



MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF LAW

NEWSLETTER

January - April 2026



76th Grad: Three Attain Doctor of Laws Degrees

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MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



Welcome you to this edition of the Makerere University School of Law Newsletter, covering the period January to April 2026. The period in issue has been very productive for our School, marked by academic excellence and impactful engagements.

I extend my warmest congratulations to Dr. Oscar Kambona, Dr. Lydia Namateefu-Kisekka and Dr. Ndayishimiye Aimé Fidèle, who were conferred upon the Doctor of Laws (LLD) degree in February 2026 during Makerere University's 75th graduation ceremony. Your achievement underscores our School's commitment to rigorous research that addresses national and global legal issues and development. I also celebrate the great performance of our Master of Laws (LLM) and Bachelor of Laws (LLB) graduates. Particularly,

I recognize the remarkable accomplishment of our two First Class LLB graduates (Allan Aijuka and Raymond Jerry Nuwamanya) whose journey reflects resilience, discipline, and purpose. Such achievements inspire our student community and reaffirm our role in nurturing the next generation of legal professionals and leaders.

Our mooting teams registered strong successes during the period. They won the national rounds of the Philip C Jessup International Law Moot Court competition and proceeded to represent Uganda at the global level where they equally performed well, despite the hardships they faced they faced in securing the visas given the visa bond requirements. Our students also won the inaugural national Labor Law moot court competition, and emerged first runners-up at the Boston International Innovation Moot Court Competition. I congratulate our students and staff on these successes.

The School has also remained steadfast in our community outreach engagements aimed at empowering local communities and providing legal aid services to the indigent. Many of our outreach activities are conducted by our students, but under supervision. This is part of their training under the experiential learning methodology. Three major outreach engagements were conducted during this period i.e.,

a legal literacy session in Zingola fishing community in Mukono district, a legal literacy session with children in conflict with the law at Naguru Remand Home, and a legal literacy session with Local Council and opinion leaders in the Kampala slum of Kivulu. Besides the training that our students get, these outreach engagements have been acknowledged as being impactful and making the School of Law and Makerere University more relevant to the local communities.

Our commitment to graduate research and training was further demonstrated through the successful hosting of the third doctoral colloquium, which provided an essential platform for scholarly exchange, mentorship, and academic accountability. 28 LLD candidates attended and presented their draft chapters for peer-to-peer feedback and feedback from faculty that attended.

As we reflect on these achievements, I wish to thank our students, faculty, alumni, partners, Makerere University Management and Makerere University Council for the support and continued dedication to the School's mission. I invite you to explore this newsletter and share in the stories that define our collective progress.

As We Build for the Future!

Assoc. Prof. Ronald Naluwairo
DEAN



Reaching the summit of legal scholarship: 3 Attain Doctor of Laws Degrees



LLD Degree Awardees L-R: Dr. Oscar Kambona, Dr. Lydia Namateefu Kisekka and Dr. Ndayishimiye Aimé Fidèle's

At the 76th Graduation Ceremony of Makerere University, the Makerere University School of Law (SoL) presented three scholars for the award of the Doctor of Laws (LLD) degree. The three are Lydia Namateefu Kisekka, Oscar Kambona and Aimé Fidèle Ndayishimiye.

Unlike taught programmes, the LLD degree programme is a purely research doctorate that culminates into an LLD thesis. It demands substantial original contribution to legal scholarship.

Dr. Lydia Kisekka Namateefu, appraised the relationship between the law on land registration and land grabbing in Uganda using Kayunga District as case study. Her work was supervised by Dr. Rose Nakayi and Dr. Zahara Nampewo.

In her words, Dr Namateefu Kisekka shared that the LLD degree marks a significant milestone in her academic and professional journey. She was driven by a commitment to advancing legal scholarship and improving justice systems; therefore pursued the LLD as both a personal calling and a

professional responsibility.

She advises aspiring LLD degree candidates to pursue their studies with passion, clear purpose, strong mentorship, and persistence. She expressed gratitude to her supervisors, employer, colleagues, and family, for their support.

Dr. Ndayishimiye Aimé Fidèle's, thesis examined the effectiveness of the East African Court of Justice in the adjudication of civil and political rights cases'. His work was supervised by Dr. Benson Tusasirwe and Dr. Emmanuel Bagenda. Born in Burundi, Dr. Ndayishimiye is a pastor, legal scholar, and aviation professional. Currently, he serves as an Air Safety and Accident Investigator and a legal advisor to faith-based organizations in Burundi.

He notes that his pursuit of an LLD degree was driven by a long-standing ambition to attain the highest legal qualification and to address the growing need for PhD-level scholars in Burundi's legal education sector. During his doctoral studies at Makerere, he benefited from strong mentorship, institutional support, and research

funding, enabling him to complete the programme in 34 months despite financial challenges. He advises prospective LLD degree candidates to remain disciplined, proactive, and responsive to supervision, emphasizing that timely completion is achievable with focus and commitment. He also encourages academic engagement through conferences, networking, and publishing.

