

Remarks by the Makerere University Vice Chancellor Prof. Venansius Baryamureeba at the Launch of the Acer for Education Program in Uganda, Friday 21st January 2011, Sheraton Hotel, Kampala

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- The Management Team and Regional representatives from Acer Africa
 - Managing Directors, Human Resources Managers and ICT specialists
 - Ladies and Gentlemen
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I felt honoured to receive your invitation to be the Guest of Honour at the Acer for Education Program Launch in Uganda. From the information I have received, this program has already recorded great success since its launch in January 2010 in the UK, Italy, France, Spain, Germany and Turkey.

Today marked the last day of the 61st Graduation of Makerere University, where a total of 13,296 candidates graduated with degrees and diplomas. Ladies and gentlemen, this is no ordinary feat. Classes that were previously as large as fifty students have grown to over three hundred in some cases.

In the Faculty of Computing and IT, Makerere University, some crosscutting courses have about four hundred students per lecture room. You will concur with me that teaching such a large number of students using the traditional whiteboards is next to impossible. However, when the Faculty finalized the implementation of state-of-the-art wireless and mobile PC technology, the teaching and learning experiences greatly improved. Students can now be split into groups, each facing one wireless projector display and the lecturer can freely interact with his large class.

I therefore greatly applaud the Acer for Education program, which aims at introducing schools to a new kind of interaction between teachers and students through the use of notebooks. This facilitation is definitely bound to allow teachers and schools to develop even more efficient and stimulating teaching methods.

I would also like to commend Acer for partnering with a well established ICT Company in Uganda, ITec Solutions Limited. You will all agree that the biggest factor contributing to the downfall of any program is the lack of quality customer service. Without technical support, the success of any program or project hangs precariously in a balance. I therefore have great hope that the Acer for Education Program will take off and be a great success, as it has been in the other pilot countries.

Special thanks go to Acer Africa, for choosing Uganda as a pilot country and ITec Solutions for partnering with Acer to organize this event. I also congratulate ITec Solutions Limited on being chosen as Acer's first distributor for this a solution in Uganda.

We look forward to a successful roll out of this program and a great teaching and learning experience for the teachers and students respectively, as **we build for the future**. FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY. I THANK YOU.