Muteesa I ROYAL UNIVERSITY

THE MRU TALK

"THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF MRU"

Volume I 2025

Charting the Future: MRU Launches 2025–2030 Strategic Plan







EDITOR'S NOTE



Hello Muteesa I Royal University Community,
Welcome to the inaugural issue of MRU TALK, our quarterly newsletter. I extend a heartfelt welcome to all our new students joining us this academic year.
We hope you feel at home and enjoy the serene and vibrant atmosphere at both our Kirumba and Kakeeka campuses.
In this issue, we are honoured to share a message from our Vice Chancellor, Prof. Vincent Kakembo, as he ushers us into the new academic year. You will also find messages from the Guild President, the Dean of Students, and an alumnus (Rev. Dn. Lawrence Luzinda), among others.
We bring you highlights from key events, including the launch of the Strategic Plan launch at Kakeeka, the Muwafu tree planting ceremony at Kirumba, and various initiatives by the International Relations Office.
We also have a beautiful pictorial of different events that have happened since last semester.
This edition also features contributions from different faculties. I wish to commend especially Assoc Prof. Rosemary Nakijoba, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Arts, and Humanities, for her outstanding effort in contributing at least six articles from her faculty.
As we look forward to Cultural Week, I'm personally excited about celebrating our diversity and seeing it as a beautiful way to welcome our new students into the MRU family.

So, loosen up, have some fun, and let's work together to shape your future here at MRU.
Wishing you all a wonderful semester ahead!

SARAH K. BIRYOMUMAISHO
PRO MRU

Message from the Guild President

Dear MRU Family,
I warmly welcome you all to the new academic year (2025/2026) at the mighty Muteesa I Royal University. To our new students, congratulations on joining this amazing community.

And to our continuing students, welcome back. It's a fresh start, and I believe we all have something special to look forward to at Muteesa I Royal University is more than just a place of learning; it's a home. A place where we grow not only academically, but also in leadership, culture, and personal values. Our motto, "Seeking Greater Horizons in Thought and Action," reminds us to dream big and act boldly.
As your Guild President, I'm here to serve you, support your ideas, and work together to create a more vibrant and inclusive student experience. Let's make this year count, full of growth, unity, and unforgettable memories.
Once again, welcome to the Mighty and vibrant Muteesa 1 Royal University (MRU), the home of Royal Excellence.

Warm regards,
NAMPIJJA Jackline
16th Guild President, Muteesa I Royal University
Student of Education with ICT(BEICT), Year 3, Semester 1

Welcome to the Royal League — Your Reign at MRU Begins!



Prof Vincent Kakembo
Vice Chancellor MRU

"At MRU, AI will be part of your learning journey because it matters to everyone, not just computer scientists."

I warmly welcome you, our new students, to Muteesa I Royal University (MRU), Ssaabasajja's institution and the only Royal University in Uganda and East Africa.
MRU was granted a Charter by the President of the Republic of Uganda on 11th March 2024, a milestone that reflects our commitment to excellence in higher education.
It is my pleasure to officially welcome you to the MRU family, where every student is expected to be self-driven. With the guidance of your lecturers, you will shape your career and grow into a skilled professional. Remember, however, that university life is more demanding and complex than high school.

Embrace the opportunities the coming years will present and approach the challenges with resilience; they are temporary, but the lessons you gain will last a lifetime. Make full use of our Writing Centre to strengthen your writing and communication skills.
We want you to express yourself confidently, both within MRU and beyond.
I encourage you to take advantage of our technology-driven education and e-learning platforms, as well as our blended learning approach that combines online and face-to-face teaching. These tools will equip you with the skills needed to thrive in today's competitive world.

I believe we are all familiar, in some way, with Artificial Intelligence (AI). At MRU, AI will be part of your learning journey because it matters to everyone, not just computer scientists.
Make use of resources like Google Search, Siri, Alexa, and the various AI tools your lecturers will introduce to you. These skills will be valuable both during your studies and in your future career.
Get involved in the various student associations to foster a sense of belonging and community. You now have greater independence than before; use it wisely and responsibly.

I wish you a fulfilling and successful journey at Muteesa I Royal University, as together we continue Seeking Greater Horizons in Thought and Action.

Student life at MRU is an earnest experience !

By Ssenkungu Paddy, Dean of Students

Life at Muteesa I Royal University is not just about lecture rooms and exams; it's about discovering who you are, finding what you excel at, serving others, and growing beyond the campus gates.
On behalf of the Dean of Students' department, I am delighted to warmly welcome our new students to the "University of the Kabaka".
As a department, we are proud that you made the right choice in joining the Muteesa I Royal University family. The journey ahead promises excitement, and we are dedicated to ensuring that your experience is educational, balanced, and transformative.
As you start your first semester in university life, our department has organised a range of student activities aimed at enriching your academic journey with the university.
We kick off with celebrating heritage through Cultural Week under the theme "Reviving Cultural Identity for Youth Empowerment," culminating in the annual freshers' ball, an official event welcoming all first-year students, along with the MRU Alumni Dinner and various sports activities, including participation in the Inter-Campus games held at Kirumba campus, as well as the University League and Beach Soccer tournaments.
This semester also provides a chance to observe democracy in action through MRU associations' elections, engaging student handovers, and leadership training programmes that our office prioritises to guide the development of the guild into a new generation of responsible and ethical student leaders.
I encourage all of you to take part in as many of these opportunities as possible, but most importantly, to uphold the highest standards of discipline, respect, and teamwork throughout your time here.
To support your academic growth, we, as a department, provide a level playing field for character development, and we believe in fostering an inclusive, vibrant, and empowering campus environment. Once again, welcome to the mighty Muteesa I Royal University!!