Dr. Oscar Kambona's LLD thesis analysed the powers of Uganda Revenue Authority in relation to taxpayers' rights to property and privacy in Uganda. His work was supervised by Professor David Justine Bakibinga and Professor Christopher Mbazira.

Dr. Kambona is a prominent Ugandan lawyer, widely recognized as a leading expert in taxation, litigation, and arbitration in the East African region. With over three decades of legal experience, Kambona has played a key role in shaping Uganda's tax law framework, including involvement in drafting and interpreting tax legislation. He previously served as a legal advisor to the Commissioner General of the Uganda Revenue Authority and has handled major tax disputes involving multinational corporations, government agencies, and key sectors such as oil and gas and telecommunications.

3 attain Doctor of Laws degrees
the LLD degree programme is a purely research doctorate that culminates into an LLD thesis.

Aijuka's Inspiring Journey to obtaining a First Class LLB Degree



Aijuka Allan

As the SoL celebrates another cohort of Bachelor of Laws (LLB) graduates, Aijuka Allan stands out as one of the best-performing students. His journey is defined by resilience, faith, discipline, and an unwavering commitment to excellence. Graduating with a First Class LLB degree, Aijuka describes the moment as “incredibly fulfilling, humbling, and an inexplicable blessing.” What once seemed nearly impossible has now become



Aijuka shakes hands with Professor Ronald Naluwairo, Dean-SoL

a reality, thanks to perseverance, supportive mentors, and deep faith. “All my sleepless nights were never in vain,” he reflects. Aijuka hails from Bitooma Town Council in Bushenyi District, where his academic journey began. The seventh of ten children born to Mr. Bwambizo Richard and Mrs. Tusasiirwe Elivanisi, his story is one of determination from humble beginnings. He attended Muhame Community School before

completing his primary education at Birimbi Model Primary School, where he scored an aggregate of 8. His academic promise continued at Mbarara High School under the MasterCard Foundation Scholarship, where he excelled at both UCE and UACE levels.

His passion for law was ignited early, rooted in a desire to advance justice and promote good governance. By the end of Senior Four, he was certain that law was his calling. Throughout his studies, constitutional law emerged as his strongest interest, particularly issues surrounding the rule of law and civil liberties. His LLB research paper on freedom of assembly in Uganda reflects this deep intellectual dissertation.

Aijuka credits his academic success to faith, discipline, and the influence of dedicated lecturers at the SoL. He highlighted that encouragement from his supervisors, Prof. Emmanuel Kasimbazi, Prof. Oloka Onyango and Dr. Busingye Kabumba played a transformative role in building his confidence and sharpening his ambitions.

Beyond the classroom, Aijuka immersed himself in leadership and service. He was elected Chairperson of the Students' Guild Tribunal—an experience he says greatly enhanced his maturity and leadership skills. He also remained active in his faith community at St. Francis Chapel and contributed to Pan-African student initiatives through Africa Kwetu.

Reflecting on his time at Makerere, Aijuka emphasizes the richness of diversity within the SoL. The exposure to varied perspectives helped shape his understanding of society and the role of law within it. “It created a cocktail of experiences that opened my eyes,” he shared.

Mooting Teams Shine with major wins in Jessup and Boston Competitions



SoL Team that represented Makerere University at the Phillip C. Jessup International Rounds held in Washington D.C, U.S.A L-R: Weyaula Ian Chemiat, Acom Philomena, Akankwatsa Isabel and Ainomugisha Julius Sr. With the team (3rd right) is Ms. Sydney Robson, Senior Advocate – White and Case International Law Firm. Ms Robson participated in setting the 2026 Moot

The SoL recorded a remarkable milestone in its mooting programme, with its mooting team emerging winners in the national rounds of the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition held on 31st January 2026 at Kampala International University. The victory earned the team the honour of representing Uganda at the international rounds held 28th March to 4th April 2026 in Washington, D.C., USA.

Competing against 173 teams with more than 4000 students from over 100 countries in Washington D.C., the team demonstrated remarkable resilience, intellectual rigour and institutional pride. They earned a standing ovation from the Jessup Community for embodying the

‘Jessup Spirit’ having undertaken one of their presentations online.

The competition simulates a fictional dispute between states before the International Court of Justice, requiring participants to demonstrate mastery of public international law, written advocacy through memorials, and oral advocacy before panels of judges

The Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition is widely regarded as the world’s largest and most prestigious moot court contest, drawing participation from over 700 law schools across more than 100 jurisdictions annually. The competition simulates a fictional dispute between states before the International Court of Justice, requiring participants to demonstrate mastery

of public international law, written advocacy through memorials, and oral advocacy before panels of judges.



SoL Team holding the Uganda Flag

SoL’s triumph at the national level is a testament to the team’s exceptional preparation, intellectual rigor, and composure under pressure. Throughout the competition, the students exhibited outstanding advocacy skills, delivering persuasive and well-structured arguments, while demonstrating deep analytical engagement with complex questions of international law. Their performance also reflected strong teamwork, strategic coordination, and the ability to respond effectively to challenging judicial interventions.

