

MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

ADDRESS BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR

PROFESSOR VENANSIUS BARYAMUREEBA

ON

THE OCCASION OF THE 60TH GRADUATION

CONGREGATION

OF

MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

JANUARY 18TH - 22ND 2010

Professor George Mondo Kagonyera, Chancellor of Makerere University

Your Lordships the Judges of the Judicature

Honourable Minister of Education and Sports

Honourable Ministers

Honourable Members of Parliament

Members of the Diplomatic Corps

Religious Leaders

Your Worship the Mayor Kampala City

Representatives of Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies

Chairperson and Members of Makerere University Council

My Colleagues the Vice-Chancellors, Rectors and Principals

My Colleagues in the University Administration

Members of the University Senate

Members of Staff of Makerere University

Parents and Guardians

Graduands

Media Corps

Ladies and Gentlemen

Welcome remarks

On behalf of Makerere University and on my own behalf as Vice-Chancellor, I welcome you all to the **60th** Graduation Ceremony. I welcome and congratulate in a special way all the Graduands and their parents or guardians gathered here today. In the same vein let me thank all our invited guests for gracing this occasion with your presence.

I am delighted to be here today as the **14th** Vice-Chancellor of Makerere University. Over the last **16** years, I have had the privilege of serving Makerere University in different capacities and it has always been a rich and rewarding experience. I am greatly humbled by the task before us, grateful for the trust you have in us, and mindful of the long history of Makerere University.

Working with former Vice-Chancellors namely Professor John Sebuwufu and Professor Livingstone S. Luboobi was a great experience. Professor Sebuwufu initiated the inception of the Institute of Computer Science. During Professor Luboobi's term, the Institute of Computer Science was able to expand to another level of the largest Computing Faculty at Makerere main campus. I thank my predecessor, Professor Luboobi for the job well done amidst all the challenges.

I recognise and thank in a special way those who have made it possible for **13,767** students graduating during the **60th** Graduation ceremony. The parents and guardians, I am sure the sacrifice has not been easy, but I hope that the rewards of your investment will be worth it. I also commend the academic and administrative staff for their role in bringing these students to this day.

For you graduands, this is a major milestone in your lives. Not many have been fortunate to make it this far for various reasons. It is therefore an event for you to cherish, but also a time for you to make sure you remain relevant in whatever you do after school in order that the time you have invested in school is not in vain.

I warmly congratulate all students who have excelled by attaining **First Class** and **Upper Second-Class degrees**. I encourage them to progress further in their academics so as to gain new skills and be more competitive globally. I also

congratulate all other graduands and wish them the best as they go out into the world.

Allow me to congratulate members of staff who are graduating during the **60th** Graduation ceremony and those who have recently completed their study programmes in other institutions around the world. I would also like to congratulate members of staff whose children and spouses are graduating from the **18th to 22nd January 2010**.

Brief Statistics

Mr. Chancellor Sir, over this week, we are going to graduate a total of **13,767** students in various disciplines over the next one week.

Summary: Female 6,937 (50.4%), Male 6,830 (49.6%).

PhD Graduands: Total **40** Female **10** Male **30**

Masters Graduands: Total **1,249** Female **489** Male **760**

We are happy that the number of students graduating with PhDs has continued to increase. I commend the development partners who have supported most of this research.

We are also proud to report that during this **60th** Graduation ceremony, there are more female students (**50.4%**) graduating as compared to the previous graduation ceremonies. I commend the President of Uganda, H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni for introducing the Affirmative Action policy, which has enabled more females to access higher education.

Award of Honorary Doctorates

Mr. Chancellor, Sir, the Makerere University Senate and Council agreed to award three (3) Honorary Doctorates as listed below: Honorary Doctor of Science to Dr. Endre Lillethum (in absentia); and Honorary Doctor of Laws to H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, the President of Uganda and H.E, the late Rashid Mfaume Kawawa, a former Vice President and former Prime Minister of Tanzania.

