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China offers scholarships to Muk bright, poor students

BY DAMALI MUKHAYE
dmukhaye@ug.nationmedia.com

KAMPALA. The Chinese government has offered 30 scholarships to continuing bright but needy students at Makerere University.

They have also confirmed an additional 111 scholarships to another batch of Ugandan students to study in China.

The Chinese ambassador to Uganda, Mr Zheng Zhuqiang, said they are fulfilling what the Chinese President, Mr Xi Jinping, pledged when he met President Museveni last year in China.

"The two presidents agreed to elevate China-Uganda relations to a new level of partnership and a series of bi-lateral cooperation documents were signed. Offering scholarships to Uganda students was among the important components and that is why we are here," Mr Zhuqiang said at Makerere University,yesterday.

He noted that more than 100 Ugandan teachers would soon be trained to teach the Chinese language in secondary schools.

"At present, more than 6,000 Uganda secondary school students in 30 schools are learning Chinese and these represents our partnership," Mr Zhuqiang added.

The Vice Chancellor of Makerere University, Prof Barnabas Nawangwe, commended the Chinese government saying every academic year, about 1,500 students, who enroll at the university drop out due to lack of tuition.

"Any country that comes out to lend a hand to these students is welcomed because the education sector is facing many challenges," Prof Nawangwe said.

BACKGROUND

In 2018, the Chinese embassy offered scholarships worth Shs85m to Makerere University to cater for bright and disadvantaged students to continue their studies in the 2nd year of study. This was renewable with availability of funds.

The Chinese embassy again this year offered another Shs105m to support the same students for their 3rd year of study.

The director of gender and mainstreaming directorate at Makerere University, Ms Euzobia Mugisha, said of the latest scholarships, 15 will go to bright students and these are offered by the ambassador himself while 15 are for China-Uganda friendship, which are given to students who are performing well in class but with a disadvantaged background. He said students in their second semester of first year 2017/2018 academic year with a minimum GPA of 2.80 will benefit.