

REMARKS BY THE MAKERERE UNIVERSITY VICE CHANCELLOR, PROF. VENANSIUS BARYAMURREBA, AT THE 61ST GRADUATION CEREMONY, 17TH – 21ST JANUARY 2011

- Honorable Minister of Education and Sports
- The Chancellor Makerere University
- Honorable Ministers Present
- Honorable Members of Parliament Present
- Your Excellencies the Ambassadors and High Commissioners
- The Chairperson and Members of Makerere University Council
- The Chancellors and Vice-Chancellors of sister Universities
- Members of Makerere University Senate
- Members of Management
- Members of Staff of Makerere University
- Invited Guests
- Students
- Ladies and Gentlemen

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On behalf of Makerere University and on my own behalf, I welcome you all to the 61st Graduation ceremony of Makerere University, which runs from today the 17th of January to 21st January, 2011. A total of 13,296 candidates are graduating with degrees and diplomas of which 6,495 (**48.8%**) are female and 6,801 (**51.2%**) are male. By the end of the 61st graduation ceremony, a total of 46 candidates will have graduated with doctorate degrees in different disciplines of which 11 are female and 35 male. 236 Students obtained first class degrees and the **best student overall** who is also the best student in the sciences is Ms. Nansamba Barbara who studied B.Sc. in Computer Science and obtained a CGPA of 4.9 and will receive a convocation award on Friday 21st January 2011 whereas the best student in the humanities and business is Mr. Abima Boniface who studied Bachelor of Business Computing and obtained a CGPA of 4.82 and will receive a convocation award on Thursday 20th January 2011.

Makerere University Council

On behalf of Makerere University, I would like to thank Hon Mathew Rukikaire the former Chairperson of Makerere University Council, Mrs. Christine Kiganda the former Vice-Chairperson of Makerere University Council and all the other members of the former University Council for a job well done. Mr. Chancellor Sir, allow me to single out other members of the former University Council that deserve special recognition: Prof. Livingstone Luboobi who served as Vice-Chancellor up to 31st May 2009; Prof. D.J Bakibinga who served as Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Finance and Administration up to 30th October 2009; and Dr. William Muhairwe who served as Chairperson of the Establishment and Administration Committee of Council.

In December 2010, the term of the Makerere University Council came to an end and a new Council was formally constituted as per the law governing public universities, the Universities and Other Tertiary Institutions Act 2001 (as amended). Mr. Chancellor Sir, let me use this opportunity to introduce to the public Eng. Dr. Charles Wana-Etyem the Chairperson of Makerere University Council and Dr. Katherine Namuddu the Vice-Chairperson of Makerere University Council. Let me request both of them to stand up for recognition. Let me also request all the other members of Makerere University Council to stand up for recognition.

Transforming into a Collegiate University

We have revised and restructured all the curricula of Makerere University to meet both national and international standards and be able to address both the local and global human resource needs required to develop our country and the region.

We have also embarked on a strategic direction of taking services nearer to the people, enhancing service delivery and promoting efficiency. On December 17, 2010, the University Council unanimously approved Senate's recommendation to transform Makerere University into a Collegiate University. Apart from the already

existing College of Health Sciences, there are 7 new colleges, namely; the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, College of Computing and Information Sciences, College of Business and Management Sciences, College of Education and External Studies, College of Natural Sciences and the College of Engineering, Design, and Technology. The Makerere University Council as of January 11, 2011 approved the University Management's recommendations for the positions of Acting Principals and Acting Deputy Principals for the newly-formed colleges. Let me request the Acting Principals and Acting Deputy Principals to stand up for recognition.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, the restructuring of academic programmes and academic units has led to several advantages, namely: The bank accounts in the academic units have reduced from over 116 to 10 and as a result we now have one bank account per college and the two semi-autonomous schools. As a result of this development, Heads of Departments and Deans of schools have reverted to their roles of handling only academic affairs as it used to be before the introduction of the private programmes. The budget for each College is managed by the Principal who serves as the Chief Administrative, Academic and Financial Officer of the college. He is assisted by the Deputy Principal and technical staff like the College Bursar. Departments and Schools no longer have the incentive to duplicate courses and academic programmes since they no longer manage the money from private students, as all the expenditures including payment of part-time lectures, payment for teaching materials etc are now handled at college level by the Principal. All academic staff have been transferred to the departments within the college and across the colleges where the discipline mandate falls. For example all staff whose highest qualification is in mathematics are now all in the Department of Mathematics and all staff with a highest qualification in economics are now in the School of Economics.