Dr. Andre Lillethum was awarded Honorary Doctor of Science (in absentia) during the first session of the **60th** Graduation ceremony on Monday 18th January 2010. (*Refer to citation in the appendix*).

The Honorary Doctorate of Laws to H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni and H.E. Rashid Kawawa will be awarded later this year. It is only sad that the award will be given posthumously as Mzee Kawawa passed away on Friday 1st January 2010.

New University Management

The University has over the last two months acquired a new management team. These include Vice Chancellor, the DVC (Academic Affairs) Professor Lillian Tibatemwa-Ekirikubinza, the DVC (Finance & Administration) Dr. Sande Tickodri-Togboa, the University Secretary, Mr. Kahundha-Muhwezi; the University Librarian, Dr. Maria G. Musoke; the University Bursar, Mr. Joshua Karamagi; and the Academic Registrar, Mr Alfred Masikye Namoah. Apart from Professor Tibatemwa-Ekirikubinza and Dr. Musoke, the rest of us are new in these offices.

On 1st January 2010, the Acting Vice Chancellor, Deputy Vice Chancellor (AA) and Deputy Vice Chancellor (F&A) completed two (2) months in office. On the same day, Mr. Kahundha-Muhwezi, Mr. Karamagi and Mr. Masikye Namoah began their contracts as University Secretary, University Bursar and Academic Registrar respectively. On the same day, Dr. Musoke began her last term as University Librarian.

For us who have been in office for two months, we thank you all for the tremendous support accorded to us and we look forward to more support as we build for the future. As a new management team, we must first honestly recognize where we are now. We are taking on our tasks from where our predecessors ended. We have taken stock of the current situation and as team we pledge to propel this University to a higher level of academic excellence. I call upon you to give us the best support so that we can explore our full potential.

Term of Current University Council

The term of the current University Council will come to an end on 30th November 2010. Most of the council members will therefore not be with us during the next graduation ceremony in January 2011. It has been a rich and rewarding experience working with the University Council. I therefore commend the

University Council under the leadership of Mr. Mathew Rukikaire for the support you have accorded to the new management team.

Professorial appointments

Since January 2009, we have appointed eleven (11) Professors as per the Appointments and Promotions Policy of Makerere University. They are:

1	KANSIIME Frank	M	1-Feb-09	PROFESSOR	Environment
2	KABASA John David	M	1-Apr-09	PROFESSOR	Veterinary Pathology
3	MURANGA Manuel John	M	1-Apr-09	PROFESSOR	Institute of Languages
4	KAMYA Moses	M	1-Apr-09	PROFESSOR	Medicine
5	KATABIRA Eily	M	1-Jul-09	PROFESSOR	Medicine
6	TIBATEMWA- Ekirikubinza Lillian	F	1-Jul-09	PROFESSOR	Law and Jurisprudence
7	TAMUSUZA Justinian	M	1-Sep-09	PROFESSOR	Music, Dance and Drama
8	OLOBO Joseph	M	1-Sep-09	PROFESSOR	Microbiology
9	KASENENE John	M	1-Sep-09	PROFESSOR	Botany
10	KIKAFUNDA Joyce	F	1-Jan-10	PROFESSOR	Food Science and Technology
11	BYARUHANGA AKIIKI	M	7-Apr-09	EMERITUS	Department of Religious Studies

We would like to retain these professors at Makerere University. I therefore appeal to Members of Parliament and politicians to lobby Government to increase the Living Wage of professors so that they can concentrate on research and creation of knowledge. The remuneration of professors is crucial; they need good accommodation, be able to take their children to good schools; and a good retirement package among others. With this support, even the professors in the Diaspora shall return alive and enjoy the pearl of Africa. I acknowledge the President's intervention **UGX 6M** for **a Professor pro-rata**, but more needs to be done.

