

MARK THE CELEBRATIONS WILL INCLUDE A PRO BONO LEGAL AID OPEN DAY



Kabushenga addressing the press as the chairperson of public lectures, pro bono committee, Sylvia Namubiru, looks on. Photo by Godiver Asege

“Fifty years down the road, it is worth noting that the school has tremendously contributed to the human resource in the legal sector, both within and outside Uganda. Graduates of the school have gone on to become judicial officers, legal practitioners, legal advisors, academicians and politicians,” Dr Christopher Mbazira, the principal of the School of Law said.

He said the School has contributed to promoting human rights and access to justice, as well as environmental justice through its centres, including the Public Interest Law Clinic, the Human Rights and Peace Centre, the Refugee Law Project and the Environmental Centre Law.

Mbazira said other activities to commemorate this year’s celebrations will include the launch of an alumni association, a students’ moot to be conducted in liaison with the Supreme Court of Uganda, a pro bono legal aid open day at the school and a dinner.

The Makerere University vice-chancellor, Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe, said the School of Law distinguished itself as one of the best places to nurture legal minds, saying the Bachelor of Laws is one of the most competitive programmes at the university.

Some of the notable first students that graduated with a bachelor of law degree in 1970 include James Wapakhabulo (RIP), Alex Sandys Okwonga, Eriya Kategaya (RIP), George Ogwang Emesu and Agard Didi.

Justice Remmy Kasule the Court of Appeal judge, was among the students that graduated in 1971, when Makerere became independent.

Makerere School of Law to mark 50yrs

is also Vision Group’s chief executive officer, said whereas the number of students has grown over the years, the school has remained with the same old buildings.

The student population has since grown from 23 graduating students in the early 1970s to 280 in 2018. The student population currently stands at 1,300, majority of whom are undergraduates.

Kabushenga also explained that the idea of an endowment fund will allow the school to have sustainable funding for different activities.

BETWEEN THE LINES

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“The legal profession is the most successful and wealthiest profession, in Uganda. We, therefore, need to do something that shows our status in society. I appeal to colleagues in the legal profession both within and

out of the country, to respond positively to the cause that will help create opportunities for other people to access legal education,” he said.

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In 2012, Makerere transformed into a collegiate university. Subsequently, the school started the process to become a college, but chose to retain the name “school” informed by best international practices.