



**SPEECH**

**BY  
HON. MATTHEW RUKIKAIRE  
CHAIRPERSON, MAKERERE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL**

**AT  
THE SPECIAL CONGREGATION FOR THE CONFERMENT OF HONORARY DOCTOR  
OF LAWS (HONORIS CAUSA)**

**UPON**

**H.E. YOWERI K.MUSEVENI  
THE PRESIDENT OF UGANDA**

**AND**

**H.E. RASHID MFAUME KAWAWA (POSTHUMOUS), FORMER 1<sup>ST</sup> VICE  
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA**

**DATE: 12<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2010**

**AT**

**VENUE: FREEDOM SQUARE, MAKERERE UNIVERSITY, KAMPALA**

**Your Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda**  
**The First Lady, Hon Janet K. Museveni, MP**  
**The Family of His Excellency Late Rashid Mfaume Kawawa**  
**Your Excellency, Professor Gilbert Bukenya, Vice President of Uganda,**  
**Right Honorable Professor Apolo Nsibambi, Prime Minister of Uganda,**  
**Honourable Ministers and Members of Parliament**  
**Professor Mondo Kagonyera, Chancellor**  
**Professor Venansius Baryamureeba, Vice Chancellor,**  
**Our Special Guests from Egerton University, Kenya**  
**Distinguished Guests**  
**Members of Staff**  
**Ladies and Gentlemen**

## **INTRODUCTION**

This is truly an East African event, especially with representation from Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda! It reminds me of Makerere--the University of East Africa!

It is therefore with great honor and pride that I welcome you all to this special congregation, on behalf of the University Council and the entire University Community. Permit me to first and foremost thank **Your Excellency, Yoweri K. Museveni**, and the Government of Uganda, for creating such an environment that has fostered sustainable national development in Uganda. In particular, I wish to applaud Your Excellency for Government support to Makerere University, and for the stability and peace we have experienced.

May I commend the staff and students for their patience and support in maintaining an environment free of strife in the last 4 years that I have been Chairman of Council?

## **ACHIEVEMENTS**

Our 4-year tenure as University Council has drawn to a close. Permit me to highlight some of the significant achievements we have all been part of during our tenure.

## 1. Ten-Year Strategic Plan

Makerere's 10-year Strategic Plan, 2006-2017 which we approved is a milestone achievement. It is a firm foundation as Makerere repositions herself towards meeting Uganda and Africa's development challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

The Strategic Plan is premised on the recognition that:-

- Wide knowledge exists in our communities, that is, in the private, government, and non-governmental sectors;
- Academia, the Private and Public Sectors need to interface to tap this wide knowledge for win-win benefits;
- Academia should focus more on the formation, than mere training, of graduates so they can develop entrepreneurial thinking; acquire problem solving skills; and possess analytical and reflective capacities.

As such, Makerere has decided to place a higher premium on research and development (R&D), Innovations, Incubations and Entrepreneurship than before.

Thus, the 10-year Strategic Plan is premised on a paradigm shift: from teacher-centered instruction to learner-centered and holistic education; from mere training to formation of graduates. We believe this will bridge gaps that have hitherto existed between the University, the Public and Private Sectors on the one hand; and between Academia and the wider Community on the other hand.

## 2. Academia/Private Sector Interface

Your Excellency, there is already a good illustration of this paradigm shift in the Makerere University Private Sector Forum, established by the University Council in 2006, as a "three-way" bridge between Academia, the Private and Public Sectors.

One of its most remarkable achievements has been launch of the proposed honor to Professor Ali A. Mazrui, in particular, the proposed Ali A. Mazrui Chair Endowment, and the East Africa Ali A. Mazrui Center for Global Studies at Makerere University, Kampala. This was launched on August 11, 2009 with Professor Mazrui himself in attendance.

The Makerere University Private Sector Forum is a validation of Your Excellency's leadership in championing **private-sector led economic development in Uganda: that it has been based on a sound philosophical and policy premise.**

Regrettably, this has often been overlooked.

However, prominent Ugandan scholar and author based in Nigeria, **Professor Okello Oculi**, has credited Your Excellency's Government and Makerere University for the honor given to Professor Ali A. Mazrui.