Makerere University Brand

Makerere University is a strong brand in Africa. Makerere University was once the University of East Africa; and the Harvard of Africa; it therefore greatly contributed to higher education and development of other sectors. Makerere University boasts of a reservoir of qualified academicians measuring to international standards. Makerere University staff have continued to publish in internationally recognised journals. The University has become a champion of

gender mainstreaming in higher education in Africa. Makerere University has started awarding joint degree programmes with best universities in Africa. Makerere University has continued to attract strategic partnerships. The Carnegie Corporation of New York has decided to partner with Makerere University to build the next generation of academics in Africa. Our dream is to make Makerere University once again the Harvard of Africa in the true sense of the word. So we refuse to believe that Makerere University lacks resources. We refuse to believe that the media is against Makerere University. **We have good will from the public for starters.**

Strategic Focus in 2010

As a new team, we are moving in the New Year to take stock of the operations and functions in the University. The idea is for us to identify what is working and what is not so we can find solutions to those challenges. In the coming years, we shall therefore work towards becoming the best university in Africa; and later on the best University in the world. We shall focus on areas where we have competitive advantage and make them centres of excellence in Africa. It is therefore in the interest of all stakeholders to see that these efforts are fully supported and that all should chip in where they are called upon to do so.

The Makerere University community, the public and the government are all calling for the implementation of the academic, financial and administrative reforms at Makerere University. On this note, I would like to thank the various committees that have contributed recommendations and are still contributing more recommendations and the way forward. The truth of the matter is that these reforms have to begin from within. It starts with each one of us. If we are to carry out these reforms, we need to put Makerere University first and ourselves last. We cannot do things the same way and expect different results, so we have to do things differently especially in areas where we have failed in the past.

Mr. Chancellor, allow me to highlight some of the key areas as well as the achievements reached so far.

1. **Delivery of Quality services:** We are focusing on improved service delivery. Mr. Chancellor, Sir, I have the pleasure to inform you that the transcripts for all the students graduating during the 60th Graduation ceremony have been processed and ready for distribution. We plan to integrate the power of information and communication technology in the

university operations. We plan to start issuing transcripts on completion of the course, and to issue certificates on the day of graduation. We are also planning to start on-line registration of students and processing of Identity cards. In addition, we are determined to increase access to information and connectivity to the Internet. We have installed wireless connectivity to a larger area of the University campus.

2. **Harnessing the power of ICT in Teaching and Learning:** We are focusing on integrating ICT in Teaching and learning in form of blended learning and online learning: Joint online degrees; University of Hertfordshire; University of North Dakota, Amity University. By June 2010, we shall have started Online learning to offer education to the masses especially products of Universal Secondary Education. The North Dakota State University and the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine are in advanced stages to start conducting joint online veterinary lectures.
3. **Relations with staff and students:** The University Management has continued to use dialogue to improve the relationship with staff and students. It is important that as stakeholders of the University we each understand our various roles in the life and activities of the University. Most of the internal conflicts are a result of the failure to understand our specified roles and responsibilities as provided by law. In the same vein, I am calling upon Convocation, staff associations and the student body to continue with the good working relationship with the University management for the good of Makerere University. In the next two months, we shall set up a hotline with an e-mail address for complaints and suggestions to further improve and strengthen relations with the stakeholders.
4. **Relations with the media:** I am happy to report that the University image has improved within the last one to two months. I am grateful to the media for their cooperation and the balanced coverage they have accorded to the 60th Graduation ceremony.

5. Mak-MUBS Relations

Mr. Chancellor Sir, Makerere University and Makerere University Business School (MUBS) have a long-term relationship, but this graduation ceremony marks a turning point in our long-term relationship. I am happy to report that the Makerere University management has improved its

relations with MUBS. For this reason, the Chairperson of MUBS Council, Professor Sentongo and the Principal of MUBS, Professor Juma Wasswa Balunywa are present in the 4th session of the 60th Graduation ceremony, Thursday 21st January 2010. We have agreed to put the interests of the institutions and those of the students at the forefront. We shall concentrate on ensuring that MUBS continues to produce professional managers to drive the economy and the country at large.

