

SSENYONGA WINS CAVENDISH GUILD ELECTIONS

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Cavendish

Success begins at Cavendish University

Cavendish holds 4th Benjamin Mkapa memorial lecture

Remembering the great man. The 4th Benjamin Mkapa Memorial Lecture took place at the Sheraton Kampala hotel in honour of the former Tanzanian President and Chancellor of Cavendish University Uganda. **FULL STORY P.2**



Key guests pose for a picture with CUU senior management team, Mr David Mutabanura (3rd left) and Dr Olive Sabiiti (2nd right). Center is Rt. Hon. Amama Mbabazi the former Prime minister. PHOTO BY EMMA MAFABI

EDITORIAL

Why university students need expert training

University students need expert training to bridge the gap between academic theory and the practical demands of the modern workplace, acquire essential soft and technical skills, and adapt to a constantly evolving job market.

Expert training, particularly hands-on practical experience like internships and industry-specific programs, allows students to apply their knowledge in real-world scenarios, which many employers find lacking in new graduates.

Meeting Employer Demands: Employers increasingly require specialists with specific, job-related skills and adaptability. Expert training ensures students are job-ready and competitive in the labor market, improving their chances of employment and career advancement.

Developing Professional and Soft Skills: Beyond technical knowledge, students need a range of transferable skills that are often better learned through practical training and experience.

Adaptability and flexibility: The ability to quickly learn new methods and technologies is vital in a rapidly changing world.

Professional ethics and responsibility: Fostering personal qualities and a strong work ethic.

Enhancing Competitiveness and Adaptability: In a globalized and competitive environment, specialists need the flexibility and mobility to retrain or change professions if necessary. Expert training in a variety of areas can open up more job opportunities outside their core field of study.

Fostering Lifelong Learning: The world of work changes quickly, with new technologies and knowledge constantly emerging. Expert training helps instill a mindset of continuous learning, which is crucial for sustained personal and professional development throughout one's career.

Improving Learning Outcomes: When faculty members themselves receive expert pedagogical training, they can more effectively engage students in active, student-centered learning approaches, ultimately leading to better student performance and the development of higher-order thinking skills.

Cavendish holds 4th Benjamin Mkapa memorial lecture



From C-R, Rt. Hon Amama Mbabazi, Hon James Magode Ikuya, Dr Olive Sabiiti, HE Major General Paul Kisesa Simuli. PHOTO BY EMMA MAFABI

BY CELYN MUGANWA

On November 20, Cavendish University Uganda organised the 4th Benjamin Mkapa Memorial Lecture at the Sheraton Kampala hotel in honour of the former Tanzanian President and Chancellor of Cavendish University Uganda.

This year's theme was, "Political Pluralism, Democracy and Social Integration in East Africa. Dr Olive Sabiiti, the Vice Chancellor of Cavendish University Uganda, warmly welcomed all guests to the 4th Benjamin Mkapa Memorial Lecture, emphasising the honour of celebrating the legacy of the former Chancellor, the late H.E. Benjamin Mkapa.

She highlighted his impactful leadership, his role in strengthening the university's distance learning system, and the continued recognition of Cavendish as Uganda's best private university.

Dr Sabiiti also noted that CUU has strong partnership with the University of Dodoma since H.E Mkapa served as a Chancellor in the two universities.

H.E. Major Gen. Paul Kisesa Simuli, the High Commissioner of Tanzania to Uganda, thanked Cavendish University for hosting the memorial lecture in honour of the late President Benjamin Mkapa and celebrated Mkapa's legacy of democracy, tolerance, and regional integration.

H.E Gen. further emphasised the importance of political pluralism, inclusive participation, and homegrown democratic practices, encouraging students and young leaders to learn from Mkapa's values and carry them forward.

He concluded by inviting Ugandans

to visit Tanzania, explore its beauty, and continue building academic, professional, and investment partnerships between the two nations.

Dr Jude Kagoro while delivering the keynote address, reflected on the life, leadership, and legacy of H.E. Benjamin Mkapa, drawing from Tanzanians' own perceptions of him—especially their view of Mkapa as a symbol of truth, transparency, and integrity.

