

Mak- CHUSS Freshmen Urged to Lead Change

Freshmen men and women newly admitted to the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHUSS) at Makerere University have been called upon to embrace their pivotal role in organizing a world mired in corruption and other pressing challenges. This rallying call was made by the Principal of CHUSS, Associate Professor Hellen Nambalirwa Nkabala, during the college's orientation ceremony for the 2024/2025 academic year, held at the Arts Quadrangle on Friday, August 9, 2024.

The vibrant event was marked by cultural performances from students of the Liberal and Performing Arts, under the direction of Dr. Benon Kigozi, adding a festive atmosphere to the gathering and highlighted the rich cultural heritage and creativity within the college.

In her keynote address, Prof. Nkabala warmly welcomed the freshers, proudly describing CHUSS as the intellectual heart of Makerere University. She emphasized the critical role of humanities in shaping society and urged the new students to recognize their importance in driving societal change.

"This is one of the largest colleges, and we are the heart and soul of Makerere University. You have joined an excellent mine of minds," Prof. Nkabala stated. "The challenges we face, including corruption, are because humanities have been sidelined. It is our role, and now your role, to bring humanities back to the forefront. You are the people who will organize this world. If you don't understand your role from day one, we are bound to fail, but if you do, we are bound to succeed."

Over 800 freshmen attended the orientation, where they were introduced to members of the college management, faculty, and speakers from various university units, including the Students' Guild, Counselling and Guidance, University and College Library, Finance Department, Academic Registry, Security, and Gender Mainstreaming units.

The new students were briefed on university policies, rules, and regulations to help them acclimate to the university environment. The orientation provided a platform for students to interact with college administrators and student leaders, offering clarity on matters affecting their academic journey at Makerere University.

In addition to academic and administrative guidance, the students received advice on social life, personal security, and the importance of discipline. They were strongly cautioned against engaging in examination malpractices, sexual harassment, and drug abuse, as such actions could jeopardize their studies and future careers.

Speakers throughout the event encouraged the students to strive for excellence. Acting Deputy Principal and Dean of the School of Psychology, Dr. Martin Baluku, reminded the students, "The world is counting on you." Dr. Baluku's messages re-echoed the principal's sentiments, highlighting the global expectations placed on the students, urging the freshmen to be diligent in their studies and mindful of their potential impact on society.

Vincent Abigaba, the CHUSS Registrar, emphasized the college's mission of transformation, while College Bursar Michael Mbaine assured the students, "We love you and welcome you to CHUSS."

Other notable speakers included Dr. Charlotte Mafumbo, Head of the Department of History, Archaeology, and Heritage Studies, who stressed the importance of "Determination, Discipline, and Dedication." Stephen Lumu, an Assistant Accountant, advised students to be cautious with their finances, while Florence Birabwa, the Assistant Registrar, urged them to complete their registration on time.

Representing the College Librarian, Emmanuel Muddu encouraged students to stay focused on their academic goals, and Dr. Eve Nabulya from the Department of Literature inspired them to work hard, envisioning their future roles as lecturers themselves. Senior Lecturer Christine Mpyangu from the Department of Religion and Religious Studies advised the freshmen to honor God in their studies and strive for character transformation.

The orientation concluded with a strong message of support from the college's academic, administrative, and support staff, who pledged their commitment to ensuring that the students' stay at Makerere University is both enjoyable and productive.

Report by Jane Anyango, Principal Communication Officer.