Mr Chancellor Sir, in summary:

- 1). The formation of colleges is meaningful and this transformation is providing synergic academic and functional relations;
- 2). The Faculties, Schools or Institutes that have transformed into a College are more effective and efficient since they have some degree of autonomy within their institutional frames and are able to constitute and regulate issues which are peculiar and unique to them in a more timely manner;
- 3). The individual staff have more influence in decision making in administration, finance and in developing programs within their Colleges than it had been before thereby ensuring motivation towards up to date team work approaches in teaching and learning;
- 4). The synergies created as a result of the mergers provide each College with a better scope and environment in sourcing for funds, re-organising themselves, re-branding their academic image and undertaking other activities within their mandate.
- 5). With the devolution to colleges, services have been brought nearer to the people and it is anticipated that all colleges shall open up upcountry campuses and centres to provide education and services to the communities. Some colleges will relocate completely from Kampala to other regions of Uganda as and when funds become available.
- 6). As a result of the restructuring of academic programmes and academic units we have had tremendous savings, which savings have been re-allocated to core activities of the University. For example part-time lecturers have reduced from over 500 to less than 50 in the whole University. By 1st July, 2011 we shall have completed all the reforms including administrative reforms that shall see the University making more major savings.

Let me request the Acting Principals and Deputy Principals to stand up for recognition.

Transcripts and Certificates

As a University, we continue to improve on the provision of services to our students and other stakeholders. We now issue transcripts to students immediately after they have satisfied the requirements for the degree or diploma awards. For example, transcripts for Graduands of this year were ready before 1st November, 2010 and most of the Graduands have already picked their transcripts. Those who have not yet picked them are encouraged to do so.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I am glad to inform you that most of the Graduands' certificates have already been delivered by Smith and Ouzman Ltd and we are currently putting on them the University seal. Therefore, some of you will be able to pick your certificates, immediately after this graduation ceremony; the rest will be ready before end of this coming week.

Online Services

Since last year we have been providing online services to our students and other stakeholders. For example students have been registering online, accessing their results online, paying the fees online from anywhere in Africa and evaluating their lecturers online, to mention but a few. With effect from March this year all persons wishing to join Makerere University shall apply online after paying application fees from any Stanbic bank branch within East Africa or DFCU bank branch within Uganda or Eco bank branch within Africa. All applicants shall be informed via sms on the status of their applications.

Business Process Outsourcing (BPO)

The Government of Uganda through the Ministries of ICT, and Finance, Planning and Economic Development launched BPO training at Makerere University on 17th January, 2011. This training is fully sponsored by government and it is open to all graduates. In the first phase 2,000 students shall be trained in groups of 500. By the end of the year 10,000 students are expected to be trained. In this year alone, the BPO sector is expected to create over 10,000 jobs for the youth.

Tele-education and Telemedicine

The Ministry of ICT through the National Information Technology Authority – Uganda is about to complete the national ICT backbone. The national ICT backbone is planned to support among others tele-education and telemedicine.

Tele-education is education provided through ICTs (Information and Communication Technologies). Tele-education is creating a new environment for training, learning and interactive discussions. It is opening path for transforming the way we live, act, think, learn and communicate. Barrier due to distance will vanish to provide various lectures/courses in far-flung areas for the benefit and development of people across the country initially, then across the region and continent.

The ultimate aim of tele-education system is to transform the student community from reactive to interactive and from interactive to proactive and make them ignited. Once implemented it will serve as an excellent medium to develop capacity building for the country and region where education through electronic means can promote the well-being and development of the people. Makerere University in partnership with the Ministry of ICT through the National Information Technology Authority –Uganda is to provide tele-education to all Ugandans using the ICT facilities including video conferencing facilities that shall be set up by the Ministry of ICT across the country. The plan is to initially have one tele-education centre per county. This training is going to first target students coming out of the Universal Secondary Education and it will be free. It is only those that shall finally register for Makerere University qualifications that shall pay a small examination fee. Through tele-education students across the country shall access the same lecturers and professors as those at Makerere University main campus hence ensuring quality education services for all at tertiary education level.

Telemedicine includes a growing variety of applications and services using two-way video, email, wireless phones and other forms of telecommunications technology. Patient consultations via videoconferencing, transmission of still images, e-health including patient portals, remote monitoring of vital signs, continuing medical education, consumer-focused wireless applications and

nursing call centers, among other applications, are all considered part of telemedicine.

Typical examples of telemedicine include:

- A radiologist interpreting medical images coming from clinics across Uganda.
- A consumer using a wireless phone to automatically upload vital signs and send them to a remote monitoring center.
- A cardiologist checking up on a heart transplant patient while away on a business trip, reviewing the patient's chart, looking at live heart rhythms and talking to the patient.