He traced Mkapa's unexpected rise to the presidency in 1995 and emphasised his humility, strong anti-corruption stance, and ability to govern during a period of global political and economic transformation.

Dr Kagoro discussed Mkapa's efforts to balance privatisation with national unity and accountability, highlighting both achievements and challenges.

He then explored the broader difficulties of political pluralism in Africa, shaped by colonial history, institutional weaknesses, and inherited political habits.

Despite these structural issues, he argued that Mkapa's leadership demonstrated that genuine accountability, transparency, and principled governance are possible.

Dr Kagoro concluded by calling upon East Africans to learn from Mkapa's example and continue striving for justice, dialogue, democracy, and social integration in the region.

Rt. Hon. Amama Mbabazi the former Prime minister honoured the late President Benjamin Mkapa, remembering him as a calm, thoughtful, principled leader shaped by pan-African ideals.

Hon. Mbabazi shared personal experiences of working with Mkapa during the rebuilding of the East African

Community, highlighting Mkapa's belief that integration must move at "the pace of trust."

He emphasised Mkapa's commitment to democracy, political pluralism, strong institutions, and unity in East Africa. Mbabazi urged young people and professionals to uphold truth, dialogue, and regional cooperation, saying that continuing Mkapa's vision is the best way to honour him.

Hon. James Magode Ikuya, the state minister for East African Affairs emphasised the importance of the memorial event in honouring a great statesman whose leadership values should guide present and future generations.

He explained that although leaders are not immortal, their principles must be remembered, shared, and taught so society can continue to benefit from them.

He stressed that such gatherings should not remain purely academic but should help people internalise and spread these values widely.

Rtd. Major Pollar Awich the Director External Affairs – NRM Secretariat reflected on historical influences—such as Julius Nyerere's role in supporting Ugandan liberation movements—and argued that Uganda meets key standards for political competition.

However, he admitted that the real challenge lies in the practical implementation of these democratic guidelines.

The memorial lecture was attended by students, academics, policymakers, youth representatives, journalists, and security leaders to examine political pluralism, democracy, and social integration in East Africa.

SES staff bid farewell to Dr Wabule



Cavendish University staff share a light moment with Dr Alice Wabule, former Dean of SES
PHOTO BY TRACY KEPO

BY CELYN MUGANWA

On October 16, the staff of the faculty of Socio-Economic Sciences (SES), Cavendish University Uganda held a colorful appreciation ceremony at Infinity hotel Muyenga to honor their Dean Dr. Alice Wabule for her nine years of dedicated service, mentorship leadership and commitment at the helm of the faculty.

The mood of the event was unusual as the staff were between bidding farewell to Dr Wabule and welcoming Dr Huthaifah Busuulwa who replaced her as the new faculty Dean. The staff reflected on the leadership, friendship, and mentorship of Dr Wabule who has led the faculty of SES for nine years.

In her speech, Dr Wabule commended the staff for their thoughtful initiative of organizing a wonderful farewell for her.

She expressed heartfelt gratitude to the lecturers she worked with for all these nine years of service; for example, Mr Herbert Mudoola the Head of Department Journalism and Communication Studies; Mr Richard Watenyera the Head of Department International Relations and Diplomatic Studies; Dr Patience Akampurira the Coordinator for Research and Internship among others.

“I have worked with these lecturers for nine years and I can confidently say they are among the most com-

mitted people I have known. I have always called them and they would respond without hesitation, whether it’s a weekend or late at night,” Dr Wabule said with a smile

Dr. Wabule also recognised several lecturers for their dedication and support who consistently went above and beyond to ensure the faculty runs

smoothly.

“Mr. Tony Ssewankambo, for example, would always find ways to help, even when caught in traffic, that kind of commitment is rare and truly admirable,” she added, drawing applause from the audience.

Several staff members took the opportunity to thank Dr Wabule for her

openness, teamwork and strong leadership. She was described as a supportive and approachable leader who guided the faculty with integrity.

Dr Evans Anyona, a lecturer in the faculty of SES appreciated Dr Wabule for being an honest and open person which helped her create a positive working environment. “She is a true leader who listens and working under her has been a great experience,” Dr Anyona said.

