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OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE

November 01, 2010

To: Members of Staff

THE 11TH VICE-CHANCELLOR'S MONTHLY PRESS BRIEFING, HELD ON MONDAY 1ST NOVEMBER 2010

Introduction:

The Acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor Venansius Baryamureeba welcomed the University Management, members of staff and the media to the eleventh monthly media briefing. Professor Baryamureeba then introduced the participating units namely the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and the Faculty of Law.

In attendance were:

- i. Professor Venansius Baryamureeba – Ag. Vice Chancellor
- ii. Mr. Alfred Masikye Namoah – Academic Registrar
- iii. Mrs. Stella Rwakoma – Deputy University Secretary
- iv. Dr. Michael Kansime – Head Secretariat, AFRISA
- v. Dr. Ben Twinomugisha – Dean, Faculty of Law
- vi. Mr. Patrick Mutimba – Director, Investments
- vii. Dr. Monica Chibita – PR and Communications Board
- viii. Ms. Jane Frances Alowo – PR and Communications Board
- ix. Ms. Prossy Katongole – Legal Officer
- x. Ms. Ritah Namisango – Public Relations Office
- xi. Mr. Mark Wamai – Public Relations Office
- xii. Mr. Issa Agaba – Public Relations Office
- xiii. Ms. Maureen Mayanja – Public Relations Office

1. Vice-Chancellor's presentation

1.1 Transcripts

More than 70% of the transcripts of the students who have fulfilled the requirements for the award of the degrees, diplomas and certificates of Makerere University and are going to graduate in January 2011 are now ready. The remaining transcripts shall be ready in the course of November 2010. The Academic Registrar shall provide detailed information on the notice boards and Makerere University website so that students can pick their transcripts any time from today 1st November 2010. For emphasis, the transcripts for all undergraduate students from the following faculties/ schools/ institutes are ready:

- (a) Faculty of Economics and Management;
- (b) Faculty of Computing and IT;
- (c) Faculty of Technology;
- (d) Faculty of Law;
- (e) East African School of Library and Information Science;
- (f) Margaret Trowel School of Industrial and Fine Arts;
- (g) School of Public Health, College of Health Sciences;
- (h) Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree Programme under the College of Health Sciences.

1.2 Certificates

Smith and Ouzman, a company based in the UK has started producing certificates for students who are going to graduate in January 2011. These certificates shall be given out at graduation. The graduation dates and schedule have already been fixed.

1.3 Makerere University and Xiangtan University of the People's Republic of China signed an agreement of cooperation on 25th October 2010 to enhance educational and research in academic fields of interest between Uganda and China. The activities shall include:

- (a) Exchange of faculty members and researchers. In January 2011 staff from Makerere University shall visit China to get training in the Chinese language. In July 2011 staff from Xiangtan University shall visit Makerere University to kick start the teaching of the Chinese language as a subject at Makerere University.

- (b) Exchange of students. The batch of students shall leave Uganda in January 2011 to study Chemical Engineering and Petroleum Engineering at Master's level. More students in different fields shall follow.
- (c) Conducting joint research.
- (d) Holding lectures and symposia.
- (e) Exchange of information and academic publications.
- (f) Work placements in China.
- (g) Administrative staff exchange to promote greater knowledge and understanding of the operations in each University,

Xiangtan University was started by Chairman Mao and is one of the best Universities in China. The African Union and governments in Africa signed a comprehensive agreement of cooperation with China in the area of Education and Research. The People's Republic of China shall fund all the activities of the agreement of cooperation between Makerere University and Xiangtan University through Xiangtan University.

1.4 Makerere University moves to develop its prime land through public private partnerships.

The adverts for Katanga and Makindye were published in the print media last month. We are calling upon those interested in University land to go through this open process instead of engaging in illegal land grabbing. Tender documents for other plots in other prime areas are being finalized.