This achievement further reinforces the SoL’s growing reputation as a centre of excellence in mooting, legal research, and scholarship.

In a parallel success, another team from the SoL showcased its talent on the international stage by securing first runners-up position at the Boston International Innovation Moot, held from 6th to 8th February 2026. The competition, which focuses on emerging legal issues at the intersection of law, technology, and innovation, attracted strong participation from universities around the world.



*Boston International Innovation Moot Team
L-R. Cuthbert Sempa and Hirwa Anne*

The team impressed judges with their originality, clarity of argument, and ability to navigate novel and complex legal questions. Their performance not only earned them the 1st runners-up position but also attracted special recognition in the form of the inaugural Pauline Ndirangu Willem C. Vis Moot Award. This distinction grants the team an opportunity to participate in the prestigious Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot, scheduled to take place in Austria in April 2026.

The Willem C. Vis Moot is one of the leading competitions for law students to foster the study and practice of international commercial sales law and arbitration. Participation offers students invaluable exposure to practical aspects of dispute resolution, as well as networking opportunities.

At national level, the SoL team also won the Inaugural Labour Law Moot Competition held on 2nd April 2026 at King Caesar University, Kampala.



SoL team that won the Inaugural Labour Law Moot with Justice Mike Chibita (2nd left)

Together, these achievements highlight the strength and depth of SoL's mooting programme and its commitment to experiential legal education. By providing students with platforms to engage in high-level legal argumentation and global competition, the School continues to nurture well-rounded, confident, and globally competitive legal professionals.

This achievement further reinforces the SoL's growing reputation as a centre of excellence in mooting, legal research, and scholarship.

Leadership Transition in the Commercial Law Department as Dr. Engoru takes over



Dr. Anthony Kakooza (right) hands over to Dr. Ivan Engoru in the presence of Professor Ronald Naluwairo, Dean-SoL

On 9th January, 2026, Dr. Anthony Kakooza handed over headship of the Commercial Law Department to Dr. Ivan Engoru.

Speaking at the handover meeting, the Dean, Assoc. Professor Ronald Naluwairo commended Dr. Kakooza for his dedicated service over the past three years, highlighting his impactful leadership and contributions to both the department and the wider SoL. "You have left a mark and laid a strong foundation upon which the department will continue to grow," the Dean noted, expressing gratitude for Dr. Kakooza's commitment and service.

Dr. Kakooza's tenure was characterized by key academic and institutional developments, notably the development of the Master's degree programme in Intellectual Property. He also spearheaded the development Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) short course, and supported

student initiatives such as the ADR Club, which has fostered practical engagement among learners.

In his remarks, Dr. Kakooza expressed appreciation for the opportunity to serve and emphasized the value of collaboration in academic leadership. "Managing a department is ultimately about managing people—colleagues and students alike—and working together to resolve challenges," he said. He pledged continued support to the department, including mentorship, supervision, and academic engagement.

The incoming HoD, Dr. Ivan Engoru, acknowledged the responsibility entrusted to him and committed to building on the strong foundation laid by his predecessor. Reflecting on his journey within the institution, he described the appointment as a significant milestone and pledged a consultative and inclusive leadership approach. "Good leadership builds on what already exists. I will draw on the experience

of my predecessors and colleagues to take the department forward," he stated.

The Dean underscored the strategic importance of the Commercial Law Department, noting the high level of interest it attracts both within and outside the university. He challenged the incoming HoD to prioritize completion of the Masters in Intellectual Property degree programme and fast-track the rollout of short courses, particularly in ADR, to enhance the department's visibility and outreach. Reaffirming the School's support, the Dean encouraged continued collaboration between the outgoing and incoming HoD to ensure a smooth transition and sustained progress.

The handover signals continuity and renewed momentum for the Commercial Law Department, as it seeks to expand its academic offerings, strengthen its profile, and respond to emerging opportunities in legal education and practice.

Bridging Theory and Practice in Land Transactions Class



Ms. Joyce Gunze Habaasa

The SoL hosted Ms. Joyce Gunze Habaasa on 3rd March 2026 as a Guest Lecturer in the L2210 – Land Transactions class, where she delivered an insightful lecture on *“Key Historical Documents and Processes of Land Survey and Registration in Uganda.”* The lecture was moderated by Dr. Rose Nakayi, Senior Lecturer at SoL, who teaches the L2210 course unit.

The session enriched students’ understanding of land law by connecting classroom theory with practical experiences from the field. Ms. Habaasa guided students through the evolution of land documentation in Uganda, highlighting critical historical records and their continued relevance in contemporary land administration. She elaborated the processes involved in land surveying and how these underpin the registration of land interests. She emphasized the importance

of accuracy, documentation, and adherence to legal procedures in ensuring secure land tenure and minimizing disputes.

Students were given an opportunity to engage with real-world examples, enabling them to better appreciate the technical and legal intersections that shape land transactions. The interactive session also provided a platform for discussion on current challenges in land registration and the role of survey data in resolving them.