Dr Busuulwa the new Dean expressed his surprise at being appointed to head SES and pledged to work hand-in-hand with the faculty staff while acknowledging that he may not immediately match Dr Wabule’s experience. However, he promised to work hard and become a better leader.

“I am truly honoured and a bit surprised to take on this role. I may not be as experience as Dr Wabule but I promise to work closely with all of you to ensure our faculty continues to thrive,” Dr Busuulwa promised.

The event also involved presentation of gifts, cutting of cake as a sign of otherness and farewell to the outgoing Dean as the staff shared light moments and laughter.

In her closing remarks, Dr Wabule thanked everyone for their support throughout her service as a Dean. She encouraged the staff to maintain a spirit of unity, respect and appreciation.



Cavendish gets new Guild President

BY HAPPY AIJUKA AND-DORCUS KANSIIME

On November 7, Mr Prosper Peter Ssenyonga was announced as the winner of the 2025 Cavendish University Uganda guild president.

Mr Ssenyonga beat other three candidates to win a hotly contested election that saw candidates use different campaigning strategies like late night phone calls, door-to-door campaign etc.

Prosper Peter becomes the 17th guild president of Cavendish University Uganda.

Mr Ssenyonga a second-year student of bachelor of International Relations and Diplomatic Studies and he won with 64% of the total votes, followed by his strongest challenger Mr Anthony Kato who got 20.6% of the total votes cast. Mr Solomon Sseguya came third with 15.4% of the total votes cast. In his congratulatory message to the students, Mr Ssenyonga said:

“I send a special message to all student supporters and stakeholder supporters greatly thanking and appreciating them for sacrificing their time and busy schedules to take time and participate in such an important process of choosing the leadership of the next guild president, Cavendish University Uganda 2025/2026,” Mr Ssenyonga said.

“I humbly urge us to embrace the principles that I stand for and represent in this leadership and amongst

these are; unity, integrity, inclusivity, student welfare, progress, and prosperity,” he added.

Furthermore, Mr Ssenyonga said that: “I am more than sure that with these, we can achieve overall success that is so destined for our community to read and fulfill,” he said.

Other candidates in the race.

The race to the guild seat attracted four candidates; Mr Solomon Seguya, a third-year student of bachelor of Laws, Mr Livingston Kasambia, a second-year student of bachelor of International Relations and Diplomatic Studies, Mr Anthony Kato, a third-year student of bachelor of Laws who was also the former Guild Speaker, and Mr Prosper Peter Ssenyonga a second-year student of bachelor of International Relations and Diplomatic Studies.

However, Mr Kasambia pulled out of the race towards elections. Asked why he pulled out of the race yet he was nominated, Mr Kasambia said it was because of personal reasons although officials from electoral commission who preferred not to be named said that Mr Kasambia was wrongly nominated because he had retakes.

Requirements for the guild president

To qualify for the guild presidential race, one must:

Be registered continuing students who have completed at least two semesters at the university but are not in

their final year of study.

Have a CGPA of 3.4 and above for the last two semesters.

Have no pending retakes and must have cleared at least 50% of their tuition fees.

Exhibit good conduct, have no disci-

plinary record in the last three months, and be full members of the Guild for at least two consecutive semesters.

In addition, each aspirant must pay a non-refundable nomination fee of UGX 300,000 to the Electoral Commission.



Mr Prosper Peter Ssenyonga



Mr Solomon Seguya



Mr Livingstone Kasambia



Mr Anthony Kato

Cavendish students visit children in Mpigi



Cavendish student gives out part of the donations at Agnes Zabali Boys and Girls Club in Mpigi district. PHOTO BY SYLVIA TABITA

BY SYLVIA TABITA

On October 11, the students of bachelor of International Relations and Diplomatic Studies or-

ganized what would be termed as ‘a memorable’ community outreach at the Agnes Zabali Boys and Girls Club, Kamengo in Mpigi district.

The visit was part of a class-organized

as a social responsibility project aimed at supporting and interacting with children at the club.

The students donated clothes, sanitary pads, and other essential items, while also spending the day engaging the children in various recreational activities such as basketball and hiking.

During the visit, the students toured several facilities at the center, including the women’s ward, which serves as a safe space for girls and children. This space allows young people to freely share the problems they face at home or in the community, receive guidance and counseling, play games, rest, and build confidence.

