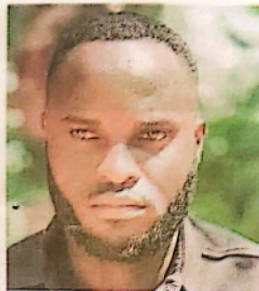


When Makerere University introduced the Work Scheme in 2023, it was hailed as a timely intervention for students struggling with tuition and upkeep. Designed to allow economically disadvantaged learners to work part-time within the university in exchange for wages that they used to pay their tuition and upkeep, the initiative offered dignity, mentorship, and workplace exposure. Now, the first beneficiaries of the scheme are graduating this week. These students balanced lectures with shifts in halls of residence, administrative offices, and university departments, chasing both academic and workplace deadlines. **Lydia Felly Akul-lu** brings their profiles.



**Victor Namara**  
A Bachelor of Industrial Art and Applied Design graduate from Ntungamo District, Namara worked at Lumumba Hall as both a hall attendant and a volunteer custodian. His responsibilities ranged from

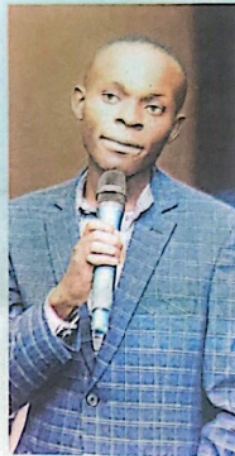
# Joy as pioneers of Mak work scheme graduate

## FRANCIS AGABA

For Francis Agaba, a Bachelor of Environmental Health Sciences graduate, the journey to Makerere was anything but straightforward.

Born in Kayunga Village, Kambuga Sub-county in Kanungu District to subsistence farmers, Agaba's academic promise was evident early. He scored Aggregate 7 in his Primary Leaving Examinations under the Universal Primary Education programme, an achievement that earned a mention on local radio. But despite excelling at both O-Level and A-Level, financial hardship delayed his university education.

After completing the Advanced Level, he spent two years raising tuition fees before enrolling at



Makerere in 2022. A hoped-for Higher Education Students' Loan did not materialise, forcing him to temporarily withdraw.

Assigned as a hall attendant at Nsibirwa Hall, Agaba cleaned and maintained facilities before attending lectures. The physically demanding routine tested his resilience but sharpened his time management skills.

"The experience strengthened my determination to succeed despite challenges," he says.

Agaba credits mentorship from the Makerere University School of Public Health and lecturers, including Dr John Bosco Isunju and Associate Professor David Musoke, for guiding his academic growth. He now hopes to advance in environmental health and contribute to improving public health in rural communities.

## LAWRENCE KAKOOZA



Kakooza is Business Administration graduate. He says his time as a hall attendant complemented his professional ambitions. He believes the Work Scheme laid the foundation for leadership, adaptability, and teamwork skills he now carries into the job market.

## JOSEPH NOWEMBABAZI

A Bachelor of Business Administration finalist, Nowembabazi joined the Work Scheme in August 2024 and served in Nsibirwa and University halls of residence.

His role focused on ensuring cleanliness and safety for students and staff, work he says required discipline and careful scheduling.

"Balancing academics and work was possible through drafting a timetable and setting time for both responsibilities," he explains.

For Nahabwembabazi, the scheme provided not just income but character formation. "It strengthened my work ethic and boosted my experience," he says.



## GIFT MURUNGI AHUMUZA

She is graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Education. She served in the Office of the Vice Chancellor and the Advancement Office. Her duties involved maintaining a clean and organised professional environment, ensuring offices were ready for meetings and institutional engagements. For Ahumuza, the programme instilled institutional pride and reinforced her sense of responsibility.

## KASFA YEKO

From Kapchorwa District, Yeko will graduate with a Bachelor of Arts in Education. Between 2024 and 2025, she participated in the scheme while refining skills in problem-solving, teamwork, and confidentiality, qualities she considers essential in the teaching profession.