LLB II Class listening to Ms. Habaasa's presentation

The guest lectures are part of the School’s broader effort to integrate practitioner perspectives into the LLB and LLM curricula, equipping students with practical knowledge and skills essential for legal practice.

Joyce Gunze Habaasa is a distinguished Registered Surveyor and the founder of TERRAIN CONSULT (2003), a Kampala-based survey firm. A trailblazer in her field, she became the first woman to graduate with a Bachelor’s degree in Surveying from Makerere University in 1997. Through her firm, she has successfully managed numerous large-scale survey and land registration projects, establishing a strong reputation for excellence.

Workshop on Copyright Protection and Emerging AI Challenges

On 6th March 2026, the SoL hosted a dynamic workshop focused on copyright management, registration, and protection in partnership with the Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB). The engagement brought together students, legal scholars, and practitioners with the aim of deepening understanding of Uganda's copyright framework and equipping participants with practical knowledge on safeguarding intellectual property.



Dr. Robert Kirunda (2nd left) with URSB team

Delivering opening remarks on behalf of the Dean, Dr. Ivan Engoru, Ag. Head of the Department of Commercial Law, welcomed the URSB team back to their alma mater, noting the strong institutional ties shared between the two entities. He emphasized the importance of copyright awareness in the era of AI among law students, highlighting how contemporary legal education increasingly integrates areas such as intellectual property and digital innovation. Dr. Engoru further underscored the School's commitment to community outreach, research, and collaboration. He commended the partnership with URSB for creating meaningful learning opportunities and encouraged students to actively participate in the session.



Participants at the workshop listen to presentations

In a detailed presentation on copyright and neighbouring rights, Ms. Victoria A. Oketta, Senior Regulation Officer at URSB, outlined the critical role copyright plays in protecting creative works through formal registration and legal safeguards. She drew attention to the broader cultural dimensions of intellectual property, urging respect for cultural and spiritual expressions as part of the protection ecosystem. Ms. Oketta also provided an overview

of intellectual property registration processes, including trademarks, patents, and security interests in movable property, stressing the importance of institutional collaboration in supporting Uganda's vibrant creative sector.

She further highlighted the need to empower creators—ranging from artists and writers to software developers and performers—with knowledge of copyright laws to enable them to commercialize and protect their work effectively. Strong partnerships between academia and regulatory bodies, she noted, are essential in promoting awareness, enhancing practical learning, and fostering innovation.

The workshop also examined the evolving interface between technology and law. In his presentation on the implications of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on copyright, Mr. Robert Kirunda, Lecturer at SoL, explored how AI is challenging traditional concepts of authorship and ownership. He noted that AI-generated works raise complex legal questions, particularly where human creativity is minimal or absent, and where ownership may be contested between developers, users, or remain undefined. He further observed that enforcement of copyright is becoming increasingly complex, given AI's ability to generate vast amounts of content that may replicate protected works. Mr. Kirunda emphasized that these developments are prompting lawmakers and courts to rethink and adapt existing legal frameworks to keep pace with technological change.

The workshop concluded with an interactive session and networking opportunity, allowing participants to engage further with the facilitators and reflect on the practical implications of copyright law in an increasingly digital and innovation-driven world.

HURIPEC Baraza on Youth Voices in Uganda's Governance under the 1995 Constitution

On 11 March 2026, the Human Rights and Peace Centre (HURIPEC), in partnership with Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, convened a vibrant Baraza and book launch at the Makerere University School of Law Auditorium. Held under the theme *"Youth Voices in Uganda's Governance under the 1995 Constitution,"* the event brought together students, scholars, and practitioners for a timely dialogue on constitutionalism, governance, and the role of young people in shaping Uganda's democratic future. The session was moderated by Atukwatse Alicia, LLB II student and featured panelists Sweetie Ogwal, LLB II student and Hermon Asmerom G, student at Mengo Senior School.



Ms. Atukwatse Alicia, Moderator of the HURIPEC Baraza

The Baraza sought to deepen civic awareness and promote meaningful youth engagement in governance. Discussions centred on the place of young people within Uganda's constitutional framework, the challenges limiting their participation, and the broader principles of rule of law,

accountability, and democratic inclusion. Opening the dialogue, panellists reflected on the 1995 Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, as the supreme law that anchors governance in the will of the people. Emphasis was placed on the principle of popular sovereignty, which vests ultimate authority in

citizens, and on the constitutional structures—executive, legislature, and judiciary—designed to uphold democratic governance and protect fundamental rights and freedoms. However, it was noted that gaps often exist between constitutional ideals and practice, underscoring the need for continuous civic vigilance and accountability.

The discussion further explored the concept of constitutionalism as more than the existence of a written constitution. Panelists highlighted the importance of respecting limits on power, ensuring institutional independence, upholding equality before the law, and maintaining accountability of leaders to citizens. Participants stressed that the rule of law thrives where citizens are informed, engaged, and willing to demand transparency from those in authority.

