

REMARKS BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR, PROF. VENANSIUS BARYAMURREBA, AT THE 6TH AFRICAN
CONFERENCE ON PSYCHOTHERAPY, AFRICAN CHAPTER, FOOD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
CONFERENCE HALL, MAKERERE UNIVERSITY, 14th – 16th December 2010.

- The President of WCP – African Chapter Prof Sylvester Madu
- President of the South African Psychological Association & Heads/Presidents of National Psychological Associations.
- The Director of Psychology Prof Ikoja Odongo
- The Convenor, Prof Peter Baguma
- Heads of Departments in the Institute of Psychology
- Participants
- Ladies and Gentlemen

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On behalf of Makerere University, I would like to warmly welcome you to the 6th African Conference on Psychotherapy, African Chapter. I would in a special way like to express my gratitude towards to the World Council for Psychotherapy (WCP) for honouring Makerere University, by once again holding this event here. I'm reliably informed that this event was last held here in 1998.

Makerere University recognises the value of Psychology to development and wellbeing of individuals and communities. Towards this end, the university offers various degree and diploma courses in psychology. These include Master of Science in Clinical Psychology, Master of Counselling Psychology, Master of Organizational Psychology, Master of Educational Psychology, Postgraduate Diploma in Counselling, Bachelor of Organizational and Industrial Psychology and Bachelor of Community Psychology. I also recognize that psychology is taught in many degree courses in the University.

Theme

The major theme of the conference is **Psychotherapy and psychosocial problems**. There are numerous psychosocial problems in our countries, both developed and developing. By focusing on issues such as HIV/AIDS, Developmental problems, Gender and human rights issues, Traditional Healing, Trauma, and organizational development, stress, psychological

testing, Conflict, Groups, Families, the body, financial and school problems; you are dealing with problems that have affected many in our societies, and I commend you for that. This theme is relevant to counties in Africa especially Uganda which has experienced decades of war (most recently in Northern Uganda by the LRA), civil strife and epidemics.

The role of Makerere University

The University values the contribution of Psychologists to mental health of children, families and communities. We are already proud of the establishment of Outreach Department in the Institute of Psychology, which serves as the University's arm in offering psychological services to organizations, government, communities and individuals. The university further commends the Outreach Department's partnerships with The African Network for the Prevention and Protection against Child Abuse and Neglect-ANPPCAN, Uganda Chapter and the Secondary Science and Mathematics Teachers' (SESEMAT) Programme.

As an academician, I applaud the initiative to have conferences on Psychotherapy in Africa. It is only through such scientific conferences that we can generate, disseminate knowledge and therefore promote learning. Participants in conferences such as these are often university academics or practitioners from different organizations. I would therefore wish to challenge to not only share but apply the knowledge you'll gather from the next three days of this conference. I am convinced that this conference will greatly enhance your skills as psychology academics or professionals.

Vote of thanks

In a special way I would like to thank our Chief Guest, the Minister of Health for coming to officially open the 6th WCP international conference. I would also like to thank the organisers led by the convenor of the conference, for a remarkable job so far. Lastly, I would like to thank all participants for travelling to Uganda, so as to take part in this conference.

I wish you all fruitful deliberations. **WE BUILD FOR THE FUTURE.**