



TRANSCRIBED SPEECH BY

HIS EXCELLENCY DR. GEN. YOWERI KAGUTA MUSEVENI,
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Let me talk about the great empire known as the Roman Empire. Now, that Roman Empire lasted for many centuries. It was a successor for the earlier efforts by the Egyptians, by the Greeks then the Roman Empire took leadership. However, this empire collapsed in 450AD (476AD). When the Roman Empire collapsed, the western world was in darkness for almost 1000 years. It is called the dark ages, when the Europeans were just primitive. They had gone back to primitivism or anarchy. Then around 1400, that's when they started reorganizing themselves again. And that period of 1400AD is called the renaissance. The rebirth of Europe, the rebirth of knowledge.

I think Africa has been going through a prolonged dark ages but what is happening now in Makerere is a renaissance. (applause) You fellows, you are waking up from long slumber. The air I blow out of my nose, I'm not the one who made it. It is there, God provided it free. I put it inside myself by breathing. If I want to speak like I'm speaking now I'm using this air, provided by God. If I want to blow my nose, I use it. If I want to light fire, I use it. Science is just understanding the laws of nature and taking advantage of them for our own benefit. Africans have taken so long to understand this. I had the opportunity to know that much of this is actually natural law. It is because of my other job, the one which I do, the one of fighting. That bullet which I read about long ago is just based on a simple principle of having a solid called a projectile and we use them to solve our problems. I understood this position long ago because of my army background. I could see what science was all about. To use natural laws electricity, pressure, etc. to solve our problems.

So what you are doing now is actually a renaissance and I must salute Makerere. The other time I came here, I found that you were struggling on your own. The other people in the food science were struggling on their own, that food science, I'm the one who started it. (applause). Because Makerere has not been listening to my views, until Baryamureeba came that's when they started listening to my views. But at least, I must bear witness that they listened to my views on two issues. I told them to start a Faculty of Food Science Technology and they listened to my views and

started it, and I am very happy about that. I don't recall the Vice Chancellor then but he listened and they started it. I also told them to start a Faculty of Quantitative Economics and I hear that they started it. I have never visited them but I heard that they started it. Otherwise the course you've been teaching, I don't know what course you teach you know Conflict Resolution.. (laughter).

Mbarara University has been listening to me very carefully until they started a Faculty of Development Studies and I said there you have departed. I wanted Development Studies to be a paper in other courses but not a course by itself. But Prof. Kayanja has now stopped him. He has said no; let's go back to this old man's idea. So but when I came a few years ago and I found you people struggling on your own doing good work, people like Dr. Muranga the one of bananas, you had been struggling on your own. But when I came, I told her you don't have to struggle on your own, there is this government of the NRM, this is our mission from the very beginning.

The Banyankore say "Awabura omugyenzi nawabura ow' ishwenkazi" that if you are travelling on a long journey, it is good if you travel with your Ssenga's son, because then you are sure to protect each other on the way in case you meet wild animals. So when I found that you were already moving along our issue; vision of getting out of the slumber, of the slumber of 2000 and almost 400 years, since Egypt was conquered by the Greeks in 333BC , then I said I have got fellow travellers, I will give you all the support.

And this is just a small beginning because this is where the future is. Africa being absent from the field of science and technology has meant slavery, colonialism and marginalization. There is no way you can remain free people if you lag behind in science and technology. It is not possible. I know there are societies for the protection of animals. I have heard of some groups in Europe. You form a society to protect dogs etc. but I have not heard of a society for the protection of marginalized people. You lag behind, you become a slave. That's what happened in the last 2,400years. Africans have been through all those things; slavery, colonization,

genocide, extermination, now we are in the phase of marginalization. And it can reverse and go back. I don't have time I would have told you how this freedom came about. The small freedom which we have now. Of course the Africans are very tough. They don't die easily, that one is for sure. That's how we have survived through this. Those other people disappeared. You are talking of Americans, Obama and so on. Those are not the original Americans. Where are the original Americans? They are not there! The Red Indians, where are they? They were exterminated! But Africans, they don't die easily. But please, we cannot continue like that. That's the failure of our genes, to weather all storms.

So I'm really very happy. What's happening here is a great revolution. It is the beginning. When I came back next time, I will tell you how we made our freedom. I will even write a paper.

Now coming to the support you get from government you can be sure of all the support despite of our limited resources. Scientists in Uganda should be remunerated up to near the international standards. And this will be done. I have got a lot of resistance in the government because they depend on protocol. They pay protocol they don't pay output. The one who is higher is the one to get more money. My scale is low, I don't care whether it is high or not, what I care about is what is his market price? If you are an administrator, even if we sack you, are we going to fail to get another one? But if we lose a scientist, can we easily replace him?

Recently in the army we had that argument. Because some fellows were saying that because this one is a General, he must be paid more money and I said no. You General, if you are not a General, what else will you do. So I said that we should pay at the market price of each one of us. And that is how we should structure the way it should be. And it will be done. I have been having resistance and so on but it will be done. So you don't have to worry about that. Those who have gone to work for others are just missing the excitement of the renaissance. Because there where they are going there is no more renaissance. You go to Europe there is no renaissance. There is decay now. Europe is decaying and America, they are going

down. The renaissance is here. I'm not worried that Museveni is going down, it is the young children who are growing up. So when you go to America you are just missing the historical moment of the renaissance. Europe is declining because they have been parasiting on us. You don't talk of the prices going up. Prices of products have gone up. Yes, they have gone up, for good reason. In the past, it was only the Europeans and the Americans and the Japanese who were living in good houses.

Let's take houses for instance. Living in good houses with cement, steel bars, with electricity, which means the use of copper wires. So that small group of human beings in Western Europe, North America and Japan were the ones monopolizing the resources of the world. That's why the price of steel was low about USD200 per ton. The price of steel is now about USD900 per ton. It has gone up almost five times. Why? Because the Chinese in Billions are now living in good houses. So they need steel bars, they need copper, they need cement. The Indians, hundreds of millions of them, the Africans, they are also coming up, so the demand for products has gone up and that's why the prices have gone up. And I've been telling these Africans who are not very informed that it is a good thing especially for us that the prices have gone up. Because we are the ones who produce these products we are the ones who produce the steel. We have it in Kabale, we have it in Tororo here.

In the past when we would say you come and help us to develop our steel industry, they would say "no, steel has no money, because the price of steel in the world is low." Now they are rushing, we are chasing them now. Somebody wanted to come and invest USD400m in the Steel in Kabale. I said "where do you want to take the steel?" He said "I want to export it," I said "You want to export it? Didn't you hear that there were some human beings living here?" (laughter).

Our steel will not be exported because we need it for our terms. We have been using scrap metal. Even these cars of yours might be using scrap metal. But scrap metal has got a limit; the strength is not as good as fresh steel from iron ore. So much of the steel we produce is going to build our

country, to build our dams, bridges and to build our own things here. Then we can export the literals to the region, out of fraternity. But to have our steel to go and build other places, we are not so blind.

So therefore, I want to appeal to you that please, the action is here. In Africa, that is where the growth is. Now coming to the support for these institutions, we are going to increase the support not only for the scientists to get a higher comparable salary but even for the institutions. And I encourage you to continue, don't worry about the money, we shall look for the money. And with our oil, the issue of money will be nothing.

I thank you very much, and I congratulate all of you the Professors, the Students and the Managers of Makerere University. Thank you very much.