Young people were encouraged to transition from passive observers to active contributors in shaping national governance. Several avenues for engagements were highlighted, including civic advocacy, electoral participation, community leadership, and involvement in academic and policy discourse.

Despite these opportunities, the dialogue acknowledged persistent barriers to meaningful youth participation. These include limited access to civic education, political exclusion from decision-making processes, socio-economic challenges, and a shrinking civic space that constrains freedoms of expression and assembly. Addressing these challenges, participants noted, requires coordinated efforts from government, civil society, and educational institutions.

The role of universities and civil society organizations emerged as a key pillar in advancing constitutional governance. Institutions such as Makerere University, School of Law and HURIPPEC were recognized for providing platforms for intellectual debate, research, and civic engagement. Through such initiatives, they contribute to nurturing informed citizens and promoting a culture of accountability and respect for the rule of law.

A highlight of the event was the launch of *The Crown You Carry*, a self-help book authored by panellist Hermon Asmerom G. The book launch, supported by the administration of Mengo Senior School, added a personal and inspirational dimension to the event, reinforcing themes of self-leadership and empowerment among young people.

Makerere Law Journal Symposium 2026

On 3 March 2026, the Makerere Law Journal (MLJ) held its annual symposium in the SoL Auditorium under the theme: *“Exploring the evolving dimensions of Law and Justice,”* The discussions at the symposium sought to provide a platform for engagement with emerging legal and societal issues including Computers and the Law, Construction Law and Health and the Law.

Speakers at the symposium acknowledged that the law does not operate in isolation, but was intended to address contemporary issues in emerging disciplines such as technology, health and construction. The symposium fostered collaborations with other academic units of Makerere University. The participants

engaged in a multi-dimensional analysis of technology, construction and medicine examining their integration into the legal systems, both in Uganda and beyond; against the legal complexities arising therein.



MLJ Editorial Team and Organising Committee at 2026 Symposium

The symposium commenced with welcome remarks from Dr. Adrian Jjuuko who represented the Dean-School of Law. Dr. Jjuuko introduced the Guest of Honour, Hon. Justice of the Court of Appeal Geoffrey Kiryabwire who is also the Patron of the Makerere Law Society. In his keynote address, Justice Kiryabwire highlighted the necessity of legal adaptability in a digitalized world. He applauded the choice of the theme for the symposium and emphasised the renewed focus on alternative dispute resolution especially for the novel areas of law. The keynote address set the stage for the presentations, panel discussions and plenary sessions which were very engaging and informative.

The symposium provided a dynamic platform for exploring emerging and unconventional areas of law, broadening students' understanding beyond traditional legal frameworks. Participants reported a significant impact on their academic journeys and future career choices, while collaboration with the College of Engineering, Design, Art and Technology (CEDAT) and the College of Health Sciences (CHS) marked a strong start to sustained interdisciplinary engagement.

The event fostered a multidisciplinary approach, bringing together students from law, health sciences, and engineering to address complex issues in fields such as medicine and construction.

It also encouraged scholarly growth, with student authors inspired to pursue publication—evidenced by increased manuscript submissions to the MLJ and other regional law reviews.

Through research presentations and expert critique, students gained valuable experience defending their work and refining their arguments. Feedback from academic and industry panellists strengthened the quality of submissions, while the peer review process exposed participants to diverse perspectives and high standards of scholarly publication. Overall, the symposium continues to serve as a vital platform for nurturing research, presentation skills, and interdisciplinary collaboration in legal education.

3rd Doctoral Colloquium Held

On 21st March 2026, the third Doctoral Colloquium was successfully held at the SoL. The colloquium brought together LLD candidates, faculty, supervisors and Registry staff; the candidates presented in-progress research, received feedback from faculty and peers. The colloquium was also an opportunity to network with peers. A total of 28 candidates presented progress of their research.

In his remarks, Dr Busingye Kabumba, Senior Lecturer and Coordinator, Research and Graduate Training at SoL, welcomed doctoral students to the colloquium. He explained that the colloquium was established as a platform to promote peer review among doctoral candidates and to enhance academic accountability to the School. He SoL leadership for their continued support and institutionalising the colloquium.

Dr Kabumba acknowledged the presence of supervisors and thanked the doctoral candidates for their participation and informed them that certificates of attendance would be awarded.



The Research and Graduate Training Coordinator, Dr Busingye Kabumba delivering welcome remarks

The symposium provided a dynamic platform for exploring emerging and unconventional areas of law, broadening students' understanding beyond traditional legal frameworks.

In his communication to the meeting, the School Registrar - Mr Laban Lwasa, welcomed the LLD students and commended the deliberate efforts of the SoL, to engage with and support doctoral candidates, acknowledging that the doctoral journey is often a solitary one. He reminded students of their obligation to complete registration within three weeks of the commencement of the semester, assuring them of the Registry' readiness to provide guidance and support throughout the registration process.