Once the national ICT backbone is in place, the Ministry of Health has agreed to put in place the other support infrastructure at health centres countrywide to supplement the telemedicine infrastructure at Mulago hospital set up under the Pan Africa E-Network that was funded by the Government of India and African Union. So by the end of this year, Makerere University, through the College of Health Sciences will jointly provide telemedicine services to Ugandans especially those in hard to reach and poor communities. This partnership with the government will be a big step towards providing quality health services for all.

The 1st term of the Chancellor comes to an end on 23rd October 2011

The President of the Republic of Uganda, H.E. Dr. Gen Yoweri Kaguta Museveni **IN EXERCISE** of the powers vested in him as President of the Republic of Uganda by Section 30 of the Universities and other Tertiary Institutions Act 2001, **appointed** Professor Mondo Kagonyera to the office of the Chancellor of Makerere University with effect from 23rd October, 2007 for a term of 4 years. So on 23rd October 2011 the first term of the Chancellor of Makerere University will come to an end, but he **deserves another rap**. The Chancellor is the titular head of the University and as such presides over all ceremonial assemblies of the University, and in the name of the University, confers degrees and other academic titles and distinctions of the University. So Mr. Chancellor Sir today marks the last regular graduation ceremony for award of diplomas and conferment of degrees in your first term as Chancellor. Any other ceremony

conducted this year shall be a special ceremony. The next regular graduation ceremony is planned for the period Monday 16th January to Friday 20th January 2012. So on behalf of Makerere University, I would like to thank you for a job well done.

Makerere University Alumni Development Fund

Last year Makerere University opened an Alumni Development Fund Account with the following details: **Stanbic Bank (U) Ltd, Makerere University Alumni Development Fund, Account No. 0140071293901.**

As John F. Kennedy said and I quote: *“And so, my fellow Americans, ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country”*. All of us who have gone through the gates of Makerere University, the parents and guardians of the alumni of Makerere University and friends of Makerere University, have a duty to fund development activities of our University. Harvard University, Stanford University, Caltech University, University of Oxford, University of Cambridge to mention but a few are what they are because of the alumni. As we do to the religious institutions every Sunday and every end of the month let us do to Makerere University that has made us who we are. So we are appealing to all of you to contribute towards the re-building of Makerere University. We have an investment policy that clearly elaborates what we want to invest in as a University in the short-term, medium term and long term.

Development of Makerere University Prime Land

Makerere University has embarked on the development of its prime land around Kampala save for the land grabbers that are interfering with the developments in Kololo and Katanga areas. But as the rightful owners, we shall do everything possible to recover all our assets including land. Uganda is country where the rule of law prevails, and while we still enjoy it, we shall repossess all our land from the land grabbers. Makerere University Council has put in place guidelines on how both the private and public sectors can partner with the University in the development of Makerere University land. So those interested in partnerships we encourage you to visit our Directorate of Investment, Makerere University.

Makerere University Bank Ltd

Annually, banks manage over UGX 130 Billion Makerere University budget and over USD 60 Million of Makerere University development projects funds from our development partners and foundations. In addition to this they manage over 4000 bank accounts of Makerere University staff and over 40,000 accounts of Makerere University students. In addition, banks manage all payments from applicants wishing to join Makerere University; each applicant pays UGX 2,000 to the bank as a processing fee and Makerere University receives more than 100,000 applicants. Banks also handle tuition fees payments and in a year the transactions on this alone total to over 100,000 and for each transaction a bank charges UGX 2,000 as a processing fee per student. At any one time, Makerere University staff have over UGX 10 billion in unsecured loans with the banks where their monthly salary is their guarantee. From the over UGX 10 billion unsecured loans banks collect from our staff, more than UGX 2 billion is earned as interest annually. Etc

Yet Makerere University Retirement Benefits Scheme already has over UGX 25Billion and will have over UGX 30Billion in cash by the end of this month when National Insurance Corporation Ltd (NICL) pays the 2nd installment of UGX 5Billion as we await for the final audit on the retirement funds held by NICL. As a University, we would like our staff welfare to improve and we have encouraged the academic staff, administrative and support staff through the Makerere University Retirement Benefits Scheme to open and operate “Makerere University Bank” and we shall give them all the banking business from Makerere University. Then in addition to the business from alumni, friends of Makerere University and well wishers, the sky is the limit for Makerere University Bank Ltd.