The club runs a wide range of programs to empower the youth, including tailoring, baking, digging and farming, computer training, leadership and life-skills education, and health care sessions.

The computer classes are open to all children, though the center struggles with limited computers and poor in-

ternet connection.

The coordinators shared some of the challenges they face, such as lack of supplies and funding, teenage pregnancies, low community cooperation, and cases where some children do not return after joining the program.

They also mentioned that the club accommodates children from different households and backgrounds, which makes follow-up sometimes difficult. Despite these obstacles, the Agnes Zabali Boys’ and Girls’ club continues to make a meaningful impact.

It trains and supports school students, and even provides scholarships for children who complete primary, secondary, and high school to help them continue their education.

Cavendish students expressed deep appreciation for the hospitality and resilience of the children. They also commended the center’s leadership for its dedication to empowering vulnerable youth and pledged to continue supporting the club’s initiatives.

Cavendish students visit Kiryandongo refugees



Students of International Relations and Diplomatic Studies at Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement.

PHOTO BY JANET TRACY KEPO

BY CHARLENE NIKUZE

On October 30, first-year students of International Relations and Diplomatic Studies from Cavendish University Uganda visited Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement to witness the resilience and hope of Uganda's refugee communities. Organized by Mr. Dennis Wamimbi, this academic tour offered students a rare opportunity to learn about Uganda's refugee management system, humanitarian programs, and the challenges refugees face.

The students did not move empty handed. They went along with items like clothes, detergents, sanitary pads, books etc which they donated to the refugees.

Mr Emmanuel Turyagyenda, Senior Commandant and retired government official with over 29 years of experience working with refugees welcomed the students. With passion and clarity, he explained why Uganda uses the term "settlement" rather than 'camp'.

"Refugees in Uganda enjoy rights similar to citizens—they have access to education, healthcare, and employment—though they cannot participate in politics or own land," he noted.

Mr Turyagyenda described the refugee verification process, including mass movements and individual asylum claims, and highlighted how refugees are documented, allocated land, and supported by the government and partners such as United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR).

He emphasised that Uganda protects refugees until conditions allow voluntary return, but acknowledged ongoing challenges such as limited funding

and misuse of aid.

Dr Joel Kagoda, the Health Manager at Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement discussed the health realities facing new arrivals.

"Many refugees flee their countries without preparation, often arriving tired, malnourished, and sick. Serious cases are referred to hospitals, but initial care starts at border points and reception centres," Mr Kagoda said.

He also emphasised the collaboration between the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), UNHCR, and health partners like International Rescue Committee (IRC), Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA), and Medical Teams International to provide critical services. Furthermore, he said that their goal is to ensure that both refugees and host communities receive health services under the supervision of the Ministry of Health.

Mr Simon Oketayot the Business Skills Officer, Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement explained how livelihood interventions are organised in the settlement and he emphasised that all partners work under OPM and UNHCR and must sign Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) to promote coordination and accountability.

He advised that refugees are not in their situation by choice and should be treated with respect. "Humanitarian support, such as food and shelter, is temporary. Refugees are gradually shifted to development programs that promote self-reliance, including training in climate-smart agriculture, livestock rearing, kitchen gardening, and vocational skills like tailoring, mechanics, and stove making," Mr Oketa-

yot said.

Mr Oketayot further said that refugees also form Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) to encourage savings and access to small loans.

These programs are guided by the National Development Plan (NDP), the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and Uganda's Vision.

Mr Patrick Wasawa Marvin the Education in Emergencies Officer from Finn Church Aid (FCA), said that education is a basic right for all children, including those affected by war and disaster.

He introduced the Four P's in Humanitarian Response: Policy, Procedure, Process, and Practice, explaining that policies like the Refugee Act of 2006 and the Education Response Plan (ERP) guide education programs in refugee settlements.

Procedures ensure order and accountability, while processes help integrate learners, including those with disabilities or teenage mothers, into the education system.

Mr Wasawa also talked about the Accelerated Education Program (AEP), which helps children who missed school for years to catch up. Programs must meet national and international standards, but overcrowding remains a challenge, with some classes having up to 300 learners.