The Deputy Dean-SoL, Dr Zahara Nampewo, welcomed colleagues and students to the colloquium. In her remarks, she emphasised the importance of doctoral students taking full advantage of available academic opportunities, particularly through audited courses as a means of enriching their research. She encouraged students to actively engage with lecturers across disciplines and to attend cross-cutting courses that support interdisciplinary learning. Dr Nampewo highlighted the availability of Dag Hammarskjöld accommodation for graduate students, noting that it provides a conducive environment for those who require extended periods of focused study. She then invited Professor Ronald Naluwairo, Dean - SoL to deliver his remarks.



An LLD candidate presenting her progress to peers

Professor Ronald Naluwairo welcomed colleagues from the SoL and the doctoral candidates to the colloquium. He expressed the School's expectation that the colloquium would make a meaningful contribution to the academic progress of graduate students. He extended his appreciation to Dr Kabumba and the Registrar for organising the event and encouraged students to take full advantage of the administrative support available to facilitate timely completion of their studies. He urged doctoral candidates to reflect critically on their progress thus far in their academic journey. Emphasising the importance of timely completion, he noted that doctoral research

must not only be original but also make a substantial contribution to knowledge. Given the rapidly evolving nature of research, including ongoing scholarly work and the enactment of new laws, he stressed that delays in completion risk rendering research less relevant. Professor Naluwairo concluded by encouraging students to invest in their academic development and formally declared the Third Doctoral Colloquium open.

The LLD Representative, Ms Olum Lornah Afoyomungu, welcomed fellow doctoral candidates and expressed appreciation to the School of Law administration for institutionalising the colloquium as part of its academic activities.

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Ms Olum Lornah Afoyomungu

Kabale Law Dean on benchmarking Visit

The SoL hosted Dr. Charlotte Kabaseke, Dean – School of Law, Kabale University, Uganda for a benchmarking visit on 21st April 2026. During the visit, Dr. Kabaseke met with Professor Ronald Naluwairo – Dean, SoL and Dr. Zahara Nampewo – Deputy Dean, SoL for discussions focused on possible areas of collaboration, partnership, clinical legal education, staff development and good practices on implementing a competency based curriculum. The engagement provided a valuable platform to exchange insights on curriculum design, teaching methodologies, admissions, and staff development.



Prof. Ronald Naluwairo, Dean-SoL, Dr. Charlotte Kabaseke, Dean-Faculty of Law, Kabale University, Dr. Zahara Nampewo, Deputy Dean-SoL and Mr. Anthony Mugisha, Administrator-Faculty of Law, Kabale University

In his remarks, Prof. Naluwairo welcomed Dr. Kabaseke to SoL and Makerere University. He acknowledged that, 'as the oldest Law School in Uganda, SoL has a duty to mentor and support younger peer institutions and also learn from them'.

Dr. Kabaseke shared that as a young institution, there are lots of things under development. She noted that 'the mandate is on us as

current leaders to start well, set a solid foundation for those who will come in the future'.

The meeting highlighted the SoL' emphasis on practical training, including mooting, field placements, class presentations, and panel discussions. These approaches are intended to equip students with hands-on skills that complement theoretical learning. Discussions also explored

the Makerere University Senate approved assessment framework of 40% for course work and 60% for final examination model as well as the proposed shift towards continuous assessment. The later will fit into the Ministry of Education and Sports (MOES) directive that all Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) should revise their curriculums to Competency-Based-Curriculum (CBC).

A key issue raised was the proposal to integrate components traditionally taught at the Law Development Centre (LDC) into university curricula. While this move is seen as part of a broader plan to make legal training competency-based, it may result into overloaded programmes, limiting flexibility for electives and raising concerns about duplication when students progress to the LDC for the Bar Course.

Admissions criteria also featured in the discussions. It was noted that while some institutions are adopting alternative entry routes such as bridging programmes like the Higher Education Certificate (HEC), others continue to uphold stricter requirements, including minimum principal passes and pre-entry examinations. Concerns were expressed about maintaining the academic rigour required for legal education.

The visit further highlighted ongoing staff development challenges. While universities require faculty to

attain Doctoral qualifications, post-graduate funding is constrained amidst the changing global scholarship landscape. Although some funding exists for capacity building and doctoral training, resource constraints remain a significant hurdle for staff.

The Kabale University Law Dean also held a meeting with Dr. Patricia Atim, Lecturer at SoL and member of the Public Interest Law Clinic (PILAC) team. They discussed the work of the PILAC, its established, funding and support to students.



L-R. Dr. Patricia Atim, Dr. Charlotte Kabaseke and Mr. Anthony Mugisha

Overall, the benchmarking visit underscored the importance of collaboration among law schools in addressing shared challenges and shaping the future of legal education in Uganda.

The engagement provided a valuable platform to exchange insights on curriculum design, teaching methodologies, admissions, and staff development.

Taking the Law and Makerere University to the Community

SoL uses Clinical Legal Education (CLE) as an experiential approach to legal training that integrates academic learning with practical, community-based engagement. This approach equips students with practical legal skills, ethical grounding, and social responsibility while addressing real legal needs of underserved communities. The community outreaches reflect Makerere University's broader commitment to societal transformation and taking the University to the people.

