

Pan Africanists advocate continental values in education system

By Derrick Muduku

To reduce dependence on developed nations, Pan African advocates are urging stakeholders to embed the continent's values of solidarity and cultural identity into education curricula.

The call was made during the 8th Inter University Symposium on Pan Africanism and Reparatory Justice under the theme, *Pan African Intellectualism: The Urgency to Defend the Dignity and Future of the African People*.

Led by Papa Paul Jones Eganda, founder and global president of Aido International Network, a team of traditional leaders from the Caribbean and the Americas, convened at Makerere University to mark the 63rd African Liberation Day celebrations.

Dr Shadat Ssemakula, a Pan African



Papa Eganda (second-right) with his wife Queen Grace Eganda (right) alongside other Royal members at the event held at Makerere University

scholar, highlighted the need for the education system to emphasise continental norms and values to

inculcate the Pan African spirit in learners.

"We find that most foreign countries

dominate our Africanist ideology. We as universities need to come to a mutual ground with foreign funders of research so that we are part of the decision making, in as much as we may not have the resources," he said.

Ssemakula decried the notion of fronting foreign ideas in research and abandoning the Pan Africanist values which can go a long way in solving local problems.

"During the COVID-19 pandemic, we resorted to our local medicines and they did help us manage the disease. This is what should be happening other than basing on foreign issues," he said.

Ssemakula encouraged the use of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), which heavily taps into the traditional African ways of solving challenges, instead of waiting for the backlog of cases clogging courts.

Prof. Henry Alinaitwe, the deputy

vice-chancellor in charge of finance and administration at Makerere University, re-echoed the role of institutions promoting the Pan African doctrines among learners.

"Our institutions of higher learning must rise to this responsibility by generating African-centred knowledge," he stated.

Alinaitwe further noted that through research, collaboration and innovation, as well as cultural diplomacy, Africa has an opportunity to strengthen the intellectual and moral foundation of Pan-Africanism for present and future generations.

Prof. Eria Hisale, a lecturer at Makerere University, recommended technological development and innovation as the way to break the dependence syndrome, as the continent will be able to produce more of its own instead of heavily relying on foreign aid.