"As you start your first semester in university life, our department has organised a range of student activities aimed at enriching your academic journey with the university."

Charting the Future: MRU Launches 2025–2030 Strategic Plan

On Wednesday, 25th June, 2025, Owek. Hajj Prof. Twaha Kigongo Kaawaase, the First Deputy Katikkiro of the Kingdom of Buganda and the kingdom's minister for Administration, ICT, and Innovations, officially launched the 2025–2030 Strategic Plan for Muteesa I Royal University.

The launch event was held at the Kakeeka, Mengo Campus under the theme: "Empowering Learners, Nurturing Competence and Ethical Character."
In his address, Owek. Kaawaase commended the University Management for integrating cultural heritage into the strategic plan and aligning it with advancements in ICT and artificial intelligence. He emphasised the importance of well-planned, research-based projects that align with both cultural values and the broader vision of the Buganda Kingdom.
He further applauded Vice Chancellor Prof. Vincent Kakembo for inviting fellow university leaders to the event, including keynote speaker Prof. Patrick Kyamanywa from Uganda Martyrs University.
"I want to applaud you for inviting competition, for instance, our keynote speaker, Prof. Kyamanywa, and the Vice Chancellor of St. Lawrence University. It shows that this is a plan not just rooted in tradition but one that seeks transformation. I saw a meaningful linkage between culture and ICT, truly fitting for Omulembe Omutebi," he said.

Oweek. Kaawaase also warned against academic malpractice, particularly the issuance of fake degrees.
"We expect you to uphold integrity in academics. If you award fake degrees, you undermine the honour of the Buganda Kingdom. Whether it is a certificate, diploma, or degree, it must meet the standards of the National Council for Higher Education (NCHE). This strategic plan must serve to protect that honour," he stated.

Delivering the keynote address, Prof. Kyamanywa stressed the critical role of institutional culture in empowering learners and shaping character.
"Universities must provide an environment where learners can make choices they are proud of. We can talk about character and empowerment, but the context and culture in which learning occurs matters deeply," he noted.
Prof. Kyamanywa cautioned that even the most well-written strategic plans are ineffective without an underlying institutional culture that supports them.
"The biggest challenge for university leadership is to build a culture that drives learners toward positive transformation. Wishful thinking and lectures alone won't work if the institutional environment doesn't reinforce the values we aim to impart," he said.

" I saw a meaningful linkage between culture and ICT, truly fitting for Omulembe Omutebi,"

He added that empowering students and building their character must be a non-negotiable institutional standard, not an option.
Prof. Vincent Kakembo, the Vice Chancellor of Muteesa I Royal University, thanked the Buganda Kingdom cabinet for their support in shaping the plan. He highlighted the University's journey from its beginnings as a technical institute to its current ambitions as a leading institution of higher learning.

"Our vision is to become a premier university that responds effectively to contemporary challenges. Our mission is rooted in providing relevant training, research, and technical guidance that addresses community needs," he said.
Prof. Kakembo outlined the university's seven strategic pillars: Teaching and Learning, Research, Community Engagement, Human Resource Development, Financial Stewardship, Infrastructure Development, Institutional Visibility and Partnerships. Each pillar, he explained, has specific goals to ensure quality education, integration of modern technology, and community relevance.

He also announced a new infrastructure project: a building planned for the Kakeeka Campus, already included in the Kingdom's budget. Looking ahead, the University targets an enrolment of between 7,000 and 10,000 students by the year 2035.
The event was also attended by the Minister of Education for Buganda Kingdom, Owek. Cotilda Nakate Kikomeko, the MRU Council members, Board, management and staff and well-wishers.

Strengthening Industry-Academic Collaboration: MRU Partners with Joadah Consult Institute Limited (JDI)

Mrs J Kakembo

On 9th July 2025, the Dean of the Faculty of Science, Engineering, Information Technology, Art and Design at Muteesa I Royal University (MRU), Dr. Bukenya, held a strategic meeting with Mr. Joel Aita, a Director at Joadah Consult Institute Limited (JDI), in Entebbe City.
The purpose of the meeting was to explore collaborative opportunities between MRU and JDI in the fields of Architecture and Engineering Design.
Joadah Consult Institute Limited, a renowned institution known for its practical, hands-on training in engineering and architectural design, expressed a strong commitment to supporting MRU's academic and professional development goals.
As a result of the discussions, both institutions agreed to formalise the partnership through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), to be signed soon. As part of this collaboration, JDI has generously offered to host five MRU Engineering students for internship training. This valuable opportunity will significantly enhance the students' practical skills, provide real-world industry exposure, and improve their competitiveness in the job market. Dr. Bukenya expressed his sincere appreciation to JDI for their willingness to support this initiative.
He emphasized that such partnerships are critical to enriching the learning experience and shaping the future of MRU's engineering graduates.
He also extended his gratitude to the Vice-Chancellor and the MRU Management for their continued support in strengthening academia-industry linkages.