Visit to Zingola Island, Mukono District

On 16th April, 2026, a team of six Clinical Legal Education (CLE) students from SoL, under the Public Interest Law Clinic (PILAC) and in partnership with FIAN Uganda, conducted a legal outreach on Zingola Island in Mukono District to raise awareness among fishermen and their families about their legal and human rights. The engagement focused on key issues including fishermen's rights, the right to adequate food, fundamental freedoms under Uganda's

Constitution, family law, children's rights, and lawful arrest and detention procedures, using interactive discussions and legal empowerment circles to encourage community participation. While the outreach was impactful, challenges such as language barriers, low levels of legal awareness, and the island's remoteness limited effectiveness. The team recommended using local interpreters, simplifying legal materials, strengthening legal aid networks, and ensuring continuous engagement to enhance access to justice and sustain community empowerment.



CLE students interacting with Zingola Island Community



CLE students on the ferry to Zingola Island

Legal Literacy Session with Local Council Leaders in Makerere Kivulu

Following a needs assessment, a targeted training session was held for 40 local leaders, including local council officials, opinion leaders, and peer educators on 21st April 2026. The training focused on key community concerns—domestic violence, children’s rights, and parental responsibility—addressing both the legal framework and its practical application. Participants were guided on the role of the community and Local Council Courts, including their jurisdiction in handling such matters, as well as appropriate referral pathways for dispute resolution. The session was facilitated by LLB III CLE students under the supervision of Dr. Dianah Ateenyi Ahumuza.

Legal Literacy Session with Children in conflict with the at Naguru Remand Home

A Legal Literacy Session was conducted on 21st April 2026 at Naguru Remand Home, benefiting a total of 215 children in conflict with the law. The session covered key topics including children’s rights in general, their rights within the justice system, as well as provided general legal and spiritual counselling alongside a mobile clinic service. The content was informed by a needs assessment carried out earlier in collaboration with the Remand Home administration to ensure relevance to the children’s circumstances. The engagement was facilitated by LLB III students under the supervision of Ms. Sandra Ayebare, a Legal Assistant from PILAC.



Naguru Remand Home Administrator with SoL CLE students



Dr. Diana Ahumuza (holding pole) and students interact with community in Makerere Kivulu

MLS Dinner 2026



MLS Committee joins Justice Mubiru and Counsel Anthony Asimwe to cut the cake at MLS Dinner 2026

The Makerere Law Society MLS Dinner for 2026 was held on 18th April 2026 at the Bamus Sarovar Portico, Kampala. The MLS Dinner is an event that brings together students, alumni, faculty, and distinguished members of the legal fraternity to celebrate the journey of legal education and professional growth.

Hon. Justice Stephen Mubiru, a Justice of the High Court in Uganda was the Guest of Honour at the dinner which was also attended by the Vice President of the Uganda Law Society, Counsel Anthony Asimwe and other senior legal professionals.

Rooted in the Society's tradition of fostering excellence and camaraderie, the annual dinner serves as a moment of reflection, recognition, and transition—particularly as it bids farewell to finalist students preparing to enter the legal profession. It provides a unique platform for networking, mentorship, and inspiration, while reinforcing the values of integrity, service, and leadership that define the legal community.



R-L: Hon. Justice Stephen Mubiru receives a portrait of himself from Counsel Anthony Musisi as Phillip Gordon Okuku and other MLS members look on

New Student Leaders at SoL

The SoL congratulates the newly elected Guild Council as student leaders for the academic year 2026/2027. Student leaders foster a vibrant academic environment, enhance dialogue between students and administration, and support initiatives that contribute to the holistic development of our learners. The new SoL Guild Council is presented in the table below.

Name	Position
Sembajjwe Rogers	SoL - College Guild Council Chairperson (CGC) / Chairperson Makerere Law Society (MLS)
Guild Representative Council (GRC)	
Bazaale Morris	Male GRC
Nassuna Sarah	Female GRC
College Guild Council	
Atukunda Violet	Member
Atukwase Alicia	Member
Beyoreka Junior	Member
Kasemiire Joyline	Member
Katusabe Sheilah	Member
Muhumuza Keith	Member
Mukasa Adrian	Member
Students Debating Union Representative	
Ssekandi Jibril	SoL Representative
Kemigisha Daphine	SoL Representative
Guild Tribunal Representative	
Obwana Martin	SoL Representative
Games Union Representative	
Arinda Pearl	SoL Representative
Buteeme Dorcus	SoL Representative
Kayondo Samwiri	SoL Representative
Mutesi Patricia Angel	SoL Representative
Ruyondo Mathew	SoL Representative



Sembajjwe Rogers, SoL - CGC Chairperson/MLS President 2026/2027



Some of the members of the SoL CGC Council 2026/2027

Farewell message from Outgoing MLS President



Okuku Phillip Gordon

As I take leave of the office of the Makerere Law Society President, I do so with a deep sense of gratitude, reflection, and hope for the future of our great fraternity.

