

## **CITATION FOR THE AWARD OF HONORARY DOCTOR OF LAWS (HONORIS CAUSA) TO H.E YOWERI KAGUTA MUSEVENI**

**Mr. Chancellor, Sir**

Makerere University Council together with the University Senate have resolved to award an Honorary Doctor of Laws (Honoris Causa) to H.E President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni. This proposal was tabled to Senate by the Faculty of Agriculture. The University took it up and wishes to recognize his outstanding achievements and exceptional contribution to the advancement of humanity in particular his commitment to Agricultural modernisation and value addition, Education, Science, Technology, Innovative leadership and Women Empowerment.

### **Background**

H.E was born on **15<sup>th</sup> August 1944** to a family of cattle keepers in **Kyamate**, Ntungamo in Western Uganda. His parents are Mzee Amos Kaguta and the late Esteri Kokundeka. He was named after the Abasuveni, who were Ugandan servicemen in the Seventh Regiment of the Kings African rifles.

He attended secondary education **at Mbarara High School (1959-1960) and at Ntare School (1961-1966)**. He is a graduate of BA Economics of Dar-es-Salaam University, Tanzania 1970. While at the secondary school and university, he became politically active and formed a Students' Association known as the African Revolutionary Front Activist Group. He led a student delegation to FRELIMO territory in Portuguese Mozambique, where he received guerrilla training. The knowledge and skills he acquired were later on put to test twice when he returned to Uganda.

When he was a Research officer in the President's Office, Major General Idi Amin seized power in a military coup in January 1971; Museveni fled to Tanzania and formed the Front for National Salvation (FRONASA) in 1973. FRONASA made up the core of one of the Ugandan fighting groups which, together with the Tanzanian People's Defense Forces, ousted Amin's regime in April 1979. After the fall of Idi Amin, Museveni served in the interim Government of Uganda as a **Minister for Regional Cooperation November 1979–May 1980 and as Presidential Commission Vice-Chairman April–November 1979**.

His Excellency established a new political party, the Uganda Patriotic Movement (UPM), which he led in the 1980 elections. After the elections, he refused to recognize the legitimacy of the new regime, citing widespread electoral irregularities. He started a bush war with 26 other young men and organized the National Resistance Movement and National Resistance Army (NRM/NRA) to oppose the regime in power. This struggle lasted from 1981-1986 when the regime in power was ousted.

H.E Yoweri Kaguta Museveni became the President of the Republic of Uganda on January 26, 1986 after leading a successful five-year liberation struggle. President Museveni is a statesman, who brought about security of life and property after the dark decades of 1970s and early 1980s. He has brought change in the political and social economic terrain of not only Uganda but within the region. He has demonstrated that the immense development challenges of this century are not insurmountable. Uganda's economy has grown steadily and poverty levels have dropped by 20% since 1992.

## **Agricultural Policies**

Since he became President, the Government has provided a conducive policy environment for the growth of the agricultural sector which supports over 80% rural Ugandans for their livelihoods. Within the Agricultural Sector, the notable policy framework was the Poverty Eradication Action Plan (PEAP) which was first launched in 1997 and revised in 2000 and 2004. In 2008, PEAP was overhauled to become the new National Development Plan with agriculture playing a key role. The Government made modernization of Agriculture a priority under the second pillar of PEAP (enhancing production, competitiveness and incomes) among other priorities. New Institutions such as NARO and NAADS were set up to harmonize agricultural research and to transfer knowledge /technology to farmers to improve agricultural productivity and increase incomes. As part of the government's firm interest, a national agricultural policy is being developed to focus on the agricultural sector.