"JDI has generously offered to host five MRU Engineering students for internship training."



Recent Strategic partnerships

In order to bridge academia's theoretical foundations and practical industry applications, strategic partnerships have been developed among Muteesa I Royal University, CALCIGRUB, the UPDF Engineering Brigade and EACOP.

CALCIGRUB partnership:
The vision of the partnership with CALCIGRUB is to institutionalize applied innovation, experiential learning and sustainable development in alignment with the University's mission of transforming society through excellence in education, research, and service. CALCIGRUB is a duly incorporated and legally recognized corporate entity, which spearheads a dual-sector innovation strategy, integrating next generation automotive technologies with sustainable, agri-based environmental solutions.

Among other things, the partnership seeks to pioneer an innovation hub, designed to serve as a learning, research and community transformation platform for the greater Masaka region and beyond.
This initiative is also directly aligned with:
Uganda's Vision 2040 and National Development Plan IV (NDPIV)
The African Union's Agenda 2063 and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 2, 4, 9, and 13.

Key Components:
Learning Laboratory & Demonstration Centre: A facility will be designed to facilitate hands-on training for students in Environmental Science, Business, Engineering, Agriculture and related disciplines.
Research Platform: Enabling faculty and students to participate in applied research on soil health, bio-inputs, cutting-edge advancements in sustainable automotive solutions and sustainable farming practices.
Community Engagement Unit: Supporting agro-extension work, local training, and outreach for surrounding farming communities.

Value Proposition to the University:
- Academic Impact:
The partnership will offer practical, field-based learning aligned with the Competency-Based Curriculum.
It will enable undergraduate and postgraduate research and innovation.
- Institutional Prestige & Visibility:
The partnership will position the University as a national model for university–industry–community partnerships.
It will attract attention from development partners, donor agencies, and innovation platforms.
Opens avenues for grant funding, green finance, and industrial sponsorships.
- Employment and Entrepreneurship:
Trains students to become entrepreneurs, capable of creating jobs, rather than seeking them.
Offers internship, incubation, and post-graduation employment opportunities.
- Environmental Stewardship:
Promotes regenerative agriculture and reduces dependence on chemical inputs.
Supports national and local climate resilience efforts.
In the main, the partnership is a formal institutional initiative for student learning and regional impact. It is also a commitment to academic integration, including departmental engagement, joint research and course alignment.

In a time when universities must transcend traditional teaching models, the CALCIGRUB-MRU partnership presents an unparalleled opportunity to lead MRU into an era of sustainable, practical, and industry-linked education.

UPDF Engineering Brigade partnership
The department of electrical engineering at MRU had an opportunity where four of the students got internship with UPDF Engineering Brigade. The students have been involved in the following projects:
-Power line construction at Kyazanga Town Council
-Commercial house electricity installation at Misali Nyendo division
-Installation of security lights in Ssenyange division.
The supervisors of our students expressed interest in academic-military collaboration aimed at enhancing engineering capacity within the UPDF engineering brigade and contributing to national development projects.
An MoU to this effect will also be signed soon with the Brigade.

Partnership with East Africa Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP)
On April 8th 2025, officials from EACOP paid a special visit to MRU with an aim of exploring avenues for academic-industry collaboration, skills development and knowledge sharing amongst the two institutions. Such engagements provide an opportunity for MRU's to build industry-academia partnerships that enhance education and research through practical experiences and collaborations.
As part of the partnership with EACOP, a 'Train the Trainer Session' facilitated By Corinth Pipeworks (CPW) was undertaken on 29th April 2025. It was delivered to local institutions in the host countries of the crude oil pipeline: Uganda and Tanzania. The purpose of the training was to elaborate on the scope of work and activities, provide information on the nature of equipment being used and explain engineering designs, specifications, operations and best practices adopted for the project.
CPW is a steel pipe manufacturing company, supplying steel pipes for the EACOP project. The online course they presented mainly covered the processes at the CPW plant in Athens, which included:
- Metallurgy of pipe, pre-materials, rolling principles of steel coils and plates and the effect of alloying in steel;
- Methodologies used in the pipe manufacturing process, external welding of pipe joints and quality control;
- Non-destructive testing (NDT) and Laboratory testing;
- External coating materials and processes used to ensure durability. Internal coating applied for optimised crude oil flow rate;
- Handling, transportation and storage of the finished steel pipe product focusing on avoidance of product damage.
Participants from Uganda who attended the training included four academic institutions, among whom was MRU, Makerere University, Kyambogo University and Ndejje University. Uganda petroleum Institute was also represented by two participants.
EACOP presents an opportunity for case studies that can easily be used by MRU Engineering department to expose students to good practices in engineering. Metallurgy of steel pipes, effects of alloying and heat treatments in steel production together with rolling principles of steels and external welding of pipe joints provide good exposure to our mechanical engineering students. The major take from the sessions was the Non-destructive testing (NDT) where case studies could be drawn for electrical engineering students under the course on Instrumentation and Measurements and Industrial electronics. Fourth year engineering students could also use their understanding of NDT instruments used in EACOP to formulate individual projects targeted at solving problems immediate to their surroundings.