Serving the society as President has been one of the most defining

experiences of my academic journey. It has been an honour to represent a body of brilliant, resilient, and passionate law students who continually embody the ideals of justice, integrity, and intellectual curiosity. Together, we have navigated challenges, celebrated milestones, and strengthened the spirit that makes our Law School not just an institution, but a community.

Over the past year, we have strived to amplify student voices, foster academic excellence, and create platforms for meaningful engagement both within and beyond the lecture halls. While not every goal was fully realized, I am proud of the progress we made and the foundation we have set for those who come after us.

Leadership, I have learned, is not about perfection but about service, accountability, and the courage to act even in uncertainty. I am grateful to the Executive Committee, the Guild leadership, faculty, and every

student who contributed ideas, criticism, and support. You made this journey worthwhile.

To the incoming leadership, I extend my full confidence and support. May you lead with vision, humility, and a steadfast commitment to the values that define our profession.

To my fellow students, never lose sight of why you chose the law. Let your pursuit of knowledge always be guided by a desire to make a meaningful impact in society.

As I step aside, I remain a proud member of this fraternity and look forward to witnessing its continued growth and excellence.

Thank you for the trust, the memories, and the opportunity to serve.

We Build For The Future, For God and my Country.

Okuku Phillip Gordon
54th MLS PRESIDENT



MLS committee 2025/2026 with Hon. Justice Stephen Mubiru (4th left) and Counsel Anthony Asimwe (4th right) - Vice President, Uganda Law Society at the 2026 MLS Dinner

MLS Submission on the Protection of Sovereignty Bill 2026

On the 23rd of April 2026, students through the MLS made a formal submission to Parliament of Uganda on the proposed Protection of Sovereignty Bill 2026 giving a clause-by-clause analysis of the same and proposed amendments.

The MLS formally voiced its concerns regarding the bill cautioning that the draft

legislation poses a significant risk to the constitutional fabric of our nation. They noted that, 'While the protection of national interests is a noble pursuit, the umbrella body highlights that the bill's current definitions of "foreign influence" are dangerously broad, potentially criminalizing the very civic engagement and legal advocacy that students and practitioners

rely on. By centralizing oversight within the security apparatus and imposing severe penalties for international cooperation, the bill threatens to stifle the academic freedom and public interest litigation that are essential to a thriving legal community'.



SCHOOL OF LAW MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

FORMAL SUBMISSION TO THE PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

ON THE

PROTECTION OF SOVEREIGNTY BILL, 2026

(Bill No. 13 of 2026)

Prepared by:	MAKERERE LAW SOCIETY
Date:	23 rd April 2026
Subject:	Protection of Sovereignty Bill, 2026 Full Clause-by-Clause Legal Analysis, Constitutional Compatibility Assessment, and Recommendations for Parliamentary Reform

SoL NEWS IN PICTURES



SoL Faculty with Graduating Class 2026



Dr. Robert Kirunda, Lecturer at SoL completed his PhD in Commercial Law at the University of Cape Town, South Africa



LLB IV students with Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Andrew Mubiru (2nd left, front line), Ag. Director of Forensics, Uganda Police Force, Dr. Daniel Ruhweza, Head-Law & Jurisprudence at SoL (3rd left), Superintendent of Police (SP) K.H. Angullu, Commissioner Cybercrime at Uganda Police (1st left) and Ms. Lucy Ladira, Technical Advisor-Criminal Justice under JLOS. ACP Mubiru, SP Angullu and Ms. Ladira had delivered a Guest Lecture at SoL on Criminology and Penology and Computer and the Law about Cybercrime and Technology.



Ms. Marianne Akumu (2nd right), the Head Of Uganda's International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ) and Mr Jesse Mugero (1st left) Program Officer, ICTJ following a meeting on 9th April 2026 to discuss partnership possibilities between the two institutions with Dr. Daniel Ruhweza (1st right), Head-Law and Jurisprudence and Professor Ronald Naluwairo, Dean-Sol (2nd left).



Ms Gabrielle Massey, Country Director, Human Trafficking Institute delivering a guest lecture on Criminology and Organised Crime to the LLB IV Class.



LLB II student, Ms. Maureen Owomugisha (1st left) in a photo moment with peers following her election as Chairperson 92nd Guild Electoral Commission of Makerere University.



SoL Leadership with Barbara Rizzoli, ICRC-Deputy Head of Delegation to Uganda, Rwanda & Burundi. Rizzoli paid a courtesy visit to SoL, where she was accompanied by Patricia Bako (2nd left), Head of Prevention at ICRC.



Rtd Hon. Justice Yorokamu Bamwine (3rd right), Principal Judge Emeritus delivered a keynote address titled, 'Enhancing Access to Justice in Uganda: The transformative Role of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) in the Judicial System' to our students. Justice Bamwine called on law schools to promote ADR and donated books to the SoL Library.

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