Let me quote:

**“Editor’s Note: In this week’s Pambazuka News, Okello Oculi reminisces ... how Tajudeen might have responded to a recently announced joint initiative between Ugandan President Museveni and Makerere University to honour Professor Mazrui by establishing a new centre for Global Studies and scholarship fund in his name.....**

*So, how has he (Tajudeen), from ‘After-Africa’ (Mazrui’s coinage) responded to the initiative by Makerere University and President Museveni’s government to honour Professor Ali Alamin Mazrui?*

*The honour is reported to be a product of ‘Makerere University Private Sector Forum’, whose vision is to develop the university’s capacity to ‘raise funds that will later on promote the exchange of professors between Makerere and other foreign institutions of learning’..... Tajudeen must have immediately chuckled in his staccato mirth.....It is a gesture he would have expected of Museveni who is himself a graduate of Political Science and author of a book on the drama of his record as a political actor.....”<sup>1</sup>.*

Your Excellency, some of the leading business and private sector leaders here present were initially invited by the Faculty of Technology. It was for a separate demo of the “Kiira-EV”—electric car on this same day. This was at the recommendation of the Chancellor, Professor Mondo Kagonyera, **who is a passionate promoter of the car project!** He was one of the first people to personally donate to the project.

This example of partnership with Private and Public Sector leaders towards commercial production of the “The Kiira”—EV is further proof of the “three-way” bridge envisaged in the 10-year Strategic Plan.

Innovations at Makerere—“THE KIIRA—EV”

I would like to say a special “thank you” to Your Excellency for the mega support to the Faculty of Technology, estimated at UGX 25 billion over the next 5 years! A major

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<sup>1</sup>Okello Oculi, “Makerere, Mazrui and Tajudeen”, 2009-10-01, Issue [450](#):  
<http://pambazuka.org/en/category/comment/59151>

component of this will go to the design, development and construction of the “KIIRA-EV”—Uganda’s first electric car to which you gave the name.

### 3. Animal Resources and Development

Your Excellency, the same paradigm shift can also be seen in achievements by our School of Veterinary Medicine.

In the past, traditional veterinary training has **divorced students and academia from problem-solving engagement and innovations**. As a result, Uganda’s diverse animal resources and industries have been underdeveloped; they have been dominated by poor practices and steeped in “ivory tower” training models.

But thanks to Your Excellency’s persistence: a joint strategic partnership has developed between Government and Makerere. Thus, **we have** embarked on major educational and institution reforms. These are aimed at transforming Uganda’s diverse animal resources into a modern and export-oriented industry.

In this regard, the University Council has:

- Approved the **transformation of the Faculty into the School of Veterinary Medicine** to align Veterinary and Para-Veterinary education to international standards, and promote export from Uganda’s Animal Sector.
- Approved affiliation of **Sheik Technical Veterinary School in the greater Horn of Eastern Africa**, the largest exporter of livestock in Africa, with Makerere University. This will **provide and export technical assistance to the region**. A similar arrangement is being worked out for Southern Sudan, Rwanda and DRC.
- **Approved establishment of the Africa Institute for Strategic Animal Resource Services and Development (AFRISA)** as a joint Government-Academia agency that will take the University to the community. It will **synergize government advisory programs such as NAADS**. It will also develop a sustainable and **fast-track youth skills development and training** for livestock entrepreneurs and service providers. It will **promote leadership and transformative skills, innovations and community service** through unique **Academic-Public-Private Partnerships**.

Your Excellency will be happy to know that in the last 4 months, over 60 youth have been on a brigade campaign, spraying and treating cattle, and mobilizing community to Stamp-Out Sleeping sickness (SOS) in districts of Northern Uganda, Soroti and Serere.

Furthermore, I wish to express our gratitude to Government and Development Partners because:-

- Government has provided UGX 1 billion for AFRISA's infrastructural development through the **Skills for Production and Employment in the Animal Industry (SPEDA) project** this financial year, 2010/2011.
- Government has provided one square mile ranch in Kyankwanzi district for a **Livestock Research and Technology Centre**. This will provide skills, technology and services to neighboring communities and beyond.
- Government has also provided land at Nakyesasa farm for a **Practical Skills Development Centre** to provide skills, technology and services to the neighboring communities and beyond.
- Government is establishing the **National Animal Diseases Diagnostic Centre (NADDIC)** at the Veterinary School, through the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Industry. This is in partnership with Japan International Development Agency (JICA). The centre will provide quality disease surveillance and referral diagnostic services to farmers, private sector, and government as well as in the East African region.
- Government has supported the establishment of a **Regional Centre for Integrated Management of Trans-boundary Animal Diseases** in partnership with North Dakota State and Michigan State Universities in the USA. This is under the USAID Higher Education for Development (HED) initiative. The work will start in April 2011.