6. **Taking Services nearer to the People:** We have established Upcountry Campuses in Fort Portal and Jinja to address the high cost of obtaining higher education. We are working with the Local Government and private sector to ensure that the students admitted to the up country campuses get quality education. We are grateful to Uganda telecom (UTL) that has agreed to provide all the infrastructure and technical support needed to run the study centers. In a special way, I thank the Kabarole District Administration for the support rendered.
7. **Relations with Government:** The new challenge is to identify what Makerere can do for Government, not what Government should do for us. Makerere University has the potential to be a major strategic partner with government especially in pushing the National Development agenda through research and networking. We are focusing on the role of Makerere University in Economic and Human Development. Makerere can participate in Sectoral Research, Advisory Services, and Monitoring & Evaluation. We have embarked on strengthening strategic partnership with Government in development of Incubation Centres; Innovation Centres, Knowledge transfer centres, Technology Clusters. Our plan is to ensure that each Faculty initiates an active partnership with a Government Dept/ Ministry by 30th April 2010. Makerere will become the best university in Africa and the world over.
8. **Strengthening strategic partnerships with Government:** We are going to continue the dialogue that we have started with the government and to strengthen our relationships. We are happy that the Government of Uganda has committed a reasonable amount of money in its budget to support research and innovations; knowledge transfer partnerships and networking. I commend the President's intervention in supporting the Department of Food Science and Technology; faculty of Technology; Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Faculty of Agriculture among other units.

- a) **Government Support to Establish a National Animal Disease Diagnostic centre:** The Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries has signed a Memorandum of understanding with Makerere University specifically for the two parties to develop **a National Animal Disease Diagnostic Centre at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine.** The Initiative is funded by Japanese Government through JICA, the Japanese International Cooperation Agency.
 - b) **Government Initiative to Establish a Joint Institute for Strategic Animal Resource Services:** This is a Presidential initiative for skills development for production, employment and development of the animal industry, with special emphasis on the youths. It was initiated in 2007 as part of upgrading the veterinary faculty to offer more strategic and transformative services in the nation and region. Under this partnership,
 - (i) The President allocated Nakyesasa farm to the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine.
 - (ii) The Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries has allocated **1 sq mile** Ranch 16 in Kiboga District to the Faculty of Veterinary medicine. The farm will be used for research, technology production, and training as part of the overall service delivery to the nation.
 - (iii) The Ministry of Education and Sports has allocated funding for Skills Development Institute / centre for production, employment and development of the animal industry
9. **Financial Management and Transparency:** We want to focus on our financial management and ensure that there is good financial planning, transparency, accountability and financial controls. We want to ensure that there is accountability for all our resources and particularly the human resources.
10. **Alumni relations:** The University Management is working with the Convocation to strengthen alumni relations and forge partnerships with the alumni to participate in and support University activities. The University Management together with the Convocation, in November 2009 hosted a distinguished alumnus, H.E. Benjamin Mkapa, Former President of Tanzania. He was awarded an Honorary Doctorate, and H.E. Dr. (h.c.) Mkapa is now an ambassador of Makerere in Tanzania. Professor Mahmood Mamdani has offered to spend 75% of his time in Makerere

University to strengthen the Alumni. I therefore appeal to you graduands to join the Convocation, participate in alumni activities, and be our ambassadors.

11. **Resource Mobilisation:** We are focused on mobilizing resources to support the ten (10) year Makerere University Strategic Plan. We have established the Makerere University Alumni Development Fund to enable the alumni to raise funds on behalf of Makerere University and to undertake major projects aimed at creating endowment for Makerere University.

The details: Bank: **Stanbic Bank, Makerere Branch**

Account Name: **Makerere University Alumni Development Fund**

Account Number: **0140071293901**.

12. **Improving accommodation facilities:** We are planning to partner with the private sector to build **5,000** rooms to enable students have better accommodation. We plan to involve the private sector to renovate and manage the halls of Residence.
13. **Staff Appraisals:** In 2010, we would like to see the appraisal system working at Makerere University. Unless we respect the reporting structures, it will be hard to have a successful performance based appraisal system.
14. **Events and Conferences:** Mr, Chancellor, Makerere University has continued to be an attractive venue for both local and international events. In the last two months alone, we have hosted at least fifteen (15) workshops, conferences and celebrations organised by the various units of the University. I will not go into the specific details of each event most of these events we host are of a very strategic nature in our efforts to reposition ourselves as a leading institution of academic excellence and innovations.