2. Presentation from the Dean, Faculty of Law

2.1 Makerere University to open War Memorial Museum

As part of the transitional justice framework following the war in Northern Uganda, the Refugee Law Project (RLP) will soon open a War Memorial Museum. The Kitgum-based museum will house an archive documenting the war, live exhibitions and an ICT Centre.

“This project is intended to help the local community tell their story and serve as a reminder to Ugandans and the international community of what happened during the war and hopefully to learn from the past so as to stop history from repeating itself,” The Dean Faculty of Law, Dr. Ben Twinomugisha remarked.

The Refugee Law Project (RLP) is an outreach project of the Faculty of Law at Makerere University. As part of its activities in justice and forced migration, the RLP engages in action oriented research. The RLP initiates innovative ways of conducting advocacy around issues pertaining to forced migration, conflict, peace and justice in Uganda.

Some of the projects running under Refugee Law Project (RLP) have been “*Beyond Juba Project*” aimed at influencing national debate on building a consensus on a sustainable peace process in Uganda and “*Changing the Lens*” a project that aims at getting Ugandans to change their perceptions about the Karimojong people.

“It is hoped that the *Changing the Lens project* will help lobby policymakers to maintain respect for human rights, dignity of the person, and livelihoods of the Karimojong people in all policies aimed at peace building and development in the Karamoja region,” Dr . Twinomugisha said.

As a pertinent public engagement tool, Refugee Law Project (RPL) incorporated video advocacy in order to deal with the poor reading culture and high illiteracy rates. The documentaries advocate for key issues affecting the ordinary person in Uganda, for example, “*What About Us?*” explored the situation of Urban IDPs from northern Uganda.

Another documentary entitled “*Gender Against Men*” explored sexual and gender based violence against men during armed conflict. The “*Gender Against Men*” documentary received public

acclaim, and has won several awards including **Best Documentary at the 2009 Kenya International Film Festival**.

The latest documentary, “*We Died A Long Time Ago: Changing the Lens on how Karamoja is viewed*” aims to bring to the public debate the challenges the Karimojong face due to the disarmament process and the proposed sedentarisation of this pastoralist community. Copies of these documentaries will also be kept at the Museum.

The Refugee Law Project (RLP) also runs the only free legal aid clinic devoted to the problems affecting refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in the country.

2.2 USA Lawyers partner with Makerere University to promote Girl-Child Education

In a bid to fulfill the adage “*Educate a girl and you will educate a Nation*”, Makerere University has partnered with Ms. JD to award the Ms. JD International Scholarships to female students. Ms. JD is a US-based nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to the success of women in law school and the legal profession. With hundreds of bright young Ugandan girls aspiring to be lawyers but failing to realize their dreams due to inability to afford their tuition, the Makerere University Faculty of Law-Ms. JD partnership is indeed a welcome initiative.

“Only a privileged few can afford to pay the **UGX 5million** annual fees and expenses required to study law at Makerere University. Given the gender discrimination in our society, it means that female candidates are more adversely affected than males,” Dr. Ben Twinomugisha, Dean, Faculty of Law highlighted.

In 2001 Makerere University received a grant from the Carnegie Foundation under the Female Scholarship Initiative (FSI) to increase female enrolment, particularly in the science-based programmes. A few law students benefited from the Female Scholarship Initiative (FSI). When the Female Scholarship Initiative (FSI) funds were put to a close in June 2010, the Faculty of Law administration identified and sponsored girls (interested in issues of human rights), but who could not afford to pay their way through Law School.

Two first year Law students; Joanne Nanyange and Monica Athieno from Mukono and Soroti respectively were selected and have been awarded Ms. JD Scholarship this year. The plan is to increase the number of recipients in the coming years. The scholarship caters for tuition, functional fees, accommodation, as well as a modest fee for the beneficiary's upkeep.

The partnership also hopes to facilitate continued progress by bringing legal practitioners and law students together to share in an ongoing conversation about gender issues in law school and the profession.