Mr Wasawa also warned humanitarian workers to respect safeguarding rules that protect children from abuse. "Don't see, don't touch, don't admire, don't think," he cautioned.

Asked why they visited a refugee settlement, Mr Wamimbi said that it was important for practical teaching.

He said that together with his colleagues, he integrates both theoretical and practical learning by organising field visits for students to embassies, UN agencies, and refugee settlements where learners gain firsthand experience in humanitarian work, refugee management, and service delivery.

"These practicals aim to prepare students for real-world challenges, expose them to international employment and internship opportunities, and promote community service through charity activities," Mr Wamimbi said.

Mr Richard Watenyera, the Head of the Department, International Relations and Diplomatic Studies at Cavendish University Uganda, said that the trip to Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement was organised to give students practical learning experience and expose them to real-life situations related to their studies.

"The visit allowed students to meet people working in various sectors, including the Office of the Prime Minister and humanitarian organisations such as the Finn Church. It was also part of the university's community engagement program, where students donated items like books and sanitary pads to support refugees," Mr Watenyera explained.

Faith Akela, a first-year student of Bachelor of International Relations and Diplomatic Studies said that her visit to Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement was deeply enlightening and emotional.

"I was impressed by how welcoming the refugees were despite their difficult circumstances. Interacting with them made me feel sympathetic, as many shared painful stories of trauma, including losing parents and experiencing violence," Akela said.

Juong Riak, another first-year student of International Relations and Diplomatic Studies said that the trip to Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement was his first visit and a valuable learning experience.

"I learned about the challenges refugees face, particularly in education and health. Many children in the settlement lack basic school materials, uniforms, and shoes, while the health-care system struggles to serve the large population with limited facilities, especially for those living far from the main hospital," Juong explained.

Juong who is from South Sudan also noted that his course directly relates to refugee issues as it prepares students to work with international organisations and local communities to promote cooperation and develop better solutions for supporting refugees in the future.

Students acknowledged that this visit to Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement deepened their understanding of how forensic science connects law, technology, and justice in Uganda.

Cavendish students trained on forensic, Criminology



Cavendish students and lecturers pose for a photo with professionals from Mulago National Hospital after the Forensic practical training. PHOTO BY JANET TRACY KEPO

BY JANET TRACY KEPO AND CHARLENE NIKUZE

On November 1, Cavendish University Uganda students visited Mulago Hospital and later gathered at Namaste Restaurant in Kololo for a special study session on Forensic Justice and Criminology discussions. This study tour was organized for students of Master of Security Studies, Master of International Relations & Diplomacy, and Master of Laws.

The visit was organised by Mr. Dennis Wamimbi their lecturer for Forensic who guided the students through a series of practical lessons. The sessions aimed at helping the students understand how investigations are conducted in Uganda and also combining classroom knowledge with real-life experiences.

Dr. Samuel Kalungi, the head of Pathology at Mulago National Referral hospital explained the vital role of forensic pathology in the justice system. He said that forensic doctors use medical and scientific skills to find out the cause and manner of death, whether it is natural, accidental, suicidal, or homicidal.

Dr. Kalungi also added that forensic pathologists also examine victims of injuries or sexual assault, collecting evidence such as blood, fingerprints, and DNA. During autopsies (post-mortems), they help identify unknown bodies, determine the time of death, and collect samples for further tests like toxicology.

He reminded students that forensic doctors must follow a proper chain of custody to keep evidence safe and ensure it can be used in court. He also stressed the importance of ethics, professionalism, and avoiding mistakes such as poor documentation or sharing unverified information.

The Digital Forensic expert from the Uganda People's Defense Forces (UPDF) department of Forensic Science, Naguru also discussed how forensic science supports criminal in-

vestigations. He explained that science helps identify people, objects, and evidence through biology, chemistry, and physics.

Unlike witness statements, scientific evidence is objective and verifiable. He said that a crime scene includes not only where the crime happened but also where a suspect may have planned, entered, or escaped.

Forensic experts carefully collect, test, and compare evidence in the laboratory to find the truth. Their work helps police gather facts, prevent future crimes, and provide reliable evidence in court.