Makerere University Insurance Company Ltd

Every year Makerere University pays over UGX 1.5 billion to insurance companies as travel insurance. Makerere University and Makerere University staff pay over UGX 500 million in third party insurance for the vehicles. Some

vehicles are comprehensively insured. Annually we claim not more than UGX 30 million from these insurance companies. Again we would like to improve our staff welfare by giving the first opportunity to Makerere University Retirement Benefits Scheme to take this insurance company and run it as part of their investments. Makerere University shall give “Makerere University Insurance Company Ltd” all the insurance business.

Makerere University to transform into a Research Driven University

Makerere University Senate and Council approved a policy that requires every PhD holder to supervise at least 3 PhD students and 5 master’s students at any one time. We shall begin implementing this policy in July this year. Makerere University has over 1000 staff with PhDs and more are still graduating with PhDs. So by 2015, Makerere University shall be graduating annually an average of 1000 PhD candidates and over 4000 master’s candidates in addition to the diploma and bachelors degree graduands. This is going to boost the research output of the University and spur economic growth and development of our country. Studies have shown that the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is proportional to research output. As a University we shall waive tuition fees for the PhD students and urge government to support research for PhD students at Makerere University. Government will do this through either PhD grants/scholarships or paying a lump sum to the University for each PhD completion and every research publication by Makerere University. We hope that this will be part of the national policy on research and development covering all Universities. From the discussions we have already had with H.E. the President Dr. Gen. Yoweri K. Museveni and the responsible ministries funding will be availed in 2011 onwards.

We acknowledge the over UGX 12billion annual allocation from government to Makerere University for Science, Technology and Innovations with effect from 2010/2011 FY for the next 5 years. We are also grateful to government through the Ministry of Education and Sports for having secured over US\$200 million from African Development Bank and other agencies to finance the improvements

and expansion of higher education science and technology facilities at the public universities, Makerere University inclusive. We would like to thank our development partners for the continued support to Makerere University.

The Guild Student Constitution and Student Affairs

One of the factors affecting the performance of the Makerere University Guild Leaders is insufficient funds that they have been collecting from the guild subscriptions. With effect from the next academic year, this has been increased from UGX 1,000, that was put in place more than 15 years ago, to UGX 10,000 per student. This will enable the Students Guild to raise at least UGX 300 million annually to enable them run their activities. Currently they have been collecting less than UGX 36 Million yet their annual budget is over UGX 300 million.

In the past, there has been a lot of unrest or uneasiness during guild elections. The Students' Guild constitution has been amended by the Guild Representative Council (GRC) to ensure that we have peaceful elections and the majority of the students participate in the choice of their leaders. Also the composition of the GRC has been amended to ensure that it focuses on matters concerning the students.

In particular, the Students Guild Constitution has been amended to provide for:

- (i) Colleges and Schools as polling stations unlike in the past when polling stations were only halls of residence;
- (ii) Every School shall return two members of the G.R.C elected by the members of that school; this was never the case before. This will enable the GRC to concentrate on academic matters affecting students in the schools.
- (iii) Each hall of residence shall return one resident member of the GRC for every 300 resident members and an extra member for a fraction not less than a half thereof voted for by the resident members of that hall. By virtue of their positions, Hall chairpersons shall be members of the

GRC. Representation from the halls will ensure that student matters affecting them in the halls of residence are articulated by the GRC.

There are other amendments I have not highlighted but by and large the students' community and the University Management and the University Council are happy with the amended students Guild Constitution that took effect from 11th January, 2011. Mr. Chancellor Sir, allow me thank, in a special way, the Guild leadership headed by Hon. Shaban Ssenkubuge, the Guild President, for steering the committee that amended this constitution. Well done! Hon. Ssenkubuge, please stand up for recognition.

New Admission Requirements

Mr. Chancellor Sir, for the last three years, there has been an outcry from the public and the media on the unfairness in the admission criteria that the University uses to admit students to its academic programmes. As a result of 1.5 points given to girls, some programmes like Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Information Technology are currently dominated by girls. The girls constitute more than 70% of the students on the Bachelor of Laws programme. Also due to our culture and history, very few ladies take sciences at O and A level and as result most science programmes are dominated by boys. On some programmes like B.Sc. Mechanical Engineering, the boys constitute more than 90%.

On 10th January 2011 the Uganda Local Governments Association (ULGA) held their annual general meeting in Arua. I was one of the participants at this meeting. Out of the deliberations it was clear that in some districts there was acute shortage of graduates in the areas of medicine, nursing, engineering, accounting, procurement, public administration, to mention but a few, yet Makerere University and other Universities are training many of these graduates.

