

Drama as police attempt to arrest graduand

KAMPALA. Drama ensued at Makerere University yesterday during the 69th graduation ceremony as police attempted to arrest a former student activist.

Five police officers, who declined to reveal their identities to journalists, dragged away Mr Simon Wanyera, who graduated with a Bachelor Degree in Education from the tent, but fellow graduates protested.

Realising that the situation was getting out of hand, they abandoned their mission and returned Mr Wanyera to his seat.

Other three officers in plain clothes were instead re-deployed to surround and keep a close eye on Mr Wanyera until the ceremony ended.

The graduate told *Daily Monitor* that the police officers wanted to arrest him for making noise at the ceremony, asserting that he was just happy since the journey has not been easy for him.

Security was tightened within and outside the university premises yesterday because President Museveni



Accused. Police officers attempt to arrest Simon Wanyera during the 69th Makerere graduation ceremony yesterday. PHOTO BY RACHEL MABALA

was the guest of honour. Some officers were seen traversing Wandegaya. Unlike previous graduation ceremonies where traders sold flowers

to graduates, majority of them were blocked yesterday and only those that had cleared with the university were let in.

There was also heavy traffic jam unlike the previous graduation as guests and parents tried to access the grounds.

Meanwhile the Minister of Information, Communication and Technology, Mr Frank Tumwebaze, was awarded a Master's Degree in Public Health.

Mr Tumwebaze said he pursued the course to particularly help the country understand the spectrum of the social determinants of health and what factors explain the disease burden in the communities

According to the minister, the heavy disease burden in the communities is not only explained by clinical factors but by a range of social-economic and political factors that policy makers need to be aware of and therefore design sound policies anchored on the basis of evidence and more so research evidence.

He called for more research on local herbal medicine saying it is working for many people.