



**DRAFT SPEECH**

**By**

**ENG. DR. CHARLES WANA ETYEM**

**CHAIRPERSON OF COUNCIL 2010-2014  
MAKERERE UNIVERSITY, KAMPALA**

**At**

**FAREWELL/WELCOME DINNER**

**VENUE: SERENA HOTEL, KAMPALA**

**DATE: TUESDAY, 11<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2011**

**Rt. Hon Prime Minister—the Guest of Honor**  
**Honorable Ministers**  
**Chancellor of Makerere University**  
**Outgoing Chairperson and your team**  
**The Makerere University Council**  
**Vice Chancellor and the entire Management team**  
**University Staff**  
**Invited Guests**  
**Ladies and Gentlemen:**

## Introduction

I am honored to speak after Hon Mathew Rukikaire, my distinguished predecessor, as well as my Chairperson in the previous Council. Indeed, all of us who served in the previous Council, and who know him well, will agree with me that Hon Rukikaire is a team leader and consensus builder. It was a privilege to serve with him in the previous Council; but a greater privilege is for me to succeed him as the Chairman because I know I can always count on him during difficult times for good advice. I hope I will fit in your very “large shoes”!

May I also congratulate all the members of the outgoing Council for a job well done. Like Hon Rukikaire has observed, I too would like to commend all the University Academic and Non-Academic Staff and students of Makerere. I commend you for maintaining a stable and peaceful environment at Makerere during the previous Council tenure. This has enabled East Africa’s oldest and premier University regain its former world class ranking.

Because of this special team spirit: we can confidently say that the “great and mighty” Makerere is once again on the march. With all the support of the staff and students, parents, and increased commitment and support of Government, development partners, and the private sector, Makerere University can only climb to greater heights in the coming years.

For our Council 2010-2014, I thank God that we already stand tall because we stand on the shoulders of giants—of the Hon. Matthew Rukikaire & Mrs. Christine Kiganda led University Council, 2006-2010. They have made it much easier for us to attain greater heights because we already stand on high ground—the shoulders of giants!

I pledge on behalf of my colleagues and all members of our new Council, that we shall continue the struggle from where Hon. Rukikaire and the previous Council left us.

Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, permit me to say a few words to the New Council and also to our Staff, Students, and our collaboration with the Private Sector.

### **To the New Council**

The New Council consists of men and women of substance. The composition reflects a diversity of expertise and experience. We have managed to bring on board, the ethos of the 1960s like Mr. Stephen Maloba, we also have on the Council, the “dot com” era members like Mr. Bruce Balaba, Chairman Convocation. This mix will foster a good and mature working relationship. Those of us coming from the previous council should endeavor to propagate the good that Hon. Rukikaire and his team imparted, while the new members should not shy away from bringing on board the attributes that they feel will contribute to the better performance of Council.

You are expected to ensure: that the existing stability is maintained; that the collegiate system upon which Makerere has embarked is fully operationalised; that the ranking of the University continues to improve; that the resources of the university including our land, which is constantly threatened are equitably utilized; and that the quality and the number of staff are bolstered.

May I wish you all a very successful service in the next four years.

### **To the Staff**

To our staff I would like to use this opportunity to thank you all, for the spirit of collaboration that you have shown in the recent past. The quiet and stability that exists in the University is good for all of us. Council will continue to dialogue with you at all times in addressing your concerns and your welfare. Please continue doing the great job that you are doing.

### **To the Students**

The students have recorded a very impressive code of conduct for which I salute them. There has been no strike in the last year, and Mr. Guild President, I would like to thank you for that. I hope that this will continue even long after you’ve left. Students have to know that there are essential reasons as to why Makerere exists. While at the University, make the best opportunity of it, because this is the only place you can literally network for free. When you go out into the world, it is a different ball game altogether.

I am sure that with the amendment of the Guild Constitution, Council expects the next Guild Government to be more satisfied with their role in managing their own affairs and in relating to the University.

### **To the Private Sector**

The University is extremely grateful to the Private sector for the spirit of partnership that has been developed in the recent past. You are all aware that the

Private Sector Forum, supported by the Private Sector is housed at Makerere University. The contribution being made by the private sector through student internship, collaborative research with Makerere staff, and sponsorship of various Chairs at the University is highly appreciated.

The Private Sector Forum under the Chairmanship of Prof. Emmanuel Tumusiime Mutebile is gradually stabilizing. This will offer very good linkage between the University and Private Sector in many respects. We pledge our unreserved support to the initiatives being made by both the University and Private Sector in addressing any niche that cannot be handled through the normal University Structure.

### **To the Convocation**

Convocation is a very important stakeholder in Makerere University. The world over, the alumni of institutions like Makerere bring to their alma mater enormous resources. Alumni establish endowments; they link up their alma mater with other institutions from which they benefit symbiotically, and serve as ambassadors for their old school. I'm glad there is an invigorated Convocation, under a fairly young but enthusiastic team. Council pledges to work with you in reaching the alumni and providing whatever support you may need in order to reach them all.

### **To the Government**

The Rt. Hon. Prime Minister Sir, I want to say a word of appreciation to the Government. I do not need to belabour the already visibly evident rapport between Makerere University and Government. Council is very appreciative of all the Government support. We are aware that there are many challenges calling on our meager national funds, but we continue to implore Government to give a little more for the training of our young Ugandans in the universities, because the future lies in well trained cadres, that will take over from many of us who are now living on borrowed time.

In your presence, I would like to thank the Honourable Minister of Education and Sports, Hon. Geraldine Namirembe Bitamazire, for the confidence she has placed in me, together with two of my colleagues Mr. Stephen Maloba and Hon. Justice Steven Kavuma, in appointing us as Government representatives to Council. We want to thank her for that.

May I also take this opportunity to thank the representative of the Ministry of Education and Sports to Council, Mrs. Elizabeth Gabona, for being extremely helpful, with as far as advising the Council and Appointments Board is concerned. We appreciate the advice she has always rendered and the guidance she has always given to make sure that we are within Government policies. We thank you Mrs. Gabona.

The Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, not too long ago, our Visitor was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws. We are very happy that he is now an alumnus of Makerere. We want to request you to convey our appreciation for the support he continues to give to Makerere University. He has very keen and personal interest in the activities going on at the Faculty of Technology, and the University is extremely grateful for his support.

Finally, I would like to thank the Vice Chancellor and his team for a job well done. Makerere has stabilized and there are good things happening. However, all these things would not be possible if we did not have a Chancellor who is always with us to see to it that things are okay. I would like to thank Prof. Mondo Kagonyera for the guidance that you continue to give to the Vice Chancellor and Management of the university. I pledge to keep in touch with you, so that you are kept abreast with all developments at the University.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I suppose that when I stand here four years from today, I will probably be a little more philosophical like my predecessors, and share with you a few things that I may have experienced during my tenure as Chairperson of the Makerere University Council. I would like to thank you all for listening to me.

#### **WE BUILD FOR THE FUTURE**

Eng. Dr. Charles Wana Etyem  
**Chairperson, Makerere University Council**