



GENDER EQUALITY AWARDS DINNER, SATURDAY, 27TH MARCH 2010
AT SHERATON HOTEL, KAMPALA

**CELEBRATING WOMEN'S ACHIEVEMENTS IN HIGHER EDUCATION
AND TO SUPPORT GIRLS FROM DISADVANTAGED BACKGROUNDS
TO ACCESS HIGHER EDUCATION**

**REMARKS BY THE AG. VICE CHANCELLOR, MAKERERE UNIVERSITY, PROF.
VENANSIUS BARYAMUREEBA**

The Guest of Honour, First Lady, Hon. Janet Museveni
Honourable Ministers
Honourable Members of Parliament
Representatives of Embassies and High Commissions
Representatives of Government Departments and Authorities
Representatives of UN Missions and Non-governmental Organisations
The Chairperson and Members of Makerere University Council
Vice Chancellors and representatives from other Universities
My colleagues in the University Management, Deans and Directors
Guests from the Simmons School of Management, Boston
Guests from JOS University-Nigeria, OAU-Nigeria, University of Education-Winneba Ghana
and University of Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania.
Members of Civil Society Organisations
Members of the Private Sector
The Awardees
Makerere University Community
Ladies and Gentlemen

I take the honour to thank you for coming to this occasion to celebrate women's academic achievements in the history of Makerere University. This is indeed a great land mark for a university that started as a male-only institution 88 years ago. The University has since evolved and registered great strides that have seen gradual increase in women's participation and the institutionalization of gender. It is no coincidence that our awardees tonight greatly contributed to these achievements.

Having the number of female professors in Makerere University rise from one (1) in 2008 to six (6) in 2010 is a significant development that shows the fruits being born from the awardees' hard work and direct result of a conducive and gender responsive institution that has sought to address gender inequalities and narrow the gender gaps.

Makerere University is proud to have nurtured Vice Chancellors of most Universities in Uganda, including the two Vice Chancellors from Busitema and Kabale Universities who have also received the awards tonight.

As you have heard from the awardees' presentations, the journey to becoming a professor is a long and winding one, riddled with many challenges but with joys as well. It is a demanding career path that calls for sacrifices, but is also rewarding for personal fulfillment. Most important, it is a life choice that invests in the academic growth of others and society through teaching, research and innovations and mentoring. In order to become a full professor, it involves a teaching period of 11 to 21 years, a total of 11 to 21 publications, supervision of at least 5 to 9 graduate students and evidence of having contributed to community development.

I sincerely congratulate you for your great achievement to the highest level of academic excellence.

It is equally important that we support and resource the efforts of the many girls in marginalised and disadvantaged communities found everywhere across our nation, condemned by poverty. With Carnegie Corporations support in 2000, Makerere University offered scholarships to a total of 691 girls to access higher education. Their lives and those of their families have been transformed and this has been hailed as a success story. The proceeds from tonight's dinner have gone towards this worthy cause. On this note I wish to

recognise in a special way three generous people in our midst tonight, who in July 2009 pledged to sponsor a girl each under the FSI; Mrs. Olive Kigongo, Mr. Anatoli Kamugisha and Mrs. Christine Kiganda.

I conclude by thanking all our partners who have made this event a success, the Guest of Honour for honouring the invitation despite your busy schedule and Uganda Telecom Limited, our major sponsor. Our long term supporters and development partners, especially the Governments of Sweden, Norway and Carnegie Corporation of New York that have been our pillars and greatly supported the work of institutionalizing gender in Makerere University. Most of the awardees would not have achieved what they have today without your meaningful support through scholarships, research grants and community projects. Thank you.

Again, thank you all our dear guests, from far and wide, for honouring our invitation and making this function a colourful one. On this note, allow me to invite the guest of honour, a woman leader, role model and a supporter of the disadvantaged, the First Lady, Hon. Janet K. Museveni to address the audience. **WE BUILD FOR THE FUTURE.**