

**REMARKS BY PROF. VENANSIUS BARYAMUREEBA, VICE-CHANCELLOR,
MAKERERE UNIVERSITY AT THE TECHZINE MAGAZINE & WEBSITE
LAUNCH, 18TH JUNE 2010, VICTORIA GALLERY, SERENA HOTEL.**

.....

The Honourable Minister of ICT

Representatives from Public and Private Sector

The Editorial Team and Staff, Techzine Magazine

Ladies and Gentlemen

.....

1. ICT has taken transcendence from the prevailing level of skills endowment that is evident amongst the people. Many have been inspired by the availability of the facilities and the technical know-how however minimal it is.
2. The academia has played a primary role first of introducing ICT and then taking it into the business world. This is the concept of commercialization of technologies. A number of businesses are now incorporating ICT into their businesses. Not only has ICT improved efficiency in business, it has also improved corporate and domestic communication within individuals, households and communities.
3. As current evidence may submit, ICT advancement has been critical to improve efficiency in Social services; education, health care, communications and transportation, law and order etc. Today, in each faculty the role of ICT is undisputable. It is to this end that everyone that graduates from the academic fronts, no matter the level, will need to have a strong endowment of ICT skills.
4. The incorporation of ICT into business and the daily resources has therefore created a strong intercourse between ICT and general human life. This is why academia has decided to focus on embedding ICT into

students and learners. ICT education is now compulsory at most institutions and is structured to achieve functionality.

5. Even when we have had a substantial degree of penetration of ICT into livelihoods, there is still a large degree of ignorance on functionality and use of ICTs amongst users. Many have consumed these services simply as a trend and as a result, there is an acute underutilization of the facilities. What exists on the market is being used for much less than 20% of its potential; right from Internet services to gadgets and systems.
6. The academia is committed therefore to enhancing partnerships that will bridge the gap between the users and the technologies, so that there could be an increased exploitation of the facilities available. Initiatives such as the Techzine Magazine and the Website are directly in sync with these objects. I understand that over only a short period of time (7 months) in existence, the Techzine Magazine has developed such an extensive readership; now extending over five (5) regions of Uganda with inquiries from Rwanda, Tanzania and Burundi.
7. I believe that as the government addresses the issue of infrastructure and the academia addresses issues of skills and technical endowments, the business community is left with the need for information on exhaustive uses of the technologies available. When initiatives like that of Techzine attempt to address this gap, their successes will be our strengths.
8. We now pledge to cooperate with Techzine Magazine and Website; providing technical information and expertise as well as digests that we believe will be of use to the users of ICTs in the region from time to time. Makerere university and specifically the faculty of Information Technology, is ready to supply information and support in relevant areas to the Techzine magazine and website.
9. I would like to take this opportunity now to thank Techzine for coming up with such an initiative and invite as many as are endowed with useful

information for users and beneficiaries of ICTs to cooperate and contribute to the Techzine magazine and website. It is my belief that as the knowledge gap between technologies and their users diminishes; more of you, the players will realize higher returns, more customs and greater/wider scope of service demand patterns in your enterprises.

10. In addition, I am informed that Techzine magazine intends to cover the entire East African Region. I came to learn from the business Guru C.D.J. Kuteesa, that “When your services meet the needs of informed buyers, you dictate the price”. If the Techzine magazine and Website reaches out to your buyers and informs them of their needs, you stand to meet them with priced solutions. This is why all ICT service providers ought to support, network and work with Techzine. The academia is fully in support of the initiative and will stop at nothing to see that it does not lack useful information.

11. With this I would like to crown it all by saying, thank you all for listening; I say, “Let’s teach them why? so they may ask the question how? For out of this will come the benefit we seek”. I thank you once again.

We build for the future.