Faculty of Business and Management Sets Stage for a Vibrant 2025/2026 Academic Year

By Martha Tibaga.
Faculty Administrator

As we begin the new academic year this August 2025, the Faculty of Business and Management continues to live up to its motto, "It's Always About Business." With seven undergraduate degree programmes, six diploma courses, and the prestigious MBA postgraduate programme, the faculty remains a dynamic hub of academic excellence, innovation, and professional development.

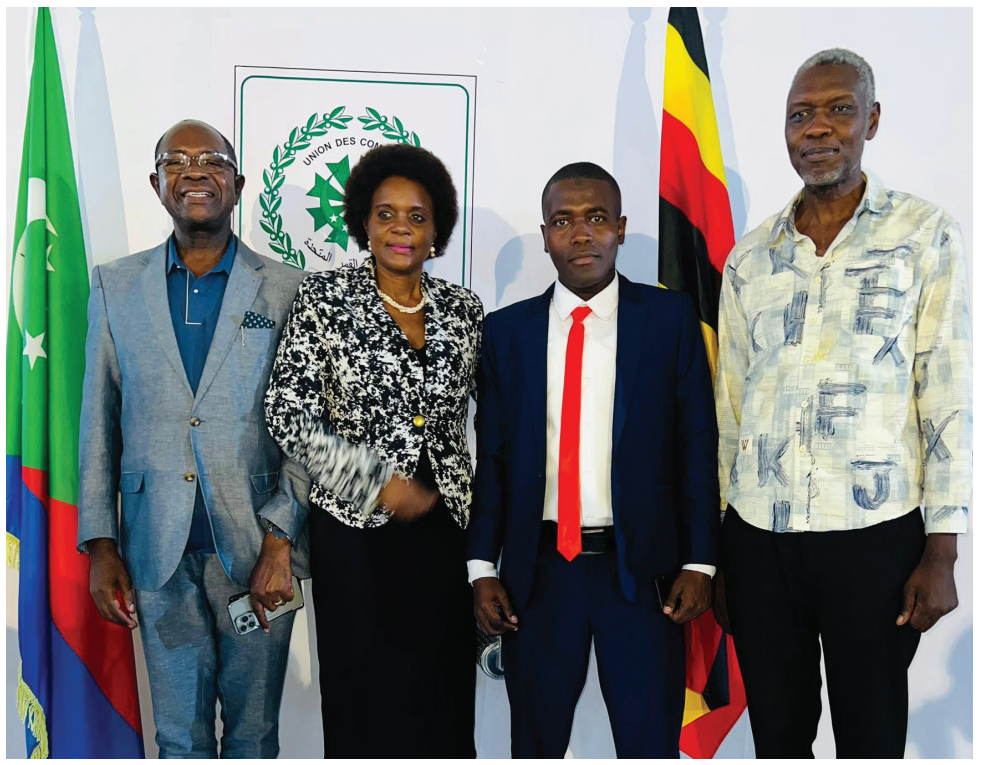
Throughout the academic year, the faculty remains actively engaged in a wide array of activities, ranging from rigorous academic training to sports, community outreach, and business exhibitions.
One of the faculty's signature events is the Annual Entrepreneurship Exhibition Fair, held every second semester. Organized by the Department of Management and Procurement, under the leadership of the Head of Department, the fair showcases the entrepreneurial skills and creativity of our undergraduate students. Products developed during practical sessions—such as candle bars, petroleum jelly, and other market-ready goods—are displayed and promoted to both internal and external guests, highlighting the practical application of classroom knowledge.

The faculty also takes pride in its vibrant sports culture, particularly through the Faculty Football Club, which actively competes in interfaculty tournaments. Additionally, professional student associations, such as the Accounts Association, guided by the Head of the Department of Finance and Economics, offer platforms for students to deepen their academic and career interests. These associations promote peer learning, mentorship, and networking opportunities, including interactions with students from other universities.
Beyond the classroom, the faculty is committed to community engagement. In the previous academic year, staff members successfully conducted a short course programme for local vendors, aimed at enhancing their business skills and strengthening the university's ties with the community.
Academically, the faculty proudly hosted research proposal presentations for MBA students, further reinforcing the status of the MBA as one of the university's leading postgraduate programmes. These sessions provide a forum for intellectual exchange, research development, and mentorship.

Led by Dr. Patrick Bwowe, Dean of the Faculty, and supported by a dedicated team of over 25 academic and administrative staff—including heads of departments and the Faculty Administrator—the Faculty of Business and Management is well-positioned to offer quality education and support to all students.
As we step into the 2025/2026 academic year, we remain committed to nurturing the next generation of business leaders and professionals. We look forward to a year of growth, achievement, and continued excellence.



MRU Participates in the 50th Independence Day Celebration of the Comoros Republic



Mrs J Kakembo

Muteesa I Royal University (MRU) had the honour of participating in the 50th Independence Day celebrations of the Comoros Republic, held on 7th July 2025 at the Las Vegas Hotel. The University was formally invited by the Consul of Uganda to the Comoros Islands, H.E. Prof. Alex Bashasha, to join in commemorating this significant national milestone.

