

**SPEECH BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR AT THE ANNUAL iLabs@MAK
PROJECT END OF YEAR WORKSHOP- 2ND JUNE 2010, METROPOLE
HOTEL, KAMPALA**

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- The DVC (Academic Affairs)
 - The DVC (Finance & Administration) and The Principal Investigator, iLabs@MAK project
 - The Dean and Directors
 - Invited Guests
 - Members of Staff
 - iLabs@MAK Project members and Alumni
 - Students
 - Ladies and Gentlemen
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It is with profound pleasure that I join the iLabs@MAK family tonight to celebrate the Project successes over the past year. Our presence here is testimony that hard work should be recognized and rewarded, but more so, that excellent work should be revered. It is in such light that I look upon the iLabs@MAK Project.

When our new Management assumed office in November 2009, we committed ourselves to support research so as to propel Makerere University to its desired position as the leading institution for academic excellence and innovation in Africa. Central to this plan is the continuous engagement of the academic units like the Faculty of Technology in research responsive to national and global needs. We have also vigorously embarked on strategic partnerships with the Government of Uganda aimed at creating centres of excellence in each Unit. I am glad to mention that His Excellency, the President has pledged support for Projects in the Faculty including iLabs, the Vehicle Design Project, and ARMS, to mention but a few. Through these

public-private partnerships, we are confident that we shall make Makerere University relevant to the citizenry it exists to serve.

The iLabs project is one after my own heart because it has greatly utilized the potential of ICTs to enhance Technical Education. My great appreciation goes to our research and development partners, especially the Carnegie Corporation of New York for funding this and many other initiatives in Makerere University. As the University moves to bring services closer to the people through setup of satellite Universities, remote experimentation will come in handy. I also realize that iLabs offer an opportunity for other Faculties like the Faculty of Science, which is already partnering with the Faculty of Technology to this end.

I commend the Faculty of Technology for the involvement of first year students in this research. I am happy to note that the students' development team is almost gender balanced, moreover in a male dominated Faculty.

As I conclude, I would like to applaud the hard work of all the iLabs patrons, in whose tribute we are all gathered here this evening. I particularly want to thank my colleague, Dr. Tickodri-Togboa for his tenacity and charisma. As the Administration, we pledge our continued support to the Project in every possible way. We do hope that integration of residential and academic life through the establishment of wireless hot spots throughout the University has been or will be of great help to the project.

I wish you all a memorable evening.

We build for the future.

Sincerely: Professor Venansius Baryamureeba, Acting Vice Chancellor, MAK