



REMARKS

BY

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**CHANCELLOR
MAKERERE UNIVERSITY, KAMPALA**

**AT
DINNER GALA TO**

**CELEBRATE 10 YEARS OF A SUCCESSFUL FEMALE
SCHOLARSHIP INITIATIVE (FSI) AT MAKERERE
UNIVERSITY, KAMPALA
WITH SUPPORT OF
THE CARNEGIE CORPORATION OF NEW YORK**

DATE: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2010

VENUE: VICTORIA HALL, SERENA HOTEL, KAMPALA.

Our Chief Guest, **Rt. Hon Professor Apolo Nsibambi**, Prime Minister of Uganda

Our Special Guest, **Ms Deana Arsenian**, Vice President, Carnegie Corporation of New York, and your esteemed delegation

Your Excellencies, Ambassadors and High Commissioners

Your Royal Highness Sylvia Nagginda Luswata, the Nabagereka of Buganda Kingdom, Patron of the Makerere University Female Scholarship Initiative

Honorable **Ministers and Members of Parliament of Uganda** and East Africa

The Chairman and Members of the University council

The Ag. Vice Chancellor and Ag. Deputy Vice Chancellors
Administration and Staff of Makerere University in your various capacities;

**Distinguished Faculty and Student Alumni of Makerere—
East Africa's oldest and premier University (!)**

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Introduction

You may be wondering why I referred to “Distinguished Faculty and Student Alumni of Makerere—East Africa’s oldest and premier University”? By this I include those, like me, who did not study at Makerere, but have been on the Faculty of Makerere University for so long, and with such dedication, that they can call Makerere their “alma mater”. The world-famous Professor Ali A. Mazrui falls in this category of faculty alumnus.

As many of you know, I went to the University of Nairobi for my first degree and then to the University of California at Davies for my PhD. But Makerere became my intellectual and professional home since 1971 when I joined as a lecturer in the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine. I rose to become associate professor and Dean of the Faculty. Later I left to join Government where I served as Cabinet Minister in a number of portfolios.

I am now honoured to serve as Chancellor of East Africa's oldest and premier University!

Celebration of 10-year Carnegie support to the Female Scholarship Initiative at Makerere University

I am happy to re-echo the appreciation that previous speakers have given to the Carnegie Corporation of New York for its support to the Female Scholarship Initiative at Makerere.

I am especially pleased that this targeted eligible female students from disadvantaged backgrounds who were enabled to access quality education at Makerere University. I know from personal experience what it means to be disadvantaged. Furthermore, the importance of girls' education cannot be over emphasized. It is noteworthy that the majority, 70%, of the scholarship funds went to beneficiaries pursuing Science disciplines. 30% went to students pursuing courses in Humanities.

Many of you will recall, I have always been a staunch advocate for science education at Makerere and other institutions, bearing in mind the importance of science in the development of any nation. I am, therefore, especially proud to associate myself with the success of the Carnegie supported Female Scholarship Initiative, and in particular its focus on the Sciences.

Of course the Carnegie Corporation has supported Makerere University in many other areas and programs as we have heard tonight. It is not just the over US\$16million support since 2001.

I am made to understand, the first ever Carnegie grant to Makerere was £1350 in the 1930s for essential textbooks!

So, it is with a sense of historical perspective that I am honored to say, "Thank You" to the Carnegie Corporation of New York for our long partnership. I say this on my own behalf; on behalf of all the distinguished Alumni of Makerere University; and on behalf of the **Visitor: H.E Yoweri K. Museveni**, President of the Republic of Uganda!

Launch of Makerere University Female Scholarship Foundation

I am happy to hear of the successes and achievements of the Gender Mainstreaming Division. So I congratulate the Vice Chancellor, his team in Administration, but in particular, the Academic Registrar's Department and the Gender Mainstreaming Division for your hard and collaborative work that has brought us all this far.

I am therefore very happy to hear that the Gender Mainstreaming Division is on its way to becoming a full autonomous Directorate. Congratulations!

With that backdrop, I wish to suggest some exciting possibilities and opportunities for Makerere University as follows:-

- Makerere should and can raise the bar of African Women's Scholarship, especially in Science and Technology. What do I mean? Makerere can start planning to develop and promote African Women Scholars' cutting edge leadership in Science and Technology beginning with women from Uganda/East Africa, and then the whole of Africa. This could start by targeted financial development for specialized doctoral and post-doctoral studies, research and fellowships, especially in the Sciences and Technology. The aim should be to grow this into an African Center of Excellence!
- Makerere would then publish and disseminate the research, findings and innovations from the African Center of Excellence globally.
- In this, Makerere could partner with other world class universities and help engender "knowledge based" economic growth and sustainable development of Africa.

I am convinced we at Makerere University can develop such an African Women Scholarship Center of Excellence in Science and Technology. We have already demonstrated this with the energy efficient Electric Car Design Project in the Faculty of Technology. And it is gratifying to see a number of Engineering girl-students on the Car Design and Building Project.

I hope you all know that, on this energy efficient Car Design and Building Project, Makerere has been the only African University whose Engineering Students were part of a global University project consortium. And permit me to “humbly” add that the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Boston, USA, has been the lead team on this project!

As Chancellor, I commit to continuing as cheerleader for such a possibility at Makerere University. I am even willing, if necessary, to ask my *alma mater*, University of California at Davis, to partner with Makerere, in particular, with the soon coming Directorate of Gender Mainstreaming, towards developing this African Women Scholarship Center of Excellence at East Africa’s oldest and premier University!

Conclusion

Finally, I wish to re-echo Ms Catherine Kanabahita’s special appeal to the Government for targeted affirmative action scholarship for girls from Greater Northern Uganda. My brother Hon Rukikaire, Chairman of Council and host tonight, has echoed that well enough. Permit me to add that nothing could be more appropriate for Makerere as the national and premier University in Uganda to demonstrate justice and equity in this regard.

I support that appeal and I know it couldn’t have been left in better hands than your hands, Rt Honourable Professor Apolo Nsibambi, my predecessor as Chancellor, and our Guest of Honour tonight!

Thank You and God bless you all.