MRU was proudly represented by Prof. Vincent Kakembo, Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Fred Kamoga Musisi, Academic Registrar, and Mrs. Juliet Kakembo, Manager, International Office. The event featured vibrant cultural performances, speeches highlighting the enduring friendship between Uganda and the Comoros, and presentations promoting regional cooperation, particularly in the field of education.
A key highlight of the celebration was the award ceremony officiated by H.E. Prof. Bashasha. Awards were presented to outstanding Comorian students studying in Uganda.
Among the honorees was Mr. Mohamed Moustahabou, a student of Muteesa I Royal University and Vice President of the Comorian Students' Association in Uganda, who received the Best Sportsman Award, a moment of great pride for the MRU community.

MRU's participation in this prestigious event underscores the University's growing international presence and its unwavering commitment to fostering academic and cultural partnerships across Africa and beyond.

"The event featured vibrant cultural performances, speeches highlighting the enduring friendship between Uganda and the Comoros, ..."

MRU to host Cultural Week 2025 in partnership with clan elders and BUCADEF

Muteesa I Royal University (MRU), in collaboration with the Buganda Cultural and Development Foundation (BUCADEF) and the Council of Clan Elders (Nkoba za Mbogo), will host a vibrant Cultural Week from 8th to 13th September 2025 at its Kakeeka campus. Themed "Youth, Culture, and Sustainable Development: Preserving Our Heritage, Securing Our Future," the festival aims to celebrate and promote Buganda's rich cultural heritage while engaging youth as active custodians of indigenous knowledge and sustainable development.

This landmark initiative responds to growing concerns over the erosion of cultural identity among younger generations, driven by globalization, urbanization, and education systems that often sideline traditional knowledge.

The event seeks to bridge generational divides, revive indigenous languages and values, and foster dialogue on how culture can be a catalyst for national development, peace-building, and social transformation.

Throughout the week, participants will engage in a diverse range of cultural and academic activities, including clan-based exhibitions, cultural parades, traditional food and crafts displays, music and dance performances, poetry competitions, and storytelling forums. A special academic symposium will examine the role of indigenous knowledge in development, complemented by tree planting campaigns and environmental awareness initiatives. These activities aim to highlight the connection between culture, identity, and sustainability.

"This landmark initiative responds to growing concerns over the erosion of cultural identity among younger generations, driven by globalization, urbanization, and education systems that often sideline traditional knowledge. "

The Cultural Week aligns with Uganda's Vision 2040, the Sustainable Development Goals (particularly SDGs 4, 5, 11, 13, and 17), and MRU's mission to provide transformative, relevant, and culturally grounded education.

With an expected attendance of over 6,000 students, staff, community members, and cultural leaders, including more than 30 participating clans, the event promises to be a landmark celebration of heritage and innovation.

It will also generate scholarly publications and a documentary to support MRU's outreach and academic mandate.
This festival reflects MRU's deepening commitment to positioning culture as a vital pillar of sustainable development and intergenerational learning. It invites stakeholders from academia, cultural institutions, civil society, government, and the private sector to co-host, co-create, and co-finance this visionary celebration.

For partnerships and sponsorship opportunities, please contact the Assoc. Prof. Rosemary Nakijoba, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Arts, and Humanities, at email: rnakijoba@mru.ac.ug or call +256-772-698138.

MRU Students Inspired at Travel Writing Workshop

By Kabuye Joseph
Department, Tourism and Hospitality

"Your words can put Uganda on the map," she emphasized, "and your voice matters in shaping the future of our tourism industry."



In March 2025, the Muteesa I Royal University Tourism Association (MRUASA), in partnership with the Department of Tourism and Hospitality, hosted a one-day workshop themed "Unlock the Power of Travel Writing and Elevate Your Digital Marketing Skills."

Facilitated by Ms. Allen Namisango of Uganda Uncovered and Mr. Julius Luwemba, the session introduced students to storytelling for tourism promotion and encouraged participation in the 5th Inter-University Travel Writing Competition, where top winners will earn fully sponsored trips across Uganda. Students explored Uganda's tourism potential, gained insights into past award-winning stories, and expressed keen interest in a follow-up digital marketing session.
Assoc. Professor Rosemary Nakijoba, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities, applauded the workshop as a timely and transformative initiative.

She urged students to embrace writing not just as a skill but as a powerful tool for personal growth, national storytelling, and global visibility. "Your words can put Uganda on the map," she emphasized, "and your voice matters in shaping the future of our tourism industry."

The MRUASA Patron proposed compiling student travel stories into a departmental magazine an idea warmly embraced.
The event, primarily attended by Tourism students, was recorded and is available on Uganda Uncovered YouTube Channel: https://youtube.com/@UgandaUncovered

Transforming Society, One Changemaker at a Time: Highlights from the Department of Social Work and Development Studies

By Mr. Nkumbi Julius Ceasor-HOD Social Work and Development Studies

The Department of Social Work and Development Studies is proud to share key highlights of our vibrant academic, research, and community engagement efforts this semester. At the heart of our work is a commitment to developing ethical, skilled, and compassionate social change agents equipped to address Uganda's most pressing development challenges.

