

DRAFT SPEECH
RT. HON PROFESSOR APOLO NSIBAMBI
THE PRIME MINISTER, REPUBLIC OF UGANDA
GUEST OF HONOUR
ON THE OCCASION OF THE HIGH PROFILE LAUNCH OF MAKERERE
UNIVERSITY FEMALE SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION (MUFSF)
AT THE VICTORIA HALL, SERENA HOTEL, KAMPALA,
20TH NOVEMBER 2010.

Your Excellencies, Ambassadors & High Commissioners
Your Royal Highness, Sylvia Nagginda Luswata, the Nabagereka, Patron of
Makerere University Female Scholarship Initiative
Ms Deana Arsenian, Vice President, Carnegie Corporation of New York and
your esteemed delegation
Chancellor of Makerere University, Professor Mondo Kagonyera, and
Chancellors of sister Universities here present
Chairman of Council, Hon Mathew N. Rukikaire, our host tonight and your
distinguished outgoing Makerere University Council
Honorable Ministers, and Members of Parliament of Uganda and East
Africa, respectively
Vice Chancellor, Makerere University, Professor Venansius Baryamureeba
and Vice Chancellors of sister Universities here present
Board of Trustees of the Makerere University Female Scholarship
Foundation (MUFSF)
Distinguished and Honored Guests
Ladies and Gentlemen:

Tonight, it is my distinctive privilege and pleasure to preside over the launch of the Makerere Female Scholarship Foundation.

I speak not only as the Guest of Honor tonight but especially as one whom Makerere University made academically and professionally. I am privileged to call Makerere University my *alma mater*—*mother school*—which puts me and many of you in a distinguished community of Alumni of Makerere—East Africa's oldest and premier University!

You will agree with me, Ladies and Gentlemen, that we, Alumni of Makerere, are some of the most prominent and distinguished Alumni of any University in the world! And this is not mere boasting but historical destiny of Makerere University!

I have been privileged to know and experience Makerere as a student, lecturer, Warden of.....Hall of Residence...Director of Makerere Institute of Social Research (MISR), Professor of Political Science and Public Administration and Chancellor of my alma mater. Not many Alumni have been so privileged!

The launch of the Makerere University Female Scholarship Foundation and inauguration of the Board of Trustees tonight is a historic occasion.

First, it is a testament of how far Gender Mainstreaming has come ever since 1945 when then 23-year old Makerere College admitted the first six female

students, some of whom are still alive. These were trailblazers of higher education for the girl-child in Uganda and East Africa. One of the historical six, Canon Dr Sarah Nyendwoha Ntiro, went on to St Anne's College, Oxford University, graduating in 1954. She thereby became the first woman university graduate in East and Central Africa!

In an international recognition of Canon Ntiro's trailblazing achievements, she was awarded the Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters by Spelman College, Atlanta, GA, USA--the premier African-American women's university in the USA!

However, Makerere's first female graduate is Eunice Lubega Psonansky (RIP) who graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in 1955.

Mrs. Joyce Mpanga, one of the other historical six rose to become Member of Parliament and Minister of Education and Sports in Uganda. Congratulations, once again, to the Historical Six for trailblazing girl-child education and women's leadership in Uganda and East Africa.

Secondly, Uganda is privileged to be home of Makerere University. If we were to brand Uganda, therefore, I would suggest we brand Uganda as Source of the Nile, Pearl of Africa and Home of Makerere University!

Therefore, we should remember the historical vision of late Oweek Martin Luther Nsibirwa, former Katikirro of Buganda, in particular, and the Kingdom of Buganda in general for the vision of availing land to Makerere University and the Medical School in Mulago. Lest we forget, this is what has made it possible for East Africa's oldest and premier University to call Uganda home.

Not only that, late Sir Edward Mutesa II, Ssekabaka of Buganda, is one of the most distinguished and prominent alumni of Makerere University. In fact the special house in which he lived on Campus still stands today. May I therefore call upon Makerere University and His Majesty the Kabaka's Government in Mengo to work together to refurbish and turn this house into a historical and academic monument?