Furthermore, the Ballistic and DNA experts from UPDF department of Forensic Science, Naguru explained how experts identify, characterise, and individualise evidence to solve crimes. "Forensic identification," the Ballistic expert said, "relies on comparison — no evidence can be confirmed without something to compare it to."

They described how scientists collect samples like fingerprints, soil, chemicals, or DNA, perform preliminary tests, and then use advanced methods to confirm findings. They gave examples of cases involving poisoning, soil comparison, and hidden drugs in sweets, showing how forensic scientists uncover the truth through careful testing.

The principle "every contact leaves a trace" guides their work. In Uganda, the Ballistics and Tool Marks Department identifies the unique marks that guns leave on bullets and cartridge cases. These marks help match a weapon to a crime scene.

For that reason, investors must use firearm experts who inspect tools used in crimes, detect erased vehicle chassis numbers, and analyse ammunition differences. Their findings help link suspects to crimes and provide strong scientific evidence in court.

The Digital Forensic and Cybersecurity expert also discussed how technology helps investigate crimes involving

computers, phones, and the internet. He said that investigators must collect and analyse electronic evidence carefully to make it valid in court. The Digital Forensic expert also explained different types of digital forensics — system, memory, network, and cloud — and how experts trace criminals who try to hide or delete data.

The Scene of Crime Management expert from the UPDF department of Forensic Science, Naguru underscored the need for safeguarding scenes of crime from contamination before the police arrive.

Relatedly, the Photography and Digital Imaging expert from the UPDF Department of Forensic Science, Naguru who preferred not to be named in this story said that photographs are important in investigations and that cameras should be used in taking pictures rather than phones since cameras give clear and more accurate pictures.

Students also learnt to take different shots — long-range, mid-range, and close-up — to show the whole scene, evidence position, and details. They were advised to use a photo log and never move or change evidence. Clear, well-lit photos help investigators and judges understand what happened.

Mr. Wamimbi said that the reason they organize these practical lessons is because Cavendish University conducts forensic science practicals in collaboration with institutions such as the Uganda Police Force, the Government Analytical Laboratory, and Mulago National Referral Hospital among others.

"These partnerships are aimed at enhancing applied learning for students pursuing security and criminology programs. This initiative reflects the university's strong commitment to hands-on, experiential education that equips students with practical skills and professional competence beyond classroom theory," Mr Wamimbi said.

Mr Richard Watenyera, the Head of the Department, International Re-

lations and Diplomatic Studies explained that the forensic and criminology practical study reflects Cavendish University's education model, which combines theory with hands-on practice, unlike many universities that focus only on theory.

"The university collaborates with key institutions such as the Uganda Police Force, Government Analytical Laboratory, and Mulago National Referral hospital to provide students with real-world exposure in areas like forensic pathology, toxicology, DNA analysis, cyber forensics, and ballistics,"

Mr Watenyera said. He also emphasized that these practicals equip students with marketable skills, enhance employability in sectors like Security, Law, Foreign Service, and make Cavendish graduates stand out globally for their professional competence and applied knowledge.

Mr Pauline Kamuli, a student of Master of Laws said that he gained valuable practical experience in forensic science. "Beginning at Mulago National Referral Hospital Mortuary, I learned the reality of death, the stages of decomposition, and the importance of accurate documentation, identification, and teamwork in post-mortem examinations", Mr Kamuli noted.

"I observed how autopsies are systematically conducted and how forensic findings play a vital role in the administration of justice. At the Uganda Police Forensic Department, I was introduced to various specialised units, including DNA, toxicology, ballistics, fingerprints, and digital forensics, where I learned about maintaining the chain of custody, following standard procedures, and the collaboration between departments," he added.

However, Mr Kamuli recommend that future visits by the students should include prior emotional preparation since what goes on in the mortuary very traumatizing if one is not psychologically prepared.

"The challenges I faced during the visit were the limited time and the emotional intensity of the experience. The schedule was too tight since we had to visit the mortuary and then immediately attend practical sessions with the Uganda Police forensic departments, leaving little room for deeper understanding, asking questions, or fully observing procedures like the autopsy," said Ms Brenda Najjuko, a student of Master of Laws.