In light of the above, Makerere University, in consultation with the government through the Ministry of Education and Sports, is revising its admission criteria to: ensure that no more than 60% of either girls or boys are admitted on any

programme under government sponsorship. As long as there are qualified applicants from either sex, not more than 60% of either girls or boys are admitted on any programme under private sponsorship. By working with the Ministry of Education and Sports, the Public Service Commission, Health Service Commission, the Uganda Local Governments Association and any other relevant authority; all students on government sponsorship are to be attached to districts and bonded to serve the districts for an agreed period of 2 to 5 years after graduation. In this case the University will hand over the academic credentials to the district authorities for the students bonded by the districts after graduation. Also in the course of the training, the students will spend their holidays undertaking internship training in the districts facilitated by the district administration. For example, the nursing and medical students will spend their holidays in the health centres and hospitals within the districts on internship but will also be providing services to the community.

Makerere University Brand

Makerere University is a very strong brand in Uganda, Africa and the world at large. It has been in existence for 89 years since 1922. Makerere University was established in 1922 as a humble technical school, initially with 14 day students who began by studying Carpentry, Building and Mechanics. The College soon began offering various other courses in Medical Care, Agriculture, Veterinary Sciences and Teacher Training. It expanded over the years to become a Center for Higher Education in East Africa. **And from 1949 to 1963 i.e. for 14 years, Makerere University College was affiliated to the University College London and offered courses leading to the awards of University College London. In 1963, it became the University of East Africa, offering courses leading to general degrees of the University of London.** With the establishment of the University of East Africa on 29th June 1963, the special relationship with the University of London came to a close and degrees of the University of East Africa were instituted. On July 1, 1970, Makerere became an independent national university of the Republic of Uganda, offering undergraduate and postgraduate courses leading to its own awards. University College London was ranked 8th in

Europe and **63rd** in the world in July 2010. If Makerere University had remained affiliated to University College London this would be our ranking in the world.

Since University of Cape Town was ranked 1st in Africa and 340th in the world in July 2010 then by just remaining affiliated to University College London would have been sufficient to make Makerere University top University in Africa. This is one advantage of being colonized. In July 2010 webometrics University rankings placed Makerere University at the 13th position in Africa and 2,158th in the world and we are determined to make Makerere University on our own without affiliation again to the University College London 1st in Africa and among the 1,000 best Universities in world within the next five years. With our Makerere University brand spanning over 89 years and continuously gaining value, it is now common knowledge that whatever Makerere University endorses is respected in the global market place; therefore, take advantage of our brand either through association or partnership.

Granduands

To the Granduands, your certificates carry the Makerere University **seal** and therefore the world shall welcome you with open hands because of the Makerere University brand. So go out into the world and be of great service to Uganda, the region, Africa and the world at large and most importantly be the change you want to see in the world. You have acquired the skills to enable you deliver services, create jobs, and turn challenges into opportunities.

Honorary Awards

On 12th December 2010 Makerere University honoured two of Africa's most illustrious leaders; H.E. Dr. Gen Yoweri Kaguta Museveni with an Honorary Doctor of Laws (Honoris Causa), in respect of his outstanding achievements and exceptional contribution to Women Empowerment, Agricultural modernisation, value addition, Education, Science and Technology and **whereas** His Excellency the late Mzee Rashid Mfaume Kawawa was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws (Honoris Causa) posthumously for his distinguished service as a selfless

and hardworking person who put all his efforts and life to ensure the freedoms of people in his country, the region and Africa as a whole. The Honorary Doctor of Laws of Makerere University is awarded to eminent statesmen, administrators and lawyers in recognition of their exemplary Public Service to humanity.

The Future of Uganda is in our hands as Ugandans

In 1947 Mahatma Gandhi in his pre-independence speech to the people of India said: "Long years ago we made a tryst with destiny, and now the time comes when we will redeem our pledge, not wholly or in full measure, but very substantially. At the stroke of the midnight hour, when the world sleeps, India will awake to life and freedom. " **It came to pass, and today India is one country that has life and freedom at its best; No wonder India is the world's largest democracy.**

On the 18th day of February 2011 at the stroke of the midnight hour, when the world sleeps, Uganda will awake to a new President elect. " We need to redeem our pledge of re-building our economy and our country, not wholly or in full measure, but very substantially. It is everybody's responsibility, as a Ugandan, to ensure that when we awake on 19th day of February 2011 the President elect should be someone who believes and has demonstrated capacity to promote Innovations, Science and Technology as the engine of economic growth and development. It should be someone who believes in education and health services for all as pre-conditions for human development. It should be someone who has demonstrated ability to deliver Education for all and health services for all Ugandans regards of social or economic status.

AS WE BUILD FOR THE FUTURE. FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY. I THANK YOU.

It is now my honour and privilege to invite the Chancellor of Makerere University, Professor Mondo Kagonyera to address the congregation.