## **COLLEGIATE UNIVERSITY FORMATION**

Your Excellency, Makerere University will transform into a Collegiate University with eight (8) constituent colleges and two (2) schools, to be established not later than 1<sup>st</sup> July 2011. These will be the Colleges of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences; Humanities; Computing and Information Sciences; Business and Management Sciences; Education and

External Studies; Natural Sciences; Engineering, Design and Technology; and Health Sciences--established on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2007.

The Faculties of Law and Veterinary Medicine will be transformed into the Schools of Law and Veterinary Medicine, respectively.

This is aimed at improving service delivery, reducing red tape, and quality enhancement in core functions of the university.

## **UPCOUNTRY CAMPUSES**

Due to an ever increasing number of students eligible for higher institutions of learning, thanks to Universal Primary and Secondary Education; Makerere has set up upcountry campuses in Jinja and Fort Portal. Each campus is expected to expand and eventually become a Constituent College of Makerere University.

## **GENDER AND AFFIRMATIVE ACTION**

Your Excellency initiated gender affirmative action policy while Chancellor of Makerere. This has borne immense fruit. For example, female admissions have increased from 25% in 1990/91, and at the 60<sup>th</sup> Graduation Ceremony last year; females constituted 50% of all graduates.

To sustain this momentum, the University Council launched the Makerere University Female Scholarship Foundation, during a high profile dinner gala at the Serena Hotel, Kampala, on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2010. Rt. Hon Apolo Nsibambi, Prime Minister, was Guest of Honor.

The launch was historic for two main reasons:

- (a) It was in appreciation of the successful Female Scholarship Initiative (FSI) supported by a US\$4million grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, 2001-2010, which ended in June this year. This has enabled a total of 691 bright girls, from disadvantaged backgrounds, access university education at Makerere. So far 600 have graduated and the remaining 91 are expected to graduate in 2011.
- (b) It was in commemoration of 50 years of Africa's Independence this year, 2010.

The Gender Mainstreaming Division in the Academic Registrar's Department drew our attention to the "double jeopardy of gender and regional disparities incurred by girls from Greater Northern Uganda", especially in accessing university education at Makerere. They reported that in the last 5 years:

- 56% of students admitted in Makerere University came from schools in Central region;
- 21% came from schools in Western region;
- 16% came from schools in Eastern region; and only
- 7% came from schools in Northern region.

Through Council, the Gender Mainstreaming Division made a passionate appeal to Government of Uganda that beginning next academic year, 2011/2012:

- Government should establish affirmative opportunity scholarship at Makerere University for girls from Greater Northern Uganda, namely: from districts of Acholi, Lango, Karamoja, Teso and West Nile sub-regions;
- Government should avail at least UGX 1.5 billion from the PRDP budget to enable at least 150 girls of Greater Northern Uganda access University education at Makerere.

I am happy to report that the Prime Minister has acted on this appeal expeditiously and written to the Vice Chancellor to follow up with the District Leaders of Greater Northern Uganda about the way forward.

On behalf of Council, I wish to reiterate my strong support for this appeal.

Since the PRDP is Your Excellency's brainchild, I am confident Makerere's appeal for scholarships of girls from Greater Northern Uganda will receive Your Excellency's swift approval.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE ADVANCEMENT**

Council witnessed the Ag. Vice-Chancellor and Deputies assume office in November 2009 with business plans on how best they would develop Makerere. I'm happy to note these plans are being used to evaluate the current management. They are also strategically improving our university.



As a result, Makerere's rankings have improved and currently stand at 13<sup>th</sup> in Africa as among the best Universities in Africa outside of South Africa and Egypt!

May I, therefore, call for a quick finalization of amendments of the University and Tertiary Education Act so as to streamline tertiary and university management in Uganda?