3. Presentation from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine

3.1 Makerere University creates employment for youths

The Makerere University Faculty of Veterinary Medicine launched the Africa Institute for Strategic Animal Resource Services and Development (**AFRISA**) in a bid to create jobs for youths interested in Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Medicine.

AFRISA, which was launched in March 2010, is in line with the Government's new initiative to create more jobs for the youth and also promote job-creation.

"AFRISA is a Public-Private Academic Partnership Platform, where the two parties have come together through special agreements, to establish problem solving programs," said Dr. Michael Kansiime, the Head Secretariat AFRISA said

Dr. Kansiime explained that the primary objective of AFRISA is to reposition and align animal sector education, research and services in the diverse Animal Resources Value chains to meet national, regional and International demands. This will be done alongside promoting holistic and superior Skills, Technology, and Innovation for Production, Employment, Health and Development especially for small communities and the youth.

It is composed of two centres; **Makerere In-training Community Services (MINITRACS) Centre** which focuses on appropriate skills and technology for community service, vocational and technical excellence, value addition and entrepreneurship and **Makerere Centre for Strategic Bio-**

security and Biotechnology (MCBB) that focuses on appropriate skills, vaccines and technology for disease diagnosis, surveillance and control bio-security and biotechnology.

Under this project, the youth participants are exposed to technical skills of farm management and animal husbandry so as to make farming a business and an entrepreneurship development. Currently, the youth are involved in dairy production, livestock nutrition, livestock diseases and vector management and on farm production of yogurt from fresh milk “Amategeitu brand” and marketing groups.

“We have mobilized communities into cooperative groups, trained **46** youths and farmers in farm business skills. We also encourage more youths and farmers to come on board,” Dr. Kansiime concluded.

3.2 Makerere University kicks Sleeping Sickness out of Uganda

Following evidence that sleeping sickness was heavily impacting on the health of people and livestock, the Makerere University launched the “Stamp out Sleeping sickness” (SOS) campaign to successfully kick out Sleeping Sickness in Uganda.

The Launch of the *Stamp out sleeping sickness* (SOS) campaign followed an earlier research done by scientists at Makerere University and the University of Edinburgh which indicated that most animals in the Eastern Uganda carry **T.B. Rhodesiense** and that tsetse flies prefer feeding on cattle and mostly take their blood meals from their legs and bellies. It is upon this observation that we developed a spraying technique involving the spraying of the feeding sites of tsetse flies now called **Restricted Application of Insecticides (RAP)**.

Since 2006, this spraying technique has been used by Makerere University students in a mass intervention in Northern Uganda to spray over 700,000 cattle and other livestock. This has resulted in reduction of sleeping sickness in the Seven (7) districts of Dokolo, Lira, Kaberamaido, Apac, Soroti, Serere and Amolatar, enabling constant high quality veterinary services in these districts.

“We have moved a step ahead from the conventional Knowledge creation and transfer to University students, to putting research into use, solving community problems and empowering youth to be job creators,” Dr. Kansime, representing the Dean Faculty of Veterinary Medicine explained.

He added that the Spraying technique is mostly carried out by Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine final year students under close supervision of senior academic staff.

The first of its Kind operation was supported under a private (IKARE& CEVA) and a public (Makerere University, University of Edinburgh and Government of Uganda) partnership. “The public-private partnership is a holistic way of looking at animal and human health in a way of one Health, one medicine and is very useful in creating sustainable models in services to be given to needy communities,” remarked Dr. Kansime.

Having proven so efficient, the technique has been metamorphosed into a systematic and curriculum tailored under Makerere University In-Training Community Service delivery Model (MINTRACS) hence seeks to systematically involve the community in the skills transfer.

Taking the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine to the community has enabled capture of the challenges of the community beyond the problem of sleeping sickness being addressed under SOS.

.....We build for the future.....

Sincerely: Ritah Namisango, Ag. Senior Public Relations Officer