She also said that some technical instruments and procedures were also complex, making them difficult to grasp in a short time.

"For example, the mortuary visit was particularly overwhelming. Seeing many dead bodies for the first time, the strong smells, and the visible injuries caused emotional discomfort, fear, and anxiety, and I am still dealing with some emotional after-effects," Ms Najjuko recalls.



Preparing to welcome guests



The hosts of the day



The Guest of Honour and Chief Guest take up their seats to grace the function



Let's rise for the anthems



Dr Olive Sabiiti, VC starts off the function.



Major General Paul Kisesa Simuli



Dr Jude Kagoro



Gen. Edward Kalekezi Kayihura



Mr David Mutabanura welcomes some guests



Dr William Tayebwa, panel moderator



Dr Hadijah Namutebi, panelist



Rtd. Major Pollar Awich-panelist



Mr Andrew Mwenda - Panelist



Mr Godber Tumushabe-panelist



Ms Grace Munerez - Panelist



Mr Prosper Ssenyonga Guild President



Hon James Magode Ikuya, Guest of Honour



Hon Amama Mbabazi, Chief Guest



Hon. Amama Mbabazi and Dr Jude Kagoro share a light moment



Guests come together for a memorable moment



How the love for radio landed Cavendish student on KFM job

BY AGENORWOT MICHELLE

From the quiet town of Kitgum, northern Uganda, Gabriel Okidi, currently in his second year of study at Cavendish University Uganda found his love for media through the simple sound of radio.

During his childhood, there was no TV in his home but local radio stations like Mighty fire FM became his whole world. "Radio was how we connected to everything", Okidi says. "One day, I visited the station for a kids' show and I sent greetings on air. Right then, I knew I would work in on radio someday," he recalls.

Life in Kitgum taught Okidi to stay strong and dream big. It wasn't easy but it built his view of the world.

He says that radio personalities like Stephen Komakech of Mighty fire FM inspired him with his political talk shows, Francis Watum showed him how to anchor news and do voiceovers and Jerald Omal a.k.a Jerom got him excited about music shows like count-down and dance parties.

These people made me see media as fun and Kitgum gave me the kick start," Okidi recounts.

That push took him to Cavendish University Uganda which he had first heard about it in 2018 while still in secondary school. That time, CUU had won a big news contest of the Media Challenge Initiative.

"I wanted a place to grow my skills and show them off and this is why I joined CUU," he explains.

Getting into radio was not easy. Okidi first tried to enter Capital FM way back before joining university but failed. In 2024, he auditioned for NRG radio's best MVP in Kampala with over 1000 people.

He managed to reach the semifinals and felt close to getting the job but he failed again. With all these attempts and struggles, he never gave up. "Hold

onto your dream, get better, and don't blame others," he said.

His big break came from the KFM auditions dubbed 'who's got the mic?' Eleven contestants took part including musicians, MCs and presenters.

Okidi made it to the semifinals. Even without winning in the first place, it got him a platform. A few months later, the station needed new voices to their team and he was that lucky person who was called to work.

That is how he got the job. "It felt like a dream," Okidi says.

