



Building a Civilization of Love

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UNIMAK NEWSLETTER

INSIDE UNIMAK

Official Newsletter of the University of Makeni, Sierra Leone

Vice-Chancellor's Message

REV. FR. PROF JOSEPH A TURAY

Dear Readers,

Today, we present 756 graduands for the conferment of degrees and the award of diplomas and certificates. Among them, 401 are female students and 355 are male students.

To our dear graduates, I extend my heartfelt congratulations. Today is your day, an attestation to your hard work, perseverance, and commitment. You are our UNIMAK champions, and we are immensely proud of your accomplishments. Your success would not have been possible without the firm support of your families, friends, and benefactors, as well as the dedication of our academic, administrative, and support staff. Let us take a moment to applaud them for their selfless service.

As an institution, we remain steadfast in our tradition of working closely with our communities, immersing ourselves in their realities, and sharing in their joys, hopes, and aspirations. A university is not an isolated ivory tower; rather, it must actively uplift society, particularly the most vulnerable and marginalized.

Today, we recognize a powerful example of this commitment: the successful completion of a specially designed certificate program in development and entrepreneurship for inmates at correctional facilities across the country. We extend our deepest gratitude to the authorities of these facilities for their collaboration in making this initiative possible. Similarly, we continue to advance inclusive education by training teachers in special needs education at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels, equipping them to serve individuals with pan-disabilities nationwide. Our dedication to the most vulnerable is further reflected in our strategic focus on formation, research, and community engagement in mental health, an area of critical importance.

Warm Regards,

Prof. Joseph A Turay

VICE-CHANCELLOR
UNIVERSITY OF MAKENI



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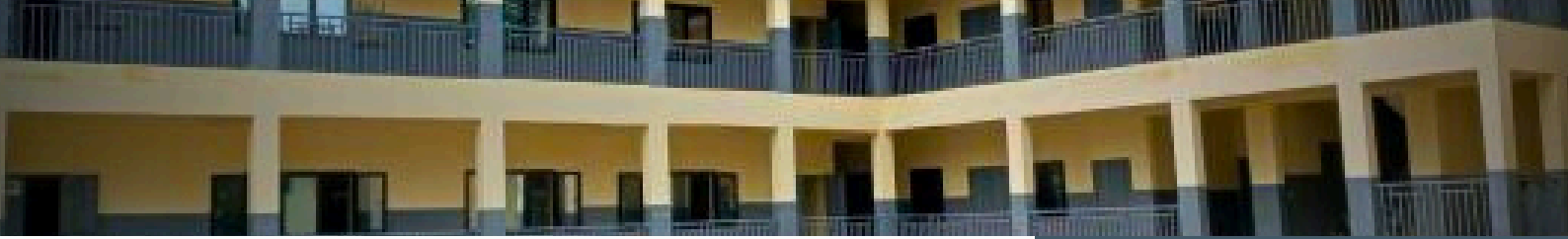
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mkanu1005@unimak.edu.sl
sheborasambakamara@gmail.com

[+23288689679](tel:+23288689679) / [+23276967502](tel:+23276967502)

www.unimak.edu.sl



UNIMAK Holds 13th Convocation, Celebrates 756 Graduates

The University of Makeni proudly celebrated academic excellence and resilience as it held its 13th Convocation Ceremony, awarding degrees to 756 graduating students in a vibrant gathering at St. Francis Field.

Makeni, Sierra Leone—April 26, 2025

The University of Makeni (UNIMAK) marked a proud chapter in its academic history on Saturday with the successful hosting of its 13th Convocation Ceremony, honoring 756 graduates across various disciplines. The event, held at the vibrant St. Francis Field, brought together proud families, faculty, dignitaries, and friends to celebrate academic excellence and national development.

Presiding over the ceremony, His Excellency Bishop Bob John Hassan Koroma, Bishop of the Diocese of Makeni and Chancellor of the University of Makeni, praised the graduates for their resilience and commitment, describing them as “UNIMAK champions” who have shown determination in pursuit of knowledge.

“As you leave these walls,” he said, “go forth with a sense of responsibility. Be sensitive to your communities and become champions for environmental stewardship and social change.”

He also expressed gratitude to families, benefactors, and staff who supported the students on their academic journey, emphasizing that collective effort fuels individual success.

The ceremony highlighted UNIMAK’s growing role in shaping ethical leaders and promoting quality education in Sierra Leone. As the graduates step into the next phase of their lives, the university reaffirms its mission to inspire transformation through knowledge, values, and community impact.