## **DEPOSIT ADMINISTRATION PLAN (DAP)-NIC FUNDS**

The Council would also wish to thank Your Excellency for your timely interventions on Deposit Administration Plan (DAP)-NIC Funds owed to Makerere University Staff. Your Excellency's involvement has led to Government's assurance that **UGX 5billion** will be paid within two weeks, and another promissory note of **UGX 5billion** in two months.

I call upon all of us to give a round of applause to H.E the President and Government of Uganda.

## **CHALLENGES**

### **(i) Kololo and Katanga land**

Your Excellency is aware about efforts by unscrupulous land dealers to grab Makerere University's land on Plots 34 and 36 on Prince Charles Drive, Kololo; and Plots 397 and 402 in Katanga.

May I appeal to Your Excellency to intervene on behalf of Makerere University?

## **CONCLUSION: TRIBUTE TO YOWERI K. MUSEVENI**

While a citation will be read later; mine is just to say a few words in tribute to H.E President Yoweri K. Museveni, whom I have known for forty years and worked with for about three decades. My working association therefore encompasses Yoweri Museveni the President and Museveni, the man.

Thus, I can briefly identify multiple facets of Yoweri Museveni, the Revolutionary Pan-Africanist, Freedom Fighter, Reformer, Transformer, and the Ideological and Policy Driver.

- Museveni, the Revolutionary pan-Africanist

Museveni's writings on Fanon's theories of revolution were linked with his activities as the Revolutionary pan-Africanist. This was in the context of African liberation from colonial and

post-colonial forces. In the post-Independence era and equipped with power of the Presidency: Yoweri Museveni translated those political ideals into practical measures towards achieving political and economic integration of East Africa, and eventual African unity.

- Museveni, the Freedom Fighter

Apart from his participation, as a young man, in the liberation struggle in Southern Africa, especially in Mozambique, Museveni led a unique armed liberation struggle against forces of oppression in Uganda. The uniqueness of the 5-year bush struggle was that it was wholly internally based, yet without real bases, and initially without external military support.

- Museveni, the Reformer

At the outset of the NRM Government in 1986 following the 5-year bush war, Museveni stated that the NRM takeover of power signified a fundamental change, and not a change of guards. One of these, and not necessarily the most significant, among many, has been land reform that has defined a new legal basis of relations between tenants and landlords.

- Museveni, the Transformer

Among other things, Yoweri Museveni's vision was to lay a foundation for working towards the creation of a socio-economic order, in which the middle class is the dominant force driving economic and social change: thus breaking the barriers that divide the developing and developed worlds. Museveni's contention was that apart from creating a more prosperous society, a middle class dominated society will help to eliminate sectarian barriers which have dominated the politics of Uganda before and after independence.

True to form, the *Daily Monitor*, Kampala, Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> December 2010, reported:

*This year the government unveiled a Shs 54 trillion National Development Plan (NDP) that is expected to transform Uganda from a peasant society to a middle income country by 2015"*

This is a herculean task. Even with the best will and the highest economic growth rates; this cannot be realized in less than several decades. But Museveni has shown the will and commitment to this cause—which would have the effect of transforming Uganda as we know it.

- Museveni, the Ideological and Policy driver

In the NRM Movement and its predecessors such as UPM, FRONASA and others, Yoweri Museveni has been the principal and main originator of the core ideas that have formed the basis of change, including constitutional reforms.

Whether it was launching the bush war, formation of a broad based government, the creation of a non-party movement, eventual creation of a multiparty system, and many others: Yoweri Museveni has, to a large measure, been the architect.

But Museveni has also been a persuader so much that even though some of these ideas were initially not popular or acceptable, he was always prepared to wait and persuade through arguments, until the majority was brought on board.

Personally, I have been privileged to have been associated with Yoweri Museveni—the Man during these momentous changes. I have especially found fulfillment for having been part of a struggle that has rescued Uganda from the brink of total destruction and turned it into a new and prosperous nation.

Today, Makerere University is privileged to be making this award to Yoweri Museveni, a distinguished personality, not only as President, but as a man who has achieved so much and is still zealously striving to turn Uganda into a more prosperous nation

CONGRATULATIONS! Your Excellencies and your families upon your Honorary Doctoral Awards as, together, **WE BUILD FOR THE FUTURE**