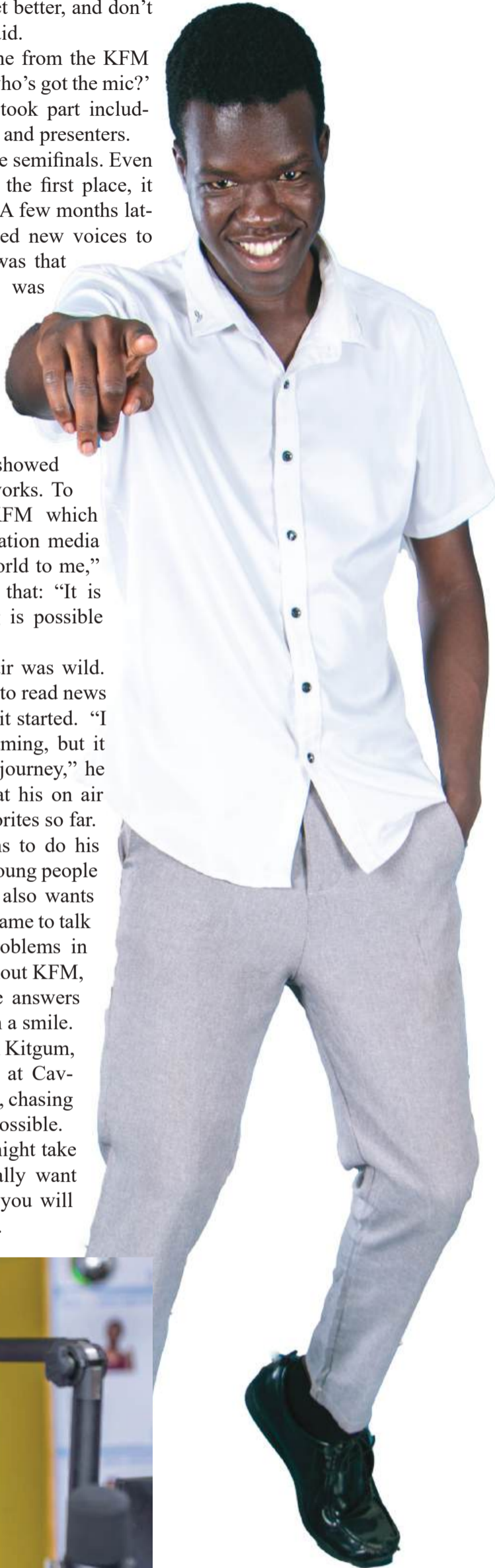
"I was so happy and thankful. It showed that keeping at it works. To me, working at KFM which is part of the big nation media group means the world to me," he said. He added that: "It is proof that anything is possible even."

His first day on air was wild. They rushed him in to read news just minutes before it started. "I felt like I was dreaming, but it kicked off my real journey," he said. Okidi says that his on air moment are his favorites so far.

At KFM, he plans to do his best to draw more young people into the media. He also wants to use the station's name to talk to leaders about problems in communities. "Without KFM, I couldn't get those answers easily," he says with a smile.

To young people in Kitgum, my fellow students at Cavendish, or anywhere, chasing dreams like this is possible.

You can do it. It might take time but if you really want it, keep practicing, you will make it" he advised.



Gabriel Okidi
COURTESY PHOTOS



CAVENDISH DEFEATES 13 UNIVERSITIES TO WIN LAW MOOT COMPETITION

BY BETHANY MICHELLE
NAMUKWAYA

On August 29, Cavendish University Uganda won the 12th annual Inter-University Constitutional Law moot court competition at hotel Africana.

For this year, the theme was, "Navigating divergent perspectives in promoting reproductive and gender justice in Uganda."

The competition is held annually, and this year, over 14 universities competed. The competition consisted of three rounds.

Cavendish managed to make it among the eight universities in the quarter finals as well as the four universities in the semi-finals, and later emerging victorious in the finals.

The University was represented by Linda Nabwire, a fourth-year student of Law, and Adrian Masolo, alongside Mr Godfrey Ayeranga, the CUU Moot Coordinator.

In attendance were Justice Mike Chibita of the Supreme Court, Justice Geoffrey Kiryabwire of the Court of Appeal, Justice Aidah Nakiganda of the High Court, Justice Eva Luswata of the Court of Appeal, and Justice Duncan Gaswaga of the African Court of Human and Peoples Rights.

Having joined CUU in 2020 as a lecturer of Criminal Law, International Humanitarian Law, and Equity & Trust, Mr Ayeranga picked interest in mooting and he thereafter volunteered to become the CUU Moot Coordinator, a decision that has seen CUU win many moot competitions.

Under his expertise and guidance, CUU has qualified for several competitions throughout the years.

It won the International Humanitarian Law competition (IHL) twice in 2022 and 2023 consecutively, as well as the Henry Dunant award at the regional rounds of the International Humanitarian Law competitions (IHL).

CUU won the Netpill Moot court competition of 2022 and hosted the 2025 Firdaus Initiative for Academic Excellence (FIAE) in which Cavendish was the third best out of over 35 Universities. Recently, CUU Law students also qualified for the Football Moot competition in Lagos.

This makes Mr Ayeranga a true pillar and inspiration to the young lawyers of Cavendish University Uganda.