

# MAKERERE

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# UNIVERSITY

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## OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE

5<sup>th</sup> July 2010

To: Members of Staff

### **THE SEVENTH VICE-CHANCELLOR'S MONTHLY PRESS BRIEFING, HELD ON MONDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2010**

#### **Introduction**

The Acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor Venansius Baryamureeba welcomed the University Management, Members of staff and the media to the seventh monthly press briefing. Professor Baryamureeba then introduced the participating units namely the Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics (ISAE) and the Faculty of Technology.

In attendance were:

- i. Prof .Venansius Baryamureeba – Ag. Vice Chancellor
- ii. Mr. John Wabwire – Director, Planning and Development Department
- iii. Mr. Godfrey Bazanye – Ag. Director, Human Resources
- iv. Dr. Agnes Ssekiboobo – Director, ISAE
- v. Yeko Mwanga – Lecturer, ISAE
- vi. Lubaale Y.A.M – Lecturer, ISAE
- vii. Misinde Cyprian – Assistant Lecturer, ISAE
- viii. Muwanga Zake – Part-time Staff, ISAE
- ix. Steven Shalita – PR and Communications Board
- x. Mackay Okure – Deputy Dean, Faculty of Technology
- xi. Joseph Byaruhanga – Associate Professor, Faculty of Technology
- xii. Ritah Namisango – Public Relations Office
- xiii. Mark Wamai – Public Relations Office

- xiv. Maureen Mayanja – Public Relations Office
- xv. Kadokech Sebs – Student, MA. Demography ISAE
- xvi. Aston Mubangizi, Namugaanyi Recheal, Kogai Donald – Public Relations Office Interns

## **1. Acting Vice-Chancellor’s briefing**

### **1.1 Restructuring and Revision of Academic programmes**

The University Senate and Council set 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010 as the last date for academic units to revise and/or restructure their academic programmes. I am glad to inform you that as of 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010, all academic units had fully compiled. I would like to thank the Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic Affairs), the Academic Registrar, the Deans and Directors and Heads of Departments who spearheaded this exercise. I would also like to thank staff of Makerere University for having put in time to ensure that the revision and restructuring of academic programmes is compiled by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010.

### **1.2. Capital Investments: Public Private Partnership (PPP)**

Makerere University has started inviting both the public sector and the private sector to partner with Makerere University in developing its land under the Build Operate Transfer (BOT) arrangement. The advert for the development of land in Katanga and Makindye appeared in Monitor of Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2010. The main development project for Makindye land is a 5-star hotel and for Katanga, it is a mixture of Medical Plazas, Data Centers, Hostels and Residential Flats.

An advertisement for a satellite city in Katalamwa will soon be out. Another advertisement for putting up apartments, shopping malls, office blocks, and hostels on the land on main campus that is still earmarked for development is being worked on. This land is near Lumumba hall, Livingstone hall and Dag Hammarskjöld Postgraduate hall. In addition Makerere University is planning to develop its land in Kololo through mortgages and other viable ventures.

### **1.3. Issuance of Transcripts to Students going to graduate in January 2011**

At the last graduation ceremony, we were able to issue transcripts to those who were graduating. This time, we shall issue transcripts earlier. Complete results for all students going to graduate in January 2011 shall be approved by the Senate Examinations Committee on behalf of Senate in July 2010 and August 2010. Issuance of transcripts will begin in August 2010 and then end in October 2010 for students eligible to graduate in January 2011. Whereas the transcript issuing process will continue after October, all those students who will get their transcripts after this period will not graduate in January. At the graduation ceremony in January 2011, Graduates will be issued with certificates.

### **1.4. Repair of the road network within the University and halls of residence**

By the end of the financial year 2010/2011, all roads within Makerere University will have been repaired. Works have already commenced on the road near Nkrumah hall and very soon the Faculty of Technology will begin works on the University road starting at the Main Gate up to the Main Library. The Faculty of Technology will in conjunction with the Margaret Trowel School of Industrial and Fine Arts will redesign/beautify of the Main Gate.

This financial year, the Estates and Works Department will undertake minor repairs on the Halls of Residence. Since the University does not have enough money to work on Lumumba hall, the hall has been earmarked for Renovate Operate Transfer (ROT) arrangement where the private sector will be asked to renovate it to acceptable standards.

