

**VICE CHANCELLOR'S SPEECH AT THE AFRICAN GIFTED FOUNDATION ACADEMY  
CLOSING CEREMONY, MAKERERE UNIVERSITY GUEST HOUSE,  
14<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2011**

.....  
The Chairman African Gifted Foundation  
The President Uganda National Academy of Science  
Deputy Dean Faculty of Science  
Chief Executive Officer Uganda Securities Exchange  
Representatives from the Madhvani Group  
Students  
Ladies and Gentlemen  
.....

On behalf of the Vice Chancellor of Makerere University, Professor Venansius Baryamureeba, I would like to welcome you to this closing ceremony of the African Gifted Foundation Academy held here at Makerere University.

Since 1922, Makerere University has been leading the continent in educational innovation and we are delighted to be pushing the boundaries once again with this ambitious and innovative programme in partnership with the African Gifted Foundation.

Knowledge Transfer is an essential component of what we consider important at Makerere University and on this occasion not only have we reached out to gifted young people from Uganda, we have reached as far afield as Botswana and Nigeria to bring students to visit us here and experience a University atmosphere. We hope that we will welcome some of these gifted youngsters back as undergraduates in the not too distant future.

On 12<sup>th</sup> December 2010 during his acceptance speech at the Honorary Doctor of Laws award ceremony, the President H.E. Y.K. Museveni challenged us as to why we in Africa were not engaging in advanced studies such as space exploration whilst other nations forge ahead. I am delighted to report that through this partnership with African Gifted Foundation we have responded. This very week 25 exceptionally gifted young African students from across the continent have been studying space science and satellites right here at Makerere University.

In conclusion, we at Makerere have always believed that there is genius in every corner of our Country and across the continent. Every village, every town, every City houses an African genius. They number in the thousands. And through programmes like the African Gifted Foundation we can identify them, stretch their abilities and unleash their full potential for their own benefit, the country's benefit and Africa's benefit.

Thank You.

We build for the future