This semester saw the successful rollout of revised course content that reflects emerging global and local development priorities. Students are now engaging with critical topics such as climate justice, mental health, inclusive development, and youth empowerment-positioning them as future-ready development practitioners. A defining feature of our department is our strong emphasis on field-based learning. Over 25 partner institutions have supported our students through internships and community placements, including Mengo Youth Development Link, Uganda Red Cross Society, Ssanyu Babies Home, and several District Local Government departments. These hands-on experiences continue to enhance our students' professional growth, empathy, and commitment to grassroots transformation.

Our academic staff and graduate students remain actively involved in research that informs policy and practice. Key areas of focus include gender equity, urban poverty, child protection, and public policy. Through regional and international collaborations, we continue to foster a culture of publication, evidence-based learning, and policy dialogue.

We are equally inspired by the passion and leadership of our students. The Social Work Students' Association (SWSA) has championed initiatives in mental health awareness, peer counseling, and mentorship. Their dedication reflects the department's ethos of student-led advocacy and community engagement. As we look ahead, we reaffirm our mission to shape future changemakers equipped not just with knowledge, but with the courage to act, lead, and transform society.

From Graduate to Changemaker: Mugalu Henry's Journey in Social Work



My name is Mugalu Henry, and I am proud to be an Assistant Social Worker at Health Initiatives Association in Buikwe.

I joined Muteesa I Royal University in 2021 and graduated in 2023 with a Bachelor's degree in Social Work and Social Administration. This academic journey has profoundly shaped my professional path and deepened my commitment to community transformation.

At Muteesa I Royal University, I was equipped with practical skills and in-depth knowledge in areas such as community development, policy analysis, human rights, and rehabilitation.

The university's emphasis on experiential learning and community engagement prepared me well for real-world challenges.
Today, I work with Health Initiatives Association, a leading organization promoting health and social well-being in Buikwe and across Uganda. My role involves spearheading community outreach, health education (particularly with sickle cell warriors), and advocacy campaigns. One of my proudest achievements has been enhancing the social connection between medical workers and clients, significantly improving trust and service delivery.

Looking ahead, I am passionate about serving vulnerable populations, influencing social policy, and advancing within my organization. I dream of becoming one of its top employees and flying the Muteesa I Royal University flag high wherever I go.

My story is a reflection of the transformative power of education. I remain deeply grateful to the university, my lecturers, and peers for shaping the professional I am becoming.

A Journey of Leadership and Growth at Muteesa I Royal University



As I sit in the vibrant halls of Muteesa I Royal University, I am filled with pride and gratitude for the transformative journey I have undertaken since joining the Bachelor of Mass Communication program in 2023. With graduation on the horizon in 2026, I reflect on the meaningful experiences that have shaped me into the leader I am becoming.

From the very beginning, I was entrusted with the role of class coordinator. This is a responsibility I continue to hold with distinction.

This position has sharpened my leadership skills and helped foster a strong sense of unity and camaraderie among my peers. My service as Coordinators' Chairperson has been equally enriching, providing the opportunity to collaborate with fellow student leaders on initiatives that uplift our university community.

Beyond the university gates, I serve as the Speaker of CBS Emmanduso Akeezimbira Youth Group, a platform through which I inspire and empower fellow youth through knowledge-sharing and dialogue. Leading the Baganda Nkobazambogo Students' Association has been another proud milestone—connecting me with peers who share a deep appreciation for our cultural identity and values.

On campus, I lead the University's Music, Dance, and Drama group—a space where I express my creativity, work with gifted artists, and promote the power of performance. These diverse roles have not only nurtured my talents but have deepened my appreciation for the high-quality services and opportunities offered by Muteesa I Royal University.

"I lead the University's Music, Dance, and Drama group—a space where I express my creativity, work with gifted artists, and promote the power of performance."

The Department of Mass Communication, under the Faculty of Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities, and led by the erudite Associate Professor Rosemary Nakijoba, has been a pillar of support and inspiration.

The faculty's commitment to academic excellence, mentorship, and student empowerment has created a learning environment where we are encouraged to thrive and reach our full potential.
As I work toward graduating with a first-class degree, I am confident that the skills and knowledge I have gained will open doors to a promising future. My aspiration is to work with leading media houses in Uganda, where I can channel my passion for storytelling, leadership, and community engagement into meaningful contributions to society.
Muteesa I Royal Universi

ty has been more than an academic institution—it has been a launching pad for my dreams, a catalyst for personal and professional growth, and a nurturing community that continues to shape the leader I am becoming. I look forward to the future with hope and gratitude for the extraordinary journey that has brought me this far.

From MRU to the Priesthood: The Journey of Deacon Lawrence Luzinda Lwanga

"I always believed in servant leadership. As Christ said in Mark 9:35, 'Whoever wants to be first must be servant of all.' I carried that principle into every role I was given,"

By Kaweesi Frank



Muteesa I Royal University (MRU) proudly celebrates the milestone of one of its alumni, Fr. Lawrence Luzinda Lwanga, on his forthcoming ordination as a Roman Catholic priest in the Archdiocese of Kampala. The announcement was made by His Grace Paul Ssemwogerere, the Archbishop of Kampala, marking the conclusion of an eight-year formation journey at St. Mbaga's Major Seminary, Ggaba.

"I thank God for this calling. I do not merit it, but as St. Paul says, by the grace of God I am what I am," Deacon Lawrence shared.

Life at MRU

Rev. Fr. Luzinda was a student at MRU from 2012 to 2015, pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, with a specialisation in Marketing.

