

Makerere should take steps to engage its alumni

I react to the comment, 'This is 'Makunika' calling. Do you read?' (*Saturday Monitor*, March 31). Prof Samuel Seijaaka says former chancellor of Makerere University Prof Mondo Kagonyera talked to him about the need for the alumni to support the institution. Prof Kagonyera suggests that each alumni gives at least Shs10,000 per month. But Prof Seijaaka notes that for the university to attract support from the alumni, it should first clean its house.

Both suggestions sound good. However, it takes more for people to become emotionally attached to the schools/

institutions they attended. I have seen alumni associations of schools encourage old boys and girls to be part of the ongoing activities of their former schools.

First of all, such associations keep in touch with their alumni. They have a database of email addresses and phone numbers, which they use to communicate and let the OBs and OGs know of planned events and how they can participate. They also provide accountability, especially of funds that has been collected and how it has been used. They hold functions, sometimes just for fun, for people to come together, share mem-

ories and celebrate over a meal. Other universities provide initiatives for alumni such as discounted prices for courses. They also provide regular information on what the university and different departments are doing and call on the alumni to participate.

Therefore, Makerere University cannot sit back and hope that its alumni will suddenly want to give contributions towards the institution. The university needs to take the first step and actively engage its alumni.

Name withheld on request

RS > WITH STEPHEN OTAGE