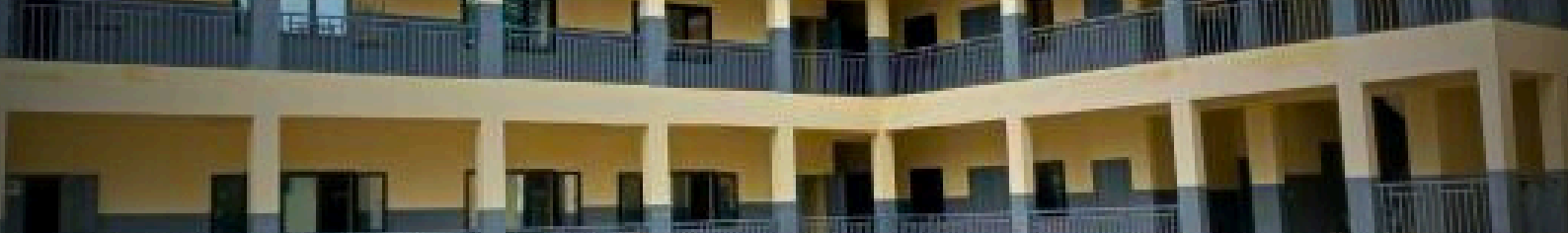
“As you leave these walls, go forth with a sense of responsibility. Be sensitive to your communities and become champions for environmental stewardship and social change.”

BISHOP BOB JOHN
HASSAN KOROMA
(DIOCESE OF MAKENI)



**Bishop Bob John Hassan Koroma,
Chancellor-University of Makeni**





UNIMAK's 13th Convocation Marks Historic Milestone for Women Graduates

Makeni, April 26, 2025

The University of Makeni's 13th Convocation Ceremony was not only a celebration of academic achievement but also a powerful statement on women's empowerment, as 401 out of 756 graduates were women, a historic first for the institution.

Vice Chancellor Professor Joseph A. Turay hailed the moment as a landmark for gender progress in Sierra Leone's higher education landscape. "This milestone reflects the growing role of women in academia and professional spaces. It is a clear signal of positive transformation in our society," he said.

The presence of a strong female graduating cohort highlighted the university's ongoing commitment to inclusivity, leadership, and equal opportunity in education.



A cross-section of the 401 female graduates celebrates their achievement at UNIMAK's 13th Convocation Ceremony, marking a milestone for women's advancement in higher education in Sierra Leone.



"This milestone reflects the growing role of women in academia and professional spaces. It is a clear signal of positive transformation in our society"

REV. FR. PROF JOSEPH A TURAY

UNIMAK Graduates 42 Inmates in Groundbreaking Prison Education Program

In a powerful display of education's role in rehabilitation and social transformation, the University of Makeni (UNIMAK) celebrated the graduation of 42 inmates from the Makeni Correctional Center during its 13th Convocation Ceremony on Saturday, 26th April 2025.

The initiative, driven by the Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Mr. Unisa Patrick Kamara, and facilitated through the Development Studies Department, reflects UNIMAK's continued commitment to inclusive education and second chances.

Among the 42 graduates were 39 men and 3 women, who successfully completed their academic programs while serving sentences at the correctional facility. Their achievement is part of a broader prison education initiative run by the university to provide access to higher learning for incarcerated individuals.

"This program is not just about education; it's about restoring dignity, purpose, and hope," said Mr. Kamara, who also served as Head of the Development Studies Department for ten years and has over fifteen years of teaching experience.

UNIMAK, a leading private university in Sierra Leone's Northern Province officially recognized in 2009, continues to pioneer community outreach programs that promote social reintegration and empowerment through education. The graduation of these 42 inmates adds to the growing impact of UNIMAK's transformative prison education program, offering new paths forward for individuals and demonstrating the university's belief in education as a tool for lasting change.



UNIMAK Awards Honorary PhDs to Legal Icons at 13th Convocation

Two trailblazers of Sierra Leone's legal system were honoured by the University of Makeni (UNIMAK) at its 13th Convocation Ceremony, marking a historic first in the institution's recognition of justice sector leaders.



Chancellor Bishop Bob John Hassan Koroma (middle) presents honorary Doctor of Philosophy degrees to former Chief Justice Umu Hawa Tejan-Jalloh (left) and former Attorney General Franklyn Bai Kargbo (right) during UNIMAK's 13th Convocation Ceremony in Makeni.

The University of Makeni (UNIMAK) marked a historic moment during its 13th Convocation Ceremony on Saturday, April 26, 2025, by awarding honorary Doctor of Philosophy degrees to two distinguished figures in Sierra Leone's legal landscape: former Attorney General and Minister of Justice Franklyn Bai Kargbo and former Chief Justice Umu Hawa Tejan-Jalloh.

This is the first time UNIMAK has conferred honorary degrees on individuals from the justice sector since its founding in 2009. The recognition celebrates the recipients' decades-long contributions to Sierra Leone's legal system, public service, and the development of legal education in the country.

The honorary degrees were presented by the University Chancellor, His Excellency Bishop Bob John Hassan Koroma, during a ceremony attended by government officials, legal professionals, academics, students, and invited guests. Both honourees have also played a key role in supporting the growth and strengthening of UNIMAK's Law Department. By honouring these national figures, UNIMAK reaffirmed its commitment to academic excellence, social justice, and national development through education and service.