### **1.5 Makerere University Business School**

The Universities and Tertiary Institutions Act (2001) gives powers to the Senate of Makerere University to restructure academic programmes. The Quality Assurance policy of Makerere University requires all the academic units to revise their courses regularly. In line with this, Makerere University put in place the *Academic Programmes Restructuring Committee* which was to revise all programmes including Makerere University academic programmes at MUBS. The Committee provided recommendations geared to finding possible solutions to duplication of academic programmes. It is important to note that the Faculty of Economics and Management at Makerere University accepted the recommendations of the Committee. But Makerere University

Business School (MUBS) felt that the Committee was not technical enough to handle Business courses. In the case of MUBS, we agreed that a technical committee be set up to handle this issue.

## **2. Presentation from the Director, Institute of Economics and Applied Economics**

### **2.1 Remittances are more dependable sources of foreign exchange**

A study by ISAE has revealed that remittances are less volatile sources of foreign exchange, as they tend to be countercyclical increases in times of economic depression, political turmoil and natural disasters unlike other forms of inflows like foreign direct investment and external debt. Therefore remittances have become an increasingly important source of external financing and significant source of income for many households in Uganda, despite the global economic crisis.

The same study also revealed that 20 percent of Uganda's population had migrated from one district to another mostly in search of work and income. With the majority of migrants being male, it is not surprising that priority remittance expenditure items included food purchases, education, investment and health. The main investment expenditure types include acquisition of property such as land and buildings, starting up business entities and farming.

One surprising revelation is that the overall proportion of recipients of remittances from local sources (41 percent) is much higher than that of remittances from abroad (two percent); with a higher proportion (42 percent) of recipients of domestic remittances living in rural areas. This brings to light the internal migration is indeed a key contributor to remittance and hence rural development. Studies such as these are therefore vital in informing policy formulation at district, national and international levels.

The study was carried out by Makerere University Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics (ISAE) in collaboration with The Uganda National Bureau of Statistics and the Statistics Department of the Bank of Uganda, sponsored by the World Bank under The African migration project.

## **2.2 Statistical literacy key to application of MDGs**

Knowledge about the level of achievement of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is the best planning tool for any developing country. The Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics in collaboration with the Office of the Prime Minister and United Nations Development Programme launched the MDGs sensitization project in the year 2007.

Training workshops targeting participants from local and central government, and civil society organizations throughout the country were held by the Institute, with the main objectives of creating awareness about MDGs and promoting statistical literacy in effective communication.

As such, Local government leaders up to sub-county level in all districts in the country have been sensitized by members of the Institute about the need to localize MDGs in their development plans. They have also been assisted on how to effectively communicate statistics derived from MDG indicators at all levels.

Some districts including Kasese, Soroti and Kapchorwa have as a result of this sensitization, been able to develop their own MDG status reports, which are important inputs into the country's MDG status report.

Before the MDG sensitization and statistical literacy project, many people did not know about MDGs. Those who knew about them thought they were a foreign programme that had nothing to do with the country's local development or simply did not know how to integrate them into the national development programmes. However, today, with the training that the Institute of Statistics Applied Economics and the office of the prime minister are offering MDGs have been demystified at all levels and many departments both in government and non-government organizations are localizing them into their development plans.

### **3.0 Presentation from the Dean faculty of Technology**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

The Faculty of Technology is Uganda's leading provider of Engineering and Technology education and one of Makerere University's flagships for research and knowledge transfer partnerships (Community out-reach). Makerere is the only university in Uganda so far which offers Masters and PHD training in the engineering and other technology related disciplines. It produces engineers, architects, planners, land surveyors, quantity surveyors, valuers, construction managers and renewable energy specialists for Uganda's economy and beyond. The Faculty conducts basic and applied research in six thematic areas, including:

- Infrastructure and Land Management
- Architecture, Planning and Urbanism
- Water Resources and Environmental Engineering
- Engineering materials
- Renewable Energy
- GIS and ICT for Rural Development.

The Faculty works closely with Government institutions and NGOs, including The Uganda Police Force, Department of Water Development, Private Sector Foundation Uganda, and others, as a way of transforming research findings to real use. Nearer home, the Faculty is assisting the University to reduce cost of services through repair and building of facilities including roads using students as part of their training

The Faculty has identified three vehicles through which to disseminate research out-puts, namely the Uganda Gatsby Trust, the Centre for Research in Energy and Energy Conservation (CREEC) and the Innovation Systems and Clusters Programme (ISCP).

