

# MAK ranked fifth best in Africa

By David Lumu

Makerere University (MAK) has been ranked the fifth best institution in Africa in the latest 2020 World University Rankings by UK's *The Times Higher Education*.

According to the rankings released early this month, the university is also the best in eastern and central Africa.

The institution is the best on the continent outside South Africa. The best four universities on the continent are from South Africa.

Makerere University's College of Health Sciences is the second best on the continent. Globally, the College of Health Science is the 250th.

"It is great to see Makerere University maintain her position among the top five universities on the continent in the prestigious 2020 rankings," Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe, the vice-chancellor of Makerere University, said in a tweet.

The authoritative and respected *The Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2020* were released on September 11, revealing that in Africa, the University of Cape Town is the best, while on the global scene, the University of Oxford leads.

The rankings consider research publications, education and general performance of the institution.

Last month, another university ranking scheme, Webometrics, had placed Makerere University in 16th position in Africa. Makerere's ranking was affected by the incessant strikes.

However, with strikes waning at the university, officials say Makerere



**Makerere has been ranked 5th because of its research publications, education and general performance**

is now eyeing the first slot in Africa in terms of research and education.

Speaking about the rankings yesterday, Dr Rhoda Wanyenze, the dean of Makerere University School of Public Health, attributed the improvement in ranking to qualitative research and the presence of scientific reviews by Makerere University lecturers in respectable global journals.

"It means that we are good at what we do and that we have a strong team at the College of Health Sciences. We are now working hard to ensure we become number one on the continent as a medical school," she said.

Wanyenze added that by emerging

number five on the continent, Makerere has showed that it can do much better with more funding.

"It is a signal that we have potential. We are doing well despite the limited funding and resources. All the other four universities ahead of Makerere are from South Africa and they are heavily funded in terms of research and staff," she said, underscoring the fact that Makerere University has highly trained staff whose only stumbling block is limited funding.

## Methodology

The *Times Higher Education World University Rankings* are the only global performance tables that judge

research-intensive universities across their core missions — teaching, research, knowledge transfer and international outlook.

They use 13 carefully calibrated performance indicators to provide the most comprehensive and balanced comparisons, trusted by students, academics, university leaders, industry and governments.

The performance indicators are grouped into five areas: Teaching (the learning environment); research (volume, income and reputation); citations (research influence); international outlook (staff, students and research); and industry income (knowledge transfer).

## Universities ranked

### TOP SIX IN AFRICA

1. University of Cape Town (South Africa)
2. University of the Witwatersrand (SA)
3. Stellenbosch University (SA)
4. University of Kwazulu-Natal (SA)
5. Makerere University (Uganda)
6. American University in Cairo (Egypt)

### TOP TEN IN THE WORLD

1. University of Oxford - (UK)
2. California Institute of Technology - (US)
3. University of Cambridge - (UK)
4. Stanford University - (UK)
5. Massachusetts Institute of Technology - (US)
6. Princeton University - (US)
7. Harvard University - (US)
8. Yale University - (US)
9. University of Chicago - (US)
10. Imperial College London - (UK)

Country/region	Number of universities among top 200
United States	60
United Kingdom	28
Germany	23
Australia	11
Netherlands	11
Canada	7
China	7
Switzerland	7
South Korea	6
France	5
Hong Kong	5
Sweden	5