Reflecting on his time at the university, he described it as "a lovely and educative experience." Despite the usual ups and downs of student life, he appreciated the warm welcome and support he received from administrators and peers alike.

"The environment was good. We were led by great student leaders like Kato Domiano and Ssabagabo Emmanuel, and supported by dedicated administrators such as Mr. Nsubuga (Dean of Students), Madam Nampijja, and the late Prof. Kigongo. I will always be grateful for their guidance," he said.

Even as a student, Fr Lawrence juggled work responsibilities with his studies, receiving financial support from his brother, a lecturer at MRU. The administration showed understanding and allowed him to continue his studies during times of financial difficulty, something he describes as an act of grace.

Leadership and Service at MRU

Leadership was a central part of his university life. He began as Year One Coordinator for the Catholic community at St. Christopher Chapel, under the chaplaincy of Fr. Charles Lwanga Makoboza, and later became a Guild Representative Councillor (GRC) for Generic Management.

His journey in student leadership eventually led him to serve as Minister for Constitutional Affairs in the Guild Cabinet.

"I always believed in servant leadership. As Christ said in Mark 9:35, 'Whoever wants to be first must be servant of all.' I carried that principle into every role I was given," he noted.

He recounted a moment during his Guild service when students complained about poor sanitation. Even while in the middle of a meal, he put aside his food to inspect the facilities and reported the issue to the administration. The problem was fixed the following day.

"That is what servant leadership looks like, responding to the needs of others without hesitation," he said.

The Call to Priesthood

Fr. Luzinda traces his vocation to his early years as an altar server in Goli Parish during primary school. After graduating from MRU in 2015, despite having a stable job at Hotel Africana, he chose to follow his calling and joined St. Mbaga's Major Seminary. He was accepted and embarked on an 8-year journey of spiritual, theological, and pastoral formation.

"Many expected me to join the workforce fully after graduation. But the longing in my heart to become a priest never left me. I am grateful to God for leading me through this journey."

Merging Faith with Marketing Skills

Though called to the priesthood, Fr. Luzinda believes his marketing background from MRU will greatly enhance his pastoral ministry.

"A good marketer studies people's needs and delivers services accordingly. In ministry, this translates to understanding the spiritual and personal struggles of the faithful, and delivering the Gospel in a way that speaks to their lives," he explained.

He emphasized the importance of pastoral closeness, going beyond the pulpit to meet people where they are, even in their homes, just as a marketer brings goods closer to the consumer.

A Message to MRU Students

Fr. Luzinda urged current MRU students to prioritise their academics and embrace servant leadership. "You are here for only three years, make them count. Avoid retakes. Work hard, consult your lecturers, and aim higher. As Thomas Jefferson once said, 'If you want something you've never had, you must be willing to do something you've never done.'"

He also cited the ancient philosopher Seneca: "Repetition is the mother of study." He encouraged students to revise difficult concepts persistently, seek help, and never give up.

In parting, Fr. Luzinda called on MRU leaders, both student and administrative, to serve with diligence, humility, and compassion. "Leadership is not about titles. It's about making a difference in people's lives. That's what I learnt here at MRU, and that's the spirit I'm taking into my priesthood."

As MRU celebrates this milestone with Deacon Lawrence, we are reminded of the university's role in nurturing holistic leaders, academically sound, socially responsible, and spiritually grounded.

We wish Rev. Fr. Lawrence Luzinda Lwanga every blessing in his ministry. "May the Lord who called you to this Ministry lead you until the end."

He was ordained a priest on 9th August 2025 at Rubaga Cathedral in Kampala.

Muteesa I Royal University Hosts Buganda Delegation for Historic Muwafu Tree Planting

"This tree was the cornerstone of formal education in Buganda," she said. "Its fall was a moment of sorrow. However, it prompted action. Following a visit by the Kingdom's Minister of Culture, we were tasked to replant the tree in its original location and at other significant sites."



On Thursday, 12th June 2024, Muteesa I Royal University, Kirumba Campus, hosted a delegation from the Buganda Kingdom led by Prof. Maria Musoke, Chairperson of the Joint Committee on the Replacement of the Muwafu Tree, and the Pokino of Buddu, Mr. Jude Muleke.
The team was received by the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Vincent Kakembo.

Earlier this year, the historic Canarium tree (commonly known as the Muwafu) at Kyambogo University collapsed. This tree was widely believed to have provided shade during the significant 1875 meeting between Ssekabaka Walugembe Muteesa I and British explorer Henry Morton Stanley. That encounter marked a turning point in Uganda's history, leading to a letter inviting Queen Victoria to send English teachers to educate the people of Buganda.
In response to the tree's collapse, the Buganda Kingdom and Kyambogo University formed a Joint Committee, chaired by Prof. Musoke, to ensure the symbolic replacement of the tree. A seedling successfully propagated from the original tree was proposed for planting at key sites, including Muteesa I Royal University.
On 12th June, a ceremonial tree planting took place at the Kirumba Campus, led by Vice Chancellor Prof. Kakembo, Prof. Musoke, Pokino Muleke, and other dignitaries from the Kingdom.