Gatsby has largely been responsible for the promotion and transformation of the Small and Medium (SME) industrial sector in this country. They were the first to provide credit to the small scales at

very favourable terms. Gatsby also uses SME clubs around the country to transfer skills to the small scale industries. Gatsby constructed the first real industrial and business parks at Njeru and Mbarara, which are helping SMEs operate in more conducive environments.

The CREEC is Makerere University multi-disciplinary centre for research in energy and focuses on finding solutions for Uganda's energy needs, especially issues regarding health of the population, which is crucial in the fight against poverty. The Centre conducts research in the areas of solar, biomass, hydro and wind energy. The Centre has been key in development of many policies on energy and has established linkages with several international organizations.

The Innovation Systems and Innovative Clusters Programme is another cross-cutting programme housed in the Faculty of Technology. Based on the triple helix concept (collaboration between Government, Business and Academia), the ISCP strives to make Uganda's businesses more competitive nationally, regionally and globally. Since 2005, more than 20 business clusters have been launched across the country. Through the ISCP, Makerere contributes directly to improvement of personal incomes and the socio-economic development of the country.

The Faculty of Technology was privileged with a visit from H.E. the President in December last year. After seeing the potential in the Faculty and the University generally, The President pledged financial support to the Faculty in the sum of **Shs. 25 billion** over the next 5 years. This money will be used to improve the existing laboratories and set up new ones. Ten innovation projects will also benefit from this generous support. Makerere University wishes to thank H.E. the President for this very important intervention.

## **3.2 Highlights from some of the projects**

### **3.2.1 UShs 30m Credit lines and Industrial Parks for SMEs – Gatsby Trust**

The Gatsby Trust is providing favorable terms in credit access to Small and Medium manufacturing Entrepreneurs (SMEs) with a negotiable collateral security and loans up to a tune of 30million shillings, as opposed to the low credit that financial institutions give small scale industries.

Initially, entrepreneurs got loans from banks and microfinance institutions with high interest rates. Gatsby Trust recognized this as a great impediment to the growth of SMEs and other value adding businesses and therefore sought to address it. Furthermore, through previous Knowledge Transfer Partnerships, the Trust had recognized the ability of SMEs to provide employment and contribute in alleviating poverty.

Some SMEs have benefited from out-reach programmes covering: training on managerial and technical skills; provision of a specification of machines or technology, and linkage of entrepreneurs to financial institutions and other credit schemes. These include Lwanga Electrical and Electronic Machines – Katwe and Sesako which processes, roasts and grind's cereals.

Additionally, the Gatsby Trust has opened up industrial parks in Njeru and Mbarara with the sole purpose of improving the working conditions of SMEs in those areas. These parks are serviced with electricity, water, sheds and good roads and are sold to the entrepreneurs on hire basis. A vivid example is Theresa wines which is occupying 4 units in Njeru industrial park. There are 23 similar Industrial parks countrywide and Gatsby is in the process of acquiring more land in Masindi, Mbale, and Hoima and Fort portal to expand the model.

The Gatsby model provides the optimum avenue for application of revolutionary technology developed by the Faculty and a Godsend for SMEs seeking state-of-the-art solutions to their daily technical challenges.

### **3.2.2 Small Scale Carbon Sequestration is the way to go!**

The quest for reducing green-house-gas emissions is now in Africa. There are various initiatives available with the potential to greatly impact on climate change and global warming. The initiatives include: sustainable use of forest energy, short rotation coppice and reducing the dependence on paraffin use for lighting. This Center for Research in Energy and Energy Conservation (CREEC) project presents results from solar energy dissemination in Mukono District.

In Uganda about 70% of the population uses paraffin for lighting. This is not surprising in a country where less than 10% of the population has access to electricity and more than 85% of the population still depends on biomass based fuels (firewood and charcoal) for cooking especially in households.

A field survey was carried out in two areas; test and control. In the test area, a sample of 100 households with no electricity was chosen, sensitized and made to purchase solar lanterns at a subsidized price. The households that purchased these lanterns were given logbooks to keep records and check how much paraffin was spared. In the control area 100 households with no electricity were chosen but did not purchase solar powered LED lanterns.

On assessment, findings indicated that the average paraffin consumption per household is between 1 and 1.5 liters per week. This represents an approximate monthly expenditure of about 4 to 6 dollars. The survey findings also indicated that with the use of solar powered LED lanterns, a household saves about 32 to 48 dollars per year which is a sizable saving.

This project was sponsored by the Italian Cooperation in collaboration with the Faculty of Technology Makerere University.

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

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