## **Education Policies**

All of you may recall that before 1986, Makerere University was the only provider of higher education in this country, but His Excellency's leadership, created an enabling environment and supported the Higher Education Sector. As a result, it has expanded tremendously. Uganda now has four (4) new Public Universities: Mbarara University of Science and Technology (1989), Kyambogo University (2002), Gulu University (2002) and Busitema University (2008). In addition, one International private University—the Islamic University in Uganda was set up in 1988. His Excellency's Government also came up with policy guidelines that have resulted in the establishment of over 20 private universities thereby making enrolment into universities increase from 8,000 in 1988 to nearly 60,000 now. The education sector was liberalized and now Uganda has become the major provider of education at all levels (primary, secondary and higher) in the region. Through his initiative, Uganda Government declared the policy of Universal Primary Education (UPE) in 1997 which entitled up to four children per family to receive free education in Government and Government-aided schools. In 2008, a total of 516,890 pupils sat Primary Leaving Examinations (PLE). This is the first time such a number has been recorded since Universal Primary Education was introduced 12 years ago. There is also a policy on Universal secondary education being implemented. This is a step towards achieving Education for all (EFA) goal as well as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGS). Half-a-million pupils sitting PLE in one year is a record achievement. It is proof that the completion rate has improved to more than 60%. His Excellency has relentlessly spearheaded Government policy to promote education in the country.

## **Contribution to Makerere University**

His Excellency is the longest serving Chancellor of Makerere University (1986-2002). When he was still Chancellor of Makerere University, his efforts resulted in a number of developments. The notable one is when he initiated the affirmative action policy by requesting Makerere University to come up with measures to increase female students' admission. This initiative resulted in the Senate of Makerere University passing a policy on awarding 1.5 points to female applicants. This policy has increased female admissions from 25% in 1990/91 to the current over 40% in most Universities programmes.

His Excellency President Museveni is an admirable promoter of the affirmative action programme for women in the country. He was also instrumental and supportive in setting up the

Department of Women and Gender Studies. This support resulted in Makerere University hosting the World Congress of Women in 2004.

President Museveni has always categorically stated that he wants Makerere University to use its expertise to assist process agricultural products for export. Through his patronage and initiative, the Food Science and Technology Department was established in 1989. The Department along with other Units of the University have thrived under favourable agricultural sector policies, which attracted donor funds to the agricultural research. After the establishment of the Department of Food Science and Technology, he has supported its major programmes of training students, for example, he convinced UNESCO to support the establishment of a UNESCO Chair in Food Science and Technology Department. This attracted a renowned American Professor Paul Hansen in 1994 who developed initial staff and students and further supported research ventures by staff and students in improvement of traditional food processing technologies and Food Biotechnology. In October 2009, H.E Yoweri Kaguta Museveni visited Makerere University and he officially opened the Food Science and Business Incubation Centre. He also agreed to be the Patron of the incubation programme. To further agro-based industrialization, H.E Yoweri Kaguta Museveni caused the Government to approve **UGX 4.485billion** for the Food Technology Business Incubation Centre. Another **UGX 2.5 billion** was approved as venture capital, for university and college graduates for food business ideas.

At the request of the staff members of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, H. E President Museveni agreed to assist the Faculty to be a Regional Centre for Veterinary Training. In 2007, he followed up this pledge by causing the Government of Uganda to allocate Nakyesasa Farm to the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine. Plans are now in an advanced stage to transform the farm into an Institute for Strategic Animal Resources, Bio Security, Bio-Technology and Entrepreneurship Development. This initiative will go a long way in training Human Resource and in job creation.

H.E President Museveni is the only Ugandan farmer who has conserved a large herd of the Indigenous Ankole Cows and has supported the genetic conservation and the sperm of the local breeds of bulls. The Faculty of Agriculture Researchers have been working with him to ensure that the Ankole Cow is not extinct and pastures are well managed.

H.E has also been the Patron of the Association of Uganda Professional Agriculturalists (ASUPA) since 2004. ASUPA, which is housed in the Faculty of Agriculture, has contributed greatly in developing new Bachelor of Science programmes in the fields of Horticulture, Aquaculture, Animal Husbandry and also graduate research in animal husbandry and pastures at Makerere University.

