

# MAKERERE

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# UNIVERSITY

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## OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE

3<sup>rd</sup> May 2010

To: Members of Staff

### THE FIFTH VICE-CHANCELLOR'S MONTHLY PRESS BRIEFING, HELD ON MONDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> MAY 2010

#### Introduction

The Acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor Venansius Baryamureeba held the fifth monthly press briefing aimed at highlighting the progress made by the University Management in the last six months.

Professor Baryamureeba clarified that although the Vice Chancellor and his Deputies are holding these positions in acting capacity, they are required to submit quarterly and bi-annual progress reports to the Chairperson of the University Council. Additionally, the Chairperson of Council would appraise them every six (6) months, on the basis of the biannual progress reports submitted, as is the tradition in most organizations.

In attendance were:

- (i) Professor Venansius Baryamureeba – Ag. Vice Chancellor
- (ii) Mr. Kahundha-Muhwezi- University Secretary
- (iii) Mr. Alfred Masikye Namoah – Academic Registrar
- (iv) Mr. Godfrey Kagoro – Deputy Director, Planning & Development Department
- (v) Mr. Robert Kakembo – Deputy University Librarian
- (vi) Mr. Goddy Muhumuza – Senior Legal Officer
- (vii) Dr. Monica Chibita – Department of Mass Communication
- (viii) Ms. Jane Frances Alowo – Institute of Languages
- (ix) Ms. Rosemary Nakalanzi – School of Education
- (x) Ms. Ritah Namisango – Public Relations Office
- (xi) Mr. Mark Wamai – Public Relations Office
- (xii) Mr. Issa Agaba Mugabo – Public Relations Office
- (xiii) Mrs. Maureen Mayanja – Public Relations Office

## **1.0 Vice-Chancellor's Briefing**

Since 1<sup>st</sup> November 2009, the new University Management headed by Professor Venansius Baryamureeba, the Acting Vice-Chancellor, has demonstrated that it is possible for Makerere University to rise and shine again. Several key achievements have been registered in the last six (6) months namely:

### **1.1 Achievements**

1. The long standing conflict between Makerere University Business School and Makerere University was resolved during the course of the 1<sup>st</sup> month in office.
2. At the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> month in office, Makerere University was ranked 15<sup>th</sup> in Africa and the best University in Africa outside the Republic of South Africa and Egypt.
3. The University Management has and is still aggressively pursuing the implementation of all Council and/or Senate policies and decisions for example the Quality Assurance Policy that stipulates the mandatory minimum teaching load for all academic staff.
4. The current University Management has continued to support the committee on academic, administrative, financial and research reforms that was constituted by the former Vice-Chancellor, Professor L.S. Luboobi and is chaired by Dr. B. Nawangwe. This committee's recommendations mainly focusing on processes, which are expected at the end of this month, will trigger a series of reforms at Makerere University.
5. For the 1<sup>st</sup> time in the history of Makerere University, we have been able to put in place an Academic Programmes Restructuring Committee, the Jjuuko-Kyamanywa Committee, that deployed an integrated approach to review all academic programmes of Makerere University and make recommendations that seek to provide solutions to the recommendations on academic programmes in the Macgregor Visitation Committee Report that is now a Higher Education White Paper before the Social Services Committee of Parliament. Senate shall consider this historic report on Wednesday this week, 5<sup>th</sup> May 2010.
6. For 1<sup>st</sup> time in the history of Makerere University, graduands were able to receive their transcripts immediately after the graduation ceremony in January 2010.
7. For the 1<sup>st</sup> time in the history of Makerere University, students have been able to register online instead of wasting time in long queues.
8. For the 1<sup>st</sup> time in the history of Makerere University, the prospective students will now apply online for admission into Makerere University instead of travelling to Makerere University to pick application forms.
9. For the 1<sup>st</sup> time in the history of Makerere University, we have integrated residential and academic life through the rolling out of wi-fi hotspots (wireless internet) code-named Makair;
10. For the 1<sup>st</sup> time in the history of Makerere University, we can now make payments online (electronic payments) and by the end of this month we shall have phased out all cheque payments.
11. For the 1<sup>st</sup> time in the history of Makerere University, we have been able to install bulk purchase electric metres that have enabled us to cut electricity costs by more than 50%.

12. We can go on and on. All we are saying is that we have demonstrated that as a team we can deliver and we believe that we can and we shall transform Makerere University into a world class self-sustaining University at all costs.

## **2.0 Our historical growth**

While we pursue complete transformation of Makerere University, we are mindful of our history. Makerere University was started 88 years ago in 1922 as a humble technical school. In January of that year, the school, which was later renamed Uganda Technical College, opened its doors to 14 day students who began studying Carpentry, Building and Mechanics. In 1949, it became a University College affiliated to the University College of 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 29<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **2.1 Challenges still faced**

It is a matter of concern that 88 years later, Makerere University is faced with formidable challenges that are still hampering its progression into becoming a world class University in all aspects, namely:

- Makerere University is still waiting for a good search criteria from Government to enable it search for the Vice-Chancellor and Deputy Vice-Chancellors;
- Makerere University Senate and Council and their Committees are still not being evaluated on their performance in regard to efficiency and effectiveness;
- Makerere University has not diversified its income base and still relies heavily on government subvention and student fees to fund its budget;
- More than 90% of Makerere University's research is funded by donors;
- Makerere University can not pay a living wage to its staff etc.

## **3.0 Future outlook**

Ladies and gentlemen, all this demonstrates that the task ahead of us is enormous. But we also know that it can be done as the progress in the last six (6) months has demonstrated.

In the next few months:

- We shall ensure continuous engagements with students and staff;
- We shall ensure continuous engagements with the government and other development partners;
- We shall fully integrate residential and academic life by making hostels and halls of residences an extension of the classroom and library through wi-fi (wireless connectivity) connectivity;
- We shall embark on curricula and pedagogical renewal;

- We shall encourage and support core Trans disciplinary courses for all students;
- We shall advocate for and support affirmative action in academic staff recruitment;
- We shall plan for and implement optimal staffing mix across all academic ranks and age ranges to ensure proper succession;
- We shall advocate and support appraisal/assessment of all staff of Makerere University, Makerere University Council and its committees and Makerere University Senate and its committees;
- On Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> May 2010, Senate shall consider a report from the Academic Programmes Restructuring Committee that has recommended the phasing out of some academic programmes and courses, the merging of some academic programmes and courses, the re view of the content of some courses, inter-faculty teaching across the University to avoid duplication of staff and mandates.
- We shall continue to pursue the implementation of the investment policy; among others.

We have the potential and the spirit that is rooted in the long history of Makerere University as the “Harvard of Africa”. Nothing could be further from the truth. So we call upon all the stakeholders including the media to give us all the support we need so that in not so distant future, Makerere University should and shall be the University of Choice in Africa and the world.

I thank you for coming.

I now invite members of the University Management who would like to say something to do so now before we can receive questions and comments from the media.

#### **4.0 Academic Registrar’s report**

The first intake of students for the Jinja Campus was in February 2010. The second intake registered 220 applications and of these 150 candidates met the minimum criteria and qualified for admission.

The successful applicants will be presented to the Admissions Board on 10th May 2010 for the standard verification process before they are issued with admission letters. The upcountry campuses will be built as regional centers of excellence, so that they can be self-sustaining and eventually become preferred campuses of choice for future applicants.

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

**Sincerely: Ritah Namisango, Makerere University Public Relations Office.**