

# NO MORE SEX FOR MARKS, SAYS MAKERERE VICE-CHANCELLOR

BY VIVIAN AGABA  
AND DAVID LUMU

The Makerere University vice-chancellor, Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe has warned lecturers against what he described as a creeping vice of 'sex for marks' at Uganda's oldest university.

Nawangwe, who was speaking at the closure of the week-long 68th graduation ceremony on Friday, pledged before parents and graduates, that several mechanisms to curb sexual harassment at the university, have been rolled out.

"It is going to be uncomfortable for them to remain at Makerere University. I want to assure people here and the general public that there will be no tolerance of sexual harassment during my tenure," he said.

"I want to warn those who are engaged in the evil vice to stop," he added.

On Friday, a total of 3,672 students graduated from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, College of Engineering, Design, Art and Technology and the School of Law were awarded degrees, diplomas and PhDs.

Lornah Afoyomungu Olum, from the Bachelor of Laws emerged the best female student with Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) of 3.87, while Peterson Mwesigwa scored a first class degree in Law to break the drought of such an achievement since 2005 at the School of Law.

This year, a total of 14,085 students graduated from Makerere University. Of these,



Graduands from the College of Engineering jubilate their success after receiving degrees in various disciplines at Makerere University on Friday

7,118 are females accounting for 50.6%, while 6,964 are males accounting for 49.4%.

## WINNIE MANDELA

At the end of the week-long 68th graduation, Makerere University, also awarded Winnie Mandela, a honorary doctorate of law degree as a special recognition of her towering role in the fight against apartheid in South African.

Winnie, a political activist and former head of the Women's League of South African ruling party, African National Congress, was married to former South African President, Nelson Mandela, who succumbed to a respiratory tract infection in December 2013. In the citation

accompanying her honorary Doctorate of Laws, Prof. Edward Kirumira stated: "She bravely withstood constant harassment by the apartheid police and challenged their brutality at every turn. She became a symbol of the anti-apartheid struggle, bravery and determination of the oppressed to gain their freedom, against all odds."

In his message, delivered by public service minister, Wilson Muruli Mukasa, President Yoweri Museveni said the Mandela family gave their all for Africa and they have no debt.

"To my friend Mrs Winnie Madikizela Mandela and the entire Mandela family, I congratulate you upon this well-deserved award, the

honorary doctorate of laws of Makerere University.

"The Mandela family was instrumental in the liberation of South Africa and the entire African continent," Museveni said.

## NO DEBT WITH AFRICA

Mandela, now 81 and an activist, was among the hundreds of women arrested while demonstrating against the injustices of the apartheid era and according to Museveni, she "remains an important figure in the South African society" and in the history of liberation struggle.

Her niece, Gandhi Baai, received the award on her behalf.

"The Mandela family indeed gave their all for Africa. They

have no debt with Africa.

They contributed to the achievement of emancipation, democracy and some steps toward economic integration in the form of Southern African Development Community (SADC)," the President said in his message.

According to Nawangwe, Mandela was successfully nominated following a thorough vetting process.

"I warmly congratulate Mrs Winnie Mandela upon the achievement and welcome her to Makerere," Nawangwe said.

South Africa's national anthem was played in honour of the presence of South African high commissioner to Uganda Prof. Maj. Gen. (rt'd) Lekoa Solly Mollo at Makerere's main campus in Kampala, the venue of the function. Meanwhile, Nawangwe urged Ugandans to pick up interest in the Chinese language, as Makerere graduated the first ever group of students that studied the language. He said it was a landmark achievement in the consolidation of the good relations between Uganda and China.

## RESEARCH, INNOVATION

In his speech, the President said, the Government has sorted out one of the leading causes of strikes by enhancing salaries of Makerere University staff, and it will now embark on improving the infrastructure of the university. However, he added that with the continued salary enhancement, he expects staff to be more focused.

"Deliver and ensure that you produce competitive graduates and research. I am

aware that for any country to develop, resources must be invested in research. As we struggle to transform Uganda into a middle-income country, the biggest challenge is no longer access to education, but quality," he said, advising graduates to use the skills acquired to cause developmental change in the country.

Museveni added: "Currently, our education system is producing job seekers rather than job creators. But, I am happy to see, that the need for more science programmes is being addressed. Since the 21st century is focused on innovations, research and development, I call upon all universities to review their curriculums to ensure that they incorporate these necessary skills into their academic programmes."

Prof. Ezra Suruma, the chancellor of Makerere University, also urged students to be creative and focus on what they can give rather than on what they can get.

Suruma told graduates that the future belongs to creators and innovators, emphasising that the current generation should understand that innovations do not come from government, but people.

The products and movements that control the world today were not there yesterday when I graduated with first degree. Google, Apple, Microsoft, the Internet, email, Facebook and WhatsApp were not there. All that has changed. The innovations of the last several decades now dominate the global culture and economy," he said.

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