In 2004, President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni initiated the Presidential Science Awards to recognize Ugandan Scientists and Technologists for their achievements and contributions to the advancement of Science and Technology in improving the quality of life. Since its inception, many Makerere University staff have won and benefited from this initiative including the orator.

### **HIV/AIDS Campaign**

One of President Museveni's most widely noted accomplishments has been his Government's successful campaign against HIV/AIDS. The HIV prevalence levels have dropped because of an impressive anti-AIDS campaign spear-headed by the President. During the 1980s, Uganda had one of the highest rates of HIV infection in the World. With the support of His Excellency,

Uganda's HIV prevalence rates have declined from an average level of 18% in 1992 to 6.2% in 2002 and to 5.9% in 2009. Uganda stands as a rare success story in the global battle against the virus. One of the campaigns headed by President Museveni to fight against AIDS was the ABC programme which had three main parts "Abstain, Be faithful, or use Condoms. There used to be sounds of drums every morning on radios and plays to sensitize Ugandans about the dangers of HIV/AIDS. Uganda has led the way in being the first Country in Africa to actually reduce the HIV prevalence rate among adults. He has received numerous awards/honors from many institutions for his role on this programme.

### **Leadership**

Apart from his visionary and courageous leadership at the national level, he has served in numerous leading international posts. Notably, he has served as elected Chairperson of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) from 1991 to 1992. Being elected to this position is an indicator that he is a well respected statesperson. Leaders throughout the developed and developing World call on his counsel and ideas. He became the Chairperson-in-Office of the Commonwealth of Nations from 2007-2009. H.E President Museveni has been involved in the pacification of the region. President Museveni spared no efforts in ensuring peace in Rwanda, Burundi, Congo and Southern Sudan. He has deployed troops to the African Union's peacekeeping operation in Somalia and Uganda has been mandated to train security personnel in Uganda for the pacification of Somalia.

### **Scholarship**

Apart from his long distinguished political and leadership career (1986-to date), President Museveni is a scholar in his own right and has demonstrated this by authoring books, articles and the notable publications include the following:

*i)Fanon's Theory on Violence: It's Verification in Liberated Mozambique,"* from Essays on the Liberation of Southern Africa, 1971

*ii)Sowing the Mustard Seed: The Struggle for Freedom and Democracy in Uganda:* **This** is his autobiography about his role in this country's journey to stability. This book is a commendable achievement for it adds to this country's fragile historical archive through the voice of one of the key players in Uganda's political history.

*iii)What Is Africa's Problem:* 2000

*iv)Kinyankore Dictionary:* (Author) Yoweri K. Museveni (in press): 2009

### **The notable awards conferred upon him include:**

i) Doctor of Laws, Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota, June 23, 1994

ii) Doctor of Laws, Mbarara University of Science and Technology, Feb 2003

iii) Received several awards on HIV/AIDS for this effort and he attracted international attention to the extent that Uganda has now become a reference point for the fight against HIV/AIDS.

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, I wish to state that:

- His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni has made exceptional and significant contributions nationally and internationally for the development of humanity.

- He has been able to relate effectively with the University in addressing institutional aspirations and concerns.
- He supports and sustains scholarly activity at Makerere University. He has the capacity to help Makerere University reposition itself and continue to have influence nationally and internationally.
- Therefore, we in Makerere University are delighted to recognize and honour him. This is a measure of how proud we are of H.E Yoweri Kaguta's Museveni exceptional achievements and this bears testimony to the high regard in which he is held by all who know him. It is particularly pleasing that his dear wife, a graduate of this university, is here to share in this celebration.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, I have the pleasure and honour of presenting to you, His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni for the award of Honorary Doctor of Laws (*Honoris Causa*) of Makerere University. **We build for the future.**

**Orator:        Professor Elly N. Sabiiti, PhD, Ftwas, Funas, FAAS**  
**Faculty of Agriculture**  
**Makerere University**  
**December 12, 2010**