In addition, such events in themselves are testimony to the trust the world still has in us and we should take advantage of them to consolidate that trust and to develop strategic partnerships that will enhance our competitiveness and take us to the next level in international ranking.

15. SPECIAL VISITORS TO MAKERERE UNIVERSITY: We have had several high profile visitors to Makerere recently, but let me highlight the visit by H.E. Yoweri Museveni who visited us on Tuesday 8th December 2009. President Museveni met members of staff from the Faculty of Technology, Faculty of Social Sciences, Department of Political Science and the Faculty of Arts, Department of History. As a result of his visit, we have had two return visits to State House to concretise the ideas that were discussed.

For us this is important because it marks a watershed in our relations with government and goes to show the support that government has for Makerere. We thank H.E. President Museveni for his interest in us and we pledge to continue with efforts to cement the relationship.

CONCLUSION

To the graduands, you cannot walk alone. We shall march together ahead. As a University we shall support you in everyway we can, even after graduation. As you look out for opportunities, we shall support you to get the skills that you may not have acquired during your one degree programme. Love your work and forever conduct your affairs on the high plane of dignity and discipline. I will leave you with a message of **faith, hope and love**. Hope will keep you going; faith will give you the courage to face uncertainties of the future; and loving what you do will help you succeed.

I thank you as "*We Build for the Future,*"

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY

Appendix

1. CITATION FOR PROFESSOR ENDRE LILLETHUN

Mr. Chancellor

Makerere University council together with the University Senate has resolved to award an Honorary Doctor of Science (Honoris Causa) to Professor Endre Lillethun. The University wishes to recognize his exceptional achievements and exceptional contribution to the advancement of humanity and in particular his commitment to living with the poor in order to advance Science.

Born: April 9, 1928 in a **place: called** Krageroe in Norway.

He had his University Education at the University of Oslo from 1946 to 1951, obtaining a degree and Major Degree, in Mathematics, Chemistry, Mechanics and Physics and later on in 1952 he attended a Pedagogical Seminary at the same University specializing in Education for High School Teaching. In 1956 to 1957 he pursued a Masters degree (M.Sc.) (Physics). In 1960 he obtained a Ph.D. in Experimental Elementary Particle Physics. He held main positions in the following category: In 1951 to 1953 he was Research Assistant in the Department of Physics, University of Oslo, Norway. During the period 1952 - 1953 he was a teacher of Natural Science and Arithmetic, Grades 5 to 8. He conducted an in-Service Training course for Ethiopian Primary School Teachers at the Primary School, Nazareth in Ethiopia. In 1953 – 1956 he was a Teacher of Physics, Mathematics and Natural Science, up to British A-level examinations. He also conducted an in-Service Training Course for Ethiopian Secondary School teachers, in Physics experimentation at Menelik Secondary School, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. From 1957 to 1960 Professor Endre Lillethun worked at the University of Chicago, U.S.A, first as an Operator of the 450 MeV Synchro-Cyclotron at University of Chicago, then as a Research Assistant and finally as a Lecturer in Physics for Engineers. Endre Lillethun was appointed as Research Associate and subsequently as a Research Physicist at the European Centre for Nuclear Physics Research, CERN, Geneva, Switzerland. In 1965 Endre became Assistant Professor of Physics at the University of Bergen. He continued to carry out research in collaboration with CERN. He was employed by the same University as an Associate Professor of Physics from 1967 to 1984. He was appointed Professor of Physics in 1984 a position he held up to 1993. All this

time Professor Lillethun continued to collaborate with the DELPH group at CERN in experimental High Energy Physics. He has over 131 Scientific Publications. He headed a Makerere University – University of Bergen Collaboration Project in the Basic Sciences funded by NUFU (1991 – 1995). From 1993 to 1998 he secured a Senior Research Fellowship from the Norwegian Research Council which enabled him to continue with Makerere University – University of Bergen Collaboration in the Basic Sciences Project.

