

... 377 of whom got first class degrees.

This year, the number of female graduands is slightly higher than that of their male counterparts. According to the university's graduation booklet, the females are 7,058

behind, Prof. Suruma said in a statement published in the graduation booklet.

"We must participate in the ever-changing world by daring to experiment, innovate and change the world we live in," the professor added.

|                               |
|-------------------------------|
| Wandera Roberts Otyola Joseph |
| Azikuru Ezali Luija Marie     |
| Elomaru Irene                 |
| Lubwama Josephine             |
| Nakamanya Florence            |

|                           |
|---------------------------|
| Tamale Andrew             |
| Agaba Joab Ezra           |
| Atwebembeire John Mushomi |
| Egesa Kenneth Alpha       |
| Ruranga Charles           |

|                        |
|------------------------|
| Kalyango Ronald Sebba  |
| Kebirungi Harriet      |
| Ndossi Emeline Ng'unda |
| Bangerezako Haydee     |
| Yonas Ashine Demisse   |

# Bad food fuels Makerere University strikes, says report

By Cecilia Okoth

Whereas it is known that for one to grasp things well in a classroom setting, they need to have a balanced diet, this, however, is not the case at Uganda's oldest public university.

More than half of the students at Makerere University are dissatisfied with the quality of food served there, which triggers many strikes at the university.

A recently released report on Makerere University (MAK) noted that 75% of the students who consume food at the university, are disgruntled by the quality and quantity of food served.

An analysis by the nine-member visitation committee chaired by Prof. Abel Rwendeire on student affairs and services, noted that poor food

quality and sanitation was among the top six causes of student discontent.

Other top causes of strikes at the university include policy formulation process and dissemination methods, policy rejection, for example fees policy and charges; delayed results and missing marks.

The committee was instituted by President Yoweri Museveni in 2016 to look into the affairs of the university with the view of finding sustainable solutions following a number of strikes that had affected the smooth running of the institution.

"Amongst these, the outstanding causes of recurrent student discontent from the viewpoint of the university top managers and student leadership were categorised as governance issues, academic concerns and welfare issues," the report notes.

The report, however, notes that other than the listed outstanding causes of discontent, commonly cited issues pertaining to academic delivery systems did not register among the primary causes of discontent.

## Vivid issue

The issue of poor food and sanitation came out more vividly while the committee was trying to establish the levels of student satisfaction with welfare amenities at the university, with the students rating the services at the university as generally low.

"The quality and quantity of food and sanitation status in halls of residence caused the least satisfaction at 25%, this notwithstanding efforts at implementing the McGregor (2007) recommendations. Nevertheless, on further inquiry it appeared that given

the importance of diet to students, welfare and study was always an underlying tendency to go on strike over other issues, but triggered by poor feeding and sanitation."

On a scale of 100%, students rate the services at the university as generally low, with only power supply being rated 65%. The female students are, especially, affected by water supply and entertainment services (45%).

## Students unaccounted for

At the time of the committee findings, the student enrolment at MAK was at 46,128, although the university management failed to account for 16,239 students. It also observed that between 2003 and 2015, student admission trends have since gone up, an implication that more resources were required.

The committee also undertook to assess the extent to which MAK has instituted structures and systems to deliver a complete student experience and achievement. Whereas it noted that there were several structures and systems delivering student services at MAK, much is required to ensure student satisfaction with the services and programmes provided.

The committee recommended that the university creates a platform for engaging students, parents/guardians and university management, strengthen the grievance management system for students and for Government to fast-track the plans to rehabilitate all halls of residence.

Last week, Nawangwe constituted an eight-man team to study the report and provide the university's official response on the findings.