

30 Makerere students get Chinese scholarships

BY FRANCIS EMORUT

The Chinese embassy has given scholarships to 30 Makerere University students to enable them complete their studies.

This was announced by the Chinese Ambassador to Uganda, Zheng Zhuqiang, during a ceremony at Makerere University on Thursday.

The Chinese ambassador's scholarship awards are of two categories, scholarship for excellence and friendship.

Zhuqiang said this year is a milestone in the history of China-Uganda relations following President Yoweri Museveni's visit to China last year, where he met President Xi Jinping and the two principals signed a series of bilateral co-operation agreements.

"This injected fresh momentum into the development of the China-Uganda co-operation. People-to-people exchange is an important component of the China-Uganda comprehensive co-operative partnership," Zhuqiang said.



Zhuqiang and Nawangwe (centre) with the new permanent secretary Aggrey Kibenge (left), Makerere officials and students who won scholarship at the university campus on Thursday. Photo by Francis Emorut

He said the 30 scholarships will enable students fulfil their dreams with some financial ease.

Zhuqiang reiterated that China will continue supporting education in the

country. He also revealed that his government is working closely with the education ministry and that they had awarded 111 scholarships to Ugandan students to study in China

starting this month.

He said the number of students winning scholarship has increased by 59% since last year.

The ambassador also informed university officials

that the training of 100 Ugandan teachers to teach Chinese language is in progress and that over 6,000 students are learning Chinese in 30 schools.

The vice-chancellor of

Makerere University, Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe, commended the ambassador for the support, saying it was timely since annually, 1,000 students drop out of school due to lack of tuition fees.

"We are grateful to China for lending a helping hand with no strings attached," he said.

According to Dr Euzobia Mugisha Baine, the acting director of gender mainstreaming at Makerere University, the beneficiaries were selected from families that are socially and economically disadvantaged.

■ BENEFICIARIES

Lisa Adur, a law student, said her family had difficulty paying tuition and was worried that she might not complete her studies.

Gerald Sifuuna, who is pursuing a bachelor of medicine and surgery, said he was almost giving up studies due to lack of tuition.

Paul Ddunga, a bachelor of science with education student, said he had lost hope since he applied last year and was not considered for the scholarship.