In his remarks, Prof. Kakembo expressed the University's deep gratitude for being selected to receive the historic seedling. "This university is indeed a fruit of the agreement initiated by Ssekabaka Walugembe Muteesa I and Henry Morton Stanley in 1875," he noted. "We are honoured to be among the institutions chosen to commemorate that historic moment. Our academic programs reflect the vision and needs of both the Buganda Kingdom and the country at large."
Prof. Kakembo also announced the University's plans to introduce a course in Agriculture, pending approval from the National Council for Higher Education (NCHE). He further commended the Joint Committee for their efforts in preserving this vital piece of heritage.
Speaking at the event, Prof. Musoke explained the cultural significance of the Muwafu tree, often referred to as Omuti gwa Buganda (The Tree of Buganda). She noted that although the tree's importance was not widely documented, its collapse in February 2024 during a heavy downpour evoked a strong emotional response among the Baganda.

"This tree was the cornerstone of formal education in Buganda," she said. "Its fall was a moment of sorrow. However, it prompted action. Following a visit by the Kingdom's Minister of Culture, we were tasked to replant the tree in its original location and at other significant sites."

Prof. Musoke also revealed that the Kingdom's Prime Minister appointed a four-member team to collaborate with Kyambogo University to oversee the replanting effort. In addition to planting new seedlings, plans are underway to carve a sculpture of Ssekabaka Muteesa I writing the historic letter to Queen Victoria from the remains of the fallen tree. The sculpture will be placed at a monument erected at the original tree site.
She urged Muteesa I Royal University to take great care of the newly planted seedling so it can thrive and continue to serve as a living reminder of Buganda's legacy.

The Pokino of Buddu, Mr. Jude Muleke, emphasized the importance of preserving historical knowledge.
"This event reconnects us with the roots of education in Buganda," he said. "Our children must understand and appreciate this legacy. Let us ensure this history is not forgotten."

He also highlighted the significance of the Muwafu tree beyond its symbolism, noting that its fruits are sweet and its resin is used in religious rituals by both Catholics and Muslims. He pledged continued support and regular visits to the university to monitor the tree's growth.
The ceremony was graced by several distinguished guests, including Prince Ssenfuma Timothy, former Gombolola Chief of Nakawa; Prince Ndawula Charles; Omuzaana Ssenfuma Babirye; Omuky Nyanzi Allen, Head of Women's Affairs in Buddu; and Mr. Kizito Joseph, in charge of Lands and Housing in Buddu. Members of the University staff also attended the event.

From Classroom to Career: A Journey in Hospitality Excellence By Nakakande Teddy, Alumna – Bachelor of Tourism and Hotel Management (Class of 2023)

I am Nakakande Teddy, a proud alumna of Muteesa I Royal University, where I graduated in 2023 with a Bachelor's Degree in Tourism and Hotel Management. Today, I work as a Hostess at Café Javas, Kampala—a leading international restaurant franchise with more than seven branches in Uganda and three in Kenya. With two years of industry experience, I continue to build on the strong academic foundation and professional values instilled in me at the University.

My time at Muteesa I Royal University was not just about acquiring knowledge. It was about transformation. The program equipped me with both theoretical and practical skills, and our lecturers constantly reminded us that hospitality is not just about food and drinks. It is about creating memorable experiences. That lesson rings true every day in my current role. Whether welcoming guests or ensuring a smooth dining experience, I have learned that the first and last impressions we leave matter most. The hospitality industry also teaches invaluable life skills. I have learned how to handle guests with diverse backgrounds, attitudes, and expectations. This is an experience that has made me more emotionally intelligent and adaptable, even outside the workplace.

Choosing to pursue a career in hospitality has been one of the best decisions I have ever made. I encourage prospective students to consider Muteesa I Royal University as their first choice. And for those passionate about service, people, and travel, the Tourism and Hotel Management program is an excellent pathway to a fulfilling career.



Tourism Students Set for "The Pearl and the Wild Heights" Study Tour

Ms. Imelda Amony
Head, Department of Tourism and Hospitalit

From 23rd to 27th September 2025, Tourism students from Muteesa I Royal University will embark on a five-day educational tour themed "The Pearl and the Wild Heights."

The trip, organized by the Department of Tourism and Hospitality, offers a rich blend of nature, culture, and field-based learning across Western Uganda.

Key destinations include Lake Mburo National Park, Queen Elizabeth National Park, Kazinga Channel, Rwenzori Mountains, Kasese, and Fort Portal. Students will engage in activities such as game drives, boat cruises, salt mining observation, nature walks, cultural site visits, and community interactions, designed to deepen their understanding of Uganda's tourism landscape.

The tour also includes special highlights such as the Equator experience at Kayabwe, Lake Katwe's salt mining community, the Rwenzori ranges, and the legendary Amabeere ga Nyinamwiru in Fort Portal. These experiences are structured to build students' practical knowledge while enhancing their storytelling and analytical skills.

According to Assoc. Professor Rosemary Nakijoba, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities, the tour is "a mobile classroom where tourism meets culture, ecology, and creativity." Students are expected to document their journey through pictographic travel stories, to be submitted at the end of the semester.

The best submissions will be featured in the Department's annual magazine. Participants have been advised to prepare adequately, remain observant, and embrace the opportunity to learn directly from the field, a vital step in their journey as tourism professionals.

