

Ms Museveni says expansion of higher education must not come at the expense of quality.

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The Minister of Education and Sports, Ms Janet Museveni, has directed management of Makerere University to ensure all its satellite or upcountry campuses are fully accredited and operating at the same standards as the main campus.

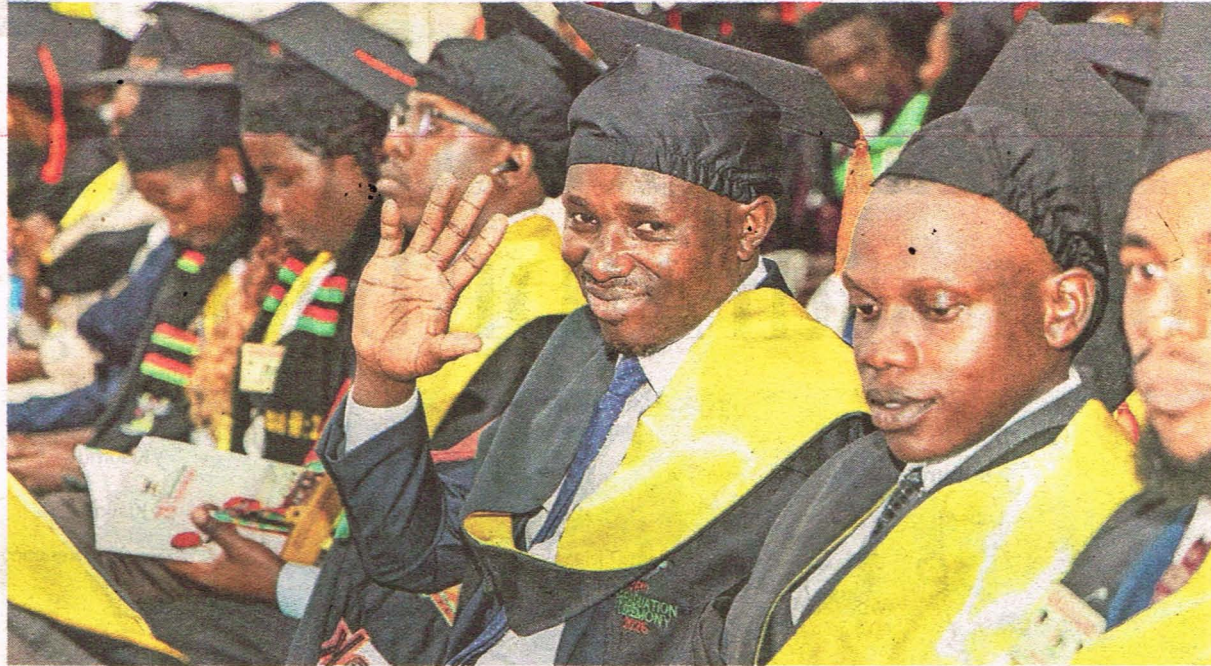
Speaking during the university's 76th graduation ceremony at Freedom Square yesterday, Ms Museveni, who was represented by the Minister of State for Primary Education, Dr Joyce Kaducu, emphasised that expansion of higher education must not come at the expense of quality.

"I call upon Makerere University management to ensure that all the satellite campuses are duly accredited and may offer programmes that meet the same high standards, quality and relevancy as those offered at the main campus. Ensure you uphold the quality and integrity of the university," Ms Museveni, who is also the First Lady, said.

She noted that full accreditation of programmes at satellite campuses is critical to preserving the credibility of a Makerere degree and ensuring students across the country receive comparable academic experiences.

Makerere currently operates a satellite campus in Jinja, while Makerere University Business School (Mubs), its constituent college, runs regional campus-

Janet warns on Mak branch standards



Nation Media Group-Uganda's Anthony Bongomin (waving) graduated with Bachelor of Information Systems and Technology degree yesterday. PHOTO/ GEOFREY MUTUMBA

es in Arua, Jinja, Mbale and Mbarara.

Over the years, both public and private universities have established satellite campuses and learning centres in different parts of the country to widen access to higher education.

However, concerns have persisted

about whether some of these centres have adequate infrastructure, qualified staff and facilities to match standards at main campuses.

In a recent interview, the Vice Chancellor of Kyambogo University, Prof Eli Katunguka, revealed that the National

Council for Higher Education (NCHE) had suggested the closure of some upcountry learning centres on grounds that they did not meet the threshold required of full campuses.

He, however, defended the centres as vital in expanding access, citing the So-

BACKGROUND

A total of 9,295 students are graduating during the four-day ceremony running from February 24 to 27. Of these, 5,033 are male and 4,262 female – the first time male graduates have surpassed females in number, according to Prof Nawangwe. A total of 213 students will receive PhDs.

roti learning centre, which has about 2,800 students, many of them teachers upgrading their qualifications in line with the 2019 Teacher Policy.

At the graduation, Ms Museveni also announced that full implementation of the Competence-Based Curriculum in universities and other institutions of higher learning must commence by July next year.

The Vice Chancellor on Makerere University, Prof Barnabas Nawangwe, urged graduates to seize opportunities beyond formal employment.

"Don't despair if you cannot find employment. Reflect on the immense opportunities around you and rise to the occasion as an entrepreneur," he said.

The Chancellor, Dr Crispus Kiyonga, encouraged the graduates to remain disciplined, adaptable and innovative as they transition into the world of work.

"It is true that the job market is not enough to absorb all of you. However, the knowledge you have acquired is empowering and should enable you to think creatively. You can create work for yourselves, individually or in groups," Dr Kiyonga said.