Prof. Endre Lillethun's participation in the advancement of Basic Sciences at Makerere University

In 1988, Professor Endre Lillethun, who was then Associate Director at the International Centre for Theoretical Physics, (Trieste, Italy) visited the Department of Physics, Makerere University to obtain first hand information about the teaching and research facilities in the department. Professor Lillethun was deeply touched by the sorry state that prevailed in the department. The laboratories were relying on instruments which broke down every now and then during the course of undergraduate practical sessions. This prompted Professor Lillethun to look for funding from international scientific bodies like the World Laboratory. These efforts did not yield any positive results. During 1990/91 the Norwegian Committee for collaboration with developing countries in University Education (NUFU) was established. Professor Lillethun had, since his first visit to Makerere, been convinced of the need to extend rehabilitation efforts beyond the Department of Physics to the Departments of Chemistry and Mathematics.

In 1990/91, under the stewardship of Professor Lillethun, the Departments of Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics submitted an application to NUFU for funding of the rehabilitation. NUFU initially rejected the application on the grounds that the project was of such large magnitude that it would not be possible to run successfully. Professor Lillethun persevered and kept on canvassing support for the application, emphasizing the fact that the three subjects were of basic importance for technological development of Uganda.

The application “Basic Sciences for Technological Development in Uganda” was subsequently approved (Pro39/91). The University of Bergen was to be the collaborating University, in Norway. In 1992 the Department of Science and Technical Education, Makerere University, was included in the project.

In the Department of Physics, the project was initially engaged in the revision and modernization of the physics curriculum, and rehabilitation of undergraduate laboratories. Special emphasis was placed on instrumentation for the Electronics laboratory since this was pivotal in technological development. It was imperative to train technical staff through workshops conducted at Makerere by technical staff from Bergen and through apprenticeship with companies in Norway.

Professor Lillethun was concerned that there was hardly any research being carried out in the Department of Physics. After the first year of the project, in collaboration with the University of Bergen, collaborative research activities were identified. This was followed by acquisition of equipment for experimental research. This began a programme of capacity building through training of academic staff who had only MSc's to train to PhD level under joint supervision by staff at Makerere and the University of Bergen.

These activities extended to the Departments of Chemistry and Mathematics. As a result of Professor Lillethun's initiative, the Departments of Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics and DOSATE were funded for 15 years (1992 – 2006) in three phases of five years each. By the end of the NUFU support in 2006, the Department of Physics had trained 14 MSc's and 6 PhD's, the Department of Chemistry produced 30 MSc's and 5 PhD's; the Department of Mathematics trained 7 MSc's and 8 PhD's, where as DOSATE had 3 PhD's who still had to complete.

The increased research activities yielded 51 publications in refereed journals and 106 papers presented at workshops.

In summary, the following were achieved by the Basic Sciences project:

- ◆ Provision of teaching and learning materials.
- ◆ Rehabilitation of the laboratories in Physics, Chemistry and DOSATE.
- ◆ Improvement of infrastructure.
- ◆ Capacity building through training of MSc's to PhD level.
- ◆ Competence building through increased research activities.
- ◆ International research collaboration.

- ♦ The Basic Sciences project acted spring board for other NUFU projects not only in the Faculty of Science but the entire University, especially the Faculties of Medicine and Technology. It also led to strong collaboration with the University of Bergen in fields like Library services, Human Resource and Financial Information Systems and ICT.
- ♦ More importantly, it resulted into the signing of the Makerere University – University of Bergen frame agreement of cooperation that has just been renewed for the next ten years.

In conclusion, because of his contribution to human development and advancement of Basic Science at Makerere University, we would like to honor Professor Endre Lillethun.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, I have the pleasure and honor of presenting to you, Professor Endre Lillethun for the award of Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science (*Honoris Causa*) of Makerere University, in absentia.

By

Prof JYT Mugisha, Dean, Faculty of Science

ORATOR