That is why I particularly applaud Makerere University for renaming Northcote Hall Nsibirwa Hall in perpetual memory and recognition of late Martin Luther Nsibirwa and his vision for higher education in Uganda and East Africa.

The Makerere University Female Scholarship Foundation has brought this rich history back to life in a special way! What do I mean? HRH Sylvia Nagginda, the Nabagereka, is the Patron of the Makerere University Female Scholarship Initiative; and Dr William S. Kalema maternal grandson of Martin Luther Nsibirwa is a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Makerere University Female Scholarship Foundation.

Third, this year 2010 in which we launch the Makerere University Female Scholarship is a milestone for Africa. It is the Golden Jubilee of Africa's Independence, that is, a commemoration of 50 years since 17 African countries

got their political Independence. Two of the 17 are DRC and Nigeria with missions here in Uganda. We especially celebrate them.

It is also the year in which the World Cup was hosted on the African Continent for the very first time.

We applaud the Republic of South Africa for making Africa proud!

This has also been the year in which we commemorated the 10 years since the UN and the World agreed on the Millennium Development Goals.

And it is the year in which the 10-year Carnegie support to Makerere for the Female Scholarship Initiative has come to an end. Let me therefore take this opportunity to express my profound appreciation to the Carnegie Corporation of New York for the 10-year grant of US \$4 million that has seen 691 bright but disadvantaged female students access quality education at Makerere University!

But in a more befitting “Thank You” to the Carnegie Corporation; Makerere University Gender Mainstreaming Division, the University Administration, the Senate and Council have stepped up to the plate after the end of Carnegie support by launching the MUFSS to carry on the marathon of developing support to enable bright but disadvantaged girls access quality education at Makerere. I congratulate Makerere for this readiness to continue the marathon race.

Above all, I am very proud of you all for launching this tonight in 2010 in Uganda and East Africa in commemoration of Africa’s 50 years of Independence!

I am happy to say that by launching the MUFSS in 2010, East Africa’s oldest and premier University has kick-started a new future of Africa in the next 50 years: 2010—2060 true to her motto, which is and always: WE BUILD FOR THE FUTURE.

This fits well with the MUFSS Launch vision statement:

“Vision: Higher Education for the African Woman, 2010-2060”

Permit me, therefore, to make the following concluding remarks.

This celebration of 10 years of a successful Carnegie support and the MUFSS Launch in the milestone year of 2010 are monumental for Makerere, Uganda/East Africa and Africa as follows:-

- For Makerere, the “mother school”—*alma mater*—of vanguard *Alumni*/leaders in the struggle for Africa’s Independence, this continues her historical destiny. Makerere has memorialized in perpetuity “Mother Africa” in the *Africa Hall* of Residence for female students on the Main Campus. She has also erected monuments on the Main Campus to two of Africa’s iconic sons/vanguard leaders in the struggle of Africa’s Independence, namely: *Patrice Lumumba* (RIP) of Congo and *Kwame*

Nkrumah (RIP) of Ghana in the two great *Lumumba and Nkrumah Halls* of Residence. Thus, Makerere has kept the burning flame high of perpetual memory to Patrice Lumumba “who died for Africa” and Osagyefo Kwame Nkrumah “who fought for a ‘United States of Africa’”!

- For Uganda--the *Source of the Nile, Pearl of Africa* and *Home of Makerere University*—this will define her destiny in the 21st Century. It is thus her fitting commemoration of 50 years of Africa’s Independence in East Africa as well as kick-starting a *gendered* development trajectory of “East Africa in the next 50 years”.
- For Africa, Makerere—East Africa’s oldest and premier University is best suited academic “pulpit” from where to issue ‘Africa’s clarion call to unleash the full potential of Africa’s women’ through girls’ education in general, but higher education in particular towards “Africa’s new future in the next 50 years, 2010-2060”.

Your Excellencies, Your Royal Highness, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am honored, with these words, to launch the Makerere University Female Scholarship Foundation in 2010 in commemoration of Africa’s 50 years of Independence in Uganda and East Africa as WE BUILD FOR THE FUTURE!

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY.