega's story quietly challenges that narrative.

Completing all his master's programmes within the accredited two-year period is often described as nearly impossible, yet he managed to do so. He attributes this achievement not to luck, but to deliberate, extra hard work and difficult personal choices.

For nearly five years, social life took a back seat as academic rigour, professional duties, and tight deadlines demanded undivided attention. While this meant losing touch with some friends and living a largely isolated life, it also strengthened his professional networks and sharpened his focus.

He candidly admits that striking a balance between higher education demands, financial pressures, and professional responsibilities proved elusive, and social life became the opportunity cost.

In his view, many postgraduate students who struggle to complete their programmes on time often fail to align priorities effectively, dedicating less time to studies than the programmes demand.

Drive behind the credentials

Beyond the impressive list of degrees, with extras, including a Diploma in Law from the Law Development Centre completed in 2024, Leadership short courses, and the ongoing completion of the CPA professional course, lies a deeper motivation